

MBTA DEPARTMENT OF SYSTEM-WIDE ACCESSIBILITY FIXED ROUTE REPORT – AUGUST 24, 2011

Elevator Opens at Wonderland Station

As part of a the City of Revere's transit oriented Waterfront Square Development project, a set of ramps on the inbound side of Wonderland Station has been replaced by an elevator. Funded with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and MBTA bond revenue financing, the new project will result in a multimodal transit facility that integrates parking, bus service (with the relocation of the existing busway) and subway service.

New Priority Seating Signs in Development

In an effort to better educate the riding public as to the purpose and proper use of the priority seating and wheeled mobility area, the MBTA is developing new Priority Seating signs for all fixed-route vehicles. The intent is to create uniform signs, with the same message and same design that can be easily recognized and understood by fixed-route customers.

New Program Coordinator in System-Wide Accessibility

On August 1, 2011 Larry Haile joined the Department of System-Wide Accessibility in the position of Program Coordinator. Larry had been working in the department for the past year on a temporary basis, primarily on upgrading the MBTA's "Accessibility at the T" website. In his new position Larry will be supporting a number of projects designed to improve accessibility at the T, including the implementation of effective communication.

Two MCDHH Interns Support System-Wide Accessibility

Over the summer System-Wide Accessibility has benefited from the hard work of two interns provided by the MA Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (MCDHH) via a Transition to Work Grant. Under the supervision of Senior Accessibilities Specialist and Technical Project Manager, Mike Festa, the two interns, one high school and one college student, assisted with a number of office tasks,

accompanied staff to meetings and participated in site reviews. As part of their summer program the interns attended a Learning Lunch at MCDHH that included a Deaf Professionals Panel featuring four guest speakers, including Mike Festa, and breakout groups for college students (*Professionalism, Marketing Yourself*) and high school students (*What is a Resume?, How to Look for Jobs*).

Reduced Fare Charlie Card Outreach

Seniors (65+), people with disabilities approved for the Transportation Access Pass (TAP) CharlieCard, and people who are registered for the MA Commission for the Blind ID Card will have an opportunity to have their photo taken for a Senior, TAP or Blind Access CharlieCard in Salem on September 21, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm, Council on Aging, 5 Broad Street. An additional reduced-fare CharlieCard event is scheduled in Watertown on October 19, 10:00 am – 12:30 pm, at the Council on Aging/Senior Center, 31 Marshall Street.

MBTA Operations Training Programs – Bus

The Bus Training School has two ongoing classes for operators and other bus personnel at the Charlestown Garage training facility. Contact Ithai Larson in the MBTA's System-Wide Accessibility Department, at least one week in advance, to attend either program at 617-222-1968 voice; 617-222-5045 TTY; ilarson@mbta.com

Phase 1 Bus Recertification: 8-hour monthly class with modules and videos on assisting customers with disabilities, service animals, use of ramps and lifts, and other accessibility-related topics. Classroom and hands-on instruction onboard the bus.

Next class: Wednesday, September 21.

Phase 2 Bus Recertification Training: 2-hour ADA Refresher training module with both classroom and hands-on instruction onboard the bus. Includes state-of-the-art bus simulator. Due to space restrictions maximum class size 6 students; 1 observer (and Personal Care Assistant, if applicable).

Mon – Fri (no holidays), at approx. 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm.

