



August 8, 2022

Governor Charlie Baker  
Massachusetts State House  
Office of the Governor, Room 360  
Boston, MA 02133

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**Subject: Alternative Option for the Orange Line Shutdown**

Dear Governor Baker:

On behalf of A Better City and its more than 130 members, I am asking you to consider an alternative to the planned 30-day MBTA Orange Line shutdown. We understand the urgency and necessity to move forward with the safety repairs on the MBTA Orange Line as identified by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). MBTA riders deserve safe, reliable, and affordable transit service, and the municipal leaders, business community, and engaged stakeholders are ready to assist you during the forthcoming disruption from a potential shutdown of the entire Orange Line and parts of the Green Line.

I understand the current MassDOT and MBTA option would move forward with a full shutdown between August 19<sup>th</sup> through September 19<sup>th</sup>. Based on concerns from riders, students, school officials, businesses large and small, and our health care and academic institutions, I am proposing an alternative option that prioritizes FTA safety directive actions through a full shutdown for 18 days (August 19<sup>th</sup> to September 5<sup>th</sup>) and then weekend shutdowns from September 9<sup>th</sup> to October 22<sup>nd</sup> to accomplish the remainder of the work.

Attached is a summary of this alternative that builds off the administration's current plan. This option should allow the MBTA to complete all FTA-mandated safety repairs to the Orange Line this fall, while also meeting the needs of the region and the many impacted riders by resuming vital weekday daytime rapid transit service immediately after Labor Day. Currently, the MBTA is only contracted with one major company for Orange Line bus mitigation service; however, there are a number of companies in the regional marketplace that can assist you with bus service during the additional five weekends after September 19<sup>th</sup> if you pursue this alternative plan.

We hope that you seriously consider this alternative option. I believe this is the most viable approach to help the MBTA immediately address the FTA's safety concerns on the Orange Line without crippling the economy as we enter the post-Labor Day period. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Richard A. Dimino'.

Richard A. Dimino  
President and CEO

Cc: Peter Butler, Region 1 Regional Administrator, FTA  
Joseph DeLorenzo, Associate Administrator for Transit Safety and Oversight, FTA  
Emily Jessup, Attorney Advisor, FTA  
Jamey Tesler, MassDOT Secretary and Chief Executive Officer  
Steve Poftak, MBTA General Manager  
The Honorable Michelle Wu, Mayor of Boston



### Summary:

The MBTA's newly announced proposal to shutdown the Orange Line 24/7 for 30 days (Option 1) starting August 19<sup>th</sup> running through September 19<sup>th</sup>. An alternative Option 2 would retain Option 1's same 24/7 shutdown starting August 19<sup>th</sup> except that 24/7 shutdowns on weekdays would end as of Labor Day, Monday, September 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Under this alternative Option 2, weekday service on the vital Orange Line would restart on the day after Labor Day.** Construction work would then continue over extended shutdowns on weekends only. **As compared to Option 1, Option 2 would require only five (5) such additional weekend shutdowns to provide a similar amount of actual work hours.** The time lost for actual work due to crew/equipment mobilization and demobilization has been factored into the analysis. Option 1 would provide 764 work hours in total. 792 work hours would be provided in total under Option 2.

### Option 1: MBTA's 30-day 24/7 Shutdown

- Shutdown begins: **August 19<sup>th</sup>**
- Shutdown ends: **September 19<sup>th</sup>**

The MBTA's current proposal would provide **764 work hours** in total over the 30-day period. This includes the loss of 2 hours of work at the start of the 30-day period for mobilization onto the tracks and a similar loss of 2 hours of work at the end of the 30-day period for demobilization. The calculations used in this analysis are shown in the attached **Table 1**.

### Option 2: Full 18-day Shutdown followed by only 5 Additional Extended Weekend Shutdowns

- Shutdown begins: **August 19<sup>th</sup>**
- Shutdown ends: **September 5<sup>th</sup>**
- **Weekday Service reopens: September 6<sup>th</sup>**
- Weekend shutdowns for seven consecutive weekends—but **only five additional weekends** as compared to Option 1—starting on **Friday September 9<sup>th</sup>** and finish on the weekend ending on **October 22<sup>nd</sup>**

The MBTA's current proposal to close the Orange Line 24/7 starting on August 19<sup>th</sup> would be retained, but 24/7 closures would cease, and this vital transit line would reopen on weekdays starting on Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>. The initial 24/7 shutdown period would last 18 days and provide 428 work hours in total, with construction activities focused on FTA safety directive work. Orange Line weekday service would remain open with the exception that on the seven (7) consecutive weekends that follow, it would close starting 10PM on Friday nights and reopen at 6AM on Monday mornings. Note: Under Option 1, the OL would be shutdown during first two of these weekends. Therefore, compared to Option 1, Option 2 would require only five (5) additional weekends of shutdown. The Orange Line would be closed 24/7 throughout each of those seven (7) weekends. A total of **792 work hours** is provided. This analysis includes the loss of 2 hours of work at the start of each extended weekend shutdown period for mobilization



onto the tracks and a similar loss of 2 hours of work at the end of each weekend period for demobilization. See **Table 2** for the calculations used in this analysis.

Lastly, it should be noted that a variation of Option 2 could also include closing the Orange Line on weeknights between Mondays and Thursdays during the hours of 10PM and 6AM, which would allow for 4 hours of actual work time (discounting for work time lost due to mobilization/demobilization) each night between Mondays and Thursdays. This would eliminate the need for the last weekend shutdown, only. Given this minor savings in the calendar, it is not recommended that officials pursue this weeknight work shift variation.

**Table 1:  
Option 1: MBTA 3-Day 24/7 Shutdown**

Date	MBTA 30-Day 24/7 Shutdown for 30 Days (Work-shifts of 8 hours each. 3 shifts/day.)		
	Potential Work Hours/Day	Hours Lost to Mobilization & Demobilization	Actual Number of Work Hours/Day
Friday, August 19, 2022	24	2	22
Saturday, August 20, 2022	24	0	24
Sunday, August 21, 2022	24	0	24
Monday, August 22, 2022	24	0	24
Tuesday, August 23, 2022	24	0	24
Wednesday, August 24, 2022	24	0	24
Thursday, August 25, 2022	24	0	24
Friday, August 26, 2022	24	0	24
Saturday, August 27, 2022	24	0	24
Sunday, August 28, 2022	24	0	24
Monday, August 29, 2022	24	0	24
Tuesday, August 30, 2022	24	0	24
Wednesday, August 31, 2022	24	0	24
Thursday, September 1, 2022	24	0	24
Friday, September 2, 2022	24	0	24
Saturday, September 3, 2022	24	0	24
Sunday, September 4, 2022	24	0	24
Monday, September 5, 2022	24	0	24
Tuesday, September 6, 2022	24	0	24
Wednesday, September 7, 2022	24	0	24
Thursday, September 8, 2022	24	0	24
Friday, September 9, 2022	24	0	24
Saturday, September 10, 2022	24	0	24
Sunday, September 11, 2022	24	0	24
Monday, September 12, 2022	24	0	24
Tuesday, September 13, 2022	24	0	24
Wednesday, September 14, 2022	24	0	24
Thursday, September 15, 2022	24	0	24
Friday, September 16, 2022	24	0	24
Saturday, September 17, 2022	24	0	24
Sunday, September 18, 2022	24	0	24
Monday, September 19, 2022	24	2	22
<b>TOTAL WORK HOURS</b>			<b>764</b>

**Table 2:  
Option 2: Alternative Shut-Down Concept**

Date	A Better City 24/7 Shutdown for 18 Days			A Better City Extended Weekend Shutdowns			ABC Work Hours Running Total
	Potential Work Hours/Day	Hours Lost to Mobilization & Demobilization	Actual Number of Work Hours/Day	Potential Work Hours/Day F: 10PM to 12 mid M: 12 mid to 6 AM Weekend: 24/7	Hours Lost to Mobilization & Demobilization	Actual Total Number of Work Hours/Day	
Friday, August 19, 2022	24	2	22				
Saturday, August 20, 2022	24	0	24				
Sunday, August 21, 2022	24	0	24				
Monday, August 22, 2022	24	0	24				
Tuesday, August 23, 2022	24	0	24				
Wednesday, August 24, 2022	24	0	24				
Thursday, August 25, 2022	24	0	24				
Friday, August 26, 2022	24	0	24				
Saturday, August 27, 2022	24	0	24				
Sunday, August 28, 2022	24	0	24				
Monday, August 29, 2022	24	0	24				
Tuesday, August 30, 2022	24	0	24				
Wednesday, August 31, 2022	24	0	24				
Thursday, September 1, 2022	24	0	24				
Friday, September 2, 2022	24	0	24				
Saturday, September 3, 2022	24	0	24				
Sunday, September 4, 2022	24	0	24				
Monday, September 5, 2022	24	2	22				
<b>TOTAL WORK HOURS</b>			<b>428</b>				<b>428</b>
Tuesday, September 6, 2022							
Wednesday, September 7, 2022							
Thursday, September 8, 2022							
Friday, September 9, 2022				2	2	0	
Saturday, September 10, 2022				24	0	24	
Sunday, September 11, 2022				24	0	24	
Monday, September 12, 2022				6	2	4	
<b>TOTAL WORK HOURS</b>						<b>52</b>	<b>480</b>
Tuesday, September 13, 2022							
Wednesday, September 14, 2022							
Thursday, September 15, 2022							
Friday, September 16, 2022				2	2	0	
Saturday, September 17, 2022				24	0	24	
Sunday, September 18, 2022				24	0	24	
Monday, September 19, 2022				6	2	4	
<b>TOTAL WORK HOURS</b>						<b>52</b>	<b>532</b>
<b>NOTE: ONLY WEEKEND CLOSURES BELOW THIS DATE WOULD BE "NEW" AS THE ONES ABOVE ARE IN OPTION 1</b>							
Tuesday, September 20, 2022							
Wednesday, September 21, 2022							
Thursday, September 22, 2022							

Date	A Better City 24/7 Shutdown for 18 Days			A Better City Extended Weekend Shutdowns			ABC Work Hours Running Total
	Potential Work Hours/Day	Hours Lost to Mobilization & Demobilization	Actual Number of Work Hours/Day	Potential Work Hours/Day F: 10PM to 12 mid M: 12 mid to 6 AM Weekend: 24/7	Hours Lost to Mobilization & Demobilization	Actual Total Number of Work Hours/Day	
Friday, September 23, 2022				2	2	0	
Saturday, September 24, 2022				24	0	24	
Sunday, September 25, 2022				24	0	24	
Monday, September 26, 2022				6	2	4	
<b>TOTAL WORK HOURS</b>						52	584
Tuesday, September 27, 2022							
Wednesday, September 28, 2022							
Thursday, September 29, 2022							
Friday, September 30, 2022				2	2	0	
Saturday, October 1, 2022				24	0	24	
Sunday, October 2, 2022				24	0	24	
Monday, October 3, 2022				6	2	4	
<b>TOTAL WORK HOURS</b>						52	636
Tuesday, October 4, 2022							
Wednesday, October 5, 2022							
Thursday, October 6, 2022							
Friday, October 7, 2022				2	2	0	
Saturday, October 8, 2022				24	0	24	
Sunday, October 9, 2022				24	0	24	
Monday, October 10, 2022				6	2	4	
<b>TOTAL WORK HOURS</b>						52	688
Tuesday, October 11, 2022							
Wednesday, October 12, 2022							
Thursday, October 13, 2022							
Friday, October 14, 2022				2	2	0	
Saturday, October 15, 2022				24	0	24	
Sunday, October 16, 2022				24	0	24	
Monday, October 17, 2022				6	2	4	
<b>TOTAL WORK HOURS</b>						52	740
Tuesday, October 18, 2022							
Wednesday, October 19, 2022							
Thursday, October 20, 2022							
Friday, October 21, 2022				2	2	0	
Saturday, October 22, 2022				24	0	24	
Sunday, October 23, 2022				24	0	24	
Monday, October 24, 2022				6	2	4	
<b>TOTAL WORK HOURS</b>						52	792