

South Station: A Growing Demand for Expansion

A century ago, Boston South Station was the largest and busiest train station in America. Over the years, passenger rail travel steadily declined, and by 1973 about half of South Station had been sold off or torn down.

Forty years later, South Station is again booming and a vital cog in the regional transportation network. Amtrak inter-city and MBTA Commuter Rail services have expanded to meet current demand, with more growth on the horizon; South Station is the second busiest of all the Red Line subway stations; and the Silver Line provides bus rapid transit service to Logan Airport and the Innovation District.

Unfortunately, South Station itself has not kept pace. With only 13 tracks, less than half of what it once had, it is becoming a chokepoint in the system and an obstacle to expanded service for the thousands of workers, residents, and visitors who rely on it for their transportation needs.

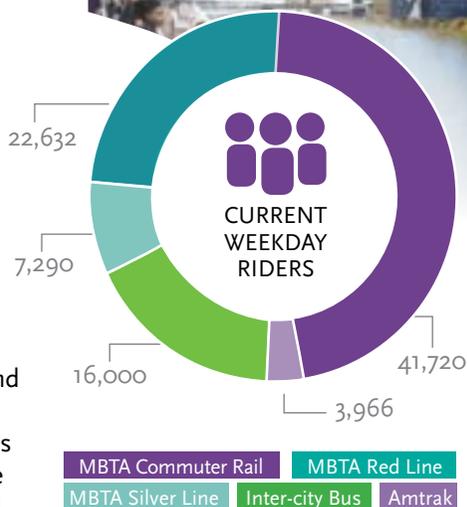
And demand is only going to grow. South Station is a gateway to blossoming regional development, from the South Boston Waterfront and Innovation District, to downtown Quincy and MIT and Harvard on opposite ends of the Red Line.

Modern Standards and Beyond

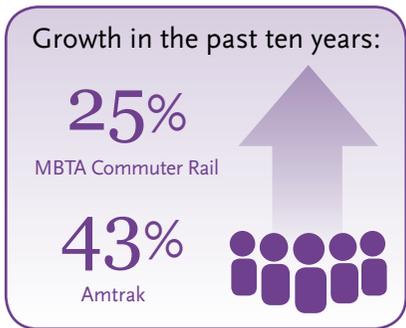
The South Station Expansion project is being planned to bring the facility up to par with today's demands; accommodate future service enhancements; and improve safety, comfort, convenience, and accessibility for passengers.

Among the key improvements:

- + **More tracks** will improve existing high-speed and inter-city rail service in and out of Boston and accommodate growth.
- + **Improved infrastructure** to allow more efficient and flexible train movements into and out of the station, reducing delays caused by congestion.



In 1969, South Station commuter rail daily ridership was listed at just 5,500; today it is nearly 42,000.



South Station is second only to Logan Airport in passenger volume among New England transportation centers.



- + **More train storage space**, including a larger yard off-site, will provide space for trains not in service that currently clog South Station tracks.
- + **More platforms** with multiple access points will decrease passenger congestion and improve safety and accessibility.
- + **More amenities** such as larger and better equipped restrooms; improved seating and waiting areas; and additional choices for food, shops, and services will improve the customer experience.
- + **More signs, interactive kiosks, and clearly defined pathways** through the train concourse, to the bus terminal, and to surrounding neighborhoods will enhance mobility and make for a pleasant experience.



More signs, modern ticketing, and better lighting are among the features of this future station concourse concept.

Far-Reaching Benefits

The benefits of expanding South Station extend far beyond its users:

- + More people traveling by train can reduce automobile use, fuel consumption, and greenhouse gas emissions; traffic congestion; roadway wear and tear; and accidents.
- + Expanded high-speed regional train service can reduce airport congestion, noise, and pollution.
- + Enhanced sidewalks, bicycle facilities, and roadways around South Station will improve personal mobility and safety.
- + Potential public-private development can enliven the surrounding neighborhood with new housing, restaurants/stores, and public spaces.
- + The project will attract new businesses, workers, and residents to the area, creating and sustaining jobs in construction and other fields.

South Station simply must be expanded to accommodate the growing demand of today's customers and the future transportation needs already on the horizon. Our regional transportation network, economic growth, environmental sustainability, and personal mobility depend on it.

Project Information

For much more information about the South Station Expansion project, visit the website www.massdot.state.ma.us/southstationexpansion. If you have questions, please contact project manager Katherine Fichter via email at katherine.fichter@state.ma.us.

