

# Transportation Advisory Committee

## Town of Lexington

February 16, 2023 Meeting Material: *MBTA Status*

Kunal Botla

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### Digital Destination Sign Memo Update:

I reached out to the MBTA about the destination shown on digital destination signs for routes 62, 76, and 62/76, following approval at TAC's January meeting. The MBTA acknowledged receipt and is revising digital destination signs to the following, in March. They communicated that they will ensure [mbta.com](https://www.mbta.com) matches. We have a contact and opportunity to ask additional questions or for clarification.

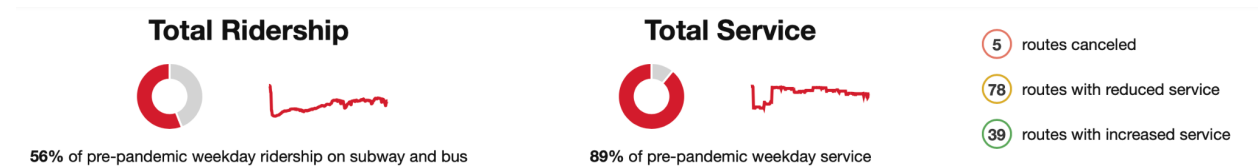
From Josh Weiland, MBTA:

- 62:
  - IB: 62 **ALEWIFE**
  - OB: 62 **BEDFORD V A**
- 62/76:
  - 62/76 (not via Airport)
    - IB: 62/76 **ALEWIFE**
    - OB: 62/76 **BEDFORD V A**
  - 62/76 (via airport)
    - IB: 62/76 **ALEWIFE**  
62/76 **VIA HANSCOM AIRPORT**
    - OB: 62/76 **BEDFORD V A**  
62/76 **VIA HANSCOM AIRPORT**
- 76:
  - 76 (not via Airport)
    - IB: 76 **ALEWIFE**
    - OB: 76 **LINCOLN LAB**
  - 76 (via airport)
    - IB: 76 **ALEWIFE**  
76 **VIA HANSCOM AIRPORT**
    - OB: 76 **LINCOLN LAB**  
76 **VIA HANSCOM AIRPORT**

# MBTA Service Status

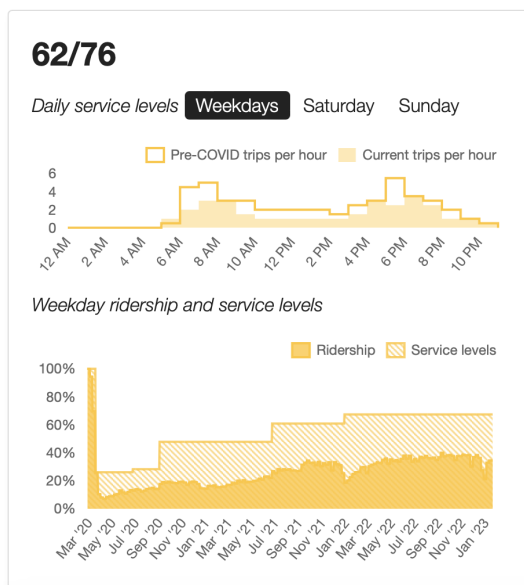
Pre-COVID—Current: ridership and service levels (Data 2023-01-18 [via TransitMatters](#))

## Overall MBTA:

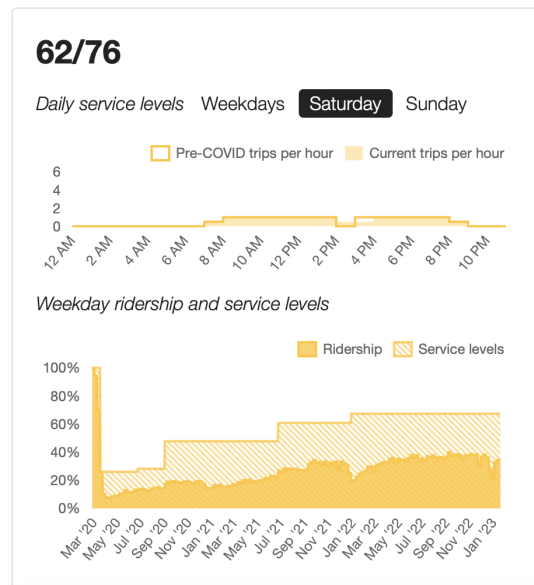


## Routes 62, 76, and 62/76 (analyzed collectively):

### Weekdays:



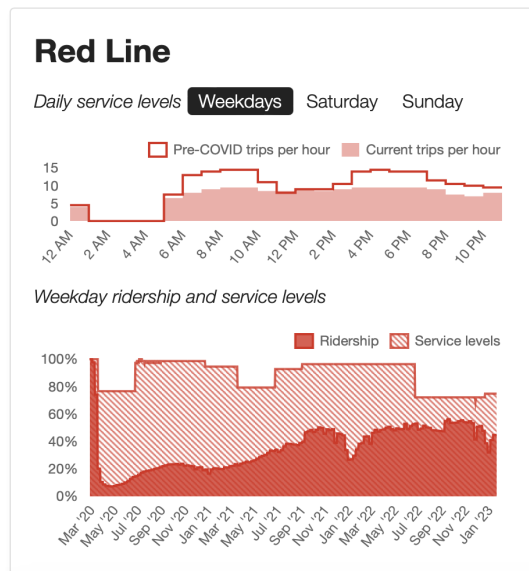
### Saturday:



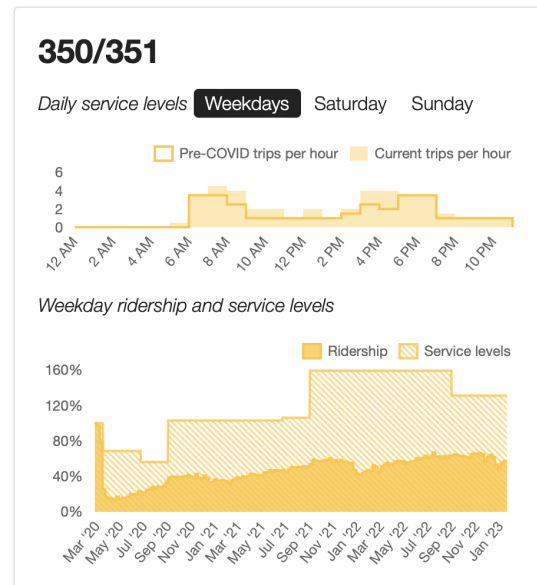
**22nd least service** (excluding canceled routes). **11th most service cut** (excluding canceled routes). **7th least ridership retained**. Peak ridership: 9/9/2022 904 weekday riders; 40% of pre-pandemic (2/22/2020: 2,259 weekday riders). Out of **117 currently operated routes**.

*Lexington has no true Sunday service from the MBTA. Route 77 to Arlington Heights and 78 (with one stop in Lexington) to Arlmont, from Harvard, run on Sundays.*

## Red Line:



## 350 (Burlington–Alewife)/351 (canceled):



View <https://recovery.transitmatters.org> for current data on all routes and lines.

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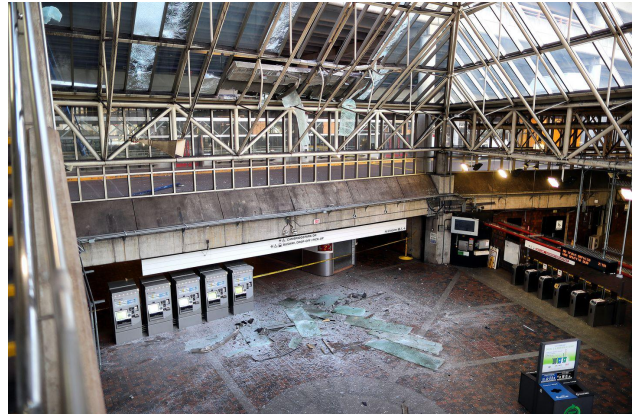
### **Alewife Station Crash:**

*Photo: John Tlumacki/Boston Globe Staff*

**February 4, 2023**—service at Alewife was suspended because of a car crash causing major damage; shuttle buses to Davis replaced train service.<sup>[1][2]</sup>

**February 8**—Alewife Garage partially reopened.<sup>[3]</sup>

**February 10**—Red Line service resumed via the Russell Field entrance; main entrance remains closed.<sup>[4]</sup>



**As of February 16**—Red Line service is operating via the Russell Field entrance, Alewife Garage remains partially closed, bus service was not impacted.

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**Bus Operator Hiring:** To run current service, the MBTA is still hiring for over 300 unfilled bus operator positions, offering a \$4,500 bonus and CDL training (added Sep. 2022) [[MBTA](#); [StreetsBlog Mass](#)]. BNRD will require the hiring of 440 more [[GBH](#)].

Read more from Taylor Dolven of the Boston Globe about how the “[MBTA’s ‘aggressive’ year-long bus driver hiring campaign failed. Black and Hispanic riders are paying the price.](#)”

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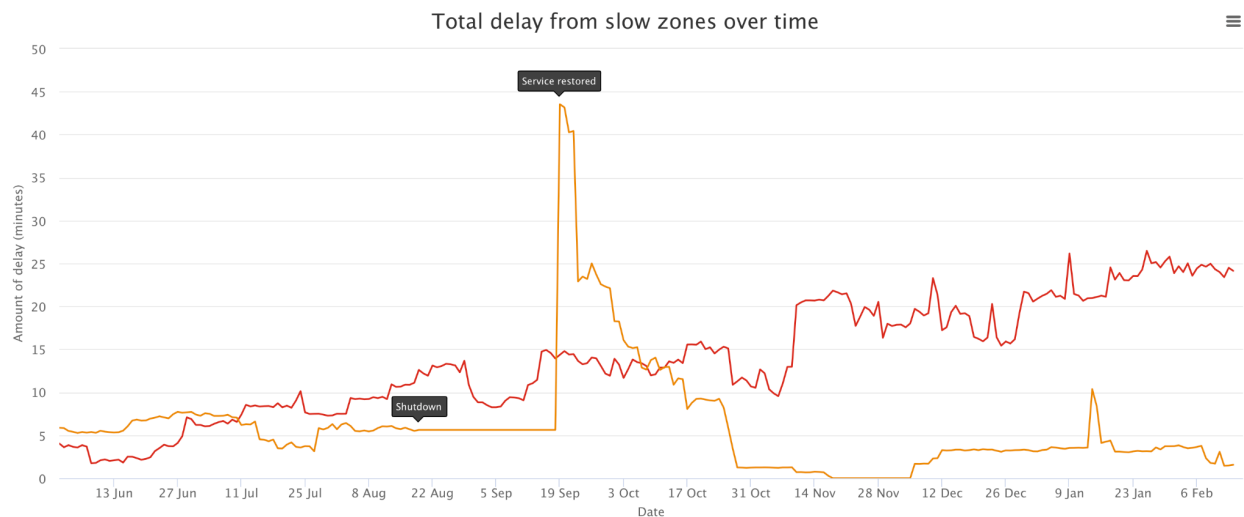
**Red, Orange, Blue Line Service Reduction, Dispatcher Shortage:** Service on lines remains [reduced to weekend levels](#), since June 2022. The MBTA’s “[hiring blitz](#)” is [still ongoing](#), as of December 2022.

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**Red Line Slow Zones:** [TransitMatters—October 24, 2022](#): “...anyone riding the rails between Alewife and Ashmont or Braintree has almost certainly noticed that their ride is also quite a bit slower than it should be. The TransitMatters Slow Zone Tracker shows that a round trip on the Red Line is **almost 15 minutes longer than it should be**, with no sign of improvement.”

**Now, over 24 minutes,** [as of February 14, 2023](#).



via [TransitMatters Labs](#)

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**MBTA March Service Disruptions: Red Line:** “Shuttle buses will replace trains between Harvard and JFK/UMass during the weekends of March 4-5 and March 25-26 so crews can install a new digital signal system.” [WBUR]

[WBUR has more information on all disruptions scheduled for March.](#)

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**MBTA Communities Housing:** [Lexington Observer—February 3, 2023](#): “A couple of community members suggested that the Town should consider a “cost-benefit analysis” about whether continuing to receive MBTA bus service was worth being subjected to the new zoning.

Town Meeting Member Dawn McKenna (P6) suggested an analysis of “what would happen if we chose to do our own public transit,” pulling out of the MBTA bus service to avoid being subject to the new law.”

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**END: Please share any thoughts you have about this format with me!** For future meetings, I can try to send it earlier prior to meetings for everyone to look at.

Thanks, Kunal.

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