



**For Immediate Release
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Media Advisory: Continued Impact on Commuter Rail Lines Due to Hurricane/Tropical Storm Irene

MBCR is pleased to report that weekday commuter rail service commenced this morning in the wake of Hurricane/Tropical Storm Irene. While MBCR was able to deliver regular service after a major weather event, the Franklin, Stoughton, Middleborough/Lakeville, and Kingston/Plymouth lines continue to experience delays as the result of commercial power outages.

The loss of power impacts restoration of rail traffic signals and electronic gate crossings in affected areas, including Kingston, Plymouth, Brockton, Bridgewater, Walpole, Norfolk, and Franklin stations. Service delays of up to 15 minutes are expected on the Franklin, Stoughton, Middleborough/Lakeville, and Kingston/Plymouth lines until commercial power is fully restored.

MBCR is working with NStar and National Grid officials to identify all available generators and other solutions to minimize the impact of power outages on service.

Until power is fully restored, however, MBCR urges that all customers check updates on service at www.mbtta.com, www.mbcrr.net and MBTA "T Alerts" to get the most timely and up-to-date reports about service in areas affected by power outages.

MBCR crews have worked around the clock to install batteries and portable generators in areas affected by the commercial power outages. This work is part of MBCR's comprehensive storm response plan that was implemented last week as forecasts of Irene's potential destructive power emerged. In total, more than 400 men and women worked tirelessly to patrol the commuter rail system's 650 miles of track and make sure that service would be restored as quickly as humanly possible.

All told, crews cleared over 70 fallen trees that obstructed tracks, pumped out flooded areas, repaired dozens of signals and electronic gate crossing malfunctions, and on coastal routes, maintained draw bridge operations.

MBCR appreciates our customers' continued patience and understanding during the aftermath of the storm. Our crews will continue to work until safe, reliable service has been fully restored.

About MBCR

The Massachusetts Bay Commuter Railroad Company, LLC (MBCR) is a partnership of Veolia Transportation, the largest private sector operator of multiple modes of transit in North

America and one of Europe's largest passenger transportation companies; Bombardier Transportation, the world's leader in the manufacture and maintenance of passenger rail vehicles; and Alternate Concepts, the leading transportation operations and maintenance organization in the United States. MBCR operates and maintains the fifth largest commuter rail network in the United States under a contract with the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority. MBCR provides service to 40 million passengers a year in nearly 80 cities and towns in Massachusetts, as well as Providence, RI.

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