

MBTA hosting Feb. 8 meeting on commuter rail schedule

By Terry Date
Eagle Tribune

Proposed changes to the MBTA commuter rail's Haverhill Line would add two stops, inbound and outbound, in Haverhill, Bradford, and Lawrence and one stop, inbound and outbound, in Andover and Ballardvale.

For a look at the proposed changes, visit MBTA.com, and click on the box at the top on proposed commuter rail schedule changes.

The public can weigh in on the proposed changes, set to take effect May 23, by sending comments to the MBTA, by Feb. 12, or attending an upcoming public hearing on Feb. 8.

The closest upcoming meeting to Merrimack Valley residents is in Woburn on Feb. 8, from 6-8 p.m. at Woburn City Hall, 10 Common St.

In addition, the MBTA will host a forum on Feb. 9, in Boston for 12 transportation advocacy groups, two of which represent riders in the Merrimack Valley, the Junction Transportation Management Organization and the Merrimack Valley Transportation Management Association.

The proposed schedule changes are designed to improve service by reducing delays that affect other departures and multiple lines; representing more accurately the travel time along each line; and allowing enough time for necessary maintenance between trips, according to the MBTA.

Courtney Goldberg, spokeswoman for the two transportation management groups that represent the Merrimack Valley, said the proposed changes to train schedules do not, in general, represent much of a departure from the existing schedules.

You can provide comments by mail to: MBTA, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Commute Rail Schedule Committee; by phone at (617) 222-3200 or TTY (617) 222.5146 or email at crschedules@mbta.com or on the MBTA website, MBTA.com