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Metro

# Travelers returning from holiday weekend have few delays

## Trips shorter than expected at Logan

By Matt Rocheleau and Miriam Valverde | GLOBE CORRESPONDENTS NOVEMBER 27, 2011

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people probably postponed returning until they had had the full weekend."

Nationwide and across all modes of transportation, around 42.5 million people, including between 1.5 million and 1.8 million in New England, are projected to have traveled for this year's Thanksgiving holiday, she said. Both the national and regional figures represent a travel increase of about 4 percent from last year's turkey day, Maguire said.

Among the major holiday periods for which AAA predicts travel figures annually, Thanksgiving was the first in 2011 expected to see a "significant increase" in travel compared to last year.

At a busy South Station, some people waited for commuter rail and Amtrak trains to depart from Boston, while others dashed to and from trains and buses.

Trains leaving between 4 and 8:30 p.m. with destinations that included Washington, D.C., Providence, and Plymouth were listed as "on time" on an information board.

"Everything is going smoothly," said Emily Lanois, 20, of Hamilton, as she waited for a train back to New York. "My travel experiences usually run well, and this hasn't been the exception."

Around 90 percent of Thanksgiving-time travelers journey by car each year. Maguire attributed this year's increased traffic to a recent dip in fuel costs.

Last week's average gas price in Massachusetts was \$3.33 per gallon, around 40 cents above the cost of gas this time a year ago, but about 60 cents below the price of about \$4 per gallon that gas peaked at about seven months ago, she said.

"When people feel like they're getting a little bit of a break at the pump, they're more likely to travel," Maguire said.

Among Bay State roadways, the Massachusetts Turnpike had seen the heaviest backups as of yesterday afternoon, state Transportation Department spokeswoman Sara Lavoie said.

Heavy afternoon and evening traffic was reported in both directions on the turnpike between Charlton and Westfield and from the New York border to Chicopee, she said.

"The Mass Pike is really the travel story for today; no other significant volume or incidents on other roadways to report," Lavoie said by e-mail yesterday.



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