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Elected officials set meeting to explore ways to improve Green Line service

Posted by Matt Rocheleau January 8, 2013 02:14 PM

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By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

Local elected officials will co-sponsor a public meeting in Boston this month to explore ways to improve Green Line service.

MBTA staff plan to give a presentation about the “costs associated with substantially upgrading service and capacity” on the line, T spokesman Joe Pesaturo said.

He said state Senator William Brownsberger of Belmont called for the meeting, which is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 17 at 6 p.m. in the mezzanine conference room of the Boston Public Library in Copley Square.

Eleven other local elected officials are co-sponsoring the meeting.

According to a statement from Brownsberger’s office, the meeting will seek information on what capital projects could improve Green Line service and accessibility; the cost of those potential projects; and how improving the line fits

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within the T's system-wide funding challenges.

“The Green Line is vital to the economic health and quality of life in Boston and surrounding areas,” Brownsberger said in a statement. “I appreciate the MBTA’s willingness to help educate the public on the operational challenges of the Green Line.”

It is the second-busiest train line the T runs. Average weekday ridership on the Green Line was about 236,100, according to the agency’s latest system-wide estimates from 2010. The Red Line’s average weekday ridership was slightly higher, at about 241,600.

The line consists of 66 stations and stops across four branches, the B, C, D and E, which each run above-ground trolleys that sink into underground subway tunnels as they roll from points west toward downtown Boston.

The other elected leaders co-sponsoring the upcoming meeting are: State Senators Sonia Chang-Díaz of Jamaica Plain; Cynthia Stone Creem of Newton; Pat Jehlen of Somerville; State Representatives Gloria Fox of Roxbury; Kevin Honan of Brighton; Michael Moran of Brighton; Byron Rushing of Boston; Frank Smizik of Brookline, and Marty Walz of Boston; and Boston City Councilors Michael Ross of Mission Hill and Mark Ciommo of Brighton.

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