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## Pilot program lets bikes board rush-

## new commuter trains between some Newburyport-Rockport stations

Posted by Matt Rocheleau, May 23, 2013, 02:18 PM

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By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

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The MBTA launched a pilot program this month that allows passengers to bring bikes aboard commuter rail trains between certain stations on the Newburyport-Rockport line during morning and afternoon rush hour travel times.

The 7.5-mile rail line has been to help bikes aboard its commuter rail trains

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line 1's general policy has been to ban bikes aboard its commuter rail trains during weekday "peak commute periods," a policy that remains in effect for all other commuter rail lines.

**Times when bikes are allowed:** Bikes are allowed on 5:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. train schedules.

The pilot program on the Newburyport-Rockport lines began on May 13 and is scheduled to run through Friday, October 25.

On the Rockport line, bikes will be allowed to travel on trains between Rockport, Gloucester, West Gloucester, Manchester, Beverly Farms, Prides Crossing, and Montserrat stations on the following inbound peak service trains: 104, 106, 108, and 110; and on the following outbound peak service trains: 127, 129, 131, and 133.

No bikes will be allowed to go beyond Montserrat Station.

On the Newburyport line, bikes will be allowed to travel on trains between Newburyport, Rowley, Ipswich, Hamilton/Wentham, and North Beverly stations on the following inbound peak service trains: 152, 154, 156, 158, and 162; and on the following outbound peak service trains: 177, 181, 183, and 185.

No bikes will be allowed to go beyond North Beverly Station.

The Merritt Street Transportation Management Association, and the MURCA, say they received bike policy on a total basis, and the MURCA agreed, said TC spokesman Jim Peterson.

When asked if the program might be tested on other commuter rail lines, Peterson said: "Right now, the MURCA's priority focuses its focus how the pilot program runs on the Newburyport/Rockport lines."

The association said it is satisfied it worked with the TC line several months to develop the program.

Steve Reddy, a member of the association's board of directors who works as a local and safety manager at Swales Technology in Beverly, joined the initiative.

"As a bike/train commuter from Cambridge to Beverly, the current policy

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allows me to take advantage of the commuter rail for the majority of my commute from Cambridge to Avocetis, then bike the approximately 3 miles from the Beverly Depot to Avocetis," he said in a statement. "The new pilot program will allow our employees from the North Shore to take similar advantage of this bike/train commute mode allowing them to reduce their car use, lighten their carbon footprint, and improve their fitness level by including biking for part of their commute."

The T also started a new policy on May 1 requiring cyclists to register either a [CharlieCard](#) or a [Bike CharlieCard](#) to access any of the T's [Bike & Park Facilities](#). Registration is free and is designed to further [enhance security](#) at the bike parking locations. To register, [click here](#).

For more details about the Newburyport-Rockport pilot bike program, [click here](#).

For more information about the T's general bike policies, [click here](#).

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