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DOWNTOWN

## MBTA ridership drops, revenue increases in first year of fare hikes

Posted by Matt Rocheleau August 1, 2013 05:10 PM

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By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

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In the first year since the MBTA implemented fare hikes and service cuts, the public transit agency saw overall ridership dip by about 2 percent, though the drop was not nearly as sharp as some analysts had projected.

Meanwhile the T posted an all-time high in fare revenue.

“As we close the books on the first fiscal year since last year’s fare increase, the numbers show that the MBTA continues to be the preferred alternative for thousands of commuters,” said a statement Thursday from T general manager Beverly Scott.

The MBTA’s annual fare revenue passed the half-billion dollar mark for the first time in its history. The agency collected a record \$564,560,142 during fiscal year 2013, which ended at the end of June marking 12 months since the T implemented controversial fare increases and service cuts.

Officials said that the T’s revenue total for the past fiscal year was nearly \$28 million higher than budget writers had projected for fiscal year 2013 and 21 percent higher than the fiscal year 2012.

MBTA ridership dropped by 2 percent in fiscal year 2013 compared to the prior

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fiscal year, with nearly 392-million riders using the system. That's down from 400 million the year before.

Still, T officials noted that ridership did not decline as much as transportation planning analysts thought it would. Some experts forecasted that, due to the fare hikes and service cuts, the T's annual ridership would drop by 5.5 percent.

The agency also said that the drop in ridership during the last fiscal year "was affected by an unusually harsh winter 2012/2013, 'Superstorm Sandy,' and the Boston Marathon attack."

The most recent fiscal year also included one fewer day than fiscal year 2012, which featured a leap day, the T said.

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**MBTA fare revenue:**

Fiscal Year 2013 - \$564,560,142

Fiscal Year 2012 - \$465,755,373

Fiscal Year 2011 - \$448,813,678

Fiscal Year 2010 - \$439,322,437

Fiscal Year 2009 - \$448,751,949

Fiscal Year 2008 - \$440,964,147

**Total annual ridership (in thousands):**

All modes:

FY 13: 391,902.586

FY 12: 400,197.307

Change: -2.07%

Commuter rail:

FY 13: 35,323.3

FY 12: 36,422.1

Change: -3.01%

Bus:

FY 13: 111,721.1

FY 12: 115,461.6

Change: -2.34%

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Change: 3.24%

Trackless trolley:

FY 13: 3,216.2

FY 12: 3,257.9

Change: -1.3%

Heavy rail (Red, Orange, Blue lines):

FY 13: 165,364.8

FY 12: 163,385.9

Change: +1.21%

Light rail (Green, Mattapan-Ashmont lines):

FY 13: 72,208.4

FY 12: 76,876.9

Change: -6.07%

Boat:

FY 13: 1,253.2

FY 12: 1,399.4

Change: -10.45%

Private bus:

FY 13: 706.8

FY 12: 784.0

Change: -9.85%

RIDE:

FY 13: 2,108.9

FY 12: 2,609.4

Change: -19.18%

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