



Oct. 18, 2011

To All WRTA Riders:

It's an exciting time for the riders of the Worcester Regional Transit Authority (WRTA). In the coming months, you will start to see some big changes occurring throughout the transit system. These changes are designed with YOU, the rider, in mind.

Change is not always easy, but rest assured the changes you will be seeing are going to help make YOUR public transit system better. A new transfer hub at Union Station will offer riders a "one-stop" transportation facility that will provide riders a complete regional transportation center, with connections to MBTA commuter trains, intercity buses, Greyhound and Peter Pan buses, and bike paths. It's important to note that while there will be a new transfer hub location, **the WRTA will continue to have stops at City Hall** on Franklin St., Main St., and Front St.

The new transfer hub is expected to take 14 months to complete, with an estimated price tag of \$12 million. The project is being funded by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the state, with the FTA funding 80 percent of the project and the state funding 20 percent. This money can only be used for capital projects and may not be used for day-to-day operations. Capital funds are monies that are set aside for the purchase of capital or fixed assets. While that figure may seem daunting, it is a good fiscal decision by the WRTA to eliminate an annual rental payment for the RTA Transit brokerage office, reduce operational costs by building in efficiency (i.e. solar power), and garner funds from the sale of the Grove Street location.

In closing, I would like to thank our loyal WRTA riders for their patronage and ask those who have yet to ride the WRTA to give us a try.

In the days and months to follow, please check back for more status updates.

Sincerely,

Stephen F. O'Neil
Administrator
Worcester Regional Transit Authority