



Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority

Commuter Rail WiFi Project

FMCB Briefing

June 26, 2017

Commuter Rail WiFi Project: Overview



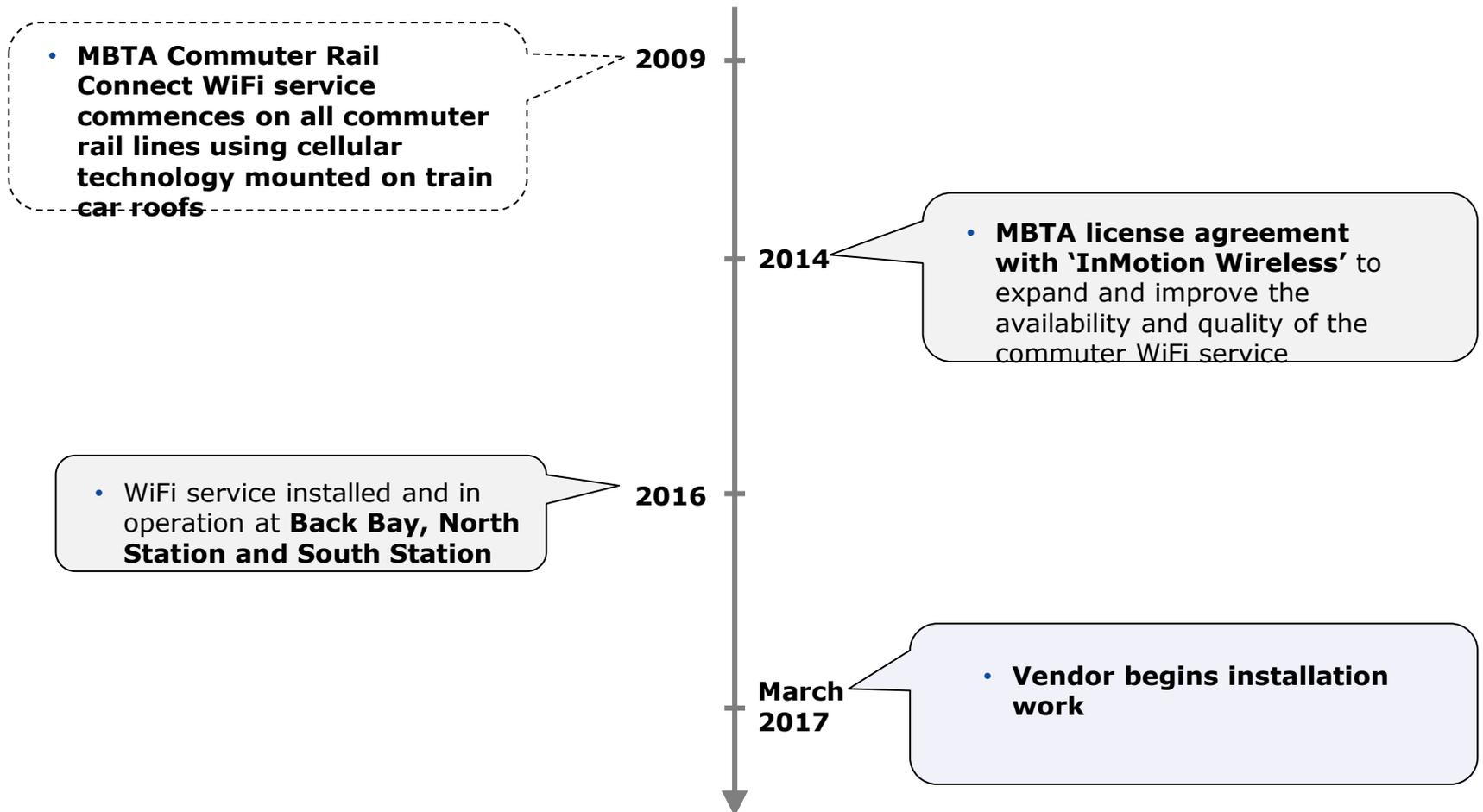
Key objectives:

- **Expand and improve the Cellular and WiFi** service across all commuter rail lines at no direct cost to T
- **Provide** recurring, long-term revenue to MBTA

Project scope includes:

- **Trackside network of 320 poles** (initial height of 75 feet) along all commuter rail lines
 - Lay nearly 400 miles of **fiber** along commuter rail right of way, **buried in ducts underground**
 - Install **equipment in each car and on poles** to improve **Cellular and WiFi** for commuters and create a **versatile on-board network** for future MBTA operational use
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Commuter Rail WiFi Project: Brief History



Commuter Rail WiFi project: Overview



- **All \$140 million of construction and operating costs borne entirely by vendor**
- **No costs are paid by the MBTA, its customers, or Commonwealth taxpayers**
- **MTBA to receive 7.5% of net revenue** from:
 - **Wireless Carrier** pole leases
 - **Fiber** leases
 - **WiFi** advertising and services fees



Commuter Rail WiFi Project: Timeline



June 2017:

- WiFi service installed and operational on the Cape Flyer

July 2017:

- ROW pole construction underway on Commuter Rail north side (140 total sites proposed)
- Permit filings for 190 pole installations on south side Commuter rail to commence

October 2017:

- Installation of on-board equipment on train cars underway

Q3 – 2018:

- Trackside pole construction complete across all lines
- Installation of on-board equipment on train cars complete
- Commuter WiFi network fully operational across all lines

Q4 – 2018

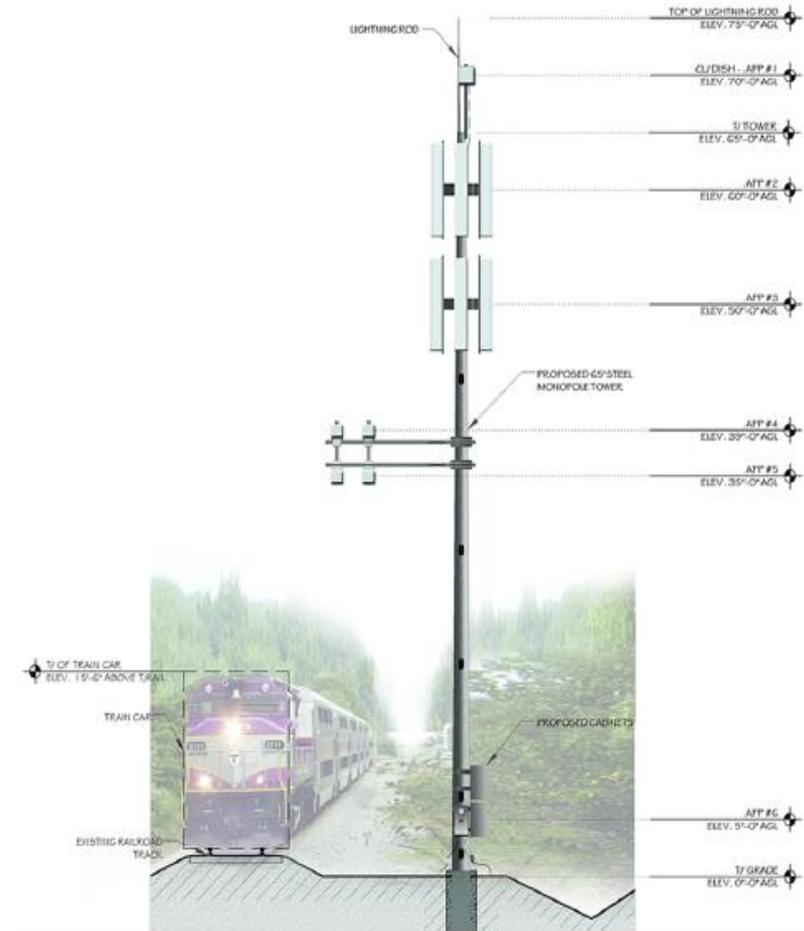
- Fiber network build complete and fully operational
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Right of Way Monopole Permitting Process



WiFi pole installation on Commonwealth rights of way is governed by state and federal permitting processes

FCC regulates construction of wireless monopoles and seeks to reduce or prevent damage to the environment or historic or culturally significant districts



ROW Monopole Permitting Process: (Cont.)



- Under the Section 106 and NEPA Screen processes, monopole sites selected to eliminate or minimize environmental or historic impacts
 - Notice and Request for Comments sent directly to Town Clerk, Local Historical Societies/Commissions, Local Planning & Zoning.
30-day comment period
 - Proposed locations published in local newspapers requesting comments and input on potentially adverse effects to properties listed on or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and located within ½ mile of the site. 30-day comment period
 - To date, 41 municipalities on north side commuter rail have been notified regarding 110 sites. Some municipalities have expressed concerns regarding pole installations; the majority have not raised significant concerns
 - Vendor working with cities and towns that have expressed concerns
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Discussion
