

= Yawkey (MBTA station) =

Yawkey is a commuter rail station on the MBTA Commuter Rail Framingham / Worcester Line , located in the Fenway @-@ Kenmore neighborhood of Boston , Massachusetts near Kenmore Square . The station sits below grade between Beacon Street and Brookline Avenue , next to the Massachusetts Turnpike . Yawkey station was originally opened as an infill station in 1988 , for limited service to Boston Red Sox games at Fenway Park . Regular commuter service began in 2001 for riders headed to Boston University , Kenmore Square , and the Longwood Medical and Academic Area .

Inbound and outbound trains formerly shared a single two @-@ car platform on the inbound track , requiring Yawkey passengers to embark or disembark from the front two cars of outbound trains or the rear two cars of inbound trains . In 2012 , work began on a new station , which includes two longer high @-@ level platforms and an overhead pedestrian bridge . The bridge will eventually allow direct access from the Beacon Street and Brookline Avenue overpasses through the planned Fenway Center development . Passengers boarded from the east end of the new station until March 10 , 2014 ; after delays , it opened fully that day .

The new station is served by all Worcester Line trains ; it is expected to increase ridership at Yawkey from 585 total daily boardings and alightings to 937 . By a 2012 count , there were 827 daily (362 boardings and 465 alightings) . With the completion of the new station , Yawkey is fully handicapped accessible .

= = History = =

= = = Game day service = = =

Named in honor of long @-@ time Red Sox owner Tom Yawkey , Yawkey was opened on April 29 , 1988 , and initially was only used for special service to Fenway Park for Boston Red Sox games . It was used by Framingham Line trains as well as special " Fenway Flyer " baseball trains from the Attleboro (now Providence / Stoughton) and Franklin lines . The " Fenway Flyer " trains had an annual ridership of 58 @, @ 000 in 1990 . The station became popular enough that the MBTA added regular commuter service . This largely obviated the need for " Fenway Flyer " specials , though certain weekend Providence trains ran to Yawkey as late as 2007 . Similar special trains continue to serve Foxboro station during football and soccer games and special events at Gillette Stadium .

Yawkey was built with a low @-@ level asphalt platform and was not initially handicapped accessible . After the 1990 passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act , a mini @-@ high platform was added between 1990 and 1992 . However , the mini @-@ high platform only served one of the line 's two tracks , limiting the number of trains that could stop at the station .

= = = Regular service = = =

In early 2000 , the MBTA released a study which analyzed the possibility of full @-@ time commuter service to Yawkey to serve workers at nearby Boston University , Kenmore Square , and the Longwood Medical and Academic Area . An addendum released in August 2000 analyzed increased service (on all modes) to Fenway Park on game days . Possibilities studied included running game day service from the Plymouth / Kingston Line with an unused trainset , a South Station @-@ Yawkey shuttle , increased Green Line service , and bus shuttles to the Red Line in Cambridge and to Ruggles station . Consideration was given to building a dedicated terminal spur and station on the remains of the former Highland Branch .

Regular weekday commuter service to the station began on January 2 , 2001 with 4 daily round trips . Weekend service was still initially limited to game days . Regular weekend service was added on April 30 , 2001 . From 2001 to 2014 , not all trains stopped at the station ; most peak @-@ direction trains stopped , but many off @-@ peak trains did not . Before the rebuilding began in

2012 , some trains stopped at Yawkey only on game days during the Red Sox season .

= = = New station = = =

In August 2007 , the MBTA published a feasibility study exploring the possibility of rebuilding Yawkey as a full @-@ service station . The study concluded that doing so would increase ridership by 60 % , from 585 daily boardings and alightings to 937 . On November 15 , 2010 , Governor Deval Patrick and other officials broke ground on a major rebuilding of the station , originally expected to be completed in the spring of 2012 . The new station has two full @-@ length high @-@ level platforms that provide level , handicapped @-@ accessible boarding for all passengers ; the old platform had only a wooden ramp for accessibility . The two 700 @-@ foot @-@ long platforms (a side platform between the tracks plus a side platform on the south side of the tracks) are connected with an overpass , and passengers no longer have to cross the tracks to access certain outbound trains .

The rebuilt station was intended to be the first component of a larger , mostly private development called Fenway Center . The new station , which cost about \$ 13 @. @ 5 million , is planned to be powered entirely by solar panels after the development opens . Although the developer , Meredith Corporation , wished to close the station during rebuilding , the MBTA elected to keep it open . Fenway Center , which was to be built on the air rights over the adjacent Massachusetts Turnpike (I @-@ 90) , would eventually cover much of the station . As part of the development , walkways would be built above the station , allowing passengers to walk directly to the pedestrian bridge and platforms from Beacon Street and Brookline Avenue rather than passing through private parking lots . After lengthy negotiations , an air @-@ rights deal between the city and the developer regarding Fenway Center was reached in May 2013 . As of June 2016 , construction on the new buildings had still yet to begin , while financing and staging negotiations for the section not located over the station and highway were underway .

The Framingham / Worcester line schedule was changed slightly in April 2012 to allow for temporary single @-@ tracking through the station for construction . Actual station construction activity started in June 2012 , and in August one track was cut , reducing the line to one track through the station . The platforms were installed in late November 2012 ; construction of the elevator shafts began in February 2013 . A temporary ramp opened in June 2013 for passengers to use the east end of the future outbound platform ; the old platform was demolished soon afterwards to make room for the west ends of the new platforms . The pedestrian bridge was lifted into place in August 2013 , followed by the various roof and canopy elements . The second track was rebuilt in late September , followed by the remaining platform segments .

The new station fully opened on March 10 , 2014 , coinciding with planned service increases on the Framingham / Worcester Line . Before the reconstruction , 17 trains stopped at Yawkey each weekday ; after , all 48 daily trains (24 round trips) stopped . The opening was first planned for January 13 , then January 27 , but was delayed due to problems with the Yawkey elevators and adjustments to the schedule based on public comment . The walkway between the new station and Fenway Park includes large lit statues of the uniform numbers retired by the Red Sox .

After special events like concerts at Fenway Park , the MBTA sometimes runs special commuter rail shuttles from Yawkey to South Station .

In December 2015 , Boston Globe columnist Adrian Walker proposed renaming Yawkey Way and Yawkey station because their current namesake , Tom Yawkey , was a racist .

= = = Cancelled plans = = =

Yawkey Station was a proposed stop on the MBTA 's proposed Urban Ring Project . The Urban Ring was to be a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Line designed to connect the current MBTA Lines to reduce strain on the downtown stations . Under the most recent plan , the Urban Ring would access Yawkey via Mountfort Street to the north and a new tunnel paralleling the Green Line " D " Branch to the southwest , with a turnoff and station at Overland Street . The Urban Ring project is currently

shelved due to the MBTA 's financial difficulties .

In 2014 , it was revealed by the state that the stop would be part of the proposed Indigo Line system with frequent DMU service , but that plan was canceled in 2015 .

= = Station design = =

The station is fully handicapped accessible , with two full @-@ length high @-@ level platforms and elevators to cross from one track to another . The overhead pedestrian bridge is designed to connect to a future deck between Brookline Avenue and Beacon Street as part of the Fenway Center project . The main entrance to the station is on Overland Street between the two major streets ; staircases to Beacon Street are also available from the west ends of the platforms .

The station has an extremely unusual platform layout , where the outbound side platform is between the tracks rather than to the side . This is because the station is located on a tight curve ; doors located on the end of passenger cars would have gaps next to a convex platform .

= = Connections = =

Four MBTA Bus routes stop on Brookline Avenue at Yawkey Way :

8 Harbor Point / UMass ? Kenmore Station via B.U. Medical Center & Dudley Station

19 Fields Corner Station ? Kenmore or Ruggles Station via Grove Hall & Dudley Station

60 Chestnut Hill ? Kenmore Station via Brookline Village & Cypress Street

65 Brighton Center ? Kenmore Station via Washington Street , Brookline Village & Brookline Avenue

Kenmore station , located 0 @.@ 25 miles (0 @.@ 40 km) to the northeast along Brookline Avenue , provides connections to the " B " , " C " , and " D " branches of the MBTA Green Line , as well two additional bus routes :

57 Watertown Yard ? Kenmore Station via Newton Corner & Brighton Center

57A Oak Square ? Kenmore Station via Commonwealth Avenue

MASCO , a consortium of medical facilities and universities , runs a number of private and semi @-@ private bus routes that serve its member organizations . Two private routes , the HSPH Landmark Shuttle and the Fenway Combined Shuttle , stop at Yawkey station on Overland Street .