

Old Colony Railroad

Did You Know?

•The name 'Old Colony' was the name originally given to Southeastern Massachusetts by the Pilgrims in the mid-Seventeenth Century.

•Over 228,000 railroad ties were laid for the reconstruction of Old Colony. There are approximately 91,000 wooden ties and 136,800 concrete. Although the concrete ties are more efficient in terms of maintenance, the wooden ties, because of their softer make-up, reduce considerably the amount of noise and vibrations caused by passing trains to abutting communities.

•The MBTA has used a special type of railroad tie for specific areas known as 'turnouts', which are high stress stretches of track where normal wooden or concrete ties would require frequent repair. Instead they are using ties made from Ekki wood, an African timber which is virtually indestructible; it is shipped in log form from Cameroon to Belgium where it is cut and carved with a diamond blade. In total, there are 106 turnout areas with 9,300 ekki wood ties supporting them.

•There are 70 route miles of track that comprise Old Colony's right-of-way.

•There are 17 stations along both lines with a total of 42.1 acres of public parking available.

•Along with the new Old Colony there are 54 public grade crossings and 27 rehabilitated or replaced bridges including a brand new bridge over the Neponset River to replace the previous one that had been destroyed by fire some decades earlier.

•Both Kingston Station and Middleboro Station are equipped with a state-of-the-art layover terminal that can house 5 complete train sets (engines and cars). Each train will be able to shut down its engine and plug into an electrical system which will enable them to keep warm over night, saving time and energy.

•A tunnel beneath Route 3 in Kingston was built for the Kingston/Plymouth split.

•Legendary Statesman John Quincy Adams and Daniel Webster were on board Old Colony's first run in 1845.

•Part of Old Colony's right-of-way originally belonged to the Granite Railroad, which, when built in 1826, became America's first railroad.

•Old Colony will help congestion by removing at least 10,000 cars from the roadways daily.

•An estimated 15,000 people from over 32 South Shore communities will ride Old Colony everyday.

•Over 600,000 cubic feet of dirt and sand were excavated to make room for the Kingston Station and the adjacent layover tracks. The quarried land was re-used to raise the grade along Old Colony's tracks.

•Over 90% of Old Colony's original right-of-way was used for the renewal project.

•The addition of Old Colony to the MBTA's public transit system symbolizes the final corner of the web and gives the 'T' a panoramic service spectrum about the Greater Boston region.

•Other transit first include:

Public Transit in Boston is over 365-years old. In 1889, American's first widespread use of electricity to power streetcars.

In 1897, the tunnel from Boylston Station to Park Street Station became American's first subway.

In 1904, America's first underwater transit tunnel was built beneath Boston Harbor between East Boston and downtown and it is still part of the Blue Line today.

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