CLIMATE CHANGE

WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR THE MBTA?

temperature

Exposure to extreme heat and cold at stations and stops is a

public health risk

Cooling and de-icing measures for rails and AC/heat on buses lead to

increased energy and water use

Increased pavement temperatures can lead to

tire damage

on buses

Heat "kinks" on rails could lead to

derailments or potential damage

snow

Winter weather leads to

snow removal and storage costs

Winter weather leads to

limited access to bus stops

Extreme cold leads to

decreased stopping ability for trains

rain

Storms (snow or otherwise) and heat orders (reducing the speeds of trains) can lead to

cancelled or delayed trips

Delays and cancellations lead to

economic impacts

for individuals, MBTA, and for the region

Stations are pumped or protected during storms to prevent flooding can lead to an

increased need for energy and manpower

sea level rise and coastal storms

The snowstorms of 2015 could have contributed to fewer average weekday unlinked trips January through March.

174k fewer average weekday unlinked trips Jan-Mar 2015 over Jan-Mar 2014

Source: MBTA 2016

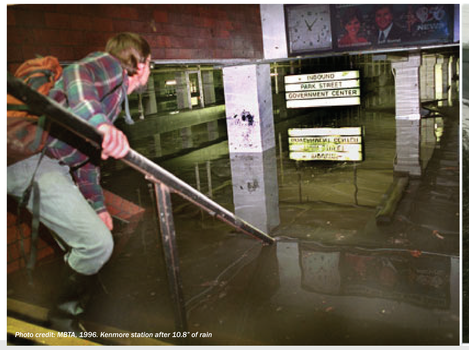

Photo credit: MBTA, 1996. Kenmore station after 10.8" of rain

Photo credit: Michael Henrich, Fox News (photo from September 2015 - Twitter)

Photo credit: Boston Globe, 2015.

Photo credit: Fox News

FOCUS 40 The 2040 Investment Plan for the MBTA

massDOT Massachusetts Department of Transportation