



Charles D. Baker, Governor
Karyn E. Polito, Lieutenant Governor
Stephanie Pollack, MassDOT Secretary & CEO
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Subject: Photography Policy & Procedure

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SECURITY POLICY/PROCEDURE # 2007-1

I. Background

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (“MBTA”) has security and public relations interests in persons who wish to take photographic or video images on, in, or of MBTA property, vehicles, or employees. Although in most instances there is no particular harm involved in taking photographic or video images on, in, or of MBTA property, vehicles, or employees, the MBTA has an obligation to provide for the safety and security of our employees and customers.

II. Policy

In order to provide the highest level of safety and security to its customers and employees and to ensure that marketing rights are protected, the MBTA has adopted this Photography Policy.

Persons may take photographic or video images, including but not limited to film, digital or video recordings (Images) of MBTA Property, including but not limited to stations, buses, trains, or other vehicles for their personal use. Persons must not interfere with transportation activity while taking Images.

Images of designated Restricted Areas (e.g. an area not open to the public, an area designated for “MBTA Employees Only”, etc.), are not permitted. Any person observed taking Images on, in, or of a Restricted Area may be subject to law enforcement action as appropriate.

Except as otherwise permitted by law (e.g. in conjunction with a lawful arrest, etc.), MBTA Transit Police Officers or other MBTA officials shall not demand or take any action to delete, view or confiscate images taken by any person.

Nothing in this policy shall preclude a police officer from acting within the authority granted under Mass. Gen. Law Chapter 41 Section 98. Any person wishing to take Images for any type of commercial purpose or use, (e.g., movies, commercials, trade publications, etc.) must first obtain a permit from the Massachusetts Realty Group.



III. Scope

This Policy is being issued by the Chief of Police under the authority granted him by the Board of Directors and the General Manager and applies to all employees, vendors, contractors, and all other persons on MBTA Property or vehicles.

IV. Procedure

Personal Use Photography (Non-Commercial)

No permit is required for personal and/or non-commercial use Images taken in public areas.

Non-commercial photographers are prohibited from using tripods, monopods, wiring or any like equipment that may have an impact on the safety of customers or employees and are prohibited from interfering with the free flow of passengers, disrupting service in any manner or interfering with any transportation activity.

Commercial Photography

Any person wishing to take Images for any type of commercial purpose or use must first obtain a Permit by contacting the Massachusetts Realty Group, 20 Park Plaza, Suite 1120, Boston, MA 02116 (617-316-1660). Once issued, the Permit will be valid for a specific location, date and time, which is stated on the Permit.

News Media Photographers

News media photographers who prominently display their Commonwealth of Massachusetts News Media Photographer identification card, News Photographer tri-card (See samples attached) or another form of official press/media identification will be allowed to take Images of MBTA Property, vehicles or employees so long as they do not interfere with the free flow of passengers or disrupt service in any manner. News media photographers are subject to the same limitations and restrictions regarding Restricted Areas of the MBTA.

News media photographers are requested to make prior notification to the MBTA Public Affairs Office at 617-222-3302 and the MBTA Transit Police Department at 617-222-1212.

Please note: Officials should advise the appropriate Line Dispatcher when observing a news media photographer taking Images on, in, or of MBTA Property, vehicles, or employees. However, they do not need to request information from the persons(s) so long as the media credentials are prominently displayed.



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News media photographers are not allowed inside any crime or incident scene without the permission of, and an escort provided by, the on-scene MBTA Transit Police Incident Commander or his/her designee.

V. Employee Responsibilities

MBTA Officials: MBTA employees may not prevent or restrict a person from taking Images unless the activity interferes with transportation activity.