



# CITY OF LAWRENCE

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

City Hall · 200 Common Street · Lawrence, MA 01840  
Tel: (978) 620-3010 · [www.cityoflawrence.com](http://www.cityoflawrence.com)

Brian A. DePeña  
Mayor of Lawrence

## FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE

**LAWRENCE, MA (August 12, 2022)** – The Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority (MVRTA) announced that the Boston Commuter Bus from Methuen, Lawrence, and Andover would be permanently canceled on September 6, 2022.

Reasons:

High cost of fuel due to inflation.

Lack of passengers. "Around ten to fifteen riders are using this service per trip on a 57-seat bus). Ridership has been very low since the pandemic. People are no longer working in Boston anywhere near the levels they had been working pre-COVID," said Niorka Mendez-Almonte, Director of Communications. "The ridership in Lawrence has been extremely low - only two passengers have used the service over the last 60 days."

Lack of drivers. MVRTA is currently seeking drivers.

Alternative options:

Commuter rail: MBTA Haverhill Line Commuter Rail, which runs 13 daily round trips between Lawrence, Andover, and Boston. Constituents can call 617-222-3200 for schedule and fare information.

Van Pool: MVRTA is working with current Boston Commuter riders with support from the Van Pool program at MassDOT, seeking to establish a Van Pool with a donated MVRTA van. Constituents can call 978-469-6878 to participate in the vanpool program.

Any economic crisis normally hits hard in an economically disadvantaged community like ours. For instance, we will continue our dialogue with the Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority to mitigate the regional impact of this decision, said Mayor Brian A. DePeña.

In appreciation of the loyal riders, MVRTA will offer FARE-FREE service on the route starting August 15, 2022, until the last day of service. For any questions or concerns, please contact our Communications Director Nestor Castillo at [nestor.castillo@cityoflawrence.com](mailto:nestor.castillo@cityoflawrence.com) or call at 978-771-9773.

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