

New cameras keep watch on MBTA buses

High-tech systems being installed on busy routes

By **Martine Powers** Globe Staff, February 12, 2014, 3:14 a.m.



MBTA driver Abdenour Elmahil waited for passengers at the Broadway bus stop on a bus that was recently outfitted with a camera (above) and video monitor. The images are streamed to monitors in a T dispatch center. DAVID L. RYAN/GLOBE STAFF

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority has begun to install high-definition security cameras and video screens on 225 buses throughout the transit system — one step in a long-term process to bring video surveillance to the entire bus and subway fleet.

The cameras and monitors — which allow riders to watch what's being captured by the cameras on a screen behind the driver's cab — are being paid for by a \$6.9 million grant [from the Department of Homeland Security](#). The grant, awarded in 2010, is meant to

help police purchase equipment to help them respond to emergencies more quickly and aid in criminal prosecutions. The cameras will live-stream footage to the monitors on the buses, as well as to monitors at the T's bus dispatching center, where footage is recorded and saved for an undisclosed period of time.

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