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## **I-93/Anderson Station Portable VMS Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority Massachusetts Department of Transportation**

**Duration: 2012-2013  
Project Cost: \$500,000  
Firm Fee: \$40,000  
Role: Sub-consultant**



TrafInfo Communications, Inc. recently completed a fast-track project for the MBTA & MassDOT initiated by the MA Secretary of Transportation. To increase parking usage at the Anderson Station regional transportation center, the MBTA wanted to display the departure time of the Lowell line commuter train in real-time on Interstate 93, upstream of the station.

TrafInfo developed a hosted solution which involved two software components and a MySQL database.

One software component, written in PHP, was related to interfacing with the real-time XML feed from the MBTA's website. Based upon the commuter line and destination, the software extracts the scheduled departure time and the estimated "lateness" and computes the actual departure time. The actual departure time is stored in the database.



The second software component, written in Perl, uploads the actual departure time on to the portable VMS using vendor-supplied communication protocol. The software also periodically communicates to with the sign to ensure the proper message is being displayed.

The portable VMS was configured to ensure that outdated messages were not displayed. Message time-out was implemented in the event communication was lost between the server and the portable VMS.

TrafInfo completed the project on time and within budget and met the tight deadlines for this project. The portable VMS on I-93 is being used as a test case to determine the ability of real-time departure information to encourage more transit riders.