Comparing Two Systems
The Dominican Republic and Boston

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Google Maps
One thing I love about public transportation in Boston is that you can use Google Maps to figure out how to get where you want to go. Google Maps will even tell you whether the bus or the train has some delay and the exact time you will reach your destination. There is nothing like this in the Dominican Republic (DR). In my country, the buses do not run on a dependable schedule, and you can’t track them on Google Maps! Also, the price changes with no warning.

Drivers Take Care
Another difference between public transportation in Boston and the DR is the treatment of passengers, especially people with disabilities and kids. For example, one day I took the bus to school with my little son and I didn’t know that I didn’t have money on my Charlie Card. I opened my wallet to try to pay the driver, but he told me, “Don’t worry about it.” I was shocked. I called my mother who lives in the DR and told her what had happened to me. She said to me, “They would never do that in the DR! They would tell you to get off the bus.”

I also told my mother the things that you can see in the bus here that we don’t have in my country. For example, when someone in a wheelchair boards the bus in Boston, the driver takes extra precautions to make sure they’re safe. The driver leans the bus down on one side so these people can easily climb on, and the bus has special space for people with disabilities or a wheelchair. Seeing that for me was amazing. I love the public transportation in Boston, because it is more efficient and comfortable.

Conclusion
The public transportation in Boston still has some problems. For example, one time I had to wait a long time for a bus #14 to American Legion, but I think the public transportation here is much better than in the Dominican Republic.

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