

# Support Funding for Regional Transit Authorities in the FY19 Budget to Prevent Drastic Cuts to Regional Bus Service and Paratransit Rides!

**By April 20th, 2018, ask your MA State Representative to co-sponsor Rep. Peake's amendment to fund line item 1595-6370 at \$88 million.**

The proposed FY2019 state budget would provide only stagnant funding for essential transportation services --- when *the cost of those services is increasing*. If the State Legislature can provide \$88 million (instead of just \$80 million, as the Governor suggests), we can avoid painful cuts and fare increases.



**Level-funding to RTAs means drastic service cuts and significant fare increases for seniors, students, people with disabilities, and low-income families.**

## RTAs need adequate and predictable funding.

There have been no meaningful increases in state support to RTAs for several years. Because of increased costs, level funding translates directly to cuts in service and/or increased rider fares. Funding RTAs at \$88 million in FY 2019, using funds specifically dedicated to transportation, is consistent with the 2.5% *annual* increase anticipated in the Transportation Finance Act of 2013.



## Here's why we must increase funding for RTAs:

**Fairness and dignity:** Public transportation is essential to provide affordable ways to get to work, school, and for daily life. One in seven households in Massachusetts, and a much higher percentage of RTA riders, do not own a car. Losing service or sharply increasing fares is a serious hardship for our most vulnerable neighbors.

**Our economy:** Across Massachusetts, many business and communities depend on RTAs for their employees, customers, and visitors. Cutting service harms employees and business owners. Massachusetts can only be "open for business" if workers can get to jobs.

**The environment:** Public transportation is important to reducing local air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. Transportation accounts for the largest share of greenhouse gases of any sector of our economy, and we need to be encouraging greener forms of travel.

**Public health:** Public transit is a key tool to escape poverty, as it provides access to jobs, education, social services, and child care, as well as health care and recovery services.

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