

# SUPPORT REGIONAL BUS & PARATRANSIT SERVICES

Please co-sponsor Amendment #756 & #757 by Representative Sarah Peake

**In order to see long-term, sustainable changes to service, the legislature must ensure all money in line item 1595-6370 supports RTA operations in FY22**

55% of MA residents live within an RTA service area, but only a fraction are served due to inadequate state funding. These services are especially important for older adults, people with low incomes, and those with disabilities. Amendments #756 & 757 will pave the way for needed service improvements, such as extended hours to serve essential workers, more robust paratransit service for people with disabilities, and greater connectivity across RTA regions.

**The legislature is accountable to transit users in 250+ cities and towns beyond the reach of the MBTA.**

- RTAs rely upon state operating funds to run fixed-route buses and paratransit services (origin-to-destination rides for people with disabilities and/or seniors)
- When state funding does not keep pace with inflation, RTAs are challenged to keep up with operating costs, and cannot match service to the needs of riders
- To ensure sustainable improvements to service, legislators must make funds available through RTA operating assistance, not temporary discretionary grants

**Federal COVID relief packages provide one-time payments that reimburse RTAs for COVID-related costs.**

2020 - 2021 federal relief funding is intended to help RTAs protect the health and safety of drivers and riders during the pandemic. These one-time funds are limited in scope and cannot be used to make sustainable changes to service.

State Operating Funds	COVID-19 Federal Relief
<i>Employee wages &amp; benefits</i>	<i>Needed capital projects</i>
<i>Needed bus routes</i>	<i>Backfill lost revenues</i>
<i>Expanded &amp; weekend service hours</i>	<i>PPE &amp; driver barriers</i>
<i>More frequent service</i>	<i>Connections to vaccine sites</i>
<i>Permanent changes to fare policy</i>	<i>Air filtration systems</i>

Questions? Contact the RTA Advocates Coalition

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