

# SUPPORT REGIONAL BUS & PARATRANSIT SERVICES

Please co-sponsor Amendment #4 by Senator Harriette Chandler

**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. Amendment #4 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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