

# MOVE NOW TO SUPPORT REGIONAL TRANSIT ADVANCEMENT

*Please support S.2277 by Sen. Harriette Chandler & Rep. Natalie Blais*

## **An Act to increase regional transit accessibility in the Commonwealth**

Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs) are a lifeline to over 250 communities beyond the reach of the MBTA. Inadequate state funding and limited technical support have made it challenging for RTAs to maintain stable service levels. This bill will improve and expand RTA service to better meet the needs of communities.

## **THE RTA ADVANCEMENT BILL WILL:**



### **Ensure adequate funding for RTAs**

- Set a floor for state contract assistance with annual automatic increases based on inflation



### **Dedicate a portion of Uber and Lyft fees to support RTAs**

- Direct 50% of Transportation Network Companies (TNC) fees in the Commonwealth Transportation Fund to RTAs



### **Revitalize the RTA Council**

- Add two seats to the council for frequent riders of the RTA
- Support RTA service improvement by directing the council to report annually on funding, technical assistance and service needs of RTAs



### **Enhance support for RTA capital projects**

- Direct MassDOT to fund RTA capital projects at the same rate as MBTA capital projects



### **Support electrification of RTA buses**

- Direct MassDOT to support RTAs in the development of adequate electric bus plans



### **Stop grading RTAs on the farebox recovery ratio**

- End use of a performance metric that deepens inequities by incentivizing fare policies that burden riders

*Questions? Contact the RTA Advocates Coalition*

Alexis Walls, MA Public Health Association, [awalls@mapublichealth.org](mailto:awalls@mapublichealth.org)/410-935-9819

Enrique Pepen, Transportation for MA, [epepen@t4ma.org](mailto:epepen@t4ma.org)/617-821-3228

## RTAs are a lifeline during the COVID-19 pandemic.

RTAs are an essential service to residents across the Commonwealth, and are especially crucial during a pandemic:

- Allow essential workers to travel to and from job sites
- Transport residents to medical appointments, including COVID-19 testing and vaccination sites
- Connect low income residents with essential services like food pantries and grocery stores

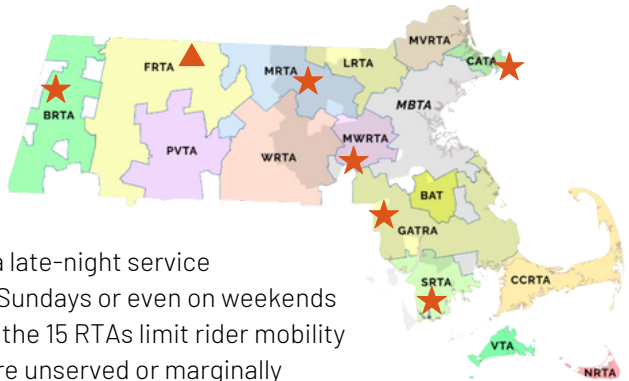
## It's time to advance our regional transit system.

RTAs vary greatly across the state. Inadequate state funding and limited technical support have made it challenging for RTAs to maintain service levels and expand to meet the needs of riders.

▲ Weekday Service only

★ Weekday and Saturday Service only

- Most RTAs cannot afford a late-night service
- Some RTAs do not run on Sundays or even on weekends
- Geographic boundaries of the 15 RTAs limit rider mobility
- Many rural communities are unserved or marginally served by the RTAs



### Advancing recommendations from the 2019 Report of the Task Force on Regional Transit Authority Performance and Funding

The Task Force was created in 2018 by the FY 2019 Massachusetts State Budget to investigate challenges and opportunities facing regional transit service providers. The Task Force concluded that *“to innovate, expand and improve to meet demonstrated community needs, the RTAs need financial predictability and stability.”*

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