

# ACT NOW FOR EQUITABLE PUBLIC TRANSIT

Please fund lineitem 1595-6370 at \$150M to advance regional transit

FY24 Budget Factsheet

April 2023

## INVEST NOW FOR A MORE EFFICIENT AND EQUITABLE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

The Commonwealth's 15 Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs) are a lifeline to the 55% of Massachusetts residents who live beyond the reach of MBTA bus and subway service, providing access to jobs, health care, grocery stores, and other basic needs. RTA services are especially important for older adults, people with low incomes, and those with disabilities. Despite their essential function, RTAs are unable to expand, and sometimes even maintain service due to years of underfunding. A robust and sustained increase in state funding is critical to improve RTA services to meet the needs of communities.

*RTA Funding History - H1: \$102.82M base; FY23: \$94M base + \$2.5M fare pilot grants; FY22: \$94M base; FY21: \$90.5M base + \$3.5M one-time grants; FY20: \$87M base + \$3.5M one-time grants*

## RTA COMMUNITIES REQUEST \$150M TO:



### CLOSE PRIORITY GAPS IN TRANSIT

Set the floor for RTA state operating assistance at \$150M. This funding level will enable agencies to provide daily service, run later into the evening, and increase frequency of service.



### SUSTAIN IMPROVEMENTS TO SERVICE

Ensure that additional funds for RTAs go towards base operating support rather than one-time grants. Funding sustained through RTA operating budgets promote reliable year-to-year service planning, whereas one-time grants produce short lived service improvements.



### HELP ADVANCE MA CLIMATE GOALS

The transportation sector is the leading source of greenhouse gas emissions in MA. Increasing funds RTAs receive to run service will help pave to more accessible and reliable transit that gets people out of cars and onto buses, moving MA closer to realizing its climate goals.



Did you know?

Under the current FY23 funding level:



RTAs are unable to provide daily service, and



more than half of the RTAs lack late evening service