AN ACT TO INCREASE REGIONAL TRANSIT ACCESSIBILITY IN THE COMMONWEALTH

Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs) are a lifeline to residents in over 250 communities beyond the reach of the MBTA, particularly people of color, older adults, low-income communities, and people with disabilities or with limited mobility. The RTA Advancement bill will pave the way to more accessible and reliable transit that gets people out of cars and onto buses, moving the state closer to realizing its climate goals.

THE RTA ADVANCEMENT BILL WILL:

- **Raise the Funding Floor for RTAs**
  Set the floor for state contract assistance for RTAs at $150M so that all agencies can provide daily and evening service.

- **Invest in Transit Statewide**
  Establish an RTA Fund in statute, mirroring the MBTA Fund, for investments in regional transit including fees from Transportation Network Companies like Uber and Lyft.

- **Uplift Community Needs**
  Add community seats to the RTA Council and require the Council to report annually on service gaps, as well as RTA technical assistance and funding needs.

- **Stop Equating Performance with Profit**
  End use of the farebox recovery ratio as a performance metric for transit agencies. This ratio measures profitability rather than effectiveness in meeting community needs.

**Did you know?**

- RTAs receive <7% of state transit operating funds, while providing service for 55% of the Commonwealth's population.

**Fact Sheet**

January 2023

**Questions? Contact the RTA Advocates Coalition**
Alexis Walls, MA Public Health Association, awalls@mapublichealth.org, 410-935-9819
IT'S TIME TO ADVANCE OUR REGIONAL TRANSIT SYSTEM

RTAs connect residents to medical care, food, jobs, education and other necessities that drive good health outcomes. Despite their essential function, RTAs are unable to expand, and sometimes even maintain, service due to years of chronic underfunding.

- 8 RTAs do not have permanent service that runs after 9PM
- 6 RTAs cannot afford to run service 7 days a week
- Geographic boundaries of the 15 RTAs limit rider mobility
- Many rural communities have little or no RTA service at all

THE RTA ADVOCATES COALITION

The Regional Transit Authority Advocates Coalition (RTAAC) is a coalition of community groups, human services providers, transportation advocates, and local leaders who advocate for transit that meets the needs of communities served by the 15 RTAs across Massachusetts. RTAAC members include:

- 350MA
- 495 MetroWest Partnership
- Bristol Elder Services
- Coalition for Social Justice
- Community Economic Development Center of SE MA
- Community Health Network for North Central MA
- Conservation Law Foundation
- Food Bank of Western MA
- Greenfield Housing Authority
- Groundwork Lawrence
- Hilltown Community Development Corporation
- MA Association of Regional Transit Authorities
- Metropolitan Area Planning Council
- Mass Budget and Policy Center
- Mass Public Interest Research Group
- MassINC
- Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
- Public Health Institute of Western MA
- Stavros Center For Independent Living
- WalkBoston
- Western Massachusetts Network to End Homelessness
- Worcester Transportation Advocates Coalition (TAC)r
- ZeroFare WRTA Coalition

...and many more!