

PROTECT HISTORIC REGIONAL TRANSIT INVESTMENTS PLEASE SUPPORT \$150 MILLION FOR RTA OPERATING

Fact Sheet

March 2024

ZIP CODE SHOULDN'T DETERMINE MOBILITY.

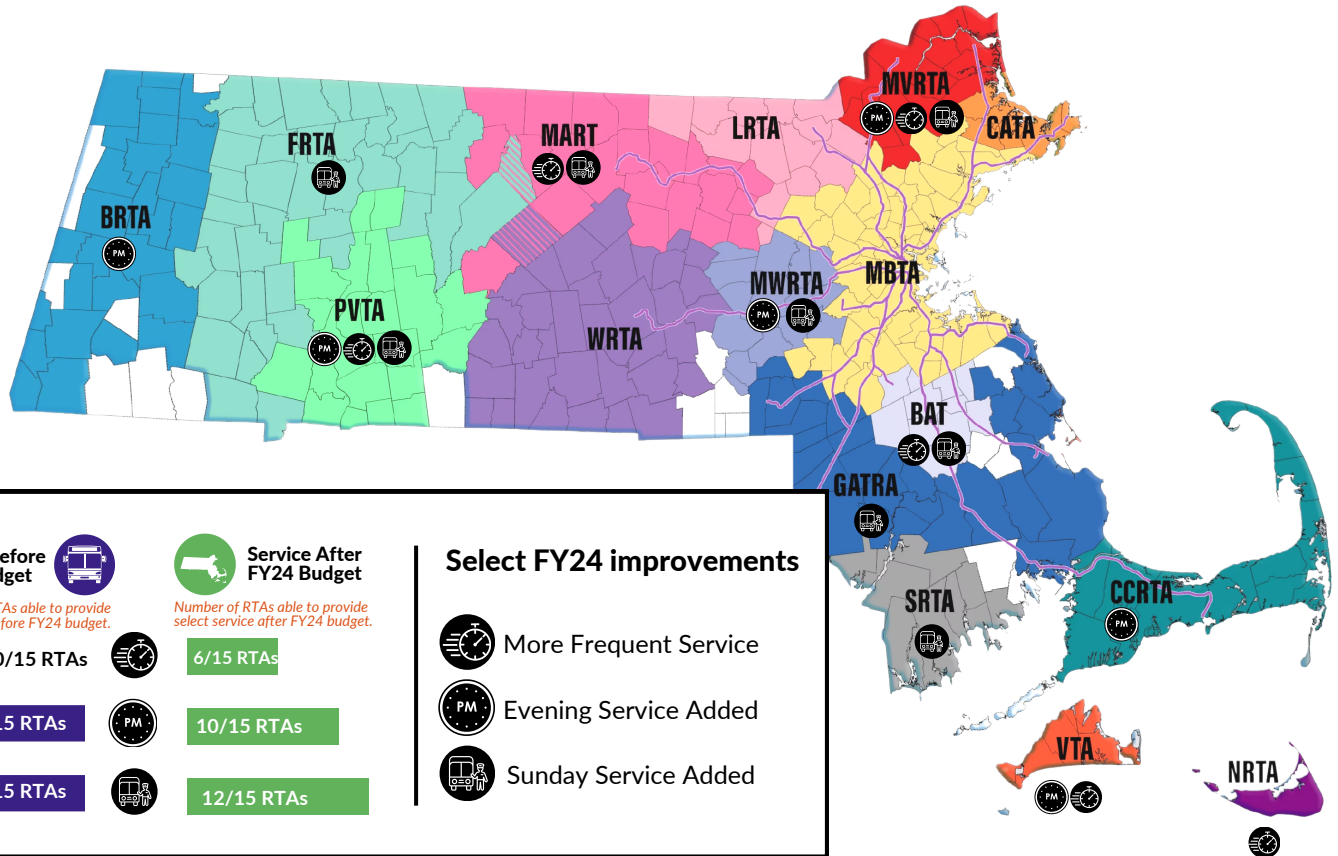
In the FY24 budget, state leaders allocated \$150 million to bolster transit operations in RTA communities. As a result, agencies have begun to expand service to the base level communities deserve, restoring service from cuts made in previous years due to budget constraints, and offering new options: evening hours, weekend hours, expanded micro transit, and added routes for people with disabilities.



To increase residents' ability to get where they need to go, we must protect this historic level of investment so that RTAs can maintain service improvements and continue to address gaps.

KEY RTA SERVICE EXPANSIONS SINCE FY24 BUDGET

Highlighted below are just a few examples of statewide service improvements.



REGIONAL SNAPSHOTS: TRANSIT INVESTMENTS IN ACTION

MONEY MATTERS.

Due to historic investments in RTA communities, RTAs across the state are embarking on a new path to meet community needs. Below are just a few examples of changes that RTAs have implemented or plan to implement in FY24, and hope to build upon in FY25:



MetroWest Regional Transit Authority (MWRTA)



- **RTA Input:** plan to purchase larger capacity vehicles
- **Community Impact:** new Sunday service, expanded evening service from 7 pm to 10 pm (est. spring 2024)

“Our region is home to approximately 1 in 10 residents in Massachusetts, and 1 in every 10 jobs. Transportation in our region is a unique challenge: none of our 36 cities and towns are served by MBTA bus or subway service; commuter rail and RTA service represent the majority of public transportation options available in our region.
- Jason Palitsch, 495/MetroWest Partnership”



Brockton Area Transit Authority (BAT)



- **RTA Input:** expanded workforce, increased driver wages
- **Community Impact:** more frequent service, new Sunday morning service, new service for 2nd & 3rd shift workers (est. summer 2024)

“Our bus service is the lifeline for many of our most needy members of our community...[many] who use our paratransit systems to make important visits to doctor's appointments or have door to door service to get life essentials like food...
-John Troxell, Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1547”



Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA)



- **RTA Input:** expanded workforce, including staff to assist residents in accessing transit services
- **Community Impact:** expanded micro transit hours, new weekend service

“As a direct service worker supporting adults with mental illness for 47+ years, I have long recognized how essential robust transit systems are to those I serve living full and meaningful lives.
-George Touloumtzis, Resident”

THE RTA ADVOCATES COALITION

The Regional Transit Authority Advocates Coalition (RTAAC) is a coalition of community groups, human service 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 groups across sectors: public health, housing, food, economic development, regional planning, environmental justice

...and many more!