



April 7, 2025

The Honorable Ronald Mariano  
Speaker of the House

The Honorable Karen E. Spilka  
Senate President

The Honorable Aaron M. Michlewitz  
Chair, House Committee on Ways & Means

The Honorable Michael J. Rodrigues  
Chair, Senate Committee on Ways & Means

The Honorable James Arciero  
House Chair, Joint Committee on Transportation

The Honorable Brendan Crighton  
Senate Chair, Joint Committee on Transportation

### ***Investing in Modernizing and Decarbonizing our Transportation System***

Dear Speaker Mariano, Senate President Spilka, Chair Michlewitz, and Chair Rodrigues,

Thank you for your leadership and hard work to address one of the Commonwealth's most pressing challenges: building and maintaining a statewide transportation system that serves residents' needs, increases our competitiveness, and meets our climate goals. As businesses and institutions in Massachusetts, we recognize the challenges facing our transportation network and public transit system as well as the incredible opportunity that modernization represents. We remain committed to meeting our state's 2030 and 2050 clean energy and climate goals and know that reducing transportation emissions will require strategic, sustained investment.

The transportation sector is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the Commonwealth, accounting for around 40% of carbon pollution. To reduce emissions from transportation to 50% of 1990 levels in the next five years, as required by the 2021 Roadmap to Net Zero law, we must both meet our immediate transportation investment needs *and* make significant progress toward decarbonization and service expansion. Meeting our statutory obligations will require a significant and sustained multi-year investment. However, the benefits are myriad: sustained economic growth; improved air quality and public health; alleviation of congestion; and meaningful climate progress.

Our transportation system faces both current budget challenges and major upcoming costs, with needs ranging from the Allston Multimodal Project to the replacement of outdated Commuter Rail rolling stock. As policymakers consider strategies to manage operational and capital costs, it is imperative that we integrate climate investments into existing transportation work to maximize efficiencies and truly build a system that serves residents well now and in 2050.

In your work this fiscal year and legislative session, we urge to you take the following steps:

**Close existing gaps in public transit spending.** The MBTA system faces a nearly \$700 million operating budget gap for Fiscal Year 2026, and the estimated cost to bring the whole system to a state of good repair is at least \$24.5 billion. The Governor’s funding proposal for FY25 and FY26 includes a necessary appropriation of additional Fair Share revenue to address this gap, and we urge swift adoption of her proposal to avert a budgetary crisis for core public transit operations. Beyond the MBTA, the state’s other Regional Transit Authorities face varying operating budget challenges, necessitating support from the state beyond what has been proposed. Moving more travelers from single-passenger vehicle travel to mass transit is one of the most effective near-term steps we can take to reduce transportation emissions. This transition can only happen with transit options that are reliable, accessible, and safe.

**Invest in modern, greener transportation solutions.** Building a future-ready transportation system requires making investments today in decarbonization and service expansion. At the same time, modernizing our infrastructure by bringing in new buses and trains, increasing availability of electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and expanding multi-modal travel options also makes travel more convenient, reliable, and attractive to residents, visitors, and businesses. Any comprehensive transportation funding plan will need to include investments that enable rapid electrification of the Commuter Rail and transit buses, accelerate deployment of publicly available charging stations, and increase networks of pedestrian and cyclist travel corridors.

**Improve resiliency of infrastructure to climate impacts.** Flooding and other extreme weather events create costly disruptions to all modes of transportation, and the changing climate is already making these events more frequent and severe. Investments that make infrastructure more resilient will help avoid the massive costs of climate-related impacts, with [4x the savings](#) for every dollar spent. Coordinating capital planning to ensure that resilience and adaptation investments are incorporated into transportation infrastructure projects when possible will help protect residents, natural resources, and communities from avoidable harm.

**Secure sustained, dedicated funding for future transportation needs.** The transportation spending described here represents a necessary and valuable investment in our Commonwealth’s future, and we cannot meet our existing operational needs or upcoming emissions-reduction targets without increased revenue. Any legislative package designed to

achieve these ambitious and necessary goals will require new revenue. There are many policy levers that can accomplish this goal, and the Governor's Transportation Funding Task Force report recommends several worthy options to the Legislature for consideration.

With a comprehensive, strategic approach to transportation investment, we can ensure that this spending meets our current needs and works to build the future Massachusetts residents deserve. Thank you for your consideration and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

**Amalgamated Bank**

**Autodesk**

**BayCoast Bank**

**Bemis**

**Benjamin Franklin Cummings Institute  
of Technology**

**Berkshire Bank**

**Blue Hub Capital**

**Boston Children's Hospital**

**Eastern Bank**

**FirstLight Power**

**Mass General Brigham**

**Mitsubishi Electric Power Products, Inc**

**Power Options**

**Schneider Electric**

**SeaAhead**

**SRECTrade**

**Stance Capital**

**The Boston Foundation**

**The Green Engineer**

**TripZero**

**UMass Lowell**

### **Questions?**

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