

PUBLIC TRANSIT PUBLIC GOOD

Riders, Workers, and Communities
UNITED FOR TRANSIT JUSTICE



2013 VICTORIES for PUBLIC TRANSIT IN MA!

For too long, the state's structure for funding public transit has been broke and broken—placing the burden of budget shortfalls on the backs of riders, workers and municipalities through regressive fare hikes and service cuts. The Massachusetts's legislature took an important step in addressing this problem when it passed the Transportation finance bill (H3535) this summer. Thanks to the organizing & advocacy of transit riders, workers and community leaders across the state important equity measures were included in the bill alongside urgently needed new revenue for our Commonwealth's public transit system.

New Funding

The bill dedicates an average of \$600 million a year to transportation over the next 5 years. New and yearly funding for Regional Transit Authorities (RTA's) is included along side "forward funding". RTAs no longer have to borrow money for their year's expenses and pay it back with interest at the end of the year. RTAs can use the money to improve service and make transit more accessible.

Comprehensive Service Assessments

Transit authorities across the state are now mandated to conduct a comprehensive assessment of their area public transit services. These service assessments require RTAs to examine their current service with an eye to redesign and to better align transit services to the resources and opportunities our communities need. These changes can help the state's transit dollars be used more effectively and help re-shape the service to better meet our community needs.

Voice and vote

Riders will now have a greater voice when it comes to transit decisions in their regions. This amendment included in the new bill gives votes to one general rider and one person with disabilities on each RTA board.

Fare protection

The bill caps MBTA fare hikes at 5% and says they can only be implemented every two years. This is an important protection against regressive proposals that aim to dramatically raise fares.

WHO WE ARE

Public Transit—Public Good is a statewide partnership of transit workers and riders working for a sustainable funding structure for transit throughout the state; fully functional, affordable and accessible transit service in each of our regions; and public transportation that increases equity across race, class, region, and citizenship status. The Public Transit-Public Good campaign is convened by Community Labor United.

These equity amendments were priorities for Public Transit-Public Good coalition. Riders and workers first proposed them last fall in our report, [Route to Our Future: Transit Solutions for Equity, Sustainability and Economic Growth in the Commonwealth](#). Since then, the coalition mobilized hundreds of riders through regional actions, statewide rallies, lobby days and over 1500 calls to legislators.

For more information:

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Public Transit–Public Good Campaign

www.publictransitpublicgood.org

Alternatives for Community and Environment/T Riders Union • Amalgamated Transit Union Local 22 • Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1547 • Bus Riders United of Southeastern Massachusetts (*Amalgamated Transit Union Locals 174 & 1037, Community Economic Development Corporation of Southeastern MA, Coalition Against Poverty/Coalition for Social Justice, Greater Southeastern Massachusetts Labor Council, Massachusetts Senior Action Council, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Labor Center*) • Carmen’s Union–ATU Local 589 • Community Labor United • Greater Four Corners Action Coalition • Massachusetts Communities Action Network • Massachusetts Senior Action Council • On the Move • United for Transit Equity–Pioneer Valley (*Alliance to Develop Power, Amalgamated Transit Union Local 448, Massachusetts Senior Action Council, Student Labor Action Project, Western Massachusetts Jobs with Justice, Stavros*) • Massachusetts AFL-CIO • IAM Local 264 • Unite Here!/New England Joint Board • Teamsters Local 25 • Neighbor 2 Neighbor MA • SEIU 615/Local 32BJ • Chelsea Collaborative • Greater Boston Labor Council