

Managing a 21st Century MBTA

Tell your Representative and Senator to co-sponsor: [HD.3848, SD.2316.](#)

Sponsors: Representative Meschino and Senator Boncore

All MBTA riders deserve safe, reliable, affordable, and accessible transportation. The MBTA's governing board is set to expire on June 30, 2021. As the Commonwealth plans for the next phase of the pandemic and beyond, it is critical to restore service on buses, trains, and trolleys and plan for equitable fares. It is time for the next MBTA governing board to decide operations and future projects that will improve rider experience, complete large-scale projects, plan for a changing climate, and deliver equitable service regardless of race, income, and zip code.

The bill establishes a permanent, dedicated, and independent governance structure that ensures that the majority of the seven board members are routine riders and expands the scope of the board's authority to oversee the T's general manager, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and ensure public transparency and accountability. We seek for board membership to include riders from environmental justice population.

While all riders have been waiting for too long for better service, COVID-19 has further exposed the inequities in access to transportation and jobs. An accessible and affordable T is essential to achieve equal opportunity and to make our economy work. Underinvestment is no longer tolerable and we need the next MBTA governing board to bring our system into the 21st Century. The MBTA governance bill will:

- ✓ **Create a permanent board** to oversee the financing, operations, and performance of MBTA. The board will be independent from MassDOT and will be composed of members from labor, environmental justice populations, and all across the region, including outside of Boston, Somerville and Cambridge
- ✓ **Implement a robust financing system** to ensure careful fiscal management and the ability to invest long-term. MBTA will be able to issue its own bonds to finance new capital projects and will be required to develop 5- and 10-year operating budgets
- ✓ **Charge MBTA with developing plans to improve safety** of all passengers and employees; decarbonize operations to help meet the Commonwealth's climate goals; achieve equity by making fares more affordable; improve accessibility to all riders.
- ✓ **Increase transparency** in MBTA operations. The board will monitor performance along key results-based metrics, including reliability, financial stability, access, environmental impact, and equity. All board meetings will be public and accessible.



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