

FY23 House Ways and Means Budget  
Legislator Outreach Email Template

Subject line: **Co-sponsor Amendments #1068 and #1070 to support equitable regional transit**

Dear Representative [REDACTED],

**I am writing to ask that you co-sponsor Amendments #1068 and #1070 by Representative Sarah Peake to support the service needs of transit users in Regional Transit Authority (RTA) communities.**

Regional Transit Authorities serve over 250 communities beyond the reach of the MBTA and are a lifeline for low-income families, essential workers and folks with disabilities in my district. 55% of the Commonwealth lives in an RTA service area, but RTAs can only serve a fraction due to underinvestment.

On average, RTAs rely significantly upon funding in the annual state budget to support operations. When state funding does not keep pace with inflation, RTAs are challenged to keep up with operating costs, and cannot match service to meet rider needs or advance climate goals by appealing to new riders who may otherwise consider transit over cars. RTA communities deserve sustainable transit funding that paves the way for more robust, efficient, clean and convenient service.

The House Ways and Means budget proposal currently allocates \$94 million to RTAs in operating funds, which is not enough to help RTAs keep up with the rising costs of maintaining services or address driver shortages across the Commonwealth. While the RTAs have received COVID-19 federal relief money to support COVID-related costs, those funds are one-time, and are not a sustainable source of revenue that can be used to maintain and improve service. To address these challenges, I ask that you co-sponsor the following amendment in the FY23 state budget:

- **Amendments #1068 and #1070 - will fund line-item 1595-6370 at \$101M in base funding to support RTA operations.** In order for RTAs to maintain and improve service, and hire and train drivers to address the workforce shortage, they require \$101 million in FY23 operating funds.

*Please insert a couple sentences about why reliable transportation is important to you!*

**I urge you to co-sponsor Amendments #1068 and #1070 by Representative Sarah Peake.** Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Your name, title/affiliation,

Place of residence, contact info