



April 26, 2021

Representative Ronald Mariano, Speaker  
24 Beacon St, Room 356  
Boston, MA 02133

Representative Aaron Michlewitz, Chairman  
24 Beacon St, Room 243  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Speaker Mariano and Chairman Michlewitz,

I am writing to express the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce's position on proposed transportation amendments to the House Ways and Means FY 2022 budget proposal:

**SUPPORT Amendment #881: Permanent MBTA Governance Board.**

The Chamber supports a permanent Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority board of directors (MBTA Board) to replace the Fiscal and Management Control Board and recommends three refinements to strengthen the proposed board's operations. To ensure a well-managed transit system, the new MBTA Board must have the ability to operate independently. To this end, we recommend granting the MBTA Board the authority to appoint the general manager position. Furthermore, to strengthen and maintain the Board's independence, we believe any ex officio members should not have voting powers. Finally, to reflect its large financial contribution to the system, the City of Boston should have a designated seat on the MBTA Board.

**SUPPORT Amendment #864: Shovel Ready MBTA Capital Projects**

The Chamber supports intentional investment to design and prepare shovel ready projects that improve transit options and reduce carbon emissions. The MBTA will be better positioned to secure and deploy federal funding when it becomes available if it has shovel ready projects. [Accelerating project delivery](#) is key to ensuring the MBTA creates the 21<sup>st</sup> century transportation system the region needs to thrive.

**OPPOSE Amendment #757: Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs) Operating Assistance**

The Chamber opposes this amendment because it eliminates the requirement that \$3.5 million in RTA funding be distributed as performance-based grants. We support the funding being tied to performance-based grants because these grants encourage RTAs to explore ways to improve service in their regions. We encourage RTAs to work with large employers in their regions to ensure that service is meeting the needs of employees as we continue to return to the workplace.

The Chamber looks forward to continuing to work with the Legislature on both the FY2022 budget and improving our transportation infrastructure. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'James E. Rooney'.

James E. Rooney  
President and CEO

CC: Members of the House of Representatives