

# THE ROAD TO ECONOMIC RECOVERY

## The T should drive the recovery, not drag it.

In the coming fiscal years, the T will receive nearly \$2 billion in federal relief funding. We have the funds needed to both **restore service** and **invest in the future**.

As the state reopens, residents will establish new commuting and travel patterns, but the need for public transit will remain strong. We cannot afford to return to the inadequate public transportation system that existed prior to the pandemic. We must make investments today to ensure that we create the 21<sup>st</sup> century system the region needs to thrive.

### Accelerate Improvements



The influx of federal funding should be used to accelerate projects designed to make the T more efficient and effective. These are the [Red](#), [Orange](#), and [Green](#) line transformations, [Better Bus](#), [Rail Vision](#), and [fare transformation](#) (AFC 2.0).

These projects will improve system reliability and assist the T in balancing its long-term budget. Accelerating project delivery will help ensure the T is able to handle increased demand as the state reopens.

### Residents depend on the T



Public transportation is a necessary public good as the state works to reopen and recover. An economic recovery needs reliable public transit so people can get to work, restaurants, and venues.

The T must restore and improve service in order to ensure an equitable and rapid recovery. Waiting for overcrowded trains demand to return before improving service will burden essential workers and transit dependent residents while encouraging others to drive and clog our roadways.

### Businesses depend on the T



Already, the number of open small businesses in Massachusetts has plummeted by 46 percent compared to January 2020\*; for those who have been able to remain open, a lagging return to workplaces because of unreliable transportation could mean the difference between survival and permanent closure.

\*Data on small business revenue and openings are from [Track the Recovery](#), which defines small businesses as those with annual revenue below the [Small Business Administration's thresholds](#). Work from home data are from the [U.S. Census Small Business Pulse Survey](#), which defines small businesses as having between 1-499 employees. Data as of March 31, 2021.