



COALITION FOR A WORLD-CLASS PUBLIC TRANSIT SYSTEM

June 29, 2015

Dear Legislator:

The Coalition for a World-Class Public Transit System came together this spring to fight for drastic improvements to our public transit system following the inexcusable collapse of the MBTA this winter. The Coalition calls upon lawmakers to enact a bill that will meaningfully address the problems plaguing the T, and to do so swiftly.

The Coalition is comprised of nearly 40 organizations and municipal leaders from all areas of the state, representing employers of all sizes and from many industries and sectors of our economy: healthcare, technology, biotech, manufacturing, engineering, real estate, construction, retail, lodging and hospitality, among others.

Collectively, we represent **1.5 million** individuals who are united in a common quest to [Fix Our T](#). These individuals – workers, customers, patients and students - experienced firsthand the loss of productivity, foregone wages and sales, and missed classes or medical appointments that resulted from the MBTA's collapse. We have joined together to ensure it doesn't happen again.

Despite efforts over the past decades, previous reforms have failed and the T continues to deteriorate, threatening our vibrant economic recovery. Bold action is urgently needed. Five months after the T's complete shutdown, we cannot lose the sense of urgency around fixing something that is severely broken. Our top priority must remain the interests of the working and commuting public.

The Coalition urges the legislature to focus on comprehensive reforms that restructure the T's operations and finances to optimize MBTA operations. The Governor's comprehensive plan contains three indispensable reforms that must be included in legislative action:

1. **A strong, independent Fiscal Management and Control Board (FMCB)** with clear authority to restructure the operations of the T.
2. **Relief from the Pacheco law** – so that the MBTA, like the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, can improve its service delivery through a competitive procurement process.
3. **Approval of arbitration awards** –so that the unfettered discretion of the arbitrator does not drive up MBTA labor costs to unsustainable levels that exacerbate the T's existing budget challenges and brings the MBTA closer in line with the benefits that all state and municipal employees enjoy.

We must fix the T now. The stakes are too high for too many of our consumers, workers, taxpayers and residents of the Commonwealth who rely on a dependable, working, world-class public transit system. They expect and want change.

Join us at [FixOurT](#) to send your message to lawmakers that this time we have to get it right.

Members of the Coalition for a World-Class Public Transit System

Mayors:

Mayor Jim Fiorentini – Haverhill

Mayor Dan Rizzo – Revere

Mayor Joe Sullivan – Braintree

Mayor Kim Driscoll – Salem

Mayor Rob Dolan – Melrose (Coalition Co-Chair)

Business groups:

495/MetroWest Partnership

Affiliated Chambers of Commerce of Greater Springfield

American Council of Engineering Companies of Massachusetts (ACEC)

Associated Industries of Massachusetts (AIM)

Associated Subcontractors of Massachusetts

Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce

Boston Municipal Research Bureau

Construction Industries of Massachusetts (CIM)

Corridor Nine Area Chamber of Commerce

Environmental Business Council of New England

Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce

Greater Boston Real Estate Board

Massachusetts Biotechnology Council

Massachusetts Chemistry & Technology Alliance

MassEcon

Massachusetts High Tech Council (MHTC)

Massachusetts Lodging Association

Massachusetts Petroleum Council

Massachusetts Restaurant Association

Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation (MTF)
(Eileen McAnney, MTF President, Coalition Co-Chair)

Massachusetts Technology Leadership Council (MTLC)

Massachusetts Business Roundtable (MBR)

Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce

Metro South Chamber of Commerce

NAIOP Massachusetts

Nashoba Valley Chamber of Commerce

National Federation of Independent Businesses (NFIB)

Neponset Valley Chamber of Commerce

North Shore Chamber of Commerce

Pioneer Institute

Retailers Association of Massachusetts

Salem Chamber of Commerce

South Shore Chamber of Commerce