

Press Release

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FixOurT Coalition Supports Outsourcing MBTA Bus Maintenance to Improve On Time Performance, Service Reliability, and Reduced Costs

Boston, MA, July 27, 2017 – The FixOurT Coalition supports the MBTA efforts to explore privatization of bus maintenance as a means to improve service and reduce a major cost component of its purchases.

The FixOurT Coalition is a group of 53 business and municipals partners who recognize the T's vital place in the economy and are committed to supporting the organizational, financial and operational improvements necessary to ensure an MBTA that is safe, effective and reliable.

Eileen McAnneny, Co-Chair of the FixOurT Coalition, stated that the FMCB had made great strides in identifying and addressing operational and managerial failures. She noted the Coalition's strong support of the three year suspension of the state's onerous privatization statute, in order to provide the Board with the tools they needed to get the job done.

With expenses growing at five percent a year and revenues at two percent, the FMCB must consider all options for reducing operating costs in order to achieve that fundamental goal. Bus maintenance represents one of the largest cost components for the T and therefore looking into cost effective ways to maintain buses is a necessary next step.

As critical as balancing the operating budget is, that is not the only reason to seek outside bids. There is also an opportunity to improve the rider's experience. The partnership between Uber/Lyft for delivering The Ride services, where the cost has been reduced, wait times have been all but eliminated, and rider satisfaction is far exceeding industry standards, is a perfect example of what is possible.

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