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NEWS RELEASE

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CONSERVATION LAW FOUNDATION, TRANSPORTATION FOR MASSACHUSETTS RELEASE TRANSPORTATION BUDGET CALCULATOR

New tool allows legislators, municipal leaders, and the public to have a clear picture of the funding limits of pending transportation proposal

Boston, MA – The Conservation Law Foundation and Transportation for Massachusetts today announced the release of the Transportation Budget Calculator. This web-based, interactive tool allows the user to get a first-hand look at what it's going to cost to meet the commonwealth's transportation needs. Users choose which capital projects and transit service needs and can see what is possible to fund within the transportation funding proposed by the Senate.

"The level of transportation funding proposed by the Legislature – even at the Senate's higher level - is like a blanket that's too small. You'll never be able to cover the entire body and something will have to be left out in the cold," said Rafael Mares, staff attorney at the Conservation Law Foundation. "We created this calculator so that legislators, municipal leaders, advocates, and the general public can see for themselves the limitations of the proposal in funding important capital projects and operational funding for transit."

"The Transportation Budget Calculator provides real data to help us make decisions on how we spend transportation dollars. It makes it clear that we need the strongest possible transportation funding bill coming out of the conference committee," said Kristina Egan, director Transportation for Massachusetts. "We worked with CLF to create this important tool not just to inform the current deliberations but also to demonstrate that meeting the transportation needs of our residents and our economy is an ongoing challenge we will need to continue to confront in the years to come."

The Transportation Budget Calculator shows how quickly the available budget in fiscal years 2014 through 2018 will be depleted by funding different combinations of transportation needs. For example, the user can select the I-91 Viaduct in Springfield, replacing worn-out buses and train cars, accelerate our bridge repairs, add regional bus service, and fund a rail extension and see whether the choices will fit in the budget or bust the budget. Users are given a running tally of the funding left in each fiscal year as they make their choices.

Coalition Members: Alliance for Business Leadership • Alternatives for Community and Environment • Conservation Law Foundation • Environmental League of Massachusetts • Groundwork Lawrence • Fairmount Indigo Line Collaborative • Institute for Human Centered Design • LISC • Livable Streets Alliance • Massachusetts Association of Community Development Corporations • Massachusetts Association of Regional Transit Authorities • Massachusetts Communities Action Network • MassCommute • Massachusetts Public Health Association • Massachusetts Smart Growth Alliance • MassBike • MASSPIRG • MBTA Advisory Board • Medical Academic and Scientific Community Organization (MASCO) • Merrimack Valley Planning Commission • Metropolitan Area Planning Council • Neighbor to Neighbor • Northeastern University/Dukakis Center • Old Colony Planning Council • On the Move • Pioneer Valley Planning Commission • Somerville Community Corporation • Somerville Transportation Equity Partnership • Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District • WalkBoston



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The Transportation Budget Calculator can be found at <http://goo.gl/AKvVL> and accessed off the home pages of www.clf.org and www.t4ma.org.

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Transportation for Massachusetts is a diverse coalition of Massachusetts-based organizations working together to create safe, convenient, and affordable transportation choices for everyone in Massachusetts. It represents more than 30 members that have expertise in transportation, affordable housing, social justice, public health, the environment, planning and smart growth.

Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) protects New England's environment for the benefit of all people. Using the law, science and the market, CLF creates solutions that preserve natural resources, build healthy communities, and sustain a vibrant economy region-wide. Founded in 1966, CLF is a nonprofit, member-supported organization with offices in Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont.

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