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STATEMENT BY TRANSPORTATION FOR MASSACHUSETTS DIRECTOR KRISTINA EGAN ON TODAY'S HOUSE VOTE ON THE JOINT WAYS AND MEANS TRANSPORTATION FINANCE BILL

"We are truly disappointed that the House of Representatives today voted to pass the Joint Ways and Means proposal that will lock in chronic underfunding, which is causing our transportation system to deteriorate more each day while sinking further into financial crisis.

Over these past many months, with so much attention paid to transportation, Legislators have been made aware of the need for more investment in transportation all across the Commonwealth- and their own districts - for the sake of our economy, jobs, and stronger communities.

They are also aware of recent polling showing that residents are willing to pay more to invest in transportation. Yet, many members of the House of Representatives decided to ignore all of this and vote on an insufficient funding package that will end up costing people much more in the years ahead while having a profoundly negative impact on the future of our economy, our ability to create jobs, and the quality of life for all residents.

We applaud those members who see the true value of a fully funded transportation system and voted "no" on what is another insufficient, temporary quick fix to a long-term problem that needs to be solved today.

We now turn to the Senate where we believe there is a real possibility for comprise and increasing the amount of funding for transportation to produce a better solution for the future of Massachusetts and its residents.

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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