

Commuter Rail Communities Coalition

Coordinated Municipal Advocacy for Transformed Commuter Rail

Statement of the Commuter Rail Communities Coalition on Rail Vision and Transportation Revenue October 11, 2019

Massachusetts needs reliable and enhanced public transportation to support our economy, provide workforce access to jobs and opportunity, and safeguard our climate and public health.

The Commuter Rail Communities Coalition supports a transformation to a world-class regional transit network that makes excellent service a priority. We support an outcome of the MassDOT/MBTA Rail Vision planning process that will deliver high-quality, high-frequency, reliable, affordable, equitable, and fully accessible rail service to all cities and towns served by the Commuter Rail network.

Rail service should be electrified to provide optimal performance and reduced carbon emissions, and should be augmented by expanded parking and first-/last-mile service to meet ridership demand, serve reverse and regional commuters, and reduce the need for private car ownership.

To help achieve this, we call upon the State Legislature and Governor Baker to support new, recurring transportation revenues to fund Rail Vision investments, which include fleet, stations, track improvements, and operating costs, and the organizational capacity to implement this vision.

While these investments are substantial, they are necessary for Massachusetts to remain competitive. We cannot settle for incremental improvements to the transportation status quo.