

# Working Toward A Progressive Policy Package

Mitigate Price Increases • Ensure New Revenues are Spent Progressively • Target Air Quality Improvements



In addition to the **Fair Share Amendment**, T4MA supports a set of five policies for legislative action during the 2019-2020 session.

The transportation status quo is inequitable, with low-income communities burdened by long commutes, poor neighborhood air quality, and often few transportation options. While fees and taxes assessed on users can help fix this, they should be balanced with other measures to limit negative impacts and maximize benefits to low-income households. **This document complements T4MA's five policies with ideas to build a more progressive policy package.**

## POLICY:

### Increase the State Gas Tax by 25¢ / Gallon



#### COMPLEMENTARY POLICIES:

- Raise the state's Earned Income Tax Credit to protect low-income workers from fuel price increases
- Increase and dedicate funding for Regional Transit Authorities and the MBTA
- Roll-back the MBTA's 2019 fare increase, pilot "fare free" RTAs, and fund low-income transit fares statewide

## POLICY:

### Advance and Adopt a Robust and Equitable Transportation & Climate Initiative



*T4MA participates in the MA TCI Table which has not yet supported specific recommendations. But policymakers should consider:*

#### COMPLEMENTARY POLICIES:

- Dedicate TCI funds to investments that prioritize communities underserved by transit and overburdened by air pollution
- Commit TCI funds to MBTA + RTAs
- Develop a "MassSave for Vehicles", with programs for low-income families
- Include rebates or credits for low-income households

## POLICY:

### Congestion Pricing on Highways Within Route 128



#### COMPLEMENTARY POLICIES:

- Provide low-income drivers discounts or full exemptions from tolling costs
- Offer multi-modal transportation credits that can be used for tolls, transit fares, cycling, etc.
- Support a low-income fare program on the commuter rail to further enable alternatives to driving during peak hours
- Fund significant improvements to commuter and local bus service in corridors benefiting from congestion pricing

## POLICY:

### Pass Regional Ballot Initiatives & Value Capture



#### COMPLEMENTARY POLICY:

- Fund a progressive state match that builds in racial and socioeconomic equity as criteria for the level of state funding provided to communities that pass Regional Ballot Initiatives.

## POLICY:

### Enact 6.25% Fee on Uber/Lyft Trips, with Discount for Shared Rides



#### COMPLEMENTARY POLICY:

- Use the proceeds of an updated fee on TNCs to fill critical gaps in public transportation that leave low-income workers and others with few options except Uber and Lyft trips

Read the full document and companion pieces at: [t4ma.org/progress](http://t4ma.org/progress)