

TRANSIT MODERNIZATION PROGRAM

Description

This investment program would fund transit maintenance and modernization projects identified through coordination with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA), MetroWest Regional Transit Authority and the Cape Ann Transit Authority. Increasing investments in transit modernization and maintenance projects would allow the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to use their discretionary funding to augment planned transit improvements throughout the region as well as help the MPO reach their goals established in the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

Types of Eligible Projects

Examples of projects that could be funded through this investment program as well as the MPO goals they relate to are summarized below.

- **Accessibility Improvements:** These projects would align with the MPO's Transportation Equity goal and could include support for the MBTA's Plan for Accessible Transit Infrastructure. Eligible projects could include construction or replacement of redundant elevators at MBTA rapid transit or commuter rail stations, installing high-level platforms at presently inaccessible stations, or removing other barriers to accessibility at stations and MBTA and regional transit authority (RTA) bus stops.
- **Station Modernization Improvements:** These projects would align with the MPO's Transportation Equity and System Preservation and Modernization goals. Eligible projects could include system upgrades, customer amenities, or capacity enhancements at existing rapid transit and commuter rail stations.
- **Parking Improvements at Stations:** These projects would align with the MPO's Capacity Management and Mobility goal and support first-mile and last-mile access to transit. Eligible projects could include upgrades at existing parking facilities or new or expanded parking facilities to improve access to MBTA stations.
- **Infrastructure State of Good Repair Projects:** These projects would align with the MPO's System Preservation and Modernization goal. Specific projects could include investments to upgrade track, signals, and power systems to improve service reliability and enhance climate resiliency.
- **Fleet Modernization:** These projects would align with the MPO's System Preservation and Modernization and Clean Air and Sustainable Community

goals. Eligible projects could include planned replacements of RTA buses and MBTA bus and Silver Line fleets to a mix of hybrid and battery electric vehicles, replacement of single-level commuter rail coaches with higher capacity bi-level coaches, and various other upgrades and overhauls to improve service reliability.

- **Bus Maintenance Facilities Upgrades:** These projects would help the MPO achieve its System Preservation and Modernization goals. Projects funded in this category would include the upgrading and replacement of bus maintenance facilities to improve state of good repair, support additional capacity, and accommodate the future fleets.

Takeaways for LRTP Development

- If the MPO decides to adopt this new investment program, we will have to determine what percentage of funding is dedicated to this program and how that impacts the other LRTP investment programs.
- This investment program aligns with state priorities outlined in the *Choices for Stewardship: Recommendations to Meet the Transportation Future*, completed by the Commission on the Future of Transportation in the Commonwealth in December 2018. The report recommendations include modernizing existing state and municipal transit and transportation assets to more effectively and sustainably move more people throughout the Commonwealth by prioritizing investments in public transit.