

T Riders Union of
ACE (TRU)

Bikes Not Bombs

LivableStreets
Alliance

MASSPIRG

The Greater Four
Corners Action
Coalition

Sierra Club

Washington
Street Corridor
Coalition

Action For
Regional Equity

The Arborway
Committee

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bostononthemove.
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May 27, 2015

Testimony to Joint Transportation Committee,

On The Move (OTM) is supportive of an MBTA that is fair, affordable, and respectful of riders, workers and the communities that depend on the T as a 'LIFELINE'. Our vision for the MBTA includes the following:

1. **Maintain Critical protections on Fare Hikes and Service:** A first-class city needs a first class public transportation system, and we need our decision-makers to make a critical investment in the T. The 2013 Transportation Act put a cap on fare hikes and frequency of fare hikes--**The MBTA shouldn't be forced to balance its books on the backs of riders. Riders are the MBTA's most valuable asset!**
2. **Pacheco Law is Important for the Commonwealth and Boston!** - The law supports the notion of government accountability and keeps integrity and honesty in how the State does business. Privatization of the system is not the answer!
3. **Fund our Transportation System!** The Senate includes \$187 million for the MBTA, the same amount proposed by the Administration and included in the House budget. The 2013 Transportation Act [allocated \\$202 million for the next fiscal year](#), a cut of \$15 million, after already [cutting \\$14 million](#) from this year. **OTM strongly urges the Joint Commission to restore crucial funding for our transportation future!**
4. **What about the Big Dig Debt?** Governor Baker was part of the administration that placed the enormous **Big Dig Debt (28 Billion!)** on the MBTA books, which has created the current problems around revenue and reform. This must be considered as a strong part of the narrative towards a healthy MBTA---not lazy workers and mischievous fare evaders!

Why Does OTM Care about Transportation Funding? Every \$1 billion invested in public transportation capital/operations creates or supports: 36,000 jobs, \$3.6 billion in business sales, and nearly \$500 million in federal,

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**ON THE
MOVE**

The Greater Boston Transportation Justice Coalition

state, and local tax revenues. Los Angeles' Bus Riders Union successfully sued the transit authority in 1994, for raising bus fares and cutting services to pay for a new rail system to a wealthy community, and they won more buses, lower bus fares and new environmentally friendly buses for the city (Bus Riders Union, 2015).

Riders and commuters are the economic engine of the commonwealth and the MBTA is the lifeline. For some of us, it's the only way we get around. OTM is excited on next steps and having a real conversation on fixing our transportation system.

We deserve a long-term investment in our public transportation system.

Sincerely,

Kevin Raymond Odell

On The Move: The Greater Boston Transportation Justice Coalition

On the Move (OTM) is a coalition of organizations in Greater Boston that came together in 2000 to advocate for transportation justice. Our Steering Committee is: Action for Regional Equity; Alternatives for Community & Environment (ACE) (including the T Riders Union); Arborway Committee; Bikes Not Bombs; Greater Four Corners Action Coalition; LivableStreets Alliance; MASSPIRG; Sierra Club; and Washington Street Corridor Coalition. Each organization has its own priorities and participates in On the Move.

Our top priority for 2015 is to organize a unified voice for transportation equity in Greater Boston, with a focus on gentrification/displacement, transit-oriented development, statewide transportation funding and framing a regional transportation equity model in Greater Boston focused on sustainability, affordability, and inclusion of communities dependent on public transportation.