

Message for state legislators on transportation

Find contact info for your state legislators here:

<http://www.malegislature.gov/People/FindMyLegislator>

When you call in:

- state your name
- your title and organization, if applicable
- whether you live in the district, if applicable

Ask to speak with:

- the Representative or Senator; or
- Chief of Staff; or
- person who handles the transportation revenue issue

Language you can use:

"I'm calling because I'm concerned about the House's transportation bill.

The Legislature needs to pass a revenue package that raises \$1 billion per year to fix the transportation system once and for all. This is the amount that the nonpartisan Transportation Finance Commission said that the state needs.

Do you know where the Representative stands on this issue?"

If the Representative agrees with this position, then do two things:

1. Thank them for their support; and
2. Ask them to please weigh in with Speaker DeLeo, Chairman Dempsey [Ways and Means], and Chairman Straus [Transportation] and tell them that they can count on the Representative's vote for a revenue package that's big enough to take care of this issue once and for all.

If the Representative disagrees or hedges, then make any of the following points:

- \$1 billion dollar package is recommended to get our state agencies out of debt, restore our roads and bridges to a state of good repair, modernize public transportation, and bring walking and biking to the whole state. If we do it right once, we don't need to do it again in another two years. The band-aid approach isn't working.
- A recent MassInc poll shows that the majority of residents support raising taxes and fees as long as they are dedicated to transportation (61% and 62% for gas tax and income tax respectively).
- It's the same political hit voting for a \$600 million package as it is to vote for a \$1 billion package. The only difference is that you won't get the visible, local improvements that will make it worthwhile to voters.
- A transportation bill is an economic development bill: Every dollar spent on transportation infrastructure yields \$2.04 in immediate direct economic activity. The long term benefits to property values and regional competitiveness are multipliers above that.
- If we don't do a comprehensive package now, then the cost of the projects we need only goes up. Repair costs alone could be \$26 billion by 2030. Everyone will be forced to pay for that.

House Leadership

In addition to your local legislators, we encourage you to contact any or all of the following members of leadership who are helping to write the House's transportation plan:

Robert A. DeLeo

Speaker of the House, D Winthrop [Revere and Winthrop]
State House Room 356
Phone: 617-722-2500
Email:Robert.DeLeo@mahouse.gov

Brian S. Dempsey

House Ways and Means Chair, D Haverhill
Chair, House Committee on Ways and Means
State House Room 243
Phone: 617-722-2990
Email:Brian.Dempsey@mahouse.gov

William M. Straus

Representative, D Mattapoissett
Chair, Joint Committee on Transportation
State House Room 134
Phone: 617-722-2400
Email:William.Straus@mahouse.gov

Jay R. Kaufman

Representative, D Lexington
Chair, Joint Committee on Revenue
State House Room 34
Phone: 617-722-2320
Email:Jay.Kaufman@mahouse.gov

Joseph F. Wagner

Representative, D Chicopee
Chair, Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies
Joint Committee on Rules
House Committee on Rules
State House Room 42
Phone: 617-722-2370
Email:Joseph.Wagner@MAhouse.gov