

FY27 Regional Transit Authorities State Operating Assistance

June 17, 2026

Thomas D. Schiavone, Deputy Transit Administrator

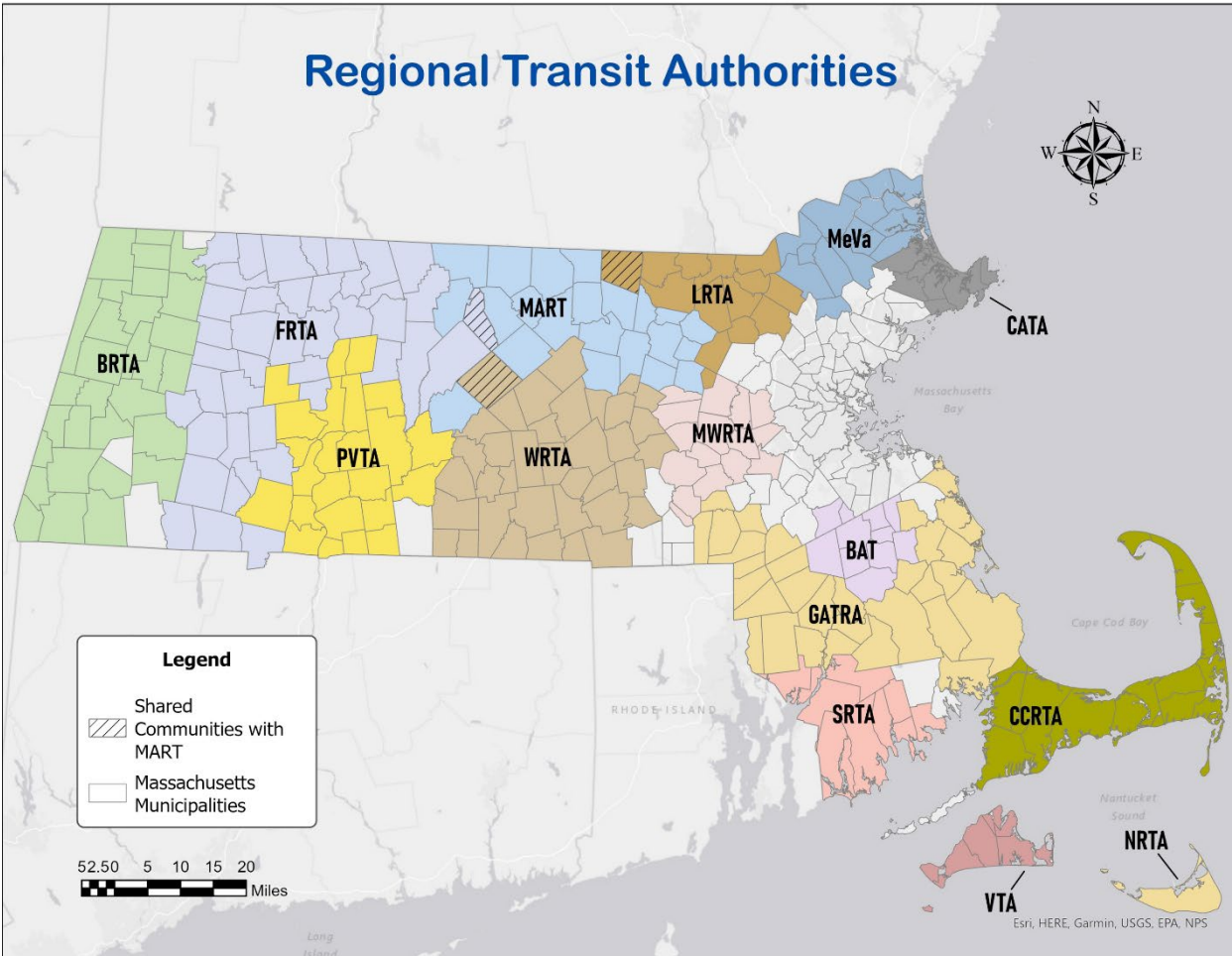


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Regional Transit Authorities

Overview

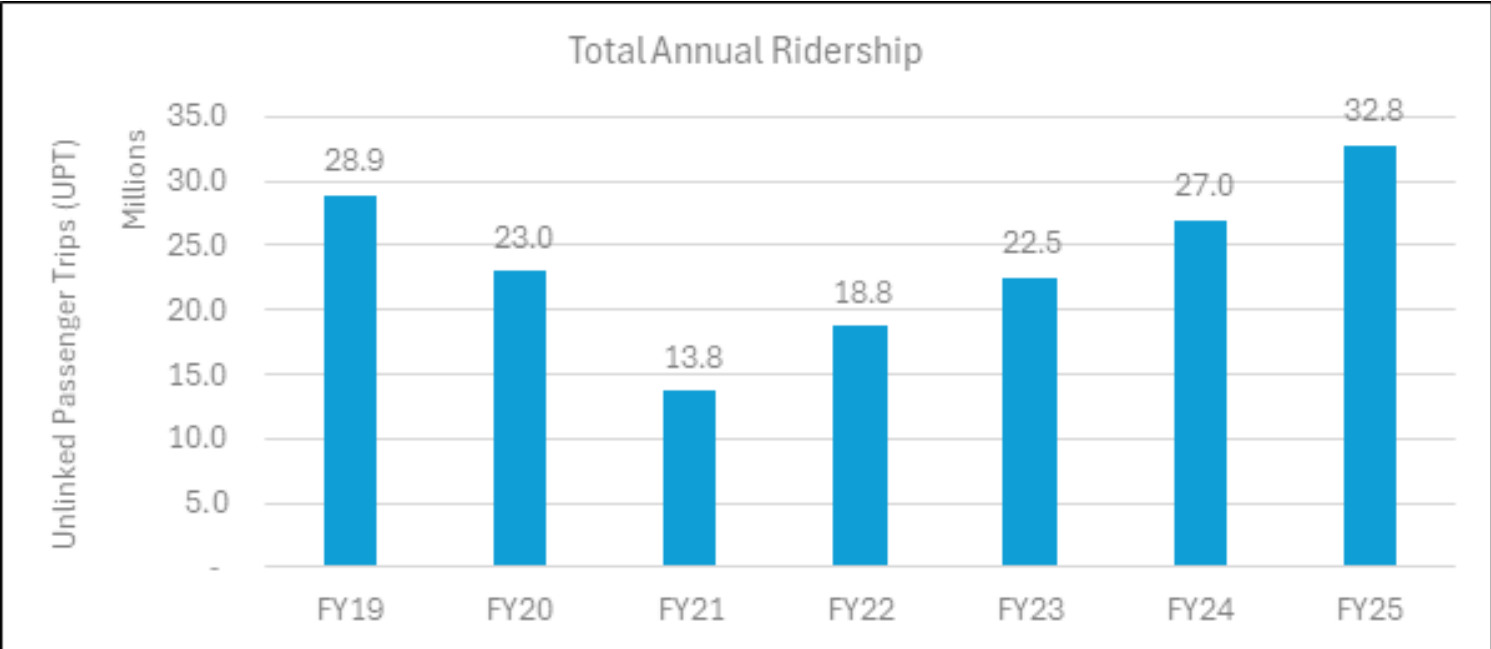


- 280+ municipalities are members of a Regional Transit Authority (RTA); 115 are also in the greater MBTA service district
- Locally governed
- Fixed route bus, demand response van service, and microtransit
- RTAs operate over 300 routes statewide, providing access to connections between RTA services, with intercity bus services, and with MBTA services.

Regional Transit Authorities

Overview

- RTAs provided **32.8 million** unlinked passenger trips in FY25 – surpassing pre-pandemic ridership for the first time
- Using increases in state assistance as well as other funding, RTAs have increased route frequencies, introduced new linking services and expanded night and weekend hours in recent years, helping to drive an increase in ridership.



Governor's FY27 Funding Recommendations

State Contract Assistance for RTAs

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- **\$168.5 million in State Contract Assistance (SCA)** to support RTA services tied to ridership, customer service/satisfaction, asset management and financial performance metrics established through the bilateral MOU process
- **\$94 million from the Commonwealth Transportation Fund (CTF)** as base funding for the RTAs to be distributed via historical formula
- **\$66 million from Fair Share/Education and Transportation Funding (ETF)** shall be distributed based on fiscal year 2026 distributions
- **\$8.5 million for regional transit authorities** to support delivering enhanced service and workforce initiatives

Governor's FY27 Funding Recommendations

Additional Fair Share Funding

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\$49 million in additional Fair Share/ETF funding

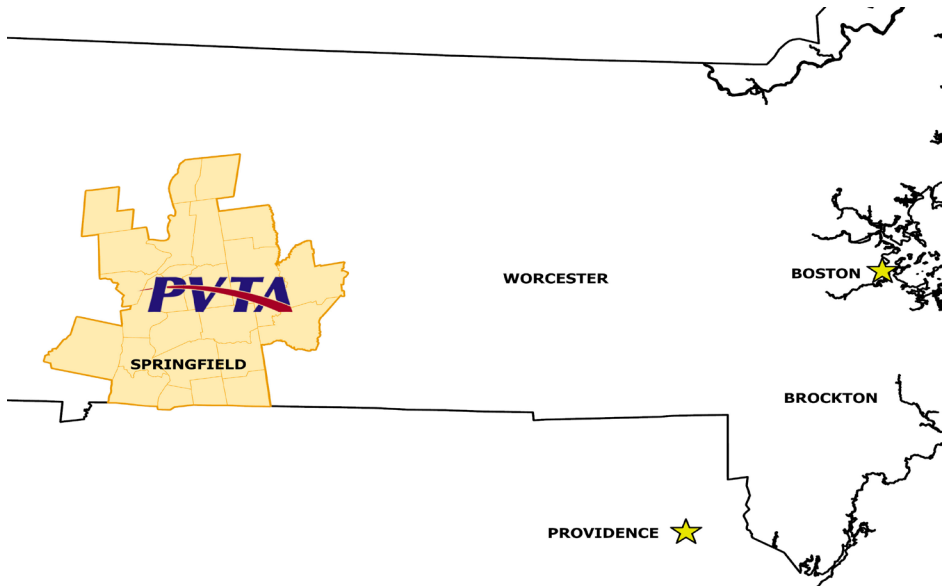
- **\$35 million:** Fare free grant program that supports RTAs in providing systemwide, year-round fare free services
- **\$10 million:** Transit Connectivity grants that support RTAs in creating or altering services that advance connectivity between existing public transportation routes, including those operated by RTAs and the MBTA
- **\$4 million:** Bolstering the Community Transit Grant Program by providing additional support for expanded mobility options for older adults, people with disabilities, and/or low-income individuals for RTAs, municipalities, nonprofits, and Transit Providers



Photo credit: Greater Lynn Senior Services

RTA Profile

Pioneer Valley Transit Authority Overview

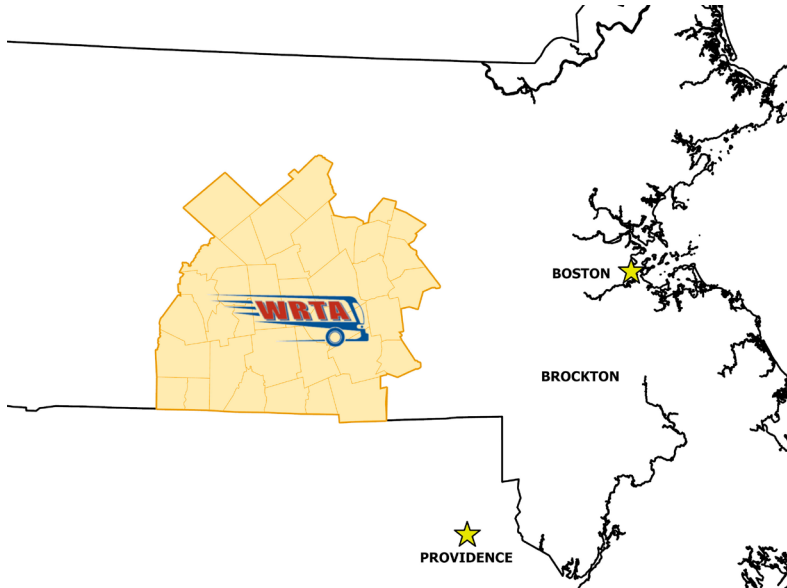


- Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA) is the largest RTA in Massachusetts.
- PVTA provides 49 fixed routes and demand response service to the Pioneer Valley region of Western Massachusetts.
- The service area covers 627 square miles, 24 communities, and a population of over 580,000 people.

RTA Profile

Worcester Regional Transit Authority Overview

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- Worcester Regional Transit Authority (WRTA) is the second-largest RTA in Massachusetts.
- WRTA provides 23 fixed routes and demand response service to the central Massachusetts region.
- The service area covers 866 square miles, 36 communities, and a population of 578,000 people

Request of the MassDOT Board of Directors

Pioneer Valley Transit Authority – Contract 134462

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Contract 134462 between MassDOT and the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA) would be effective July 1, 2026, and conclude on June 30, 2027.

Request of the MassDOT Board of Directors

Staff request that the MassDOT Board of Directors authorize the Secretary of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, or their designee, to execute contract number 134462 between MassDOT and the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority in the amount of \$34,440,070, and any such amendments as may be required by statute.

Request of the MassDOT Board of Directors

Worcester Regional Transit Authority – Contract 134463

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Contract 134463 Between MassDOT and the Worcester Regional Transit Authority (WRTA) would be effective July 1, 2026, and conclude on June 30, 2027.

Request of the MassDOT Board of Directors

Staff request that the MassDOT Board of Directors authorize the Secretary of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, or their designee, to execute contract number 134463 between MassDOT and the Worcester Regional Transit Authority in the amount of \$21,721,844, and any such amendments as may be required by statute.

Thank You

