

Rail and Transit Report

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Transit – Fare Free Pilots

Two Pilot Programs Awarded in SFY 2024



PVTA 

Try Transit Holiday 2023

No Fares or Passes Needed

November 24, 2023 - December 31, 2023

Fare has been prepaid by MA
* Does Not Apply On B79 Amherst-Worcester Route



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FROM
DECEMBER 1, 2023 - MAY 31, 2024



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Try Transit is back!

**MassDOT and the Legislature
have reauthorized the
TryTransit Program for 2024!**

MWRTA Fixed Route and Demand Response
riders will have fare free options from
January 1 - March 31, 2024

**To learn how you can participate & for
full details, visit www.mwrta.com/fares**

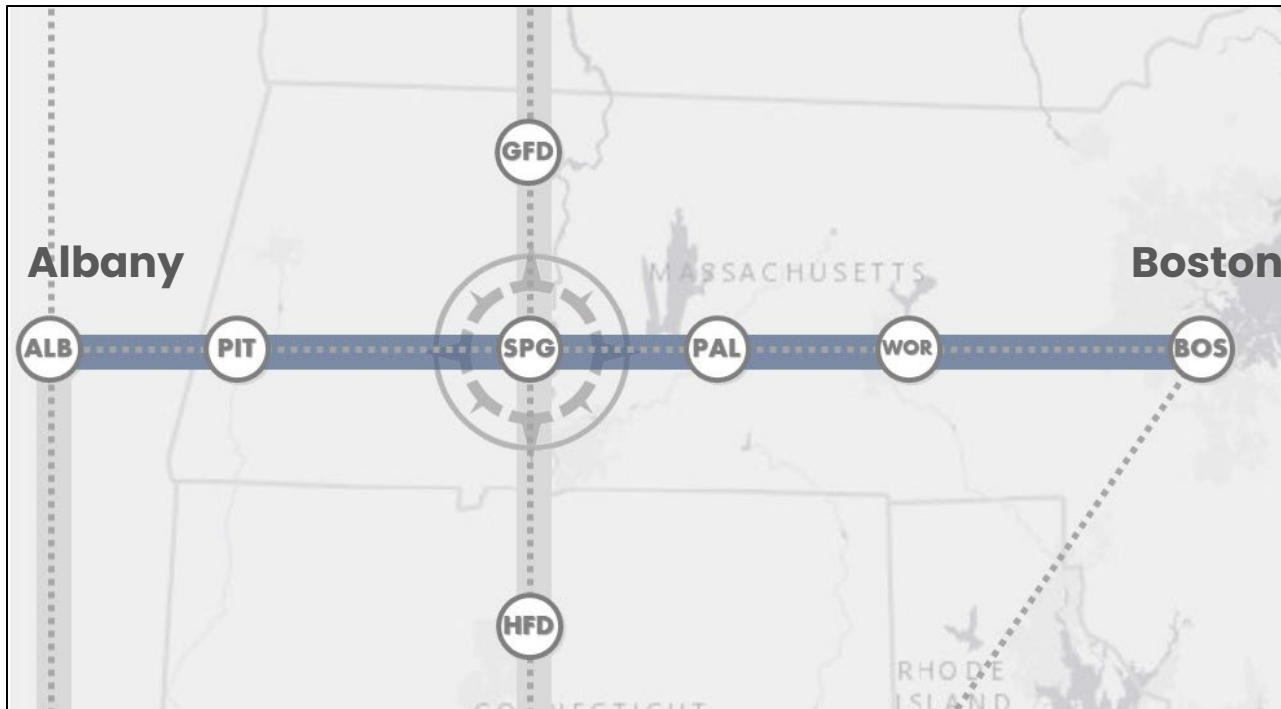
Catch Connect fares will remain \$2.00 per trip



- State budget identified \$15 million in discretionary funds for fare free pilot projects.
- Goals include increasing ridership and improving transit accessibility to low-income populations.
- \$11,329,433 awarded to fourteen RTAs that submitted a joint application: RTA Expanded Try Transit Program.
- Individual RTA programs vary by values, dates offered, eligibility, and mode (fixed route vs demand response).
- \$506,758 awarded to Cape Cod RTA for fixed route free fare program for older adults and persons with a disability.

Rail – FRA Corridor ID

FRA Corridor ID Program: Boston & Albany Corridor



- The Boston & Albany Corridor was accepted into the Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) Corridor ID Program.
- Corridor ID is a multi-step, “pipeline” program that intends to bring intercity passenger rail corridors from concept to implementation.
- Program acceptance includes \$500,000 award to scope a Service Development Plan.
- This award will advance West-East Rail service objectives by increasing round trips between Pittsfield, Springfield, Palmer, and Boston.

Rail – Palmer Station

Palmer Station Planning and Design

- MassDOT studies have recommended Palmer, MA as a location for a future intercity passenger rail station.
- MassDOT CIP identifies \$4M for Palmer Station Planning and Design.
- RTD selected a consultant in December of 2023 for Planning and Conceptual Design.
- This contract will include public outreach, site selection, identification of station amenities and access, conceptual design, and environmental scoping.
- Estimated 18-month schedule



Thank You

