

RTA Advocacy:

ADVANCING EQUITY THROUGH TRANSPORTATION IN MASSACHUSETTS





ESSENTIAL RTA ADVOCACY

The Regional Transit Authority Advocates Coalition (RTAAC) provides a strong, unified voice for transit users in the 15 RTA service areas across Massachusetts.

RTA advocacy is essential:

- 55% of MA residents live in an RTA service area
- RTAs connect communities to opportunities that shape quality of life
- Low-income families, older adults and people with disabilities disproportionately rely on RTA services
- RTAs are a lifeline during the COVID-19 pandemic

HOW ARE RTAs FUNDED?

ON AVERAGE, RTAS RECEIVE OPERATING FUNDING FROM THE FOLLOWING:

39% from the state

24% federal grants

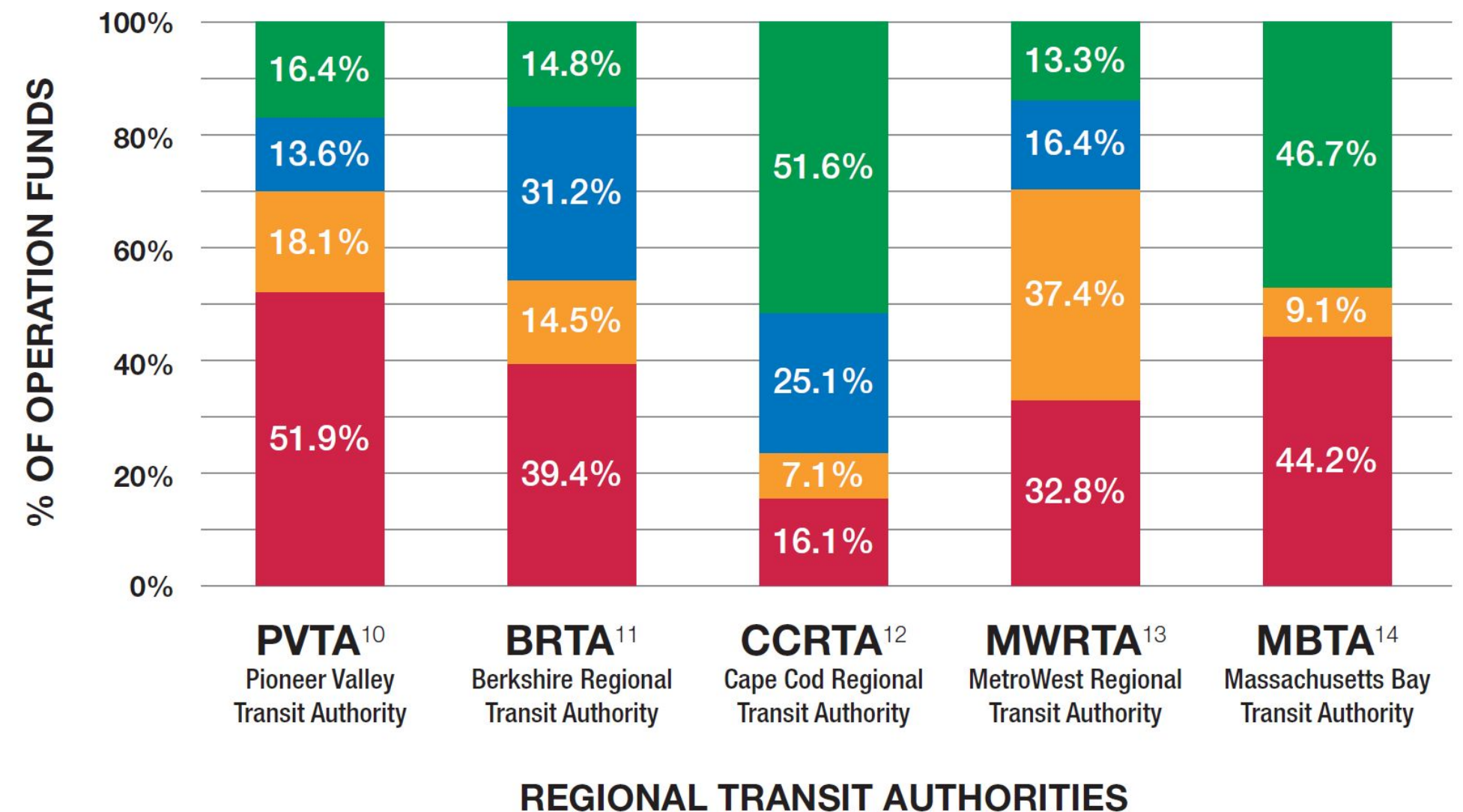
20% local funds

13% fare revenues

4% other sources

OPERATING FUNDS FOR REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITIES

RTA operations are funded through a combination of state and federal funding, local assessments, and fare revenue.⁹
Each RTA's budget breaks down differently.



FUNDING FROM THE STATE

LOCAL FUNDS

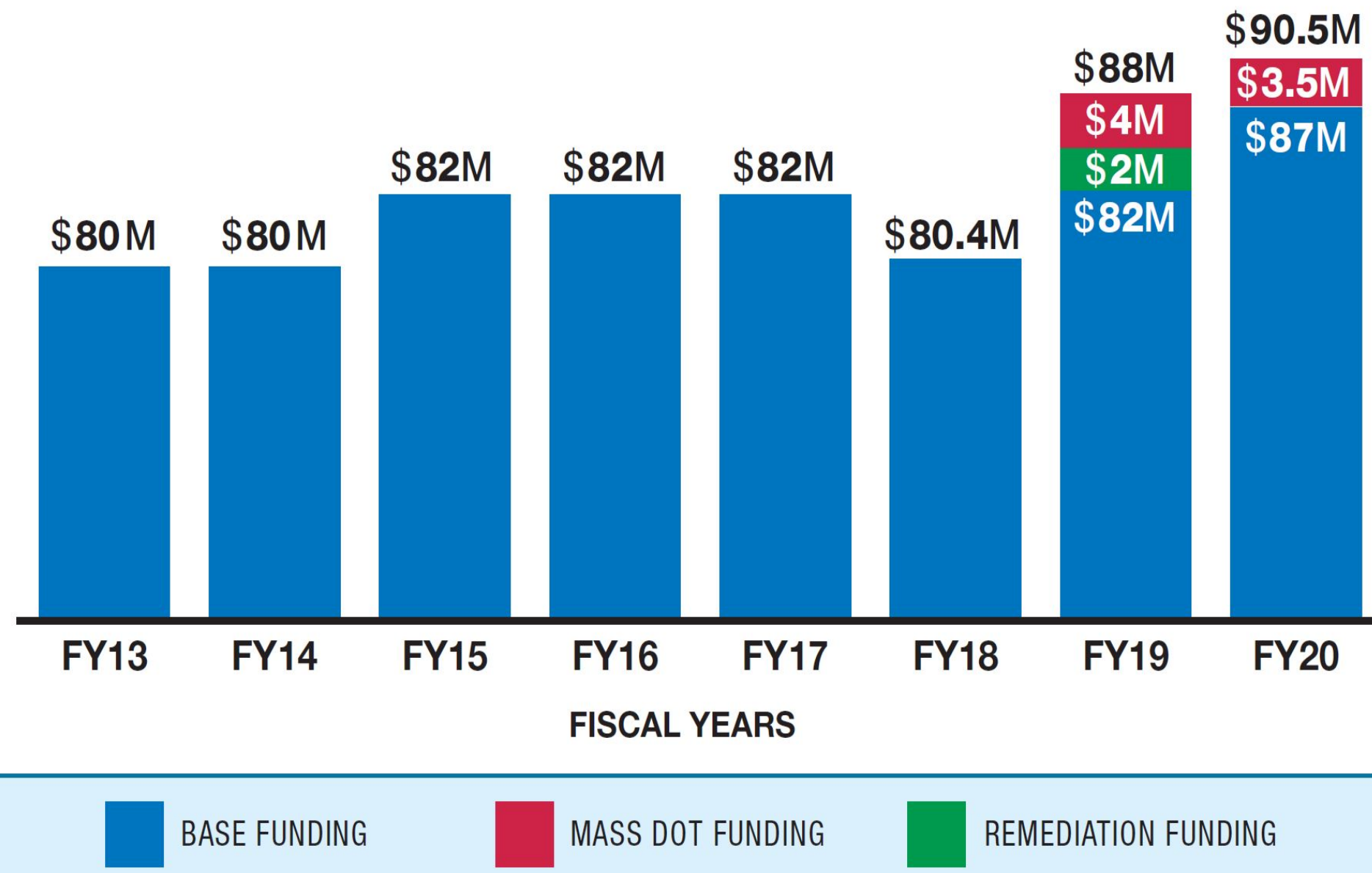
FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

FUNDING FROM FARE REVENUES

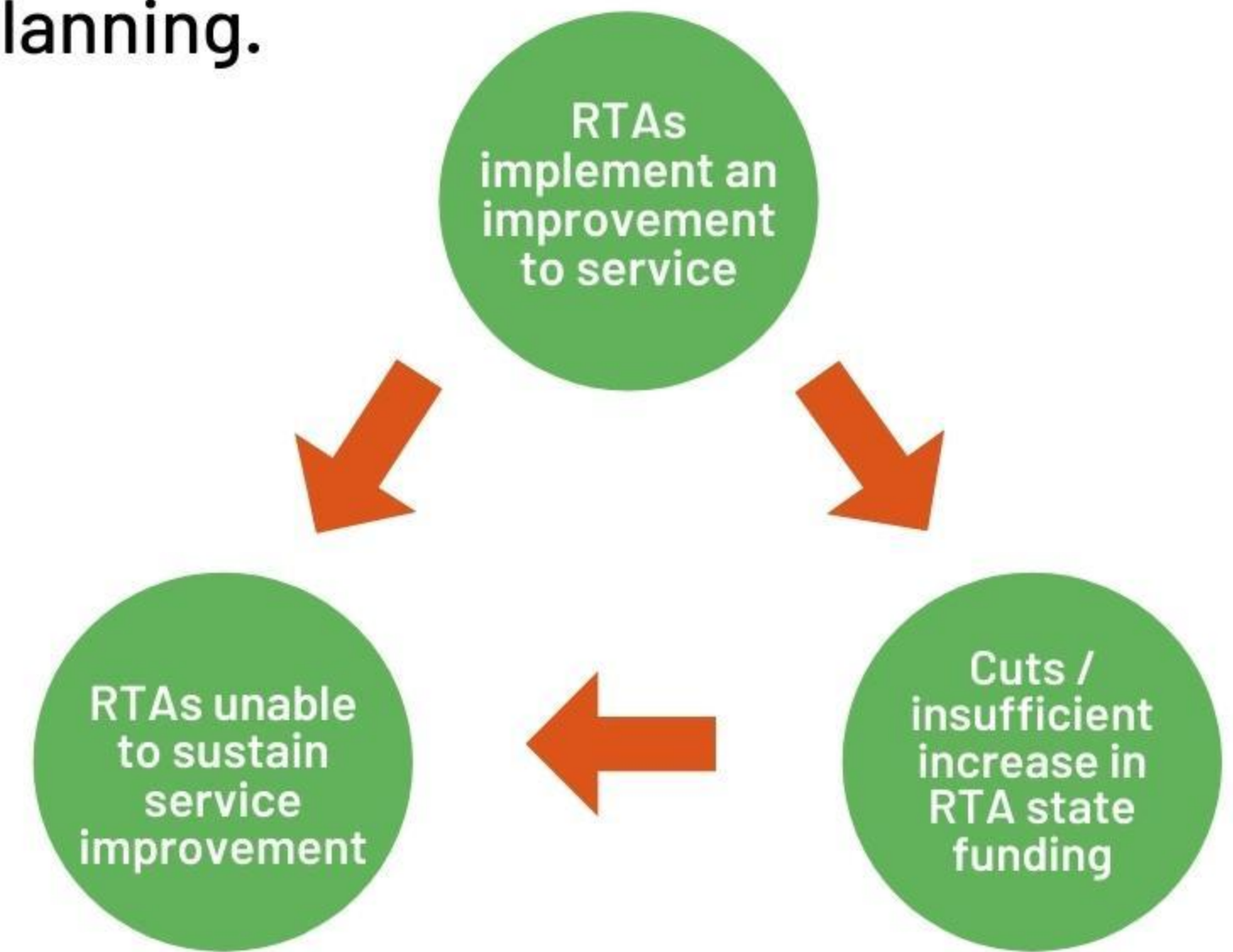
RTA FUNDING CHALLENGES

FUNDING DISTRIBUTIONS FOR REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITIES

Base funding (in Millions of Dollars) for RTAs to stabilize financing and expand needed service.

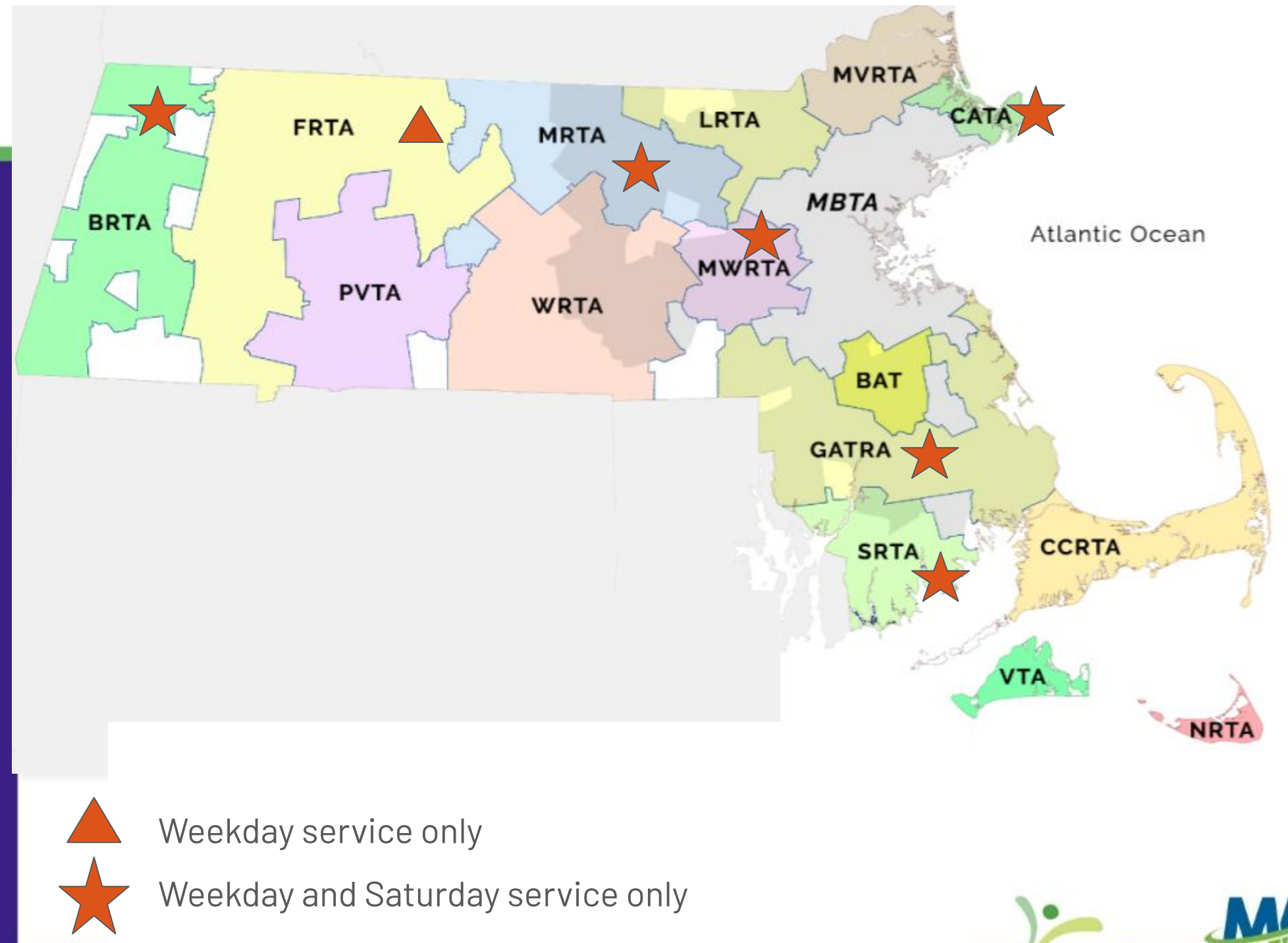


Unpredictable and unstable funding for RTAs has resulted in poor service planning.



INADEQUATE STATE FUNDING AND LIMITED TECHNICAL SUPPORT MAKE IT CHALLENGING FOR RTAS TO MAINTAIN SERVICE LEVELS AND EXPAND TO MEET THE NEEDS OF RIDERS.

- Most RTAs cannot afford a late-night service
- Some RTAs do not run on Sundays or even on weekends
- Geographic boundaries of the 15 RTAs limit rider mobility
- Many rural communities are unserved or marginally served
- Most RTA buses run on diesel fuel, which contributes to air pollution



**THE TIME FOR
ACTION IS NOW!**



A VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF RTAS

A 2018 Task Force on RTA Performance and Funding made 24 recommendations that address the following to increase regional transit access:



Investment and
performance



Quality of service



Accountability



Environmental sustainability



Service decisions

"To innovate, expand and improve to meet demonstrated community needs, the RTAs need financial predictability and stability."

MOVE NOW TO SUPPORT REGIONAL TRANSIT

S.2277/H.3413 Sen. Harriette Chandler & Rep. Natalie Blais



Ensure
adequate
funding for RTAs



Dedicate a
portion of Uber &
Lyft revenue to
RTAs



Revitalize the
RTA Council



Enhance
support for RTA
capital projects



Support
electrification
of RTA buses



Stop grading on
the farebox
recovery ratio

HEARING TESTIMONIALS

"Some of our most vulnerable residents make life-changing decisions based on existing RTA routes" - Pat Beaudry, PVPC

"Most of us can not or do not drive...Our greatest fear is that one day our bus stop or route will disappear...We are the victims of a misguided campaign MassDOT calls, 'greater efficiency.'" - Adam Thielker, RTA rider & advocate

"Having the ability to incorporate the temporary pilot programs into the regular operation of the FRTA though increased, dedicated funding would allow more people to enter or re-enter the workforce, attend secondary education..." - Kim Scammon, Greenfield Housing Authority

"This bill will help RTAs electrify their fleets to help improve air quality in RTA Communities, like Worcester & Springfield" - John Stout, MassPIRG



**WHAT
YOU
CAN DO
NOW**



VOTE TO ENDORSE THE RTA ADVANCEMENT BILL!

Contact awalls@mapublichealth.org or
epepen@t4ma.org with any questions.