

# Transportation for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

## The issue:

**Investment in transportation is vital to economic development and quality of life.** More investment is needed to maintain and improve our transportation system to meet our current and future needs for a thriving economy, vibrant communities, and a healthy and sustainable environment for all Massachusetts residents.

**The Massachusetts transportation system is struggling under the burden of billions of dollars of debt and deferred maintenance.** The maintenance backlog is growing rapidly for our aging roads, bridges and transit infrastructure. We can't afford the transportation system we have, and expansions and upgrades that are critical to economic growth and quality of life are being delayed or scaled back—or funded with increasing amounts of debt.

## Why it matters:

### Better transportation system =

- More options to get to school, work, and everywhere else
- More bike paths and sidewalks
- Less congestion on the roads and a faster, less stressful commute
- Less overcrowding and fewer delays on trains and buses
- Easier access to more jobs for workers



- Businesses have more access to workers and customers
- Cleaner air and less greenhouse gas pollution
- More people can access higher education and job training
- Mobility and independence for seniors and people with disabilities



## What you can do

**Add your voice to the conversation.** Share these issues and arguments for investing in transportation with your neighbors, friends, and legislators.

**Stay in the loop.** Visit [mapc.org/trans-signup](http://mapc.org/trans-signup) to hear about forums and events, participate in legislative action alerts, and more.