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**Environmental and Public Transit Advocates Encouraged By Patrick
Transportation Plan**

BOSTON—Advocates for public transit, bicycle, and walkable communities applaud Governor Patrick’s transportation plan, which includes funding to stabilize the MBTA, support for regional transit authorities, initiatives to promote biking and walking, and incentives for consumers to purchase fuel efficient vehicles.

The organizations released the following statement:

“We are very encouraged by the governor’s leadership in recognizing the environmental, public health, and quality of life impacts that our transportation system has on the people of Massachusetts.

This plan moves us in the right direction by sustaining a transportation network we all rely on, and by encouraging changes to address the myriad problems we face from an overdependence on single-occupant vehicles, such as climate change, air pollution, traffic congestion, dependence on foreign oil, auto accidents, sprawl, and obesity.

We support an increase to the gas tax to fund transportation. Investing in public transportation benefits every Massachusetts resident. For example, in 2006 the automobile travel displaced by the MBTA saved 154 million gallons of fuel, which translated into \$403 million in savings for the economy. The T also prevented 21 million hours of traffic delays that year, and reduced carbon emissions by 1.2 million metric tons, which is the equivalent of taking 225,000 cars off the road everyday.

The 1.3 million trips on the MBTA every workday also fuels the economy of Greater Boston, which in turn generates 50 percent of the state’s jobs and 73 percent of the population. The income taxes on these jobs then fix infrastructure from Pittsfield to Provincetown.”

Sincerely,

Alternatives for Community and Environment
Conservation Law Foundation
Environment Massachusetts
Environmental League of Massachusetts
Environmental Entrepreneurs
Institute for Human Centered Design
Livable Streets Alliance
Massachusetts Bicycle Coalition

Massachusetts Climate Action Network
Massachusetts League of Environmental Voters
Massachusetts Sierra Club
Massachusetts Smart Growth Alliance
MASSPIRG
Somerville Transportation Equity Partnership
T Riders Union
Walk Boston