

SENATE No. 2269

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Joseph A. Boncore

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act preparing rail opportunities and jumpstarting efforts concerning transportation stimulus (PROJECTS).

PETITION OF:

NAME:

Joseph A. Boncore

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

First Suffolk and Middlesex

SENATE No. 2269

By Mr. Boncore, a petition (accompanied by bill, Senate, No. 2269) of Joseph A. Boncore for legislation to prepare rail opportunities and jumpstarting efforts concerning transportation stimulus (PROJECTS). Transportation.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Second General Court
(2021-2022)**

An Act preparing rail opportunities and jumpstarting efforts concerning transportation stimulus (PROJECTS).

Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to forthwith to develop capital infrastructure projects in the commonwealth related to improving transit reliability, increasing transit service capacity, reducing greenhouse gas and particulate matter emissions and improving overall resiliency of the system, in preparation for future federal infrastructure funding, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the
2 Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority shall create a fund called the “Stimulus-Ready Projects”
3 fund that can be used by the authority to advance planning, design, and engineering work on
4 capital infrastructure projects that would improve transit reliability, increase transit service
5 capacity, reduce greenhouse gas and particulate matter emissions, and improve overall resiliency
6 of the system, in preparation for future federal infrastructure funds

7 SECTION 2. Within thirty days of the passage of this Act, the Massachusetts Bay Transit
8 Authority shall deposit an amount into the Stimulus-Ready Projects Fund (hereinafter referred to

9 as the “Stimulus Ready Fund”) equal to no less than five percent but no greater than ten percent
10 of total amounts received by the authority from federal emergency aid to transit systems in years
11 2020 and 2021, including funding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security
12 (CARES) Act, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of December 2020, and all future federal
13 appropriations that deliver COVID-related emergency aid to the authority. Future deposits into
14 the fund must be made by the authority within ten days of receipt of federal funds.

15 SECTION 3. The mission of the Stimulus Ready Fund is to expedite the planning,
16 design, and engineering of infrastructure projects so that projects can be eligible to receive, or
17 take best advantage of, federal infrastructure funding from any federal appropriation or
18 authorization bills during federal fiscal years 2021 and 2022 providing funding for transportation
19 projects that is necessary to complete construction and implementation of capital projects that
20 meet one or more of the following eligibility requirements: i) projects unfunded or not fully
21 funded in the authority’s Capital Investment Plan, with a priority for projects that improve transit
22 access and connectivity on the Blue, Red and Silver lines; ii) projects specifically related to
23 improving transit reliability, increasing transit service capacity, reduce greenhouse gas and
24 particulate matter emissions, and improving overall resiliency of the system, iii) projects related
25 to the improvements recommended by the regional rail vision, including without limitation
26 electrification of the commuter rail system, increasing capacity of commuter rail track
27 infrastructure, and station infrastructure, and (iv) projects related to infrastructure, facilities, and
28 maintenance needs for a battery-operated bus network. No funds in the Stimulus Ready Fund
29 shall be used for ongoing programmed and funded maintenance or repair programs conducted by
30 the authority.

31 SECTION 4. Money deposited in the fund must be obligated by the authority within 90
32 days of this act and within 60 days of future deposits into the fund.

33 SECTION 5. On July 1, 2022, all unobligated amounts from this fund on January 1, 2023
34 shall be transferred to the Boston Metropolitan Planning Organization for their use to improve or
35 expand dedicated bus lanes, build dedicated bike lanes, or support complete street infrastructure
36 needs within the authority's service plan region.

37 SECTION 6. The MBTA shall file a written report detailing its progress fulfilling the
38 terms of this Act and all amounts spent from this fund, and submit said report to the House and
39 Senate Committees on Transportation no later than May 1, 2021.