ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Fiscal Year 2023

"[TransitMatters is] the conscience of our community in transportation.”
– Senator Ed Markey

TransitMatters, Inc.
OVERVIEW

TransitMatters wrapped up another successful year of public transit advocacy. The theme of this year was holding public officials and policymakers accountable for their promises. This year we completed long-awaited reports, created data tools to validate riders’ experiences, relaunched our bus advocacy campaign, and so much more.

Most importantly, we updated our mission statement to better reflect the current direction of the organization and to better speak to the pressing challenges before us as a region and as a state.

*TransitMatters advances people-focused and data-driven solutions to advocate for better public transportation and mobility that provides access and opportunities for everyone across the Commonwealth, addresses climate change and inequality, and strengthens our economy.*

This new mission will guide our work as we continue to push for public transit in and around Greater Boston and across the state of Massachusetts. Through education and advocacy, we’re pushing for visionary, yet cost-effective solutions to make our transit system world-class.

As riders ourselves, we know firsthand the challenges and frustrations that come with an underfunded and unreliable transit system. That’s why we’re working tirelessly to advance a vision for statewide public transportation that is accessible, reliable, sustainable, and affordable for all. The path forward won’t be easy, but we’ve already seen some incredible wins that we intend to build on. Thinking back even further, this is the home of America’s first subway and the city that turned a failed highway into an award-winning transit corridor and linear park.

By advocating for long-term sustainable funding, better land use, and policies that encourage increased transit ridership- we know we the Commonwealth can be a leader in transportation once again.
RESULTS

- Our Executive Director joined Boston Mayor Michelle Wu at a US Senate hearing on MBTA Safety chaired by Senator Elizabeth Warren and Senator Ed Markey.

- The Healey/Driscoll team appointed our Executive Director Jarred Johnson as one of the members of the "How We Get Around" transition team.

- We led a successful advocacy campaign to increase capital funding for future Commuter Rail electrification and the long-promised Red-Blue Connector.

- We successfully pushed the Healey Administration to overhaul the MBTA Board with new members and bring back in-person meetings with live public comments.

- We released our third major Regional Rail report outlining why Commuter Rail modernization is still so relevant in a post-COVID landscape.

- Our Labs team released the updated Data Dashboard that included significant updates to our heavily cited “Slow Zone Tracker.”

- We launched our long-awaited Mobility Hubs Toolkit that featured insights from our 2020 pilot in Everett.

- We partnered with JC Decaux to release a series of posters at area bus stops to celebrate the relaunch of our bus service and operations advocacy campaign.

- We also released two new technical reports aimed at improving two major operations issues with the T’s bus network: bunched buses and missed connections.
Our primary expense in FY23 was payroll for our staff, including salaries, taxes, and benefits. Our next largest expense was for professional services, including our payment for fiscal sponsorship services. Finally, operating expenses included rent, software, printing, and other expenses.

Our primary source of income comes from grants, which make up just over three-quarters of our funding. The other fourth of our funding is primarily from contributions and donations from the general public.

TransitMatters is able to do the work it does because of the generosity of the Barr Foundation, TransitCenter, Transportation for Massachusetts, and the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy. We also have an incredible base of annual donors giving through a variety of means including direct contributions, donor-advised funds, corporate matching programs, and more. None of this would be possible without the support of our Board & Development Committee.