



Chapter 1

AECOM / URS
TMD
Burke & Company





1. PROJECT OVERVIEW

The State Legislature has instructed all Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs) in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to undertake the preparation of a Regional Transit Plan as a requirement of the Transportation Finance Bill passed in 2013. These Regional Transit Plans present an opportunity to improve local bus service operations, identify new markets of service opportunity, and meet the identified needs for public transit services in each respective RTA service area. Section 63 of the Bill notes nine discrete tasks that each Regional Transit Plan must address. These tasks are as follows:

- (1) Comprehensive assessment of transit services
- (2) Thorough examination of the ridership trends for each line and service provided by the regional transit authority
- (3) Performance analysis of existing services
- (4) Development and evaluation of alternative service scenarios
- (5) Development of a recommendation to better align service with local and regional demand
- (6) Commonwealth's environmental policies
- (7) Fare rates and collection methods
- (8) Region's job creation goals and employment needs
- (9) Determination of whether the regional transit authority's service is deployed in the most effective way possible to accommodate the transit needs of the region's workforce.

Each RTA is also required to hold a public hearing on the draft relating to the development of its Regional Transit Plan in order to inform the public and gather their input.

The Worcester Regional Transit Authority has prepared this Draft Regional Transit Plan in accordance with the Transportation Finance Bill.