

Free Public Transit in the US

The View from Massachusetts

Phineas Baxandall, Senior Policy Analyst
Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center
pbaxandall@massbudget.org



Reports at MassBudget.org



- Does it Make Sense to Collect Bus Fares?
- The Dollars and Sense of Eliminating Fares
- Free Buses Advance Equity
- Freeing the Climate: Environmental Benefits of Eliminating Transit Fares



U.S. Movement Toward Free Transit?

- Kansas City
- 30+ small examples
- In Massachusetts
 - Lawrence
 - o Worcester
 - All buses during early COVID





Transit is a public good



Reject the vending machine view of government





Fare collection is a waste



