

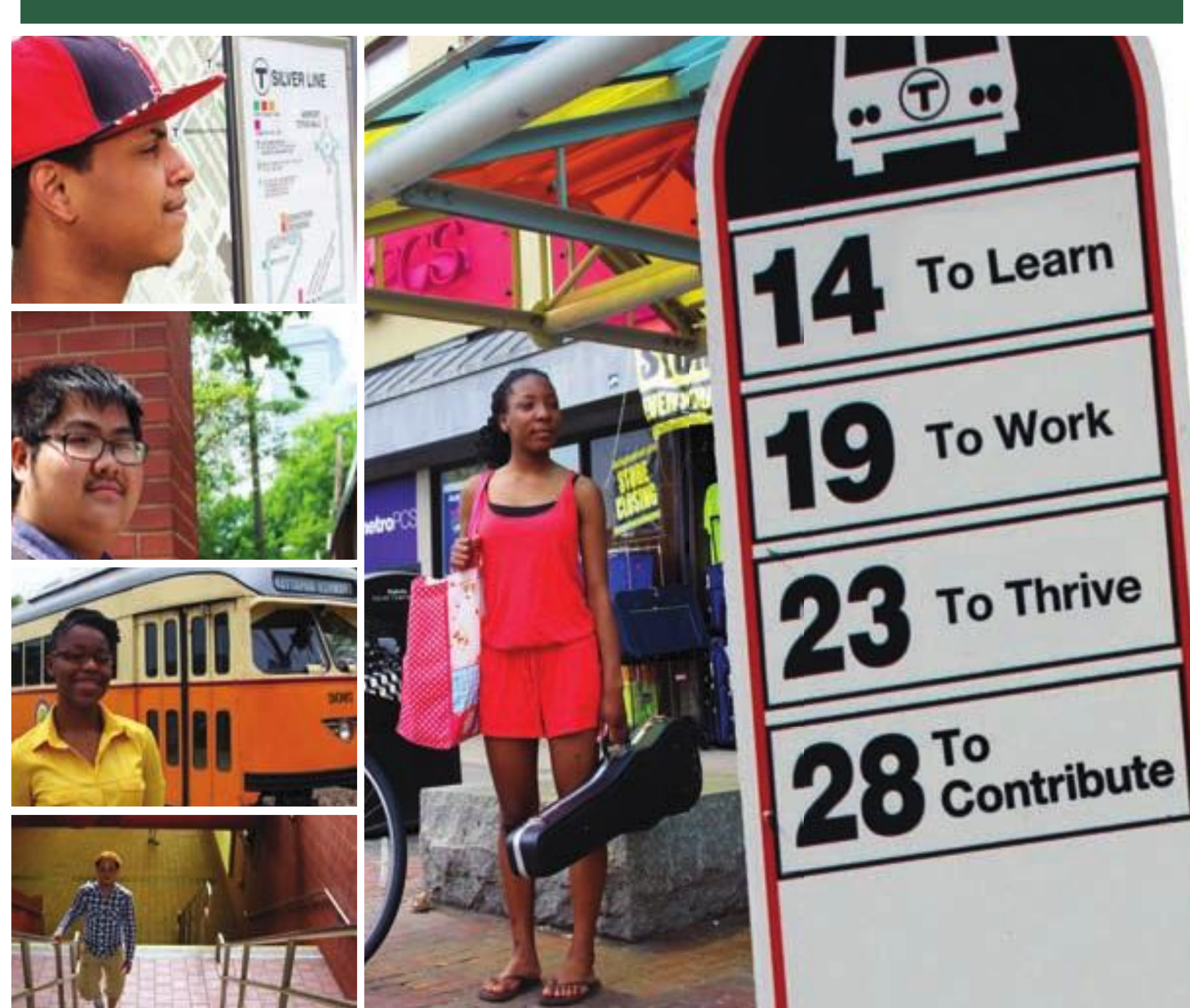
OpportuniT: Youth riders, the affordability crisis, and the Youth Pass solution

Alternatives for Community & Environment (ACE)

We are youth riders.

Public transportation is our opportunity to learn, work, thrive and contribute.

Too many of us simply can't afford to ride.



OPPORTUNIT

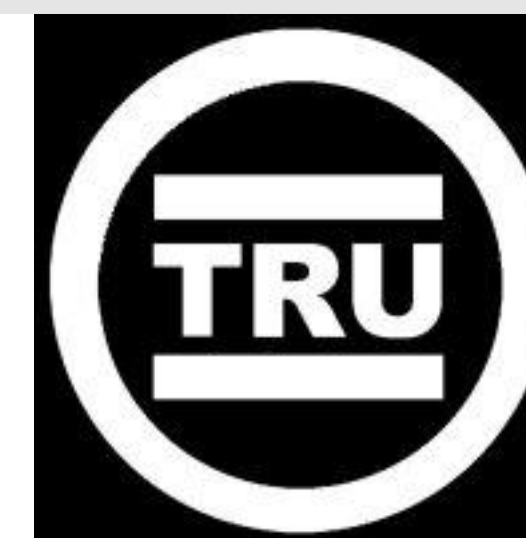
Youth riders, the affordability crisis, and the Youth Pass solution.



By YOUTH WAY ON THE MBTA
June 2011



Building Power for Environmental Justice



Impact of the Report

We released the report in June 2011 with a week of actions, including creative "Youth Pass rides," a press conference, and a "Youth Riders Banquet."

The report and actions led to media attention from the Boston Globe, Boston Metro and Bay State Banner, as well as television and radio coverage.

At the Youth Riders Banquet, MBTA General Manager committed to work with us to

conduct a pilot research study of our proposed Youth Pass.

We are now using the report to win the creation of the Youth Pass during the MBTA's 2012 fare restructuring and to show the negative impacts of proposed fare hikes on young people.

The OpportuniT report is available at:

<http://YouthWayontheMBTA.org>

Research and Writing Process

This report is a result of three years of youth-led qualitative and quantitative research into the issue of affordable MBTA access for youth riders.

We surveyed over 4,000 youth, age 12 to 21, in stations, public places, schools, and youth employment programs in Boston, Cambridge, Somerville, Chelsea, Quincy, Milton and Brookline. We also collected stories and testimony during dozens of workshops.

Youth leaders and adult support staff, including a professional designer, worked collaboratively to choose the information and develop the language and graphics in the report.

About Youth Way on the MBTA

Youth Way on the MBTA is a campaign of Roxbury Environmental Empowerment Project (REEP) and T Riders Union (TRU) of ACE and Boston-area Youth Organizing Project (BYOP).

We fight for affordability, quality service, safety and respect for youth riders.

Find us on Facebook at "Youth Way on the MBTA" or Twitter @youthway. Contact us at youthway@ace-ej.org.

ACE builds the power of communities of color and low-income communities in Massachusetts to eradicate environmental racism and classism, create healthy, sustainable communities, and achieve environmental justice.

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