

Transportation Secretary and CEO Jamey Tesler's Report to the MassDOT Board

October 20, 2021



Thank You To Public and to Employees

- October 18: commuter rail and subway travelers were thanked at South Station for wearing masks while using trains and subways and for taking trips on public transportation.
- We have appreciated T and MassDOT customers and employees for abiding by health & safety protocols in public places and office areas.



COVID-19 Safety

- October 17 was the deadline for employees to submit attestation forms indicating they've received the COVID-19 vaccine; employees were informed about the exemption process. Dozens of internal meetings were held for managers on the vaccine mandate. Employees were informed about steps that would be taken if attestation not done:
 - For managers – 5-day suspension without pay. Continued failure to meet this requirement will then result in termination of employment.
 - For bargaining unit members – progressive discipline track begins with 5-day suspension without pay. Continued non-compliance will result in an additional 10-day suspension without pay. Failure to meet this requirement after the 10-day suspension will result in the termination of employment.
- MassDOT needs every employee to efficiently deliver on its mission. However, the safety of the Commonwealth's residents and employees must, and always has, come first.

RMV Support For 7D and School Bus Driver Recruitment

- RMV took steps last month and this month to assist the Commonwealth with hiring of drivers licensed to drive a 7D vehicle, which is any vehicle registered with the RMV as a school pupil transport vehicle, pursuant to M. G. L. Chapter 90 Section 7D.
- To support recruitment and licensing, RMV participated in one-day events leading to 196 National Guard Members and 155 applicants getting licensed to drive for bus companies.
- RMV helped recruit 7 D drivers by contacting individuals w/school pupil driving certificates that had expired in the last 6 months, by contacting individuals with expired School Bus Certificates w/active Commercial Driving Licenses with “S” and “P” endorsements which expired in the last 6 months and taking other steps.



Changes with MassDOT Board of Directors

- Monica Tibbits-Nutt has resigned after 6 years as MassDOT Director to use her talents and time to continue to “positively impact the Commonwealth’s transportation landscape.” Ms. Tibbits-Nutt also served for 6 years on the MBTA Fiscal and Management Control Board which sunset this past July 1. We honor and express deep appreciation to Monica for her dedication to both boards.



(Ms. Tibbits-Nutt joined Secretary Tesler at an October 19, 2021 T4MA virtual event.)

- Board member Betsy Taylor has a new role, Chair of the new MBTA Board of Directors. She will continue to serve on the MassDOT Board.
- We welcome new MassDOT Board member Thomas Koch, Mayor of Quincy.

New MBTA Board of Directors

- Seven members of MBTA Board of Directors:
 - **Jamey Tesler**, Department of Transportation Secretary Jamey Tesler
 - **Betsy Taylor**, Treasurer and Chair of the Finance & Audit Committee for the MassDOT Board. Former Director of Finance and Treasury at Massport.
 - **Thomas Koch**, Mayor of Quincy since January, 2008. Chairman of the MBTA Advisory Board since 2011.
 - **Robert Butler**, President of the Northeast Regional Council of the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers.
 - **Thomas “Scott” Darling**, former Chief of Safety, Security, & Control Center Operations for the Chicago Transit Authority, served as Acting Administrator and Chief Counsel at Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration and worked at MBTA from 2008 to 2012 as a Deputy Chief of Staff and Assistant General Counsel.
 - **Travis McCready**, Executive Director of US Life Sciences Market for JLL. Previous: President and CEO of the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center and Vice President of Programs for The Boston Foundation.
 - **Mary Beth Mello**, principal at Mello Transportation Consulting. Previous: Federal Transit Administration roles from 1993 to 2010, first as a Deputy Regional Administrator and then New England Regional Administrator.
- Statute states 2 members of the new MBTA Board should also be members of the MassDOT Board. They are:
 - **Betsy Taylor**, who has been serving on the MassDOT Board.
 - **Mayor Thomas Koch**, appointed to the MassDOT Board by the Governor 10/7/21.

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

- Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act still being discussed by members of the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate.
- Would authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes.
- There is an October 31 deadline to pass the infrastructure bill and the Build Back Better Act.
- MassDOT has had teams meeting internally for months so when a federal infrastructure bill is finalized, MassDOT can immediately begin to take advantage of the federal funding.

New Discretionary Funds - MassDOT work has already begun

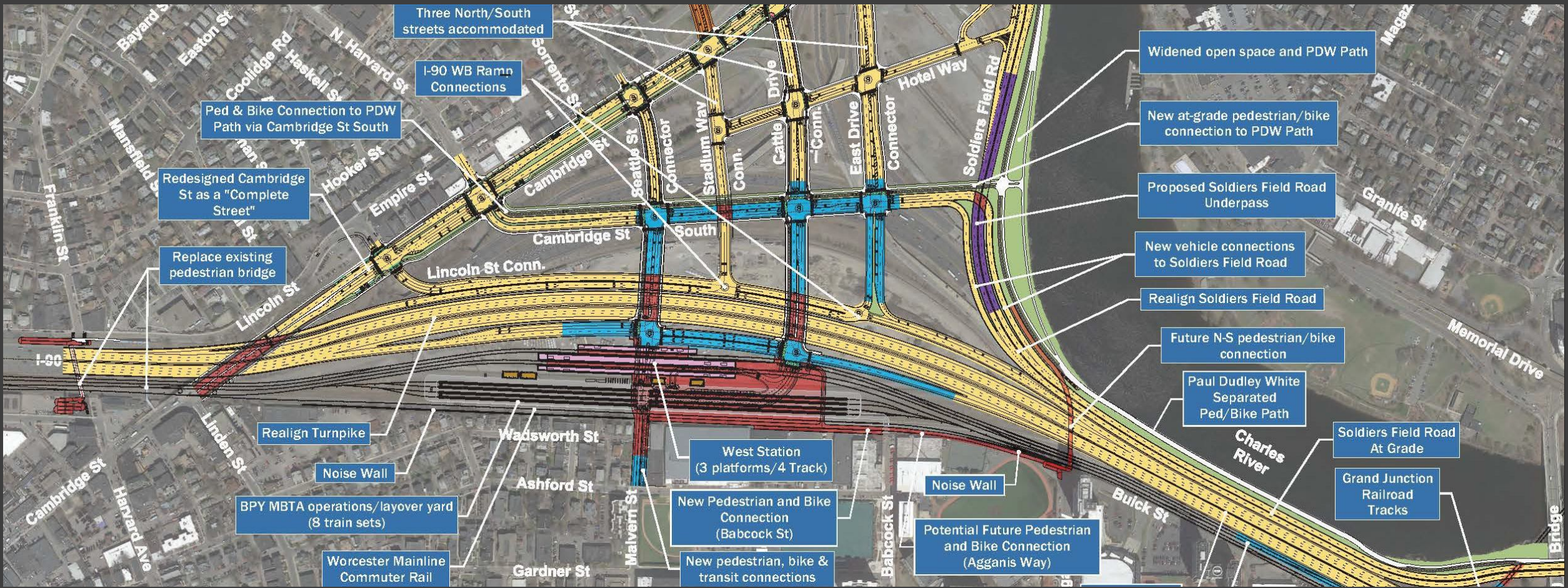
- Federal funds are a general allocation to the Commonwealth, unallocated funds with some rules but also giving discretion for how Commonwealth will spend. Administration looking to spend some dollars on caring for people, putting some money into workforce training, behavioral health and addiction treatment services, home ownership and housing.
- MassDOT is prepared to apply for all discretionary funding opportunities.
- MassDOT will be prepared to take advantage of these new and expanding funding sources.

Allston Multimodal Project

- MassDOT is advancing *Modified At-Grade* design for the Allston Multimodal Project.
- Advancing this option will require an extensive effort with stakeholders for funding, design and permitting work to prepare a Notice of Project Change.
- Development of a comprehensive finance and mitigation plan necessary, including securing anticipated federal infrastructure funding increases, local stakeholder contributions, and other potential funding options.
- Decision to devote resources to advancing the *Modified At-Grade* design comes after significant stakeholder engagement, input and support from elected officials and the Allston Multimodal Project Task Force, critical land provided by Boston University, and a collaboration between engineers at the MBTA, DCR and MassDOT to mitigate limitations to necessary infrastructure in the *throat* section that would have required 4 feet of roadway in the Charles River.
- Next Task Force meeting is tonight, Wednesday, October 20, 6 p.m.

I-90 Allston Multimodal Project



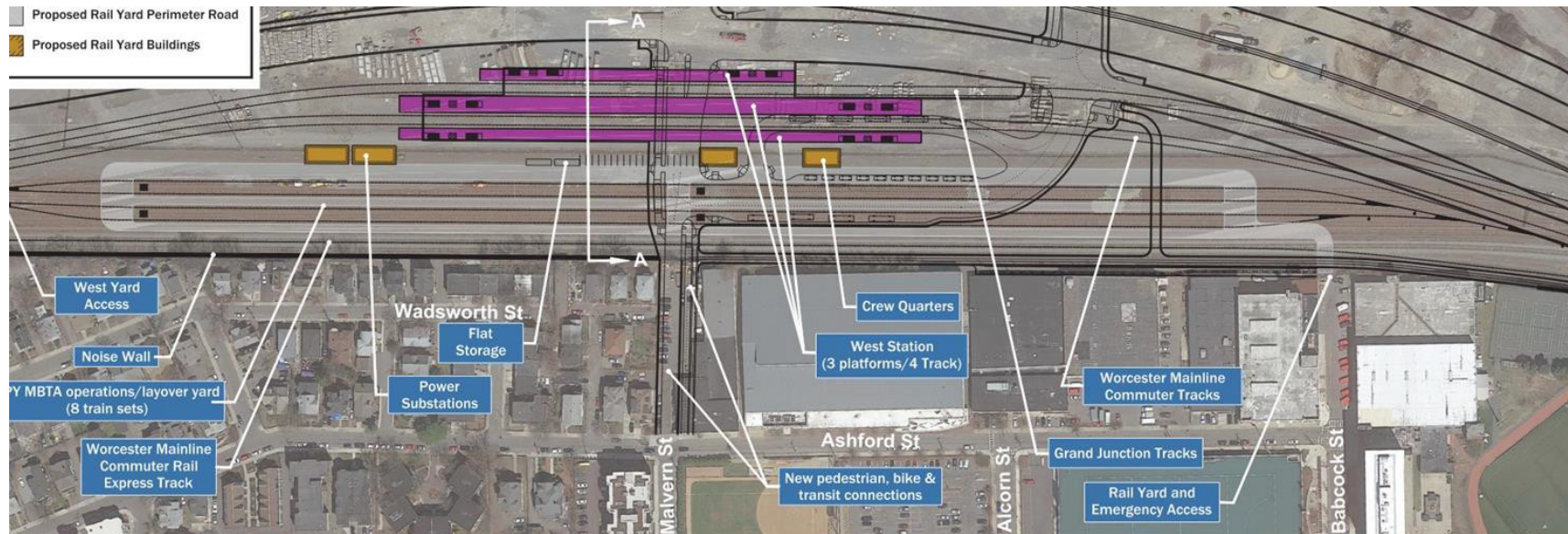


I-90 Multimodal Project – Project Elements

Highway Elements	Rail & Transit Elements
Realign I-90	West Station Commuter Rail & Bus
Create Urban St Grid	BPY Layover and WML Express/Bypass Track
Cambridge St. Bridge rebuild	Grand Junction Branch RR
Franklin St, Agganis Way & PDW Bike & Ped	Transitway

West Station & BPY Layout

- Rail Station
 - 4 Tracks / 3 Platforms
- CP3 – Rebuilt East, CP4 – Reestablished West
- Yard
 - 4 Tracks / 8 Trainsets
 - Short yard leads



Bus On Shoulder Travel

- MassDOT advising drivers to the October 20th start of additional field testing for the viability of allowing buses to travel in the breakdown lane of I-93, between I-95 and Somerville.
- Testing to last about 3 weeks and involves MBTA, Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority and MassPort Logan Express buses. are starting field tests for a pilot bus-on-shoulder lane on I-93 between I-95 and Somerville. Empty buses will be used to inform the viability of a longer-term bus-on-shoulder pilot.
- Motorists on I-93 may observe empty MBTA, MVRTA and Logan Express buses traveling in the breakdown lane during the morning on I-93 southbound and in the afternoon on I-93 northbound. No motor vehicle travel is permitted in breakdown lanes with the exception of buses involved in the field testing.



Photo taken during a test run on I-93.

- Bus on shoulder travel area is 7 miles long in each direction. T estimates the MBTA Route 354 bus currently gets in traffic congestion for 15 to 20 minutes on I-93.
- Bus-on-shoulder route would allow buses to bypass this congestion.

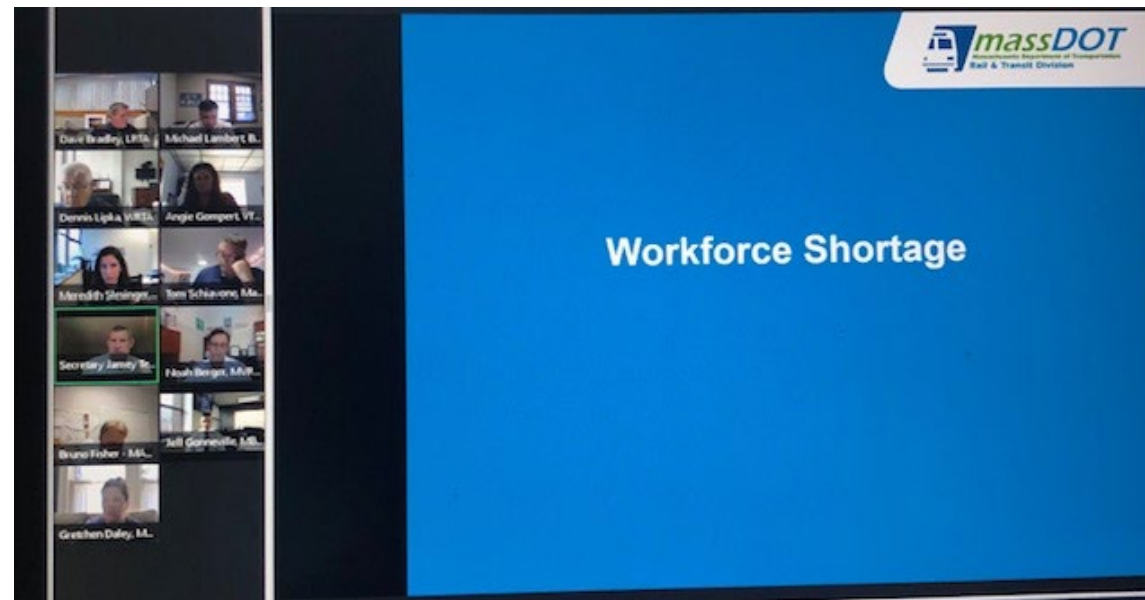
Implementation Status



- MBTA, MVRTA and Massport's Logan Express buses conducting testing runs starting this week.
- MBTA, MVRTA and LEX bus drivers will be traveling with empty buses in the breakdown lane SB in the morning and NB in the afternoon on the shoulder of I-93 between I-95 and Somerville.
- Construction activities completed:
 - Rumble strip removal complete
 - Signage installation complete
 - Portable changeable message signs installed
- Pilot corridor ready for rolling implementation of revenue bus service as carriers complete training

Regional Transit Authority Virtual Meeting

- October 13: representatives of the state's 15 RTAs convened virtually to discuss a variety of topics including the impact of the pandemic on service and the workforce.
- Secretary Jamey Tesler, Rail and Transit Administrator Meredith Slesinger, MBTA Deputy General Manager Jeff Gonneville and Gretchen Daley, who manages the Registry's CDL program, were among the officials participating in the meeting.
- Pandemic had challenges, including a workforce shortage, fewer customers, less fare revenue, but pandemic did offer an opportunity to innovate, see what works and share "best practices."



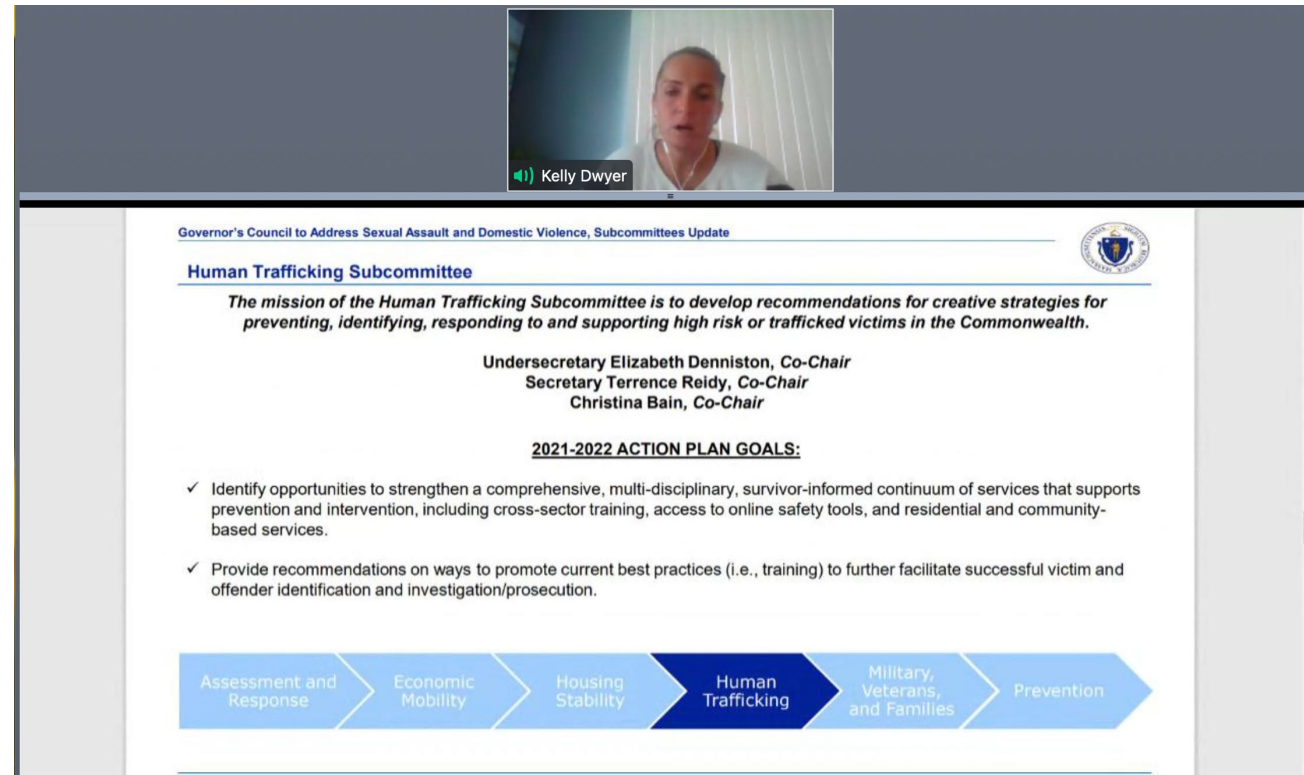
Cochituate Rail Trail Ribbon Cutting

- On September 28, Secretary Tesler and Highway Administrator Gulliver joined Framingham and Natick state and local officials for a ribbon-cutting event to celebrate the completion of the Cochituate Rail Trail.
- The \$11.4 million project included the construction of 2.4 miles of rail trail and a grade-separated crossing at Route 30, and the replacement of the CSX Bridge over Route 9.
- Planned future construction will provide a direct connection with the Natick Center MBTA station as well as over Lake Cochituate.
- The CRT adds to an ever-expanding list of rails-to-trails projects in the metro-west area currently funded for construction in Wayland, Sudbury, Newton and Weston.



MassDOT Employee Virtual Lunches Continue

- Varied topics. On October 6, National Domestic Violence Month was recognized as the Women's Employee Resource Group hosted an event w/Kelly Dwyer, Executive Director Governor's Council to Address Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence, Human Trafficking in Massachusetts, titled: *What Can I Do About It as an Employee in Transportation?*



The screenshot shows a virtual meeting interface. At the top, there is a video feed of Kelly Dwyer, identified by a name tag. Below the video, a presentation slide is displayed. The slide is titled "Governor's Council to Address Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence, Subcommittees Update" and features the state seal of Massachusetts. The main heading is "Human Trafficking Subcommittee". The mission statement reads: "The mission of the Human Trafficking Subcommittee is to develop recommendations for creative strategies for preventing, identifying, responding to and supporting high risk or trafficked victims in the Commonwealth." The co-chairs are listed as Undersecretary Elizabeth Denniston, Secretary Terrence Reidy, and Christina Bain. The slide also lists "2021-2022 ACTION PLAN GOALS:" with two bullet points: "Identify opportunities to strengthen a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary, survivor-informed continuum of services that supports prevention and intervention, including cross-sector training, access to online safety tools, and residential and community-based services." and "Provide recommendations on ways to promote current best practices (i.e., training) to further facilitate successful victim and offender identification and investigation/prosecution." At the bottom, a horizontal flowchart shows the following steps: Assessment and Response, Economic Mobility, Housing Stability, Human Trafficking (highlighted in dark blue), Military, Veterans, and Families, and Prevention.

Kelly Dwyer

Governor's Council to Address Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence, Subcommittees Update

Human Trafficking Subcommittee

The mission of the Human Trafficking Subcommittee is to develop recommendations for creative strategies for preventing, identifying, responding to and supporting high risk or trafficked victims in the Commonwealth.

Undersecretary Elizabeth Denniston, Co-Chair
Secretary Terrence Reidy, Co-Chair
Christina Bain, Co-Chair

2021-2022 ACTION PLAN GOALS:

- ✓ Identify opportunities to strengthen a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary, survivor-informed continuum of services that supports prevention and intervention, including cross-sector training, access to online safety tools, and residential and community-based services.
- ✓ Provide recommendations on ways to promote current best practices (i.e., training) to further facilitate successful victim and offender identification and investigation/prosecution.

Assessment and Response → Economic Mobility → Housing Stability → **Human Trafficking** → Military, Veterans, and Families → Prevention

2021 MassDOT Moving Together Conference

- MassDOT will have its annual Moving Together Conference from December 7-9, held virtually.
- Attendants can go to workshops and panels that highlight current pedestrian, bicyclist and public transportation topics and network with colleagues.
- To register, go to MovingTogetherMA.org.



Save the Date
Dec. 7-9

MOVINGTOGETHERMA.ORG



Cape Cod Canal Area Transportation Improvement Program



Join us

What is happening?

The purpose of these public information meetings is to provide the public with updates on the proposed Cape Cod Canal Area Transportation Improvement Program. The Program team will present on the Draft Purpose and Need, Draft Measures of Effectiveness Criteria, Existing Conditions, and Next Steps. To register for these meetings, please use this link: tiny.cc/CapeCodCanalBridgesPIM or scan the QR code to the right.

Why is this important?

This regional Program will include the replacement of the Bourne and Sagamore bridges, as well as improvements to the approach roadway networks to address the multimodal deficiencies within the Cape Cod Canal area. All comments, questions, and views provided by the public will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible. For more information, please visit: www.mass.gov/cape-cod-canal-area-transportation-improvement-program

If you need information in another language, please contact the MassDOT Title VI Specialist by phone at (857) 368-8580.
Si necesita información en otro lenguaje, favor contactar al especialista de MassDOT del Título VI al 857-368-8580.

Project inquiries may also be emailed to dot.feedback.highway@state.ma.us
Please submit any written statements regarding the proposed undertaking to Carrie Levallee, P.E., Acting Chief Engineer, MassDOT, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02216, Attention: MAJOR PROJECTS SECTION, PROJECT FILE NO. 608020

Public Information Meetings

Cape Cod Canal Area Transportation Improvement Program

Where
Virtual Public Information Meeting,
Zoom Platform

When
November 16 & 18
at 7:00 PM

Register Here:



- The second round of improvement program public information meetings will be held Tuesday, November 16 and Thursday, November 18.
- MassDOT continues taking steps to make infrastructure improvements along the canal while awaiting decisions by the federal government and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in regard to funding for replacing the Bourne Bridge and Sagamore Bridge.