

## Board Report:

# MassDOT Awarded \$4M for Two USDOT SMART Grants Aero Club of New England (ACONE) Crash Safety Course & Massachusetts Air & Space Museum Opening

April 19, 2023

*Presented to:*

■ **Board of Directors**

*Presented by:*

■ **Aeronautics Division**

➤ **Dr. Jeff DeCarlo**

# MassDOT Awarded \$4M for (2) USDOT SMART Grants



- The Aeronautics Division has been awarded a \$2M Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grant from the USDOT
- The Aeronautics Division partnered with the Cape Cod Gateway Airport (Barnstable) and the Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority to promote clean energy and climate-related initiatives
- This award includes planning, permitting, conceptual/preliminary design, and interconnectivity agreements for the implementation of a Smart Grid at the Cape Cod Gateway Airport
- The project will address electrical power generation requirements (solar and wind), charging infrastructure (for cars, aircraft, airport support equipment, and RTA buses), and intelligent technologies that prioritize electrical power needs for commercial transportation while utilizing excess power generation for additional airport facilities
- The tentative start for the project is fall FY24 with completion anticipated in 18 months
- Rail & Transit received an additional SMART grant for \$2M to reduce the risk of rail infrastructure failures due to changing climate conditions. The Rail and Transit team will be the lead for the Rail Safety-Drone grant proposal, in partnership with Aeronautics

# Aero Club of New England (ACONE) Crash Safety Course

- MassDOT Aeronautics participated in the annual ACONE safety course held on March 15<sup>th</sup> in Burlington with a display of Uncrewed Aircraft for integration of airport safety inspections and the support of NTSB investigations
- FAA New England Regional Administrator, Colleen D'Alessandro and Stephen Brown of the FAA Safety Team provided a review of regional accidents
- Aeronautics staff briefed pilots on uncrewed aircraft “Drones” operating in the vicinity of an airport and procedures for reporting drone incidents and flight safety concerns



**Colleen D'Alessandro**  
New England Region  
Regional  
Administrator



**Stephen K. Brown**  
Aviation  
Safety  
Program  
Manager



▪ *Review of  
Regional Accidents*

# Massachusetts Air & Space Museum Opening



- On March 17<sup>th</sup>, Deputy Administrator, Denise Garcia and Chief of Planning, Michael Miller, attended a ribbon cutting ceremony in Hyannis to introduce the new downtown location of the Massachusetts Air & Space Museum (MASM)
- The MASM showcases exhibits on the history of aviation and space exploration, focusing on ties to Massachusetts citizens and industries
- The Museum's mission is to inspire new generations to explore, experience, and pursue interests and opportunities in aviation and aerospace technologies
- Located along the local mass transit line, the new location is expected to offer great promise in generating more interest and attendance in promoting STEM education and future workforce development

