



Maura Healey, Governor
Kimberley Driscoll, Lieutenant Governor
Monica Tibbitts-Nutt, Secretary & CEO



MINUTES

Meeting of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation Board of Directors

JULY 30, 2025 AT 12:00 P.M.

**10 Park Plaza, 2nd Floor Board Room, Suite 2890
Boston, MA 02116**

***Public participation and comment was available via written
communication, voice message and in-person public comment.***

This meeting was broadcast live online.

**MASSDOT BOARD
MEMBERS
PARTICIPATING:**

*Chair Monica Tibbitts-Nutt, Director Eric Batista,
Director Ilyas Bhatti, Director Joseph Beggan,
Director Richard Dimino, Director Lisa Iezzoni,
Director Tim King, Director Tom Koch (left
meeting at 1:48 p.m.), Director Dean Mazzearella,
Director Thomas McGee*

**OTHERS
PARTICIPATING:**

*Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver,
Registrar of Motor Vehicles Colleen Ogilvie,
Administrator of Rail & Transit Meredith
Slesinger, Acting Aeronautics Administrator
Denise Garcia, Undersecretary Hayes Morrison,
Chief Financial Officer David Pottier, Deputy
Chief Safety Officer Tony Abdalla, Deputy
Director of Major Projects Frank Welch Deputy
Chief Engineer Jack Moran, Manager of Transit
Planning Jonathan Church, Transit Planner
Patricia Cahill*

OTHERS PRESENT:

General Counsel Carrie Wicker, Deputy General

Counsel Owen Kane

Chair Tibbits-Nutt called to order the meeting of the MassDOT Board at 12:03 p.m. Owen Kane called the roll of the members participating, being a quorum of the MassDOT Board of Directors:

Chair Tibbits-Nutt	Present
Director Batista	Present
Director Beggan	Present
Director Bhatti	Present
Director Dimino	Present
Director Iezzoni	Present
Director King	Present
Director Koch	Present
Director Mazzarella	Present
Director McGee	Present

Safety Briefing

Deputy Chief Safety Officer Tony Abdalla presented the Safety Briefing. Mr. Abdalla warned that drowning is currently a leading cause of death in children aged 1-4 and the second leading cause of death for children between the ages of 5-14. There are over 4,000 fatal drownings occurring each year in the U.S., and over 8,000 near drownings that are nonfatal.

Employee Recognition

The Chair recognized eleven MassDOT employees for extraordinary work achievements.

Kristian Kassimis was recognized for his exceptional leadership within MassDOT's IT Quality Assurance group.

Stephanie DuPont was cited for going above and beyond the call of duty within the Highway Division District 2 office.

Elizabeth Mulroney, Lloyd Kropilak, Suraya Carnakie-Brown, Justin Hooper, Marie Freitas, James DiLisio and Robert Robare were recognized for outstanding service delivery efforts as part of the Real ID roll out.

Michelle Deng was saluted for her outstanding achievement in Highway Traffic and Safety.

Deputy Chief Engineer Tom DiPaolo was also recognized as the 2025 winner of the Honorable Ray LaHood Award presented by the Boston Chapter of WTS.

Public Comment

The Board received 8 written comments via email. The comments

were provided to the Directors in advance of the meeting and are attached to these minutes.

The Board also listened to two voice mail messages, related to the recent Service Plaza contract award to Applegreen.

The following individuals also appeared in person and offered testimony to the Board.

1. Eric Slifka – Global Partners – asked the Board to rescind the contract award to Applegreen.
2. Mark Romaine – Global Partners – asked the Board to rescind the contract award to Applegreen.
3. Max Slifka – Global Partners – asked the Board to rescind the contract award to Applegreen.
4. David Bennett – discussed the Snow & Ice program and expressed concern that the Department was not paying the full performance bonuses.
5. Bob Etchingham – Applegreen – expressed his appreciation to the Board for the selection of Applegreen.

MEETING MINUTES

Chair Tibbits-Nutt asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2025, MassDOT Board Meeting.

On motion duly made and seconded, it was by roll call:

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the MassDOT Board Meeting held on June 18, 2025.

Chair Tibbits-Nutt	Yes
Director Batista	Abstain
Director Beggan	Yes
Director Bhatti	Yes
Director Dimino	Yes
Director Iezzoni	Yes
Director King	Yes
Director Koch	Yes
Director Mazzeella	Yes
Director McGee	Yes

STANDING REPORTS

The Secretary provided her monthly report to the Board.

She began with an update on the so-called Megaprojects, the Allston Multi-Modal Project and the Cape Cod Bridges Project. While the federal government has rescinded grant funding for the Allston project, the Department is exploring various options to complete the project.

The Secretary also provided an update on the successful Newton-Weston Project and the Shared Streets Funding analysis. A total of \$6.8 million has been provided to 13 municipalities and 2 RTAs.

July is Water Transit Month. The Secretary shared with the Board news of the dedication of a new ferry, christened the Abigail Adams.

The Secretary also discussed the ADA35 Rally & March held recently in Boston, as well as recent events she attended, with Governor Healy and others, at the Hanscomb Air Force Base, Winchester and Natick.

Finally, she presented a video depicting a peregrine falcon nesting program conducted by Department staff.

Director Dimino thanked the Secretary for her thorough and uplifting report. He expressed his pleasure that we continue to move forward with the Allston project.

Registrar Colleen Ogilvie presented the report of the Registry of Motor Vehicles. The Registrar announced that the Chelsea RMV moved to 121 Webster Ave, Chelsea on July 14th. The reasons for the relocation included improved accessibility and parking, improved design to support customer needs, and green construction with sustainability features.

Ms. Ogilvie also provided an update on the regulation change related to the Lifetime Disqualification waiver Program.

Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver provided his report to the Board. Administrator Gulliver provided an update on the second weekend closure on the I-90, Newton project. He noted that the Department was very pleased with the amount of work accomplished and expressed appreciation to the travelling public for their patience and cooperation during the closures.

Director Koch asked about the Snow & Ice program and if the Department was ready. The Administrator stated that he would provide an update at the next meeting.

Acting Aeronautics Administrator Denise Garcia provided the report of the Aeronautics Division. She provided a year-end update on the Division's accomplishments. The Department awarded \$22M+ in State Funds for 48 grants to 19 airports and 3 vendors, designed and bid yearly pavement maintenance on-call project, completed 150 airspace reviews for various projects around Airports and engaged with Indus and Stantec to assist with the statewide Pavement Condition Index update and deliver construction phase services.

Administrator Meredith Slesinger then provided the Rail & Transit Division report. She announced that MassDOT has recently finalized the renegotiation and are executing its bilateral MOUs with each of the 15 RTAs. These MOUs cover the two-year period beginning July 1, 2025 and cover both FY26 and FY27. The MOUs represent a commitment of funding from the state and a commitment of quality transit service from each RTA.

Presentations and Actions

Deputy Director of Major Projects Frank Welch presented Item #9, a request to authorize the Secretary of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, or their designee, to award and execute MassDOT Construction Contract 129076: Bridge Replacement, H-12-007, Bridge Street (SR 125) over the Merrimack River and the Bradford Rail Trail with The Middlesex Corporation in the amount of \$214,980,800.00.

The proposed Project will replace the existing Basiliere Bridge that carries Bridge Street (Route 125) over the Merrimack River and the existing bridge over the Bradford Rail Trail with a new structure designed and constructed for a 75-year service-life. The Project also improves safety,

accessibility and mobility for all users including motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists.

The Project will include complete removal of the existing bridge structures, roadway reconstruction, highway drainage/storm water management facilities, traffic management, sidewalk reconstruction, addition of bike lanes, traffic signal modifications, highway lighting, landscaping, pavement markings and signage, utility relocation/protection and all other related bridge and highway work.

Director Beggan noted that this project was discussed at the Capital Programs Committee meeting and that the Committee unanimously recommended its approval.

After further discussion:

On motion duly made and seconded, it was by roll call:

VOTED: To authorize the Secretary, or her designee, to award and execute MassDOT Contract No. 129076, Bridge Replacement, H-12-007, Bridge Street (SR 125) over the Merrimack River and the Bradford Rail Trail Design-Build Project, with The Middlesex Corporation and Transystems, in a form approved by the General Counsel, in the amount of \$214,980,800.00.

Chair Tibbits-Nutt

Yes

Director Batista	Yes
Director Beggan	Yes
Director Bhatti	Yes
Director Dimino	Yes
Director Iezzoni	Yes
Director King	Yes
Director Koch	Yes
Director Mazarella	Yes
Director McGee	Yes

Chief Financial Officer David Pottier presented Agenda Item #10, an update on the FY2026 Budget.

On July 4, 2025, Governor Healey signed the Commonwealth's FY 2026 budget into law. The Final Non-Toll Operating Budget is based on the Conference Committee's recommendations for the Commonwealth Transportation Fund (CTF). The revised Non-Toll operating Budget includes \$558.9M from the CTF, compared to the \$577.8M presented to the Board on June 18, 2025, a \$19.1M reduction, due to the following factors:

- \$14M in operating costs which will be covered by alternative funding sources; and
- \$5M reduction in the snow and ice budget, lowering the total to \$35M.

Mr. Pottier indicated that there will be an investment of \$8 billion for transportation over the next ten years. Potential projects and uses would support Chapter 90 investments as well as the Next Generation Bridge Program, among others.

Director King asked about employee compensation. Mr. Pottier stated that we are complying with all CBAs, although raises for management have been placed on hold.

Director Dimino noted that while there appeared to be a modest reduction in the Operating Budget, it looks like a significant increase the Capital Program.

Deputy Chief Engineer John Moran then presented Item #11, an update on the Department's efforts on monitoring the Highway Capital Plan.

Mr. Moran led a discussion on the Department's Capital Plan Delivery Measures, including the completeness, timeliness and accuracy of each procurement. The measures help MassDOT evaluate the internal processes and highlight the needs for Capital Planning.

Mr. Moran told the Board that 189 projects were planned for advertisement in SFY 2025, and as of today, 91% were on time, or within 30

days of the scheduled advertisement date. In addition, the Department was pleased to announce that it had greatly surpassed its performance target of 120 days from ad to notice to proceed every month during the past fiscal year. million transfer from the CTF for non-toll operations, including \$55 million from Fair Share revenues, representing a net increase of \$39 million.

Discussion ensued.

Patricia Cahill presented Item # 12, an update on the Water Transportation Study.

Ms. Cahill led a discussion on the water transportation investments made by the Department since 2023. She noted that ridership has grown from 839,000 in 2022 to more than 1.4 million in 2024.

The Water Transportation Project is based on language in the 2022 Bond Bill to “seek opportunities to expand the current ferry system and to ensure equal and broad access” to cities and towns. The project includes three components:

- Water Transportation Study;
- Design & engineering of the preferred alternative network; and
- 3–5-year pilot program of the preferred alternative network.

Director McGee said that it was exciting to see the progress on this initiative and commended Ms. Cahill and the Department on the aggressive schedule.

Manager of Transit Planning Jonathan Church then presented Item #13, an update on the Program for Mass Transportation (PMT). The Program is a \$1.5 million, 18-month study that will be managed by the Office of Transportation Planning in close partnership with MBTA. This new PMT will develop priorities that will inform an evaluation framework for potential tradeoffs over a 25-year time horizon. In addition to the MassDOT Board of Directors, the MBTA Board of Directors, through coordination with the MBTA Policy and Strategic Planning Department, will also be involved throughout the development of the new PMT.

Director Bhatti commended Mr. Church for this excellent effort and asked if consideration had been given to the reduction on reliance on fossil fuels. Administrator Gulliver stated that although that was not in the initial project scope, we will certainly look into it.

Further discussion ensued.

Chair Tibbits-Nutt asked for a motion to adjourn.

On a motion duly made and seconded, it was by roll call,

VOTED: To adjourn at 2:33 p.m.

Chair Tibbits-Nutt	Yes
Director Batista	Yes
Director Beggan	Yes
Director Bhatti	Yes
Director Dimino	Yes
Director Iezzoni	Yes
Director King	Yes
Director Mazarella	Yes
Director McGee	Yes