Knowledge Corridor Fiber Optic Cable Project

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Overview

Near-term maintenance and security benefits, foundation for positive train control (PTC)



Project extents from milepost 0.38 in Springfield to milepost 49.67 in Northfield

- MassDOT seeks to install fiber optic cable (FOC) along the state-owned Knowledge Corridor in Western Massachusetts.
- This active rail corridor hosts passenger service by Amtrak (Valley Flyer, Vermonter) and freight service by Berkshire & Eastern.
- FOC will allow for advanced real time monitoring of signal and crossing equipment and give maintainers better tools to schedule and program preventative maintenance.
- FOC is the first phase of the Positive Train Control (PTC) installation project.
- PTC will enable advanced train monitoring and control which is a prerequisite for expanded passenger and freight train frequency along the corridor.

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Project Scope



Cheapside Bridge in Greenfield over the Deerfield River at milepost 34.82 will require cable to be affixed to the structure.

- Installation and testing of a new fiber optic cabling system along 49.42 miles with 9.6 miles of sidetracks through 11 municipalities.
- 39 grade crossings, 41 undergrade bridges, 169 culverts.
- Approximately 85% of 43 miles of innerduct conduit installation will be by rail plow.
- Connections to signal enclosures, 2 MassDOT Highway intelligent transportation system (ITS) nodes, 3 passenger stations, and MassDOT South Deerfield Facility.

Public Review



Project manager Scott Conti provides a project overview to pre-bid meeting attendees on July 16, 2026.

- A pre-bid meeting was held July 16, 2026 at MassDOT's South Deerfield office.
- Forty-eight (48) attendees participated in the meeting either in-person or virtually.
- MassDOT responded to four Question & Answer rounds, the results of which have been posted online for public review.

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Procurement and Budget

- Advertisement: July 10, 2026
- Engineer's Estimate: $61,000,000
- Bid Opening: September 10, 2026
- Project is state-funded

Three (3) bids were received:

• **Henkels & McCoy, Inc.:**	**$30,144,844.99**
• SPS New England-Railroad A Joint Venture:	$37,482,920.00
• Dagle Electrical Construction Corp.:	$57,845,900.00

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Request of the MassDOT Board of Directors

The Price Proposals were reviewed by engineers in the Rail & Transit Division and the Design Consultant; costs were found to be reasonable and recommended to be awarded to the apparent low bidder.

Request of the MassDOT Board of Directors

Staff request that the Capital Programs Committee recommend that the MassDOT Board of Directors authorize the Secretary of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, or their designee, to award and execute MassDOT Contract #133725 – Knowledge Corridor Fiber Optic Cable Project with Henkels & McCoy, Inc. for the amount of $30,144,844.99.

Thank You

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