



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



MINUTES

Meeting of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation Board of Directors

October 16, 2024 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
IN-PERSON:**

*Chair Monica Tibbits-Nutt, Director Eric Batista,
Director Joseph Beggan, Director Ilyas Bhatti,
Director Richard Dimino, Director Lisa Iezzoni,
Director Thomas Koch (left at 2:12), Director
Thomas McGee*

**BOARD MEMBERS
PARTICIPATING
REMOTELY:**

None

**OTHERS
PARTICIPATING:**

*Chief Engineer Carrie Lavallee, MBTA Deputy
Chief of Staff Darrin McAuliffe, Registrar of Motor
Vehicles Colleen Ogilvie, Director of Rail &
Transit Administrator Andrew Koziol, Acting
Aeronautics Administrator Denise Garcia,
Undersecretary Hayes Morrison, Director of
Major Projects Michael O'Dowd, Director of
Property Management Robert Northrup, Chief
Labor Negotiator Olinda Marshall, Chief
Information Officer David Bedard, RMV COO
Niren Sirohi*

OTHERS PRESENT:

*General Counsel Douglas M. McGarrah, Deputy
General Counsel Owen Kane*

Chair Tibbits-Nutt called to order the meeting of the MassDOT Board at 12:02 p.m. and noted that, for the first time in quite a long time, all but one Director were present in the Boardroom.

Safety Briefing

The Chair began the meeting by introducing Darrin McAuliffe to present the Safety Briefing.

As part of the briefing, Mr. McAuliffe offered several Halloween Safety tips.

Employee Recognition

Next, the Chair invited six employees to be recognized by the Board for at least fifty years of service to the Department. The employees, Paul Kenney, Gertrude Brown, Steve Quinlan, Fil Yee, Fred Nohelty and John Kelley, were presented by their supervisors, Carrie Lavalee and Robert Northrup.

Public Comment

The following individuals provided public comment about concerns related to the RMV's enforcement of a law on Commercial Drivers'

Licenses:

Erin Curtis

Leanne Bishop

Michael McDonald

Eric Curtis

Sean Bishop

In addition, there was one voicemail message played, from Walter McClosky, that related to the same subject.

Minutes

Chair Tibbits-Nutt asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2024, MassDOT Board Meeting.

On motion duly made and seconded, it was by call of the yeas and nays:

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the MassDOT Board Meeting held on September 18, 2024.

- **Director King Abstained**

MassDOT Standing Reports

Secretary Tibbits-Nutt presented her report for Item #4, announcing

that the Department had received more than \$9.9 billion in federal grants through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. She also announced that \$350 million has been transferred from the Army Corps of Engineers to Federal Highway in support of the Sagamore Bridge replacement.

The Chair also discussed events she attended with members of Senior Staff and the Healey/Driscoll Administration. The events were held in Egremont, Devens, Boston and Dorchester.

Registrar Colleen Ogilvie presented Item #5, the RMV report.

The Registrar discussed the May 7, 2025 deadline for REAL ID compliance and indicated that more than 55% of Massachusetts credentialed residents have already complied.

The Registrar also proudly announced that she and her staff had participated in U.S. Military Veteran Stand Down Events in September, in Boston and Cape Cod, issuing Mass IDs to eligible veterans.

Directors King and Bhatti commended the Registrar on the REAL ID initiative and Director Bhatti noted that he recently had a personal experience using AAA for an RMV transaction and it went quite smoothly.

The Aeronautics Division Report, Item #5 was presented by Acting Administrator Denise Garcia.

The Acting Administrator announced that the Division recently helped the Westfield-Barnes Regional Airport reconstruct a Taxiway to meet current FAA compliance standards. The Division, along with the FAA, the Department of Defense and the City of Westfield provided a \$32 million grant for the project.

Ms. Garcia also announced the development of the Westfield Academy, which is training an initial group of 14 students in aircraft design and maintenance.

In response to a question from the Chair, Ms. Garcia explained that while the Academy is one of only 3 in the country today, the Division is looking into expanding the program into Lawrence.

Chief Engineer Carrie Lavalee presented the Highway Division report, Item #6. The Chief announced that Sumner Tunnel Restoration Project reached substantially complete status on October 7th. The schedule allowed for an additional five weekend closures that would have continued into mid-November but are no longer required. She also indicated that remaining work

will be finished under normal off-peak operations and will wrap up in the next few weeks.

Director Dimino commended both MassDOT and the MBTA. The collaboration resulted in a project on time and on budget and for that we can all be thankful.

Chief Lavallee also provided an update on the North Washington Street Bridge project. The Bridge is nearly finished and is on target to be open to traffic in the Spring of 2025.

Finally, the Chief announced the conclusion of the Federal Fiscal Year Advertising program. MassDOT advertised a record \$2,377 billion in FY 24, up from \$1.052 in FY20.

Discussion ensued.

Andrew Koziol presented Item #7, the Rail & Transit Division Report. Mr. Koziol announced Nearly \$3 million in awards to twelve Transportation Management Associations to reduce single-occupancy vehicle trips, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, facilitate mode shift, and expand mobility.

Mr. Koziol also announced improvements to the Berkshire Line. The Berkshire Line bridge over Coddington Brook in Lee was replaced. Work was

completed during a three day track outage September 20–22. The bridge replaced a severely deteriorated five-span timber bridge.

Presentations and Actions

Chief Labor Negotiator Olinda Marshall presented Item #9, a request for the Board to authorize the Department to enter into a Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Coalition of MassDOT Unions for Bargaining Unit E, collective bargaining representative for Unit E, for the term from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027.

Ms. Marshall indicated that in March 2024, MassDOT began negotiations with the Coalition of MassDOT Unions for a succession to the Unit E July 1, 2023 –June 30, 2024 collective bargaining agreement (“CBA”). On September 13, 2024, MassDOT executed a Memorandum of Understanding with Unit E (“MOU”) for a successor agreement covering the three-year period from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027.

Director Dimino stated that this matter was presented to the Finance and Audit Committee and, after a full discussion, the Committee unanimously agreed to recommend this agreement to the full Board.

Extensive discussion ensued.

On motion duly made and seconded, it was by call of the yeas and nays:

VOTED: To authorize the Secretary of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, or their designee, to enter into a Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Coalition of MassDOT Unions for Bargaining Unit E, collective bargaining representative for Unit E, for the term from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027, and to execute any necessary or ancillary documents in the name and on behalf of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation to effectuate this Agreement.

Chief Information Officer David Bedard, along with Registrar Colleen Ogilvie and RMV COO Niren Sirohi, presented Item #10, a request from the RMV to extend the contract with FAST Enterprises for the RMV's core system- ATLAS.

ATLAS supports essentially all the business functions for the RMV, including licensing, registration, title services and a host of other necessary functions. Mr. Bedard explained that the system is based on the implementation of a Commercial Off-the-Shelf (COTS) solution that was designed, developed and implemented by FAST Enterprises. FAST provides the software, ongoing development, and maintenance support with dedicated personnel to the RMV.

The original contract was signed October 24, 2016, for an initial term of

five years with the option to extend the contract for an additional period of three years and a following five-year extension for support, maintenance, and other related services. MassDOT is seeking approval to extend the term of its existing agreement with FAST (Contract # 98566) for an additional period of 5 years. The contract contains an option to extend the term for this time-period which would result in a new expiration date of October 23, 2029.

Director Iezzoni asked for clarification that the ATLAS system was not hacked as part of the Crowdstrike incident. Mr. Bedard assured her that it was not.

Director Dimino commended the presenters for a thorough presentation and informed the Board that this request had been presented to the Finance & Audit Committee. The Committee was satisfied with the Department's answers to its extensive questioning and unanimously endorsed the project.

Director Batista noted that the "back end" part of the business, while not seen very often by the public, is quite important. He congratulated the staff on an excellent presentation.

On motion duly made and seconded, it was by call of the yeas and

nays:

VOTED: To authorize the Secretary of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, or their designee, to execute Amendment #7 to MassDOT Contract 98566 titled "Statewide/RMV Core System Replacement" with FAST enterprises, Inc for a maximum obligation contract not to exceed \$48,200,684 for the duration of Oct. 24, 2024, to Oct. 23, 2029.

Director of Major Projects, Mike O'Dowd presented Item #11, a request for Board approval of MassDOT Construction Contract 127362 - Bridge Replacement, N-12-010=W-29-005, Commonwealth Avenue (Route 30) over the Charles River with MIG Corporation in the amount of \$ 22,937,945.75.

Mr. O'Dowd described the proposed project to replace a bridge over the Charles River. Replacement work will be performed in three stages while maintaining two lanes of vehicular traffic at all times during construction.

The project will also include full depth pavement reconstruction; pavement milling and overlay; granite curb installation; hot mixed asphalt pavement for shared use paths and separated bike lanes; cement concrete sidewalk construction; stormwater management upgrades; highway guardrail installation; traffic signal upgrades and reconstruction; installation

and relocation of roadway street lighting; pavement marking and signage installation; landscaping; and related work.

Director Beggan indicated that this request was presented to the Capital Programs Committee and after thorough discussion, was unanimously endorsed by the Committee.

On motion duly made and seconded, it was by call of the yeas and nays:

VOTED: To authorize the Secretary of Transportation, or her designee, to award and execute MassDOT Construction Contract 127362 – Bridge Replacement, N-12-010=W-29-005, Commonwealth Avenue (Route 30) over the Charles River with MIG Corporation in the amount of \$ 2,937,945.75.

Mr. O'Dowd, also presented Item #12, a request that the MassDOT Board of Directors authorize the Secretary of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, or their designee, to amend Contract 115770 with HNTB Corporation in the amount of \$87,742,525.48, for program management, and engineering services related to the Cape Cod Bridges Program.

Staff propose to amend the current agreement with HNTB to add the following scope of services: the development of procurement documents/Base Technical Concept, environmental permitting, Public

Involvement, civil design, Right of Way, Geotechnical Design, and Structural Design.

Director Beggan stated that this was also presented to the Capital Programs Committee and was unanimously recommended to the Board.

Extensive Discussion ensued.

On motion duly made and seconded, it was by call of yeas and nays:

VOTED: To authorize the Secretary of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, or their designee, to amend Contract 115770 with HNTB Corporation in the amount of \$87,742,525.48, for program management, and engineering services related to the Cape Cod Bridges Program.

Martha Koch presented Item # 13, a multimodal analysis of the Sumner Tunnel Closure. Ms. Koch presented the key findings of the analysis, which indicated that, among other things, when considering drivers, the extent of congestion seemed tempered, compared to last summer; and that slightly more people stayed in their cars than last year (79% vs. 77%).

In terms of transit usage, they observed overall ridership and parking increases, both compared to last year and over the estimated baseline for the summer (reflecting general ridership increases over the past year and some mode shift). Except on Commuter Rail, all modes saw ridership grow

most on weekends. Unlike last year, Commuter Rail did not follow other transit patterns as it was the only mode where ridership did not decline after reopening and displayed most growth on weekdays with very little growth on weekends.

Ms. Koch stated that notably, mode shift did not stick when traffic lessened – generally, transit ridership declined once the Sumner Tunnel reopened.

Extensive discussion ensued.

Undersecretary Hayes Morrison presented the final item on the Agenda, Item #14, an Update on MassDOT@15.

Ms. Morrison discussed the ongoing comprehensive planning efforts, including the development of Beyond Mobility, a Strategic Business Plan and the work of the Transportation Funding Task Force.

Ms. Morrison provided the projected timeline for the Strategic Business Plan, which should begin implementation in February 2026.

Directors Dimino and Beggan requested that the Finance & Audit and Capital Programs Committees be provided regular updates on the

development of the Strategic Business Plan as well as any reports to the Transportation Funding Task Force.

Extensive discussion ensued.

Chair Tibbits-Nutt asked for a motion to adjourn.

On a motion duly made and seconded, it was by call of yeas and nays:

VOTED: To adjourn at 2:34 p.m.