



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



MINUTES

Meeting of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation Board of Directors

April 16, 2024 AT 10:00 A.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 Joseph Beggan, Director Ilyas Bhatti, Director Timothy King, Director Lisa Iezzoni, Director Dean Mazarella (arrived at 10:06), Director Thomas McGee

BOARD MEMBERS

PARTICIPATING

REMOTELY:

Director Vanessa Otero (left at 12:00)

OTHERS

PARTICIPATING FOR

VARIOUS PORTIONS

OF THE MEETING:

Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver, Rail & Transit Administrator Meredith Slesinger, Registry of Motor Vehicles Chief of Staff Nancy Cox, Aeronautics Administrator Jeff DeCarlo, MBTA Deputy Chief of Staff Darrin McAuliffe, Deputy Chief Engineer for Design John Bechard, Manager of Capital Planning Michelle Scott, Chief Safety Officer Patrick Lavin, Budget Director Susan Woods, Manager of Construction Traffic Management Amy Getchell

OTHERS PRESENT: General Counsel Douglas M. McGarrah, Deputy
General Counsel Owen Kane, Undersecretary
Hayes Morrison

Chair Tibbits-Nutt called to order the meeting of the MassDOT Board
at 12:00p.m. Owen Kane called the roll of the members participating, being
a quorum of the MassDOT Board of Directors:

Chair Tibbits-Nutt	Present
Director Beggan	Present
Director Bhatti	Present
Director Iezzoni	Present
Director King	Present
Director McGee	Present
Director Otero	Present

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Safety Briefing

MBTA Deputy Chief of Staff Darrin McAuliffe presented the Safety Briefing.

Mr. McAuliffe also indicated that April is "Distracted Driving Awareness Month" and noted that fliers on the subject were available at the rear of the Board Room.

Employee Recognition

The Chair began the meeting by recognizing three MassDOT employees for their remarkable work. Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver presented a Commendation from the Board to Jackie DeWolfe, the Director of Mobility and Greg Frazier, Supervising Project Manager.

Chief Safety Office Introduction

Chief Safety Officer Patrick Lavin introduced the Senior Management of the Safety Division, including:

- Diana Perez – Chief of Staff

Diana joined MassDOT on August 28, 2023, after having served 20 years in law enforcement in Rhode Island and retiring as a Lieutenant overseeing the Office of Professional Standards and Accreditation. During her tenure, she successfully led the police department in achieving state and national accreditation.

- Daniel Laurich – Director of Security & Emergency Management

Dan joined MassDOT on December 4, 2023, with 15+ years of emergency management experience that spans across federal and

local levels. Dan most recently served at the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as the Public Assistance Branch Chief overseeing operations for the New England Region.

- Tony Abdallah – Deputy Chief Safety Officer, Rail & Transit Operations

Tony joined MassDOT on February 9, 2024. His distinguished transportation career spans nearly four decades including serving as Chief Officer of New York City Transits Rail Control Center. He has experience in operational safety and organizational leadership. He is an active member of the APTA Rail Transit Standards & Operating Practices Committee.

- Michael Cairo – Deputy Chief Safety Officer, Investigations, Auditing and Statistical Analysis

Mike joined MassDOT on February 18, 2024, with three decades of executive leadership experience at General Electric (GE) where he most recently held the position of Chief Security Officer and General Manager for Corporate Air Transport. His prior work included leadership positions in security, crisis management, corporate aviation and facility management.

- Ryan Frigo – Deputy Chief Safety Officer, Railroad Operations

Ryan joined MassDOT on March 11, 2024, with 20+ years

transportation experience. He is a former National Transportation

Safety Board (NTSB) Railroad Investigation Branch Chief/ Investigator-

In-Charge. He has served as the Rail State Safety Oversight Program

Manager at the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and developed

and implemented multimodal System Safety Program at New Jersey

Transit.

Director Mazzarella complimented the Chief Safety Officer on

assembling a truly impressive senior staff and looks forward to working with

the team.

Minutes

Chair Tibbits-Nutt asked for a motion to approve the minutes of

the March 20, 2024, 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 March 20, 2024.

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

MassDOT Standing Reports

Secretary Tibbits-Nutt presented her report for Item #5, announcing that the public comment period for Beyond Mobility is now underway.

Beyond Mobility will serve as a useful planning tool for guiding transportation decision making and investments in Massachusetts in a way that advances MassDOT's goals and maximizes the equity and resiliency of the transportation system.

The project team identified six key priority areas of Massachusetts to focus on over the long term, considering the world in 2050: safety, destination connectivity, travel experience, reliability, supporting clean transportation, and resiliency.

Within the Plan, vision statements, values, problem statements, and over 100 action items have been developed and are organized by these six priority areas.

The full plan and public comment survey is available on MassDOT's website. The public comment period will conclude on Sunday, May 5.

The Secretary also announced that six municipal airports have received

\$3,260,000 in federal funding through the Federal Aviation Administration's Airport Infrastructure Grant Program.

The grants are as follows:

Lawrence Municipal Airport, in North Andover: \$475,000 to improve airport drainage and erosion control.

Norwood Municipal Airport, in Norwood: \$360,000 to extend the airport runway.

Marshfield Municipal Airport - George Harlow Field, in Marshfield: \$294,000 for snow removal needs.

Fitchburg Municipal Airport, in Fitchburg: \$216,000 to reconstruct the airport apron.

Orange Municipal Airport, in Orange: \$45,000 to install a runway vertical/visual guidance system.

Cape Cod Gateway Airport, in Hyannis: \$1,874,000 for contract tower rehabilitation.

The Secretary invited the Board to attend the Innovation Conference, scheduled for April 30 and May 1, which provides an important opportunity for transportation practitioners to share knowledge, sponsor peer-to-peer

learning, and collaborate on issues of mutual interest.

The Conference is open to transportation industry professionals from federal, state, and municipal transportation agencies, MPOs, RTAs, academics, and private sector professionals.

The Secretary also talked about various events she and Senior Staff have attended over the past few weeks, including a meeting with Girls Inc, a non-profit focused on education, mentorship, and career training for young women, and the American Council of Engineering Companies of Massachusetts annual Awards Gala.

In addition, the Secretary was joined by Lieutenant Governor Driscoll, Secretary Hao, Secretary Walsh, and Chief Hoffer as part of the UMass Amherst Women Into Leadership Fireside Chat, and spoke about her experience as a woman in public service leadership and the next generation of women in public service.

RMV Chief of Staff Nancy Cox presented Item #6, the RMV report.

Ms. Cox announced a Commercial Learner's Permit testing pilot with Bristol County Sheriff's Office. The RMV has an MOU to pilot the administration of commercial learner's permit testing at Bristol County Jail and House of

Correction beginning in April. This will assist incarcerated individuals at the Facility to better prepare them for securing employment upon release and a successful reintegration into the community.

Ms. Cox also mentioned that approximately 8,700 school buses are inspected three times per year, including during the months of April and May.

Director Bhatti asked for a definition of “commercial vehicle.” The RMV will provide the Board with the formal definition.

Administrator Meredith Slesinger presented the Rail & Transit Division report, Item #7. The Administrator reported new and expanded service being undertaken by the Regional Transit Authorities. The expanded services include:

- New and Expanded Fixed Route Service
- New and Expanded Demand Response Service
- New and Expanded Microtransit Service
- Bus Network Modifications and Service Assessments
- New Vehicles and Fleet Enhancements
- Electrification/Zero Emission Implementation
- Improved Wayfinding and Information Access

- New Fare Collection Technology; and
- Fare Free Service

The expanded services are a result, in large part, to the support provided to the RTAs by the Department.

The Secretary congratulated the Division on the great work with the RTAs.

Ms. Slesinger also discussed the Berkshire Flyer. MassDOT will continue the service pilot for a third season in summer 2024 from June 21 – Labor Day weekend. Service will operate between New York to Pittsfield on Fridays and return Sundays. MassDOT is investigating the potential for supplemental bus service between Albany and Pittsfield to begin after Labor Day.

Finally, the Administrator mentioned that Knowledge Corridor Services between Springfield, Holyoke, Northampton, and Greenfield stations continues to be successful. February ridership was 52% higher than last year and 57% higher than pre-pandemic levels.

In response to questions from Director McGee, Administrator Slesinger that data also shows growth among the short rail freight operations.

Jonathan Gulliver presented Item #8, The Highway Division Report. Mr. Gulliver began by discussing Bridge Safety. Safety is a principal priority of MassDOT's Highway Division and the Department has a robust bridge evaluation program. When an unsafe condition is identified, MassDOT takes immediate action. The Highway Division inspects 3,493 state-owned and 1,689

The Administrator also discussed a bridge replacement project on Route 24. Rapid bridge demolition and replacement are taking place over two weekends in early May on Rt. 24 NB and SB over Canton Street in Randolph. The bridges carry over 118,000 vehicles per day.

Mr. Gulliver also provided updates on the Snow & Ice season recap and National Work Zone Awareness Week.

In response to questions from Director Bhatti, Mr. Gulliver stated that the Department is working with UMASS on a study to reduce the amount of salt used on roadways.

Administrator Jeff DeCarlo presented the Aeronautics Division Report, Item #9. Mr. DeCarlo discussed the BETA Technologies all electric plane that is being tested in Massachusetts. The plane, which has a carrying capacity of 1200 pounds, is being tested by the Massachusetts Air National Guard.

Presentations and Actions

For Item#10, the Chair asked Deputy Chief Engineer John Bechard to present a request for Board approval of a contract for Auburn–Milbury Pavement Preservation project.

Mr. Bechard described the proposed project which primarily consists of milling and resurfacing the mainline, bridge decks, bridge deck transitions, including entry and exit ramps, pull offs, and turnarounds. Other related work includes bridge improvements; upgrading non-compliant guardrail and guard rail end treatments; tree clearing and removal; stormwater improvements including adjusting, rebuilding, and cleaning out drainage structures; replacing damaged frames and grates/covers, and upgrading non-compliant drainage structures within the traveled way with locking frames and grates/covers; resetting granite curb and granite edging; replacing hot mix asphalt berm;

Director Beggan stated that this project was discussed at the Capital Programs Committee and that the Committee voted unanimously to recommend its approval.

In response to questions raised by Director King at the Capital Programs Committee meeting, Mr. Bechard stated that the new lights are expected to last at least 20 years, that there is a 10-year warranty for the lights and that the Department is expected to see a savings of at least \$490,000 per year due to the LED lights.

VOTED: On motion duly made and seconded, it was by roll call: To authorize the Secretary of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, or their designee, to award and execute MassDOT Construction Contract 125317 - Pavement Preservation and Related Work on I-90 with PJ Keating Company in the amount of \$ 17,872,384.50.

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

Manager of Capital Planning Michelle Scott presented Item #11, an update on the Capital Investment Plan. Ms. Scott discussed the development progress of the CIP and indicated that the Draft CIP comment Period will run from May 16 to June 7, during which time the Department will provide

legislative briefings and region-based public meetings in coordination with Municipal Planning Organizations.

Ms. Scott also discussed the proposed CIP spending by priority (Reliability, Modernization and Expansion) and the proposed spending by source (bond/state funds, federal funds, operating funds, special obligation bonds and other funds).

Budget Director Susan Woods then presented Item #12, the Third Quarter Capital Report. Ms. Woods reported that over the last several years, DOT has met, and even exceeded its cap spending target (exception is 2023). Budget strategies to optimize this funding source include reallocation and/or acceleration of future expenditures. The Department is on target to achieve its FY 2024 CIP projected expenditure of \$1.1 billion.

Extensive discussion ensued.

Administrator Gulliver and Manager of Construction Traffic Management Amy Getchell presented Item #13, an update on statewide highway construction coordination 2024-2026. Ms. Getchell indicated that, as of March 1, 2024, the Department has 601 highway projects under contract.

Thirty-one projects are expected to have a traffic impact in the Boston area during the Summer of 2024. The number of impactful projects within the Boston core is expected to decrease over the next two years.

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 2:01 p.m.

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