



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



MINUTES

Meeting of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation Board of Directors September 18, 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 Joseph Beggan, Director Ilyas Bhatti, Director Richard Dimino, Director Lisa Iezzoni, Director Thomas Koch (left at 2:11), Director Dean Mazzarella, Director Thomas McGee

**BOARD MEMBERS
PARTICIPATING
REMOTELY:**

Director Eric Batista

**OTHERS
PARTICIPATING:**

Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver, MBTA Deputy Chief of Staff Darrin McAuliffe, Registrar of Motor Vehicles Colleen Ogilvie, Rail & Transit Administrator Meredith Slesinger, Aeronautics Administrator Jeff DeCarlo, Undersecretary Hayes Morrison, Deputy Chief Engineer John Bechard, Chief Financial Officer David Pottier

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 12:01 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 Koch	Present
Director Mazarella	Present
Director Iezzoni	Present
Director McGee	Present

The Chair began the meeting by introducing the newest MassDOT Director, Eric Batista, who took the oath of office this morning. Director Batista, the City Manager for the City of Worcester was appointed by Governor Healey to serve on the MassDOT Board, effective immediately.

Chair Tibbits-Nutt then invited the Registrar of Motor vehicles, Colleen Ogilvie, to announce the new RMV policy on Kei vehicles. The Registrar announced that, effective immediately, owners of Kei vehicles would be able to register them at any RMV branch.

Discussion ensued.

Public Comment

Harry Mattison. Mr. Mattison spoke about the Allston Multi-Modal Project and expressed concern that the Department recently suspended meetings of a Rail Committee that had been formed from the membership of the Allston Task Force.

The following individuals provided public comment about the new RMV policy on Kei vehicles:

Charlie Guerero

Raymond Moy

Wade Burch

Andrew Zinc

Mark Struck

Artie Chaydos

Ben Warren

Zach Ryder

Michael Minivan

David Perez

Brady Horace

Mike Foley

Chris Emory

There were also 25 emails and 4 voicemails submitted as public comment in favor of the revised policy.

Safety Briefing

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

Employee Recognition

The Chair continued the meeting by recognizing five MassDOT employees for their remarkable work. Registrar Ogilvie recognized Marie Freitas, Suraya Carnakie-Brown, Lloyd Kropilak, Craig Stoler and Elizabeth Mulroney for their exemplary service to the Registry of Motor Vehicles.

Minutes

Chair Tibbits-Nutt asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the July 17, 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 July 17, 2024.

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

MassDOT Standing Reports

Secretary Tibbits-Nutt presented her report for Item #4, introducing the new logo for MassDOT @ 15. The logo will be used as MassDOT celebrates its 15th anniversary on November 1, 2024.

The Secretary also provided an update on the USDOT Safe Streets & Roads grant that was announced recently in Lynn.

The Secretary also announced that the Department had received more than \$170 million in grants since the Board last met.

The Secretary, along with Governor Healey and Mayor Wu, attended a Fairmount Line Electrification event in Boston.

She also recounted several events that she and other MassDOT and

Healey Administration officials attended in August, including the MBTA Tap to Ride Kickoff and the John Olver Bridge Dedication.

Finally, the Secretary announced the appointment of Ryan Fitzgerald as the Department's new Chief of Staff.

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

The Registrar discussed the recent changes to automatic voter registration as a result of the 2023 VOTES Act. The RMV has removed the "opt out" option. Thus, all eligible MA residents are registered to vote as part of a permit, license or ID transaction.

The Registrar discussed the recent low plate lottery which was held on September 10. There were 298 low plate numbers available in this year's lottery.

Ms. Ogilvie also reminded the Board that the compliance date for REAL ID is May 7, 2025. Currently, 55% of credentialed holders have REAL ID.

Administrator Meredith Slesinger presented Item #6, the Rail & Transit Division Report. The Administrator discussed the Fiscal Year 2025 Transit Grant Program. Applications for the \$30 million program are due on September 20.

Ms. Slesinger also announced the elimination of a grade crossing in West Springfield. The \$20 million project will construct a vehicular bridge overpass.

Administrator Jonathan Gulliver presented the Highway Division report, Item #7. The Administrator began by remembering David Sousa, a Highway Division employee recently killed while in service to MassDOT. Mr. Sousa was a valued employee for more than 14 years and will be missed by his MassDOT family.

Mr. Gulliver also provided an update on the I-90/I-95 Project. A traffic pattern change went into effect on July 24, 2024 and is expected to remain in place until 2025.

The Administrator discussed the status of the Cape Cod Bridge Program. Discussion ensued.

Director Bhatti expressed his appreciation for the transparency in which the Department has acted in keeping the public abreast of what was going on with the Project.

The Aeronautics Division Report, Item #8 was presented by Administrator Jeff DeCarlo.

Before he began, the Chair recognized Administrator DeCarlo and reminded the Board that this would be Jeff's last report to the Board. After a long and illustrious career with the Department, Mr. DeCarlo is leaving for the private sector. Several Board members expressed their appreciation for his work and wished him well.

The Administrator announced that the Aeronautics Division awarded the Southbridge Municipal Airport a \$1.04M grant to construct approximately 7,500 linear feet of new fencing including new gates and gate operators.

He also announced that the Mansfield Municipal Airport has been awarded a \$435,000 grant to install a new automated weather observation station.

Finally, Mr. DeCarlo a recent event the Division hosted in Lynn with Girls Inc. The Division met with young women to discuss futures in aeronautics and conducted three rotating workshops.

Presentations and Actions

Deputy Chief Engineer John Bechard presented Item #9,

a request for a recommendation for Board approval of MassDOT Contract No. Construction Contract 126589 – Corridor Improvements and related work on Route 151 in Mashpee with Lawrence Lynch Corp. in the amount of \$23,141,514.89.

Mr. Bechard described the proposed project which primarily consists of milling and resurfacing the Route 151, adding sidewalks and a bike path with associated retaining walls. There is significant utility relocation required which is extending the construction duration.

Director Bhatti indicated that this presentation was made to the Capital Programs Committee and that the Committee voted unanimously to recommend its approval to the Board.

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

VOTED: To authorize the Secretary of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, or her designee, to award and execute MassDOT Construction Contract 126589 – Corridor Improvements and related work on Route 151 with Lawrence Lynch Corp. in the amount of \$ 23,141,514.89.

Chair Tibbits-Nutt	Yes
Director Batista	Yes
Director Beggan	Yes
Director Bhatti	Yes
Director Dimino	Yes

Director Koch	Yes
Director Mazzearella	Yes
Director Iezzoni	Yes
Director McGee	Yes

Mr. Bechard also presented Item #10, a request to authorize the Secretary to award and execute MassDOT Construction Contract 127064 – Worthington- Reconstruction and Related Work on Route 143 (Phase II) from the Peru Town Line to Cold Street in Worthington, with Morais Concrete Services, Inc, in the amount of \$16,923,464.00. The proposed project consists of pavement rehabilitation and related work on approximately 3.9 miles of Route 143 (Old North Road).

Other related work includes: upgrading non-compliant guardrail and end treatments as required; removing ledge within clear zones and sight lines; stormwater improvements including culvert replacements and cured-in-place pipe lining; box culvert construction; retaining wall construction; installation of milling mulch beneath guardrail and at eroded shoulders; wetland restoration and replication; installing final pavement markings,

temporary traffic control; replacing signs, removing and resetting signs; implementing all safety controls and signing required for the necessary work zones; and other incidental items of work as determined by the Engineer.

Director Bhatti indicated that this presentation was made to the Capital Programs Committee and that the Committee voted unanimously to recommend its approval to the Board.

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

VOTED: to authorize the Secretary of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, or her designee, to award and execute MassDOT Construction Contract 127064 – Worthington- Reconstruction and Related Work on Route 143 (Phase II) from the Peru Town Line to Cold Street, with Morais Concrete Services, Inc, in the amount of \$16,923,464.00.

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

Mr. Bechard also presented Item # 11, a request to authorize the Secretary to award and execute MassDOT Construction Contract 127360 –

Reconstruction of Route I-495 /Route 1A Ramps with Baltazar Contractors Inc
in the amount of \$16,500,299.00.

The proposed project includes Route 1A (South Street) resurfacing, widening, and improvements from south of the Wrentham Crossing signalized intersection to approximately 400 feet north of the signalized intersection with the I-495 Northbound ramps.

A new ramp (about 0.5 mile long) will be constructed from Route 1A NB to I-495 SB, which includes embankment placement, earth and bedrock removal, full depth construction, and shoulder reconstruction along I-495 SB.

The project also includes side paths along both of Route 1A and new cement concrete pedestrian curb ramps and two new cement concrete retaining walls along Route 1A beneath the I-495 overpasses to support the new side paths.

Finally, Mr. Bechard stated that the project will also provide for traffic signal reconstruction/replacement at the intersections of Route 1A & Wrentham Crossing, Route 1A & Wrentham Village Premium Outlets, and Route 1A & I-495.

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

VOTED: To authorize the Secretary of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, or her designee, to award and execute MassDOT Construction Contract 127360 – Reconstruction of Route I-495 /Route 1A Ramps with Baltazar Contractors Inc in the amount of \$16,500,299.00.

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

Chief Financial Officer David Pottier presented Item # 12, an updated overview of the expected FY 2025 Operating Budget.

Based on the enactment of the FY25 General Appropriation and updated changes in the projected spending, Mr. Pottier provided the Committee with various updates compared to the Board -approved budget from June 2024.

There has been an increase in earmarks of approximately \$600,000. Such earmarks will be financed through the Commonwealth Transportation Fund. There is no change to the Snow and Ice Budget. It will remain at \$35 million. And finally, there is a reduction to MassDOT's share of the Education

and Transportation Fund of \$11,500,000.

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

VOTED: To approve the revised Fiscal Year 2025 Operating Budget as presented and to authorize the Chief Financial Officer to forward it to the Executive Office for Administration and Finance in compliance with MassDOT's Enabling Act.IP.

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

Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver presented the final item on the Agenda, Item #13, an Update on the Sumner Tunnel Project.

Mr. Gulliver described the work completed in the Tunnel thus far, including major rehabilitation of the concrete roadway inside the tunnel, removal of the existing drain inlets and installation of the new bolt-down drain inlets, the installation of the new asphalt paving mix and the removal of the existing curbing and installation of new granite curb.

The Administrator also led a discussion about the 2024 peak travel time differential and the daily traffic volume related to the Project.

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 2:14 p.m.

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