

**Massachusetts Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Board Meeting Notes**  
**Wednesday, November 19, 2025, 1:00 – 3:00 PM**  
**Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG), Greenfield**

**Welcome & Introductions:** Pete Sutton, ex-officio, called the meeting to order and called roll

**MassTrails Team overview including latest grant recipients and 2026 round** Amanda Lewis and Jeff Mast – both representing MA Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) – provided an overview (attached) of the MassTrails program. MassTrails seeks to expand and connect the Commonwealth's networks of off-road, shared-use pathways, and recreational trails for all users across Massachusetts. It does this by providing matching grants, technical assistance, and resources to individuals, municipalities, Native nations, non-profits, and other public entities to design, construct, and maintain high quality Massachusetts trails. MassTrails is an inter-agency initiative of the Commonwealth led by the Governor's Office in collaboration with the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA), the Department of Transportation (MassDOT) and DCR

Some key recent developments have included:

- **MassTrails 10:** Promoting and marketing trails in Massachusetts, one of the newest campaigns is [MassTrails 10 web site](#), which was launched this summer. It highlights ten trails that are on the Priority Trails Network, that we're inviting users to explore, giving detailed information about trail access, what to expect as far as condition and terrain, and what type of a trail experience it is
- **MassTrails Grant Program:** Funding sources, total funding to date, eligible grant projects by trail type and activity as well as ineligible categories and regulatory requirements
- **2026 awards:** Announced in October of this year. MassTrails received 112 applications with over \$16 million in ask and able to fund \$7.5 million. That includes \$6.4 million on the state fund side, with 31 projects being funded, leveraging \$5 million in match. And on the recreational trails program (RTP) side, we are budgeted about \$1 million and we were able to fund 19 projects and leveraged \$2.8 million in match. This directly impacts 67 communities including 31 shared use path projects
- Recent notable recipients within or in proximity to the FRCOG region included Montague, Hadley, New Salem, Athol, Holyoke and Northampton

Questions and comments included:

- Regarding certain projects that are not eligible - such as bike lanes - there are two great MassDOT-led grant projects: the Shared Streets and Spaces program, and the Complete Streets program, that basically take care of those things that MassTrails grants don't, or can't fund. So, for those of you who are looking to put in a grant round, there are many different options besides MassTrails
- Also of interest: this past year of 2025, MassTrails received several submissions - at least four - from regional planning agencies, and RPAs are eligible to apply as well, so perhaps FRCOG will throw their hat in the ring next year
- How can I get more information about Green Agers?
  - Reach out to DCR directly to be connected with the president of that organization. They're based out in the Berkshires within the town of Egremont
- Have any communities or groups ever applied for trail counting equipment for gathering data on their trails?
  - Yes, MassTrails have funded a couple of trail counting grants as a component of a larger project, but I think if there's interest in pursuing that, just give us a call, and we can talk it through. It's definitely a permissible use of funds
- Are you getting a sense of where federal dollars are in context here, if they're more in flux with the Recreational Trails Program, or how is the matching aspect being handled - those kind of conversations that may be coming from Washington? Some of these trails benefited from congressional appropriations, which may or may not happen, and then there's the rec trails match, but I wonder if you could touch on that?
  - We're not getting much communication out of Washington about the Recreational Trails Program, which is the only program that I can speak directly to - it's authorized through the U.S. Federal Service Transportation Act, which is currently active, but will be up for

reauthorization next year. So, we'll have to see what transpires. There is a lot of advocacy going on. It's made it through every bill since 1994, so that's a good indicator, though uncertain what the future holds

- Land and Water Conservation Fund, which pays for some trail-related things, actually had a good year, with funding up by about \$3 million, counter to most of the things happening in federal funding these days. Some trails projects are eligible

### **FRCOG update on cycling and walking planning and development work**

Beth Giannini - FRCOG's Transportation Program Manager and Audrey Boraski, FRCOG's Transportation Planner - provided a comprehensive overview (attached) of the agency's resources and guidance regarding bicycle and pedestrian projects and initiatives throughout their region, including:

- Current bicycle and pedestrian planning focus throughout the county's 26 communities
- Regionally significant projects including the Greenfield Main St Complete Streets reconstruction
- Traffic gardens – featuring the first implementation in western MA at the Sheffield Elementary School in Montague

Questions and comments included:

- Will these be fully compliant with MassDOT healthy transportation policy? Meaning, will these bridges have pedestrian facilities on both sides, and separated bicycle facility on at least one side?
  - Yes, they're being designed by MassDOT to those types of specifications
- Would the Turners Falls Road project that was mentioned be a good candidate for funding through MassDOT's new Local early-stage and actionable planning (LEAP) program?
  - Yes, for mapping out the first steps, though that project would have to secure additional funding due to its significant challenges, scope and size. Though there has been much interest from Montague, the road is technically in Greenfield and is built on a rock ledge adjacent to the Connecticut River

### **MassDOT bike/ped projects in Western MA**

Tom Ruta, Assistant Projects Engineer and Sara Cannamela, Project Development Engineer within MassDOT's District 2 office in Northampton presented on six projects (attached) with bike/ped elements highlighted. Projects ranged from rail trail construction to major bridge and highway interchange replacements, including only the second diverging diamond interchange currently being undertaken by MassDOT. The presentation effectively made the case for these improvements as being only a small percentage of each project's overall costs while bringing to light the lack of sufficient bike/ped infrastructure, particularly crossing the Connecticut River along the 48 miles between Vermont and Connecticut

Questions and comments included:

- Where can one see how a diverging diamond interchange works?
  - There are hundreds of [videos](#) on YouTube showing how these new interchanges function. They are located mostly in the Midwest but are becoming more common in other parts of the country
- The Tapley Street Bridge in Springfield is being replaced. I know that carries a lot of pedestrians from the nearby Renaissance School that come across there. Will that have a pedestrian facility?
  - Yes. There is a recently completed roundabout on Tapley that shared use paths will connect to heading across the bridge
- Walk-Bike Springfield are very concerned that additional signage is needed here because people are still not clear - since it is a two-lane road roundabout - which lane to get into
  - When approaching a roundabout, it takes conscious effort on the driver to decide ahead of time how to negotiate the traffic circle, and what lane to get into. Traffic also reacts to pavement markings much easier, better, and quicker than they react to actual signage – a combination of both proves effective in most cases
- How can I get MassDOT bridge projects in my town to comply with MassDOT healthy transportation policy?
  - Anytime that a project doesn't comply with healthy transportation, it undergoes what's called a design exception review, and that eventually gets floated up the chain of command to the Highway Chief, the Highway Administrator, and is ultimately signed off by the Secretary. So, MassDOT tries to comply with that as best as it can

## Other Announcements

- Pete Sutton provided an update regarding new MABPAB membership on the advocacy side: Pete received an update from the State Boards and Commissions office at the State House regarding the new public members. They are almost finished vetting. They have nine out of the twelve public members approved right now, and they're hoping to get the last three members vetted before the end of the year, so that's really good news. MassDOT is hoping to introduce all of the new public-facing board members at the next scheduled meeting on January 21st. It is hoped that process will come to an end, and we can take on some new topics for 2026
- Next MAPBPAB meeting: January 21, State Transportation Building Board Room in Boston with hybrid option, 1-3 pm
- List of board members in attendance (see below)
- Other attendees:
  - Lorenzo Varone (MassDOT)
  - Jon Gray (SRPEDD)
  - Liz Williams (MassDOT)
  - Ian Adams (MassDOT)
  - Emily Paskewicz (ECGA)
  - Josh Grzegorzewski (FHWA)
  - Nick Daigle (MassDOT D3)
  - Shawn Bailey (OCPC)
  - Chris Sorensen (MassDOT D1)
  - Kyle Mowatt (OCPC)
  - Nick Russo (BRPC)
  - Cheryll-Ann Senior (MassDOT D5)
  - Adam Wiggins (CMRPC)
  - Katherine Duffy (MassDOT D4)
  - Lee Toma (Milton)
  - Phil Goff (VHB)
  - Phoebe Whitwell (MassDOT)
  - Michael Trepanier (MassDOT)
  - Max Rasbold-Gabbard (DPH)
  - John York (Bourne)
  - Kristen Sykes (Holyoke Bike and Pedestrian Committee)
  - Lupe Garcia (DCR)
  - Libby Knott (DCR)
  - Courtney King (MassDOT)
  - Francisco Lovera (MassDOT)
  - Joyia Smikle (CCC)
  - Miira Gates (City of Holyoke)
  - Fiona Riley (DCR)
  - Carmen Baskauf (CTPS)
  - Betsy Johnson (Walk/Bike Springfield)
  - Kyle Casiglio (CTPS)
  - Guoqiang Li (OCPC)
  - Alexis Hosea-Abbott (MassBike)
  - Laura Hanson (MassDOT D2)
  - Amy Cahillane (City of Greenfield)
  - Steve Burgess (MassBike)
  - Maureen Pollock (Town of Montague)

**Board Member Sign-In Sheet**  
**November 19, 2025 – FRCOG, Greenfield**

Member Name	Attended	Notes
<b>Tom DiPaolo</b> <u>MassDOT-Highway</u>	yes	
<b>Matt Warfield</b> <u>MBTA</u>	yes	
<b>Pete Sutton</b> <u>MassDOT-Planning</u>	yes	
<b>Kurt Gaertner</b> <u>EOEEA</u>	yes	
<b>Gerald Autler</b> <u>DCR</u>	yes	
<b>Jaclyn Youngblood</b> <u>MassDOT</u>	no	
<b>Kirby Lecy</b> <u>DPH</u>	no	
<b>Charlie Ticotsky</b> <u>MOTT</u>	no	
<b>Andrea Papa</b> <u>EOPSS</u>	no	
<b>Jeff McCollough</b> <u>MARPA</u>	yes	
<b>Amanuel Regassa</b> <u>MARPA</u>	yes	
<b>Jackie Jones</b> <u>MARPA</u>	no	
– public member	vacant	
– public member	vacant	
<b>Galen Mook – MassBike</b>	yes	
– public member	vacant	
– public member	vacant	
- public member	vacant	
– public member	vacant	
– public member	vacant	
<b>Brendan Kearney - WalkBoston</b>	no	
- public member	vacant	
<b>Ed Sinofsky – public member (Cape Cod Cycling Club)</b>	no	
<b>Karen Foster – public member (All Out Adventures)</b>	no	
– public member	vacant	
– public member	vacant	