



Maura Healey, Governor
Kimberley Driscoll, Lieutenant Governor
Phillip Eng, Interim Secretary of Transportation



MINUTES
Meeting of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation Board
of Directors
April 15, 2026 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:

Chair Phil Eng, Director Joseph Beggan, Director Ilyas Bhatti, Director Richard Dimino, Director Tim King, Director Tom Koch (left meeting at 1:47 p.m.), Director Dean Mazarella, Director Tom McGee

OTHERS
PARTICIPATING:

Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver, Aeronautics Administrator Denise Garcia, Registrar Colleen Ogilvie, RMV Chief of Staff Nancy Cox, EOTTS Assistant Secretary Matt Moran, Devyn Paros (EOTTS), Manager of Capital Planning Michelle Scott, Director of Environmental Services Samantha Dolabany, Chief of Municipal Aid Cassandra Gascon, Deputy Director, Office of Transportation Planning Steve Woelfel, Chief Enterprise Development Officer (MBTA) Erika Mazza,

*Manager of Construction Traffic Management
Amy Getchell, Chief Communications Officer
Amelia Aubourg*

OTHERS PRESENT: *General Counsel Carrie Wicker, Deputy General Counsel Owen Kane*

Chair Eng called to order the meeting of the MassDOT Board at 12:03 p.m. Owen Kane called the roll of the members participating, being a quorum of the MassDOT Board of Directors:

Director Beggan	Present
Director Bhatti	Present
Director Dimino	Present
Director King	Present
Director Koch	Present
Director Mazzarella	Present
Director McGee	Present
Chair Eng	Present

The Chair then asked for a moment of silence to commemorate the 13th anniversary of the Boston Marathon bombing and to remember the victims and first responders.

Safety Briefing

The Safety Briefing was presented via video.

Public Comment

A voicemail message from Dr. Melissa Maciborski was played for the Board. Dr. Maciborski expressed concern about the Northampton Complete Streets Project and its funding.

Approval of Minutes

The Chair then asked for a Motion to Approve the Minutes from the March 18, 2026 Meeting of the MassDOT Board.

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

VOTED:

To approve the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held on March 18, 2026.

Director Beggan	Yes
Director Bhatti	Yes
Director Dimino	Yes
Director King	Yes
Director Koch	Yes
Director Mazzarella	Yes
Director McGee	Present
Chair Eng	Yes

Employee Recognition

The Chair stated that four employees would be recognized by the Board for exemplary service. He introduced Nancy Cox, who presented the first honoree.

Barbara Bloedow, RMV Service Center Manager, was recognized for stepping in to support multiple locations, mentoring staff, and helping lead during a critical time.

Chair Eng then invited Jonathan Gulliver to present the next honoree, David Kent.

Mr. Kent, the State Tunnel Inspection Engineer, has completed 32 years of service to MassDOT in building and advancing the Tunnel Inspection Program. Dave's impact on our transportation system is lasting and significant.

Finally, the Chair asked Jonathan Gulliver to present Shannon Henry and Sonia Gomes, members of the Construction Management Certificate Training Program Team.

Ms. Henry, Training Program Coordinator, and Ms. Gomes, Executive Assistant, were recognized for their leadership and coordination of the annual 7-week program, bringing together staff from all six highway districts to strengthen skills and collaboration across the agency.

STANDING REPORTS

The Secretary presented his report to the Board.

Secretary Eng began by speaking about the FAIR program (Funding for Accelerated Infrastructure Repair). The program is used to reopen closed bridges, remove and improve postings for restricted bridges to allow for more traffic and to preserve additional bridges from falling into disrepair.

The Chair provided an example of how successful the program has been. He discussed a bridge replacement in Middlefield that was completed in 113 days. The reopened bridge eliminates a 20-minute detour.

The Secretary then discussed the ongoing budget process. The Secretary and Senior Staff, along with the Governor and Lieutenant Governor have been testifying at various legislative hearings in support of transportation initiatives, such as Chapter 90, Transit Oriented Development, Bridge and Pavement Preservation and Rail Modernization.

He also provided an update on the preparations being made for what expects to be a very busy Summer in Massachusetts. In anticipation of the Mass250 celebration, as well as the Tall Ships and World Cup activities, both MassDOT and the MBTA have been taking necessary steps to get ready.

He announced several Commuter Rail Summer 2026 Fare Promotions, including "Free Fridays", a 50% Discount on Monthly Passes, expanded Weekend Travel for Monthly Pass holders, and a \$1 "Summer Companion" on Weekend Service. Monthly passholders will save between \$321 and \$639 over the summer.

Secretary Eng also discussed the progress that has been made on the Compass Rail Project. There are 8 projects underway along the Boston to Albany corridor. More than \$157 million in federal funds have been awarded

to the project since 2021.

On April 7, the Secretary joined Director McGee, local, state and federal officials and members of Highway's Senior Staff attended the groundbreaking of the PFC Ralph Basiliere Bridge. The bridge will provide improved pedestrian, cycling and recreation facilities, as well as coastal resiliency and water quality in the Merrimac River.

Mr. Eng noted that April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month and reminded the public to put the phone down and drive responsibly. He noted that in 2024, more than 315,000 people were injured across the United States in crashes attributed to distracted driving.

Director McGee congratulated the Secretary. He noted that there are a lot of good things going on across both MassDOT and the MBTA and highlighted the investment in the new platform at Foxboro which will make travel by train much better both during and after the World Cup.

The Secretary expressed his appreciation and stated that this is a great example the great investments we are making in the rail and roadway programs that will live on much longer than the World Cup matches.

Director Dimino commended the Secretary on the bold budget agenda put forth by the Department. While the Secretary acknowledged the commendation, he noted that the strong leadership of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor in the areas of transportation, housing and education has made all of this possible for MassDOT and the MBTA.

In response to an inquiry from Director Mazzeella, the Secretary noted that we are seeing an uptick in return customers as a result of the Free Friday policy instituted by the MBTA for the Summer.

Director Bhatti noted that it is an exciting time for investment in infrastructure. Discussion ensued.

Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver provided his report to the Board. Administrator Gulliver updated the Board on recent events in construction, including an update on the FAIR Bridge Program, discussed earlier by the Secretary.

The Administrator also led a discussion on the 2026 and 2027 Construction Hotspots. The Department is working on 483 projects in 2026 and 384 in 2027. He also led a discussion on the proposed I-90/I-84

Congestion Improvements. Thus far, the project has resulted in drastically reduced travel times, 40% less time or 8.5 minutes per vehicle on peak Sundays. The queuing on I-84 has been reduced by more than 90%.

In response to questioning from Director Beggan, the Administrator discussed the I-84 project. He acknowledged that much of the success of the project is due to the fact that we used in-house staff to complete the project, saving time and money.

Director McGee commended the Administrator on highlighting the FAIR Bridge Program. We need to better publicize the use of funds in an important way.

Directors Bhatti and Dimino offered their congratulations on the efforts related to the completion of the Bill Russell Bridge. Aesthetics are a very important part of construction, and that is one good looking bridge. It is often shown on national television during Bruins and Celtics games.

Administrator Garcia presented the report for Aeronautics.

She reported that Aeronautics received a \$1.95M grant from the USDOT SMART Grant Program to plan, permit and execute a conceptual design for a

smart microgrid at Cape Cod Gateway Airport.

The Administrator also led a discussion on airport support during extreme winter weather. The division works closely with local airports to ensure operations can be maintained whenever possible during and after winter storms.

Discussion ensued.

Due to time constraints, the reports of the RMV and Rail & Transit were presented in writing.

Presentations and Actions

RMV Chief of Staff Nancy Cox and EOTSS Chief Digital Officer Devyn Paros then presented the next item, RMV Joining MyMassGov.

EOTSS and the Massachusetts Digital Service are partnering with organizations across state government, including the RMV, to transform how people interact with the Commonwealth through the Digital Roadmap. They are improving end-to-end experiences, providing new digital solutions, and building long term capacity.

Today, MyMassGov provides 3.3 million people with a single account

and password to securely sign in to 110+ participating Massachusetts state services and websites, streamlining and simplifying access. The RMV joining MyMassGov will enable this experience for millions more.

It is expected that there will be multiple general public uses (individuals only) for renewing/replacing a driver's license/ID card, submitting payments, making an appointment for a road test or driver license hearing, etc. Once myRMV has joined MyMassGov, customers will need to do a 1-time set up step to link their MyMassGov account to their myRMV profile. If customers don't have a myRMV profile or haven't accessed it yet, they will also need a Letter ID verification code just like they do today.

MyMassGov enables as much self-service as possible and provides help resources on Mass.gov, including videos and a virtual assistant. MyMassGov also has a dedicated contact center and offers support by phone. Customers who call the RMV Contact Center for help logging in will be able to reach the MyMassGov Contact Center by selecting the appropriate number in the phone tree. The MyMassGov Contact Center will be open when the RMV Contact Center is open and will increase staffing 2x to support the

launch.

Director King asked about the outreach for this initiative. Ms. Cox confirmed that when a customer visits a registry branch, RMV staff will check the system and if they don't have an account and offer to assist with the creation or updating of an account.

Director Dimino thanked the presenters for a thoughtful and thorough presentation and asked if the RMV was confident that the system infrastructure could take on such a bold initiative. Registrar Ogilvie noted that primary concern was whether the system could handle this. Fortunately, we have completed extensive testing and have worked closely with EOTTS to iron out any issues. EOTTS Assistant Secretary Matt Moran stated that we are confident that we have followed the correct protocols, conducted extensive testing and are pleased to say that the system is ready.

Manager of Capital Planning Michelle Scott presented the next item, an update on the FY27-31 Capital Investment Plan.

She began with an update on the CIP development progress. It is expected that in May the Department will request Board approval to release

the draft CIP for public comment. Board approval of the final FY27-31 CIP is expected to be requested in June.

As it develops the CIP, the Department is following advancement of the Healey-Driscoll administration funding proposals in Legislature, integrating Fair Share-supported CTF Expansion dollars into the CIP, monitoring federal policy and funding, reinforcing links between Beyond Mobility priorities and CIP investments and preparing for public engagement.

Ms. Scott discussed the preliminary funding sources for the CIP. The total budget for the FY27-31 CIP is currently set at \$20.2 billion, with expected primary funding from the federal government (through annual apportionments and the continuation of the BIL/ILJA programs), the use of the Commonwealth Bond Cap and CTF Expansion Bonds.

She also discussed the preliminary spending details. At this point, it is recommended that the Department expend more than \$7.1 billion on bridges over the next 5 years, as well as \$1.2 65 billion for MBTA investments, \$2,6 billion for Chapter 90 and \$2.2 billion for Roadway Reconstruction projects, among several initiatives.

Ms. Scott also identified the major investment highlights described in the CIP. These include the Allston Multimodal Transportation Project, the Hall-Whitaker Drawbridge and Kernwood Ave Bridge Replacements, the Cape Cod Bridges Program, Compass Rail, including West-East Rail, a project in Chicopee described as Bridge Replacement, I-391 over Chicopee Street, Bridge Replacements Haverhill/Methuen – I-495 over Merrimack River and Industrial Avenue over I-495, and I-90/I-495 Interchange Improvements in Hopkinton.

Director Beggan noted that Ms. Scott presented this item to the Capital Programs Committee and that there was extensive discussion.

Samantha Dolabany, Director of Environmental Services, Cassandra Gascon, Chief of Municipal Aid and Partnerships, and Steve Woelfel, Deputy Executive Director, Office of Transportation Planning then presented the next item, Building Towards a Resilient System: Earth Week Spotlight.

The Department has been working on identifying and prioritizing high value resiliency-focused projects, while incorporating best practices in all projects. MassDOT is also screening proposed project locations against

environmental, system condition, equity, and safety layers.

In Project Design and Construction, the Department is developing transportation focused workflows to screen for natural hazards and identify best practices. Projects are going through MEPA review climate exposure and risk information, and recommended design standards from the Statewide Climate Resilience Design Standards Tool and we are adding a "Climate Change Indicator" subsection as part of the updates to the Bridge Design Manual.

With respect to Operations and Maintenance, MassDOT is implementing a Programmatic Operations and Maintenance Plan for drainage system maintenance given more frequent and severe storm events. We have updated MassDOT standards to align with resiliency best practices relating to pavement mixture, preservation projects, and existing and new structures (bridges).

Director McGee asked if we have collaborated with municipalities on this and was assured that we have been working with local officials throughout the process.

In response to Director Bhatti's concern that there is a de-emphasis at the federal level of the issue of climate change, Mr. Woelfel stated that we are still trying to figure out what is going on in Washington. While things seemingly change on a regular basis in Washington, we are using federal funds to pay for the Flood Risk Assessment.

Amelia Aubourg, Erika Mazza and Amy Getchell then provided an update on the FIFA World Cup 26 preparations.

Ms. Getchell began the presentation by providing a recap of the Friendly match. Both MassDOT and the MBTA learned several valuable lessons in communications and customer experience, wayfinding and signage, queuing and safety and security at both South Station and Gillette Stadium.

Ms. Mazza led a discussion on the MBTA round trip tickets to the events. Tickets went on sale on Wednesday, April 8th, and amazingly, 17,500 tickets were sold on the 1st day. She also noted important train and ticket information. Boston Stadium Train service is the only train service running to Boston Stadium on match days. No other train/ subway will provide direct

service to the games. Attendees must have a same-day World Cup match ticket to buy a Boston Stadium Train ticket. The Commuter Rail Summer Fare discounts do not apply to Boston Stadium Event Train service and passengers must adhere to the Event Train prohibited items list policy.

Ms. Aubourg described the communications and outreach in place for residents, commuters and World Cup ticket holders.

There was extensive discussion.

That was the final item on the agenda. The Chair asked for a motion to adjourn.

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

VOTED: to adjourn at 2:54 p.m.

Director Beggan	Yes
Director Bhatti	Yes
Director Dimino	Yes
Director King	Yes
Director Mazarella	Yes
Director McGee	Yes
Chair Eng	Yes