



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



MINUTES
**Meeting of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation Board
of Directors**

February 28, 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 Timothy King, Director Lisa Iezzoni, Director Dean Mazarella, Director Thomas McGee

**BOARD MEMBERS
PARTICIPATING
REMOTELY:**

Director Thomas Koch, Director Vanessa Otero

**OTHERS
PARTICIPATING FOR
VARIOUS PORTIONS
OF THE MEETING:**

Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver, Rail & Transit Administrator Meredith Slesinger, Registrar of Motor Vehicles Colleen Ogilvie, Aeronautics Administrator Jeff DeCarlo, Deputy Chief Engineer for Design John Bechard, Undersecretary Hayes Morrison, Deputy Chief Engineer for Policy Jack Moran, Director of Major Projects Mike O'Dowd, Chief Safety Officer Patrick Lavin

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 Beggan	Present
Director Bhatti	Present
Director Dimino	Present
Director Iezzoni	Present
Director King	Present
Director Koch	Present
Director Mazzarella	Present
Director McGee	Present
Director Otero	Present

Safety Briefing

Patrick Lavin, MassDOT Chief Safety Officer presented the Safety Briefing.

Chief Lavin noted that February is Heart Health Month.

Public Comment

Christopher Willenborg spoke on behalf of the Airport Managers Association in favor of funding for the Aeronautics Division.

Employee Recognition

The Chair began the meeting by recognizing two MassDOT employees for their remarkable work. Registrar Colleen Ogilvie presented a Commendation from the Board to Sara Lavoie, RMV's Deputy Chief of Staff and Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver presented a Commendation from the Board to State Bridge Engineer Alex Bardow.

Minutes

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

Chair Tibbits-Nutt	Yes
Director Beggan	Yes
Director Bhatti	Yes
Director Dimino	Yes
Director Iezioni	Yes
Director King	Yes
Director Koch	Yes
Director Mazarella	Yes
Director McGee	Yes
Director Otero	Yes

MassDOT Standing Reports

Secretary Tibbits-Nutt presented her report for Item 4, providing updates on the Governor's proposed Budget which contains nearly \$3 billion for transportation, and the newly created Transportation Task Force, which will spend the next twelve months examining the Commonwealth's transportation needs and capabilities, including Chapter 90 and the Municipal Empowerment Act.

Administrator Jonathan Gulliver Highway Division report for Item 5, beginning with an overview of the Tunnel Lighting Replacement Project. Thus far, the Department has received more than \$3.2 million in rebates for the LED light replacement.

Administrator Gulliver also provided an update on the latest round of awards to municipalities pursuant to Chapter 90. In response to a question from Director King, the Administrator acknowledged the funding level of \$400 million under Chapter 90 for this year but cautioned that the legislative process will determine the funding amounts for future years.

The Administrator also provided updates on the Sumner Tunnel Project and the Allston Multi-Modal Project. Director Bhatti reminded Mr. Gulliver to remember to focus on the Cambridge Street Bridge as the preservation

project is completed. Director McGee thanked the Administrator for discussing the plans for the Summer closure of the Sumner Tunnel in February and asked that all modes of transportation be considered as we move forward with the project.

Further discussion ensued.

Registrar Ogilvie presented the Registry of Motor Vehicles report for Item 6, starting with an update on plans for the closure and or relocation of various Service Centers.

In response to questioning from Director King, the Registrar indicated that the typical lease term for Service Centers is 10 years. Director McGee asked that consideration be given to neighboring communities as we make the decisions on new locations. In particular, he noted that the Revere Service Center must be accessible to residents of several neighboring communities.

The Registrar also discussed Vulnerable Users data. Director Iezoni asked for additional information that the Board could use to compare this data. She also asked that the Department consider Age as it compiles data on Vulnerable User incidents.

Ms. Ogilvie also presented the latest data from the Merit Rating Board.

Director Mazzarella asked for pre-COVID data to compare to this current enforcement data.

The Rail and Transit and Aeronautics reports were delivered in written form.

Presentations and Actions

For Item 9, the Chair asked Registrar Ogilvie to present a request for Board approval of the RMV Inspection Program Contract Extension #2.

Ms. Ogilvie explained that this is the second three-year extension of the agreement with Opus Inspection Technologies, Inc. for a rate contract not to exceed \$25,000,000 for the term of October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2028.

This contract extension requires Opus to conduct at least 4.4 million vehicle inspections annually.

Discussion ensued.

The Secretary asked if this contract amendment would impact the cost to our customers of a vehicle inspection and was assured that the \$35 fee for inspections would not change as a

result of this amendment.

Director Dimino indicated that this request was presented to the Finance and Audit Committee and that the Committee was in support of the Department's request.

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

VOTED: On motion duly made and seconded, it was by roll call: To authorize the Secretary, or her designee, to award and execute Amendment #4 to MassDOT Contract 98686 titled "MassDOT Registry of Motor Vehicles Emissions and Safety Inspection Program" with Opus Inspection Technologies, Inc. for a rate contract not to exceed \$25,000,000 for the duration of October 1, 2025 to September 30, 2028.

Chair Tibbits-Nutt	Yes
Director Beggan	Yes
Director Bhatti	Yes
Director Dimino	Yes
Director Iezioni	Yes
Director King	Yes
Director Koch	Yes
Director Mazarella	Yes
Director McGee	Yes
Director Otero	Yes

Director of Major Projects, Mike O'Dowd presented Item 10, the Boxborough Route 111/495 Design Build Project.

The project will include the replacement of a structurally deficient bridge, improved geometry at the I-496 crossing, improved vertical and horizontal clearance, and facilities for pedestrians and cyclists.

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

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

VOTED: To authorize the Secretary, or her designee, to award and execute MassDOT Construction Contract 124026 – Bridge Replacement Br. B-18-002 Route 111 over I-495 with MAS Building & Bridge, Inc. in the amount of \$23,665,746.00.

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

Deputy Chief Engineer John Bechard presented Item #11, a project titled Stockbridge – West Stockbridge Interstate Maintenance and Related Work on I-90.

The project includes the resurfacing of a portion of Interstate 90 from the New York State line through West Stockbridge and Stockbridge. Mr. Bechard described the proposed work which will include milling and resurfacing of the mainline, bridge decks, transitions to and from bridge decks, including entry and exit ramps and turnarounds.

Director Beggan indicated that this project was presented to the Capital Programs Committee and that the Committee was in support of its approval.

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

VOTED: To authorize the Secretary, or her designee, to award and execute MassDOT Construction Contract 124762 – Interstate Maintenance and Related Work on I-90 with Warner Bros LLC in the amount of \$24,361.298.89.

Chair Tibbits-Nutt	Yes
Director Beggan	Yes
Director Bhatti	Yes
Director Dimino	Yes
Director Iezzoni	Yes
Director King	Yes

Director Koch	Yes
Director Mazarella	Yes
Director McGee	Yes
Director Otero	Yes

John Bechard then presented Item #12, a proposed contract for Interstate Maintenance and Related Work on I-91 and I-391 in Chicopee.

The work consists mainly of milling and paving the mainline, ramps, bridge decks as well as transitions to and from the bridges. Mr. Bechard discussed the project location and the benefits expected to be derived from completing the project. He concluded with the procurement process and project budget.

Director Beggan stated that the Capital Programs Committee supports this project.

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

VOTED: To authorize the Secretary, or her designee, to award and execute MassDOT Construction Contract 124913 – Springfield-Chicopee – Interstate Maintenance and Related Work on I-91 and I-391 with SPS New England Inc. in the amount of \$27,976,663.00.

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

Director Iezzoni	Yes
Director King	Yes
Director Koch	Yes
Director Mazarella	Yes
Director McGee	Yes
Director Otero	Yes

Undersecretary Hayes Morrison then presented Item #13, an overview of MassDOT@15, a yearlong initiative that will examine MassDOT and help to answer three questions: “who we are, what we do and how we pay for it.” Ms. Morrison discussed three policy and strategic efforts: 1) Beyond Mobility; 2) MassDOT’s Strategic Business Plan; and 3) the Transportation Funding Task Force.

Extensive discussion ensued.

Finally, Deputy Chief Engineer John Moran presented Item #14, an overview of the Department’s Bridge Program.

Mr. Moran began by defining the various types of bridges that are part of the Department’s Inventory and subject to our inspection. Mr. Moran then described the inspection process and the bridge rating scale.

The Massachusetts bridge inventory is the oldest in the United States, and is the fourth lowest rated in the US. Massachusetts bridges currently

exceed the Federal minimum condition threshold (<10% poor), and we are subject to penalty requiring a minimum expenditure of federal funds each year.

Mr. Moran provided the Board with information that shows that the condition of our bridges are getting better, although not as quickly as anyone would prefer. He also discussed just how bridges are chosen for rehabilitation and/or replacement.

Discussion ensued.

Director Koch exited the meeting at 2:00.

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 2:13 p.m.

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