



Maura Healey, Governor
Kimberley Driscoll, Lieutenant Governor
Gina Fiandaca, Secretary & CEO



MINUTES
Meeting of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation Board of Directors

July 19, 2023 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 Gina Fiandaca, Director Joseph Beggan,
Director Richard Dimino, Director Lisa Iezzoni,
Director Timothy King, Director Dean Mazzarella

**BOARD MEMBERS
PARTICIPATING
REMOTELY:**

Director Ilyas Bhatti, Director Thomas Koch, Director
Thomas McGee, Director Vanessa Otero

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

Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver, Registrar
Colleen Ogilvie, Aeronautics Administrator Jeff
DeCarlo, Rail and Transit Administrator Meredith
Slesinger, Executive Director of Transportation
Planning David Mohler, Deputy Chief Engineer Jack
Moran, Director of Major Projects Mike O'Dowd, Chief
Labor Negotiator Olinda Marshall

OTHERS PRESENT:

General Counsel Douglas M. McGarrah, First Deputy
General Counsel Susan D. Cobb, MBTA Chief
Counsel Kevin Scanlon, Counsel- Corporate
Governance Noah Potash

Joint Meeting with MBTA Board of Directors

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

**Chair Fiandaca
Director Beggan**

**Present
Present**

| | |
|----------------------|---------|
| Director Bhatti | Present |
| Director Dimino | Present |
| Director Iezzoni | Present |
| Director King | Present |
| Director Koch | Present |
| Director Mazzearella | Present |
| Director McGee | Present |
| Director Otero | Present |

Public Comment

Clint Richmond of the Massachusetts Sierra Club expressed support for rail funding included in the CIP and discussed the need to restore rail service to Cape Cod.

Minutes

Chair Fiandaca asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the June 22, 2023, 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 June 22, 2023.

| | |
|----------------------|---------|
| Chair Fiandaca | Yes |
| Director Beggan | Yes |
| Director Bhatti | Abstain |
| Director Dimino | Yes |
| Director Iezzoni | Abstain |
| Director King | Yes |
| Director Koch | Yes |
| Director Mazzearella | Yes |
| Director McGee | Yes |
| Director Otero | Yes |

MassDOT Standing Reports

Secretary Fiandaca presented her report for Item 2, beginning with introductions of the newly appointed Board members, Directors Iezzoni, McGee, Dimino, and Bhatti. The Secretary then discussed a tentative agreement to fund MassDOT's collective bargaining units and recent work by the Department to respond to storms. Secretary

Fiandaca reviewed a recent event to support Regional Transit Authorities (“RTAs”) and noted that the state budget for FY24 has still not been finalized. The Secretary commented on the proposed capital plan and concluded her report with a recap of the recent National Conference of Transportation Research Board event. Directors Iezzoni, Dimino, McGee, and Bhatti expressed enthusiasm for working with the Board and the Department to improve the transportation system.

Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver presented the Highway Division report for Item 3, noting that progress on the Sumner Tunnel is proceeding on schedule. He provided a traffic update on the Tunnel closure and discussed transit usage. He also provided details on an organ transportation that had occurred the previous week and work to restore traffic following a breakdown on the Tobin Bridge. Director Iezzoni asked why the organ transportation did not use a helicopter and how free Fares for the Blue Line can be accessed at Government Center. Mr. Gulliver said that he would have to defer to the MBTA on the fare issue and explained that medical helicopters are reserved for patients in emergencies. Secretary Fiandaca said that she believed that fare gates at Government Center were open. Director Dimino commented positively on the Sumner Tunnel closure work and asked about metrics for emergency medical services. Mr. Gulliver said that extra ambulances have been provided in response to requests from medical providers and that the ambulances are meeting their timeframes. Director Dimino asked about safety assurances prior to reopening and Mr. Gulliver discussed the process, which includes testing materials before and during installation, having on-site inspectors 24/7, and performing a final walkthrough with the contractor. Director Dimino said that ramp metering was a great intervention and asked about other

possibilities. Mr. Gulliver said that there was nothing obvious at this point, but that further opportunities could arise. Director Dimino asked staff to coordinate with the MBTA to ensure the Lynn station platforms are open before next year's two-month Sumner Tunnel closure. Mr. Gulliver said that discussions on that work are ongoing. Director Bhatti congratulated the Sumner Tunnel team and praised their work with communications. Director McGee congratulated the team for their work on mitigations and asked how Logan airport congestion could be further mitigated. Mr. Gulliver said that extra shuttles have been added and that he would be happy to speak with Massport about capacity. Director Beggan asked for more information about lessons learned during the process.

Registrar Colleen Ogilvie presented her report for Item 4, beginning by discussing the successful implementation of the Work and Family Mobility Act and continued communications work to help applicants navigate the process. She then discussed ongoing work to promulgate the Attorney General's data privacy regulations and provided an overview of third-party road test vendors. Ms. Ogilvie reviewed the new pre-registration option for permit appointments and a dashboard tracking the application process. Director Mazarella asked about the percentage of applicants using online services and the Registrar said she could return with specific data. Director King asked about the methods for planned hiring for the RMV and the Registrar discussed various efforts to boost hiring.

Aeronautics Administrator Jeff DeCarlo presented his report for Item 5, discussing an update to the Southbridge Municipal Airport Master Plan, reconstruction of aircraft parking at New Bedford Regional Airport, and participation in the Paris Air

Show and Advanced Air Mobility Event. He reviewed the American Robotics Drone-in-a Box Kickoff. Director Mazzeella and Mr. DeCarlo discussed the timeline and process for rollout of new technology. Director Iezzoni how new technologies could be adapted to accommodate individuals with mobility issues and Mr. DeCarlo discussed accessibility. Director Iezzoni discussed the concept of universal design. Director Dimino asked about electric airplane towing and Mr. DeCarlo discussed potential uses for the technology in Massachusetts. Director Beggan asked about the FAA's strategy on Advanced Air Mobility and Mr. DeCarlo discussed the process of developing the strategy.

Rail and Transit Administrator Meredith Slesinger presented her report for Item 6, beginning with a review of FTA awards to RTAs for purchase of electric buses and recent bilateral RTA MOUs. She then discussed the proposed budget for RTA funding and a recent meeting of the RTA Council. Ms. Slesinger discussed gains in ridership on several rail lines and discussed the Industrial Rail Access Program. She then reviewed the status of several rail projects. Director Iezzoni asked about tie-downs for wheelchair users on the new buses and Ms. Slesinger said she would look into how the procurement will be done. Director Iezzoni asked about accessible boarding in Pittsfield and Ms. Slesinger said she would look into the issue. Director Iezzoni noted that meeting ADA specifications does not mean that a technology is comfortable or optimal for users. Director Dimino asked about the potential use of Electric Motorized Units (EMUs) and Ms. Slesinger discussed an ongoing Amtrak procurement to replace their fleet. Director Dimino asked about Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding for

modernization of the Northeast Corridor and Ms. Slesinger said she would be happy to discuss the topic in more detail.

Presentations and Actions

For Item 7, the appointment of Finance and Audit Committee Members, Secretary Fiandaca called for nominations to the Finance and Audit Committee. Director Bhatti nominated Director Dimino to serve as Chair. Director Beggan nominated Director McGee to serve on the committee.

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

VOTED: To appoint Directors Richard Dimino and Thomas McGee to the Finance and Audit Committee of the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, and to designate Director Dimino as Chair of the Committee, pursuant to Article VIII, §5 of the By-Laws of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation.

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Chair Fiandaca | Yes |
| Director Beggan | Yes |
| Director Bhatti | Yes |
| Director Dimino | Yes |
| Director Iezzoni | Yes |
| Director King | Yes |
| Director Koch | Yes |
| Director Mazzeella | Yes |
| Director McGee | Yes |
| Director Otero | Yes |

Director of Planning David Mohler presented on the Final 2024-2028 Capital Investment Plan ("CIP") for Item 8. Mr. Mohler reviewed the steps taken since the May Board meeting, including public meetings, completion of the equity analysis, incorporation of changes to projects and spending. He also provided an overview of the CIP funding sources and programmed spending. Mr. Mohler discussed the CIP's support for the Governor's Administration's priorities and reviewed major investments and programs. He then reviewed improvements in the capital delivery process. Mr.

Mohler provided details on public feedback on the CIP and discussed changes in Highway spending. He reviewed the geographic and social components of the Equity Analysis. Director Beggan said that the Capital Programs Committee unanimously voted to recommend approval and asked if anything has changed since that vote. Mr. Mohler said the only changes were the addition of the Pittsfield and Springfield projects and minor cashflow changes. Director Beggan commented on helpful details included in the CIP presentation and Mr. Mohler discussed the ongoing development process. Director King and Director Koch said they were fine with the changes. Director Dimino commended staff on improving the process of awarding contracts and asked about federal bridge funding and Mr. Mohler said that there is significant funding remaining to be allocated. Director Dimino asked for ongoing updates on the CIP. Director McGee noted that the CIP does not meet the overwhelming needs of the transportation system in the Commonwealth. Director Mazzarella said that the plan appropriately prioritized funding. Director Bhatti said the plan is well thought-out and asked if the supply chain has affected cost estimates. Administrator Gulliver said that it has, although costs have also been impacted by material costs.

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

VOTED: To approve the Fiscal Year 2024-2028 Capital Investment Plan (“CIP”) as presented at the July 2023 meeting of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation Board of Directors and as attached hereto as Appendix A, and to authorize the Secretary/CEO, in the name of and on behalf of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, to take any steps deemed necessary and appropriate to provide notice to the Legislature and public of the CIP.

| | |
|------------------------|------------|
| Chair Fiandaca | Yes |
| Director Beggan | Yes |
| Director Bhatti | Yes |
| Director Dimino | Yes |

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Director Iezzoni | Yes |
| Director King | Yes |
| Director Koch | Yes |
| Director Mazzarella | Yes |
| Director McGee | Yes |
| Director Otero | Yes |

Deputy Chief Engineer Jack Moran presented Agenda Item 9, a contract for Interstate Pavement Preservation on I-93. Mr. Moran described the project location and the planned work. He reviewed the procurement process and project budget. Director Beggan said that the Capital Programs Committee unanimously supported the award and discussed the importance of extending the lifespan of bridge. He noted that it will be important for the project to coordinate with municipalities. Director Dimino asked about the disparity between the low bid and other bids and Mr. Moran discussed the review process for the procurement.

On a 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 121698: Interstate Pavement Preservation on I-93 with Holcim-Ner Inc. in the amount of \$36,122,640.00.

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Chair Fiandaca | Yes |
| Director Beggan | Yes |
| Director Bhatti | Yes |
| Director Dimino | Yes |
| Director Iezzoni | Yes |
| Director King | Yes |
| Director Koch | Yes |
| Director Mazzarella | Yes |
| Director McGee | Yes |
| Director Otero | Yes |

For Item 10, a contract for Bridge Preservation along I-91, Mr. Moran provided an overview of the proposed work to preserve 18 bridges. He discussed traffic impacts, then reviewed the procurement and project budget. Director Beggan said that the

project was unanimously recommended for approval by the Capital Programs Committee.

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 121947: Hatfield- Whately- Deerfield- Greenfield- Bernardston- Bridge Preservation Along I-91 with NEL Corporation in the amount of \$15,618,113.50.

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| Chair Fiandaca | Yes |
| Director Beggan | Yes |
| Director Bhatti | Yes |
| Director Dimino | Yes |
| Director Iezzoni | Yes |
| Director King | Yes |
| Director Koch | Yes |
| Director Mazzearella | Yes |
| Director McGee | Yes |
| Director Otero | Yes |

For Agenda Item 11, Director of Major Projects Mike O'Dowd presented a proposed contract for bridge replacements at I-495 over Route 28. He described the need for the work and proposed enhancements. Mr. O'Dowd described the proposed work and coordination with local stakeholders. He then reviewed traffic impacts and public outreach. He concluded the presentation by discussing environmental considerations, the procurement process, and the project budget. Director Beggan said that the Capital Programs Committee unanimously recommended the project for approval and noted the Committee's discussion of the low bid. Mr. O'Dowd said it was a success of the design-build process and noted that the low bidder had proposed cost-saving changes. Director Iezzoni asked about the pedestrian and bicycle accommodations and how safety is incorporated into the design process. Mr. O'Dowd discussed the approach to safety and providing full safe access for pedestrians and

cyclists. Director Iezzoni suggested additional outreach to various groups for future projects.

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 121394: Bridge Bundle, Replacements at I-495 over Route 28 and MBTA Design-Build Project with The Middlesex Corporation for an amount not to exceed \$98,080,330.00.

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Chair Fiandaca | Yes |
| Director Beggan | Yes |
| Director Bhatti | Yes |
| Director Dimino | Yes |
| Director Iezzoni | Yes |
| Director King | Yes |
| Director Koch | Yes |
| Director Mazzarella | Yes |
| Director McGee | Yes |
| Director Otero | Yes |

For Agenda Item 12, Mr. O'Dowd presented a proposed contract for eight bridge replacements in Highway District Five, beginning with an overview of the proposed work across several communities in the district. He discussed planned traffic management, public engagement, and the procurement process. Mr. O'Dowd concluded his presentation by reviewing the project budget. Director Beggan said that the Capital Programs Committee had unanimously recommended approval of the contract.

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 121839: District 5: Bridge Bundle, Eight (8) Bridge Deck Replacements at Various Locations; Br. Nos. D-14-008, L-01-011, M-03-018, P-13-031, P-13-035, W-06-038 Design-Build Project with Skanska USA Civil Northeast, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$36,900,000.00.

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Chair Fiandaca | Yes |
| Director Beggan | Yes |

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| Director Bhatti | Yes |
| Director Dimino | Yes |
| Director Iezzoni | Yes |
| Director King | Yes |
| Director Koch | Yes |
| Director Mazzearella | Yes |
| Director McGee | Yes |
| Director Otero | Yes |

For Agenda Item 13, Mr. O'Dowd presented a proposed contract for bridge replacement of Route 3 over Franklin Street, beginning with an overview of the project. He discussed additional project elements and reviewed public outreach. Mr. O'Dowd then covered environmental considerations, the procurement process, and the project budget. Director Beggan said that the Capital Programs Committee had unanimously recommended approval of the contract. Director Bhatti applauded staff for their work to reduce the number of structurally deficient bridges.

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 121637: Bridge Replacement, D-14-10 (48H & 48J), Route 3 (PILGRIM HIGHWAY) NB/SB over Franklin Street Design-Build Project with SKANSKA USA CIVIL NORTHEAST INC for an amount not to exceed \$29,290,000.00.

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| Chair Fiandaca | Yes |
| Director Beggan | Yes |
| Director Bhatti | Yes |
| Director Dimino | Yes |
| Director Iezzoni | Yes |
| Director King | Yes |
| Director Koch | Yes |
| Director Mazzearella | Yes |
| Director McGee | Yes |
| Director Otero | Yes |

For Agenda Item 14, Chief Labor Negotiator Olinda Marshall presented a proposed collective bargaining agreement with Unit E, noting that the estimated annual cost of the agreement requires board approval. Ms. Marshall discussed the key terms of

the contract, including 4% annual salary increases and the development of a Classification/Adjustment pool to address recruitment and retention purposes. Chair Fiandaca said that the longevity bonuses were a good inclusion.

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

VOTED: To authorize the Secretary of Transportation, or her designee, to enter into a Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Coalition of Massachusetts Department of Transportation Unions for Unit E, for the term from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, and to execute any necessary or ancillary documents in the name and on behalf of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation to effectuate this Agreement.

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Chair Fiandaca | Yes |
| Director Beggan | Yes |
| Director Bhatti | Yes |
| Director Dimino | Yes |
| Director Iezzoni | Yes |
| Director King | Yes |
| Director Koch | Yes |
| Director Mazzarella | Yes |
| Director McGee | Yes |
| Director Otero | Yes |

Director Mazzarella commented on reckless drivers on state roadways and requested data on the issue. Chair Fiandaca said that the issue could be discussed at a future meeting and asked for a motion to adjourn.

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

VOTED: To adjourn at 3:19 p.m.

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Chair Fiandaca | Yes |
| Director Beggan | Yes |
| Director Bhatti | Yes |
| Director Dimino | Yes |
| Director Iezzoni | Yes |
| Director King | Yes |
| Director Koch | Yes |
| Director Mazzarella | Yes |
| Director McGee | Yes |
| Director Otero | Yes |

Documents relied upon for this meeting:

- July 19, 2023 MassDOT/MBTA Agenda
- June 22, 2023 MassDOT Board Meeting Minutes
- Administrator's Report - July 2023
- July 2023_RMV_MassDOT Board Report FINAL
- Aero Division Board Report_July_19_2023_V3
- 20230713_BoardReport_RTD_final
- Proposed_Final_FY2428_CIP Presentation_7.19.23_Board_7.18.23
- MassDOT SFY 2024-2028 Proposed Final CIP 7.18.23
- Appendix A_MassDOT_Proposed_Final_FY24_28_CIP_7.18.23
- Appendix_B_MassDOT_Proposed_Final_2024-2028 CIP 7.18.23
- 610726-121698-Board of Directors Presentation_6-7-23_Rev2_JB_edits
- 610726 - 121698 - MassDOT Staff Summary Package_6-7-23
- 609023_I-91 Bridge_Preservation_Board_Presentation_7-19-23
- 609023_Staff_Summary_Combined_6-28-23
- 606522 Andover Board Presentation07102023
- 606522 Staff Summary Final 07032023
- 613005 D5 Bridge Bundle CPC Board 07102023
- 2023-07-03 Staff Summary 613005 Final
- 605294 Route3overFranklin CPC Board 07102023
- 605294 Staff Summary 2023.07.03_FINAL
- Unit E Board Deck (HR Final) 7.19.23