



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



MINUTES
**Meeting of the Massachusetts Department of
Transportation Board of Directors**
July 22, 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 Eric Batista, Director
Joseph Beggan, Director Ilyas Bhatti, Director
Richard Dimino, Director Lisa Iezzoni, Director
Tim King, Director Dean Mazzaella (arrived at
12:05),*

**OTHERS
PARTICIPATING:**

*Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver,
Aeronautics Administrator Denise Garcia,
Registrar Colleen Ogilvie, Rail & Transit
Administrator Meredith Slesinger, Chief Financial
Officer David Pottier, Adam Zeller, Jack Moran*

OTHERS PRESENT:

*General Counsel Carrie Wicker, Deputy General
Counsel Owen Kane*

Chair Eng called to order the meeting of the MassDOT Board at 12:02

p.m. Owen Kane called the roll of the members participating, being a quorum of the MassDOT Board of Directors:

Director Batista	Present
Director Beggan	Present
Director Bhatti	Present
Director Dimino	Present
Director Iezzoni	Present
Director King	Present
Chair Eng	Present

Safety Briefing

The Safety Briefing was presented via video.

Public Comment

A voicemail from Andrew Vernon was played for the Board. Mr. Vernon expressed concern about the policies and procedures of the RMV as they relate to individuals who voluntarily surrender their licenses due to medical reasons. Mr. Vernon also expressed concern about the process that he believes should have been followed in his case.

Mr. Vernon also sent an email to the Board which was provided to the Board members prior to the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

The Chair then asked for a Motion to Approve the Minutes from the June 17, 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 June 17, 2026.

Director Batista	Yes
Director Beggan	Yes
Director Bhatti	Yes
Director Dimino	Yes
Director Iezzoni	Yes
Director King	Yes
Director Mazarella	Yes
Chair Eng	Yes

Employee Recognition

The Chair stated that three employees would be recognized by the Board for exemplary service. He introduced Michelle Muallem, who presented the first honoree.

Nelly Diaz, Administrative Assistant II in the Office of the General Counsel was recognized for her many years of service, beginning with MassDOT in 2000.

Chair Eng then invited Colleen Ogilvie to present the next honoree, Shannon Gill, who has capably served as Road Skills Testing Program Manager since 2024.

Finally, the Chair called upon Undersecretary Gulliver and Deputy Highway Administrator Brian Kelleher to present State Construction Engineer Dan Casaletto. Mr. Casaletto is retiring after 35 years of service to MassDOT and the Commonwealth.

STANDING REPORTS

The Secretary presented his report to the Board.

Secretary Eng began with a brief update on the World Cup. He expressed his appreciation for the amazing work done by the staff and volunteers throughout the tournament. Of the nearly 500,000 fans that attended the events at Boston Stadium, more than 108,000 “kicked the drive” and used the MBTA.

The Secretary also spoke about the multi-agency collaboration that was used to ensure the safety of the fans and participants at the World Cup as well as the attendees at various events associated with Massachusetts Fourth of July and Sail Boston celebrations. He expressed his gratitude for the financial investments from the Healey-Driscoll Administration that allowed us to give everyone a first-class experience.

The Chair then discussed the Specialty Plate commemorating Massachusetts 250. Nearly 100,000 specialty plates have been sold, making it the best-selling plate in RMV history.

Director King commended the Department on its efforts at all the summer events. The Director noted that he was impressed by the Department's ability to learn, adapt and improve "on the fly." As impressive as the communication between the Department and the attendees was the communication between MassDOT and the affected commuters.

The Secretary responded, saying that the Department did take steps to ensure that the affected commuters knew what was going on and what might impact their commute. We changed train sets, offered commuter rail

discounts, Zone 1-10 discounts, free Fridays and companion fares in an effort to offset any inconveniences that the commuters might have encountered.

Director Bhatti offered his congratulations to the leadership teams at MassDOT and the MBTA. The signage that we put up for the World Cup was terrific.

Undersecretary and Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver then provided the Highway Division Report. He began with an update on the Storrow Drive Tunnel project. The first phase of the project has been completed, and the remainder of the project is expected to be completed by the Fall of 2026.

The Administrator then provided an update on the I-90/I-495 Interchange project. The first of several ramps is expected to open in August. We expect full beneficial use of the project area in May 2028.

Mr. Gulliver invited Tim Dexter to address the Board and discuss the Diadromous Fish Protection program. Mr. Dexter explained that Diadromous fish migrate between the ocean and freshwater lakes, ponds, rivers. MassDOT protects diadromous fish runs by allowing fish passage during construction,

and improving culverts and fishways through the TIP, where feasible. Recent projects are located in Acushnet and Dennis.

Director Iezzoni asked about the smoke coming from the wildfires in Canada. She wondered whether the smoke posed an adverse impact on our workforce. She also asked if weather sensitive plantings have been impacted by the drought conditions we have seen across the Commonwealth. The Administrator indicated that, with respect to the smoke, state and federal regulations provide guardrails as to what work may be done in high temperature/high smoke conditions. As for the plantings, we have a landscape design section that carefully monitors all plantings.

Director asked if we were replacing the fish culverts discussed by Mr. Dexter because of their age. The Administrator that age was one factor considered, but we also look at the environmental impact.

Aeronautics Administrator Denise Garcia then presented the report for her Division. She provided updates on the Martha's Vineyard Airport Terminal expansion, the stream restoration project at the Lawrence Municipal Airport,

an Airport Master Record Training in Seattle and the State House 3D Model and Thermal Assessment conducted by the Division on behalf of DCAMM.

Director Mazzarella asked when the next demonstration of drone technology would be conducted. The Administrator indicated that her Division would coordinate the next demonstration with the Board.

Registrar Colleen Ogilvie then presented the report of the RMV. The Registrar began with a discussion of the Blue Envelope Program. The program is expected to improve communication and understanding during encounters between law enforcement officers and individuals with autism. It will provide individuals and families with greater confidence and peace of mind. The envelope is used to store a driver's essential documents. Blue Envelopes will be available at RMV Service Centers and AAA locations in the near future.

The Registrar also announced that the RMV began sending registration email reminders on July 19th to vehicle owners whose registration is expiring within 6 weeks. The email directs customers to go online to renew to allow enough time for the renewed registration and plate decal to be

mailed to avoid any interruption to their registration. The email will also remind customers to pay any outstanding obligations such as parking tickets, toll violations, or excise tax, confirm insurance coverage and verify mailing and residential address.

Ms. Ogilvie informed the Board that the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration issued a 5-year exemption to 4 companies allowing mirrorless camera systems in place of traditional mirrors. This technology improves visibility in all weather and lighting conditions, reduces blind spots by providing a wide-angle view, and enhances safety. Use for intrastate travel requires a waiver to be issued by the RMV. We have been coordinating with Department of Public Utilities, Rail & Transit, MBTA and the companies to evaluate the suitability of the technology.

Director Iezzoni asked for more details about the Blue Envelope Program. She is curious as to the process that might be followed if the autistic individual is deaf or hard of hearing. The Registrar promised to look into it and get back to the Board.

Director Dimino asked about the mirrorless camera technology. He inquired whether this might be used in cases of vehicles passing on the right. He also wanted to know if the technology helps with “blind spots” and asked the Registrar to look into whether the technology might be used for trucks as well as buses. The Registrar will get back to the Board with answers.

Rail & Transit Administrator Meredith Slesinger provided her Report. The Administrator offered an update on various grants under review by the Federal Railroad Administration, including the National Railroad Partnership Program, Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements Program, and the Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant Program.

She also reported that the Department continues to pursue research to improve project delivery.

The Administrator also announced more than \$3 million in grants to support climate-friendly workforce transportation. Grants were made to support Transportation Management Associations (TMAs) in reducing single-occupancy vehicle trips, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, facilitating mode shift, and expanding mobility. TMAs provide coordinated solutions to

shared commuter challenges. Fourteen TMAs and one statewide association of TMAs are receiving awards, with some funds reserved to provide technical assistance to grantees. Awarded projects include funding to operate and publicize shuttles, improve wayfinding, support commuters in biking to work, and more.

Director Mazzarella asked the Administrator if she saw more trucks off the road as a result of the work of the Division. She responded by stating that freight traffic has been flat for the past decade.

Presentations and Actions

Chief Financial Officer David Pottier presented the FY27 Budget Update, announcing that the state budget had been signed without major changes. He said that the changes included an additional \$87,000 for local projects and a \$5,000,000 reduction in MBTA funding.

MBTA Senior Director of Capital Finance and Administration Adam Zeller presented the FY26 ETF Supplemental Transfer to MBTA, which was described as the routine approval of the transfer of Fair Share Funding. Mr. Zeller explained that the transfers would include \$450 million to support the MBTA

Deficiency Fund, \$20 million to support the Income-Eligible Reduced Fares program, and \$60 million to support improvements to MBTA's physical infrastructure.

Director Dimino indicated that the Finance & Audit Committee had received this presentation and unanimously voted to recommend this to the full Board.

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

VOTED: To authorize the Secretary, or his designee, to approve and execute an Agreement with the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) to transfer \$450,000,000.00 to the MBTA in order to replenish the MBTA's Deficiency Fund.

FURTHER VOTED:

That the Secretary, or his designee, is hereby authorized to execute any necessary or ancillary documents to effectuate the transfer of \$450,000,000.00 to the MBTA in accordance with the terms of the Agreement.

Director Batista	Yes
Director Beggan	Yes
Director Bhatti	Yes
Director Dimino	Yes
Director Iezzoni	Yes
Director King	Yes
Director Mazarella	Yes
Chair Eng	Yes

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

VOTED: To authorize the Secretary, or his designee, to approve and execute an Agreement with the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) to transfer \$20,000,000.00 to the MBTA for the implementation of the MBTA's Income-Eligible Reduced Fare Program.

FURTHER VOTED:

That the Secretary, or his designee, is hereby authorized to execute any necessary or ancillary documents to effectuate the transfer of \$20,000,000.00 to the MBTA in accordance with the terms of the Agreement.

Director Batista	Yes
Director Beggan	Yes
Director Bhatti	Yes
Director Dimino	Yes
Director Iezzoni	Yes
Director King	Yes
Director Mazzarella	Yes
Chair Eng	Yes

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

VOTED: To authorize the Secretary, or his designee, to approve and execute an Agreement with the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) to transfer \$60,000,000.00 to the MBTA for improvements to the MBTA's physical infrastructure.

FURTHER VOTED:

That the Secretary, or his designee, is hereby authorized to execute any necessary or ancillary documents to effectuate the transfer of \$60,000,000.00 to the MBTA in accordance with the terms of the Agreement.

Director Batista	Yes
Director Beggan	Yes
Director Bhatti	Yes
Director Dimino	Yes
Director Iezzoni	Yes
Director King	Yes
Director Mazzearella	Yes
Chair Eng	Yes

Deputy Chief Engineer Jack Moran then presented a request to approve a Bridge Replacement at Upper Road in Deerfield over the Deerfield River. Mr. Moran discussed the deterioration of the existing bridge, exacerbated by the river. He explained that the new bridge would feature scour-stable piers, a wider bridge, treatment of runoff, and more overhead utilities. He described how the new construction would improve resiliency, then discussed the public review and permitting processes. Mr. Moran said that the project would take 4.5 years and would utilize staged construction to maintain alternating one-way traffic. He reviewed the procurement, noting that three bids were submitted, with the winning bidder, Northern Construction Services, coming in 8% below the engineer's estimate. He

reviewed the budget and noted that it would use set-aside federal funds available for off-system bridges.

Director Bhatti expressed his support and stated that this was a great project.

Director Beggan indicated that the project had been discussed at the Capital Programs Committee. The Committee reviewed the costs and unanimously recommend its approval.

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

VOTED: To authorize the Secretary of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, or their designee, to award and execute MassDOT Construction Contract 134590 – Bridge Replacement, D-06-001, Upper Road Over Deerfield River in Deerfield, MA, with Northern Construction Service LLC, for the amount of \$21,632,509.00.

Director Batista	Yes
Director Beggan	Yes
Director Bhatti	Yes
Director Dimino	Yes
Director Iezzoni	Yes
Director King	Yes
Director Mazarella	Yes
Chair Eng	Yes

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 2:08 p.m.

Director Batista	Yes
Director Beggan	Yes
Director Bhatti	Yes
Director Dimino	Yes
Director Iezzoni	Yes
Director King	Yes
Director Mazarella	Yes
Chair Eng	Yes