



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



MINUTES

Meeting of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation Board of Directors

November 20, 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 Eric Batista,
Director Joseph Beggan, Director Ilyas Bhatti,
Director Richard Dimino, Director Lisa Iezzoni,
Director Tim King, Director Thomas Koch,
Director Dean Mazzarella, Director Thomas
McGee*

**BOARD MEMBERS
PARTICIPATING
REMOTELY:**

None

**OTHERS
PARTICIPATING:**

*Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver,
Registrar of Motor Vehicles Colleen Ogilvie,
Director of Rail & Transit Andrew Koziol, Acting
Aeronautics Administrator Denise Garcia,
Undersecretary Hayes Morrison, Deputy Chief
Engineer John Bechard, Director of Major
Projects Michael O'Dowd, Deputy Chief Safety
Officer Michael Cairo*

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 12:02 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 Batista	Present
Director Beggan	Present
Director Bhatti	Present
Director Dimino	Present
Director King	Present
Director Koch	Present
Director Mazzarella	Present
Director Iezzoni	Present
Director McGee	Present

Safety Briefing

Deputy Chief Safety Officer Michael Cairo presented the Safety Briefing. Mr. Cairo noted that November 14 was National Seat Belt Day.

Employee Recognition

The Chair continued the meeting by recognizing several MassDOT employees and groups recently honored by the Department at the MassDOT Performance Recognition Program Ceremony held at Polar Park in Worcester.

The Chair also recognized the Emergency Shelter Incident Command

Group, and the Leominster and Princeton Flooding Emergency Response Team, winners of the Manuel Carballo Excellence in Public Service Award presented at the State House.

She also recognized the RMV Work and Family Mobility Team, winner of the Commonwealth Equity in Government Award.

On behalf of the Board and the Department, the Chair thanked each member of the honored groups for their dedication and service to the people of the Commonwealth.

Minutes

Chair Tibbits-Nutt asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2024, MassDOT Board Meeting.

On motion duly made and seconded, it was by call of the yeas and nays:

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the MassDOT Board Meeting held on October 16, 2024.

(Director King abstained)

Presentations and Actions

Deputy Chief Engineer John Bechard presented Item #4, a request for Board approval to authorize the Secretary of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, or her designee, to award and execute MassDOT Construction Contract 127855– Yarmouth Barnstable– Cape Cod Rail Trail Extension, Includes New Bridge over Willow Street & Railroad (Phase III), with Lawrence Lynch Corp in the amount of \$ 16,391,305.50.

Mr. Bechard described the proposed project to widen an existing shared-use path and construction of a new 12-foot wide shared-use path over a total length of 4.4 miles in the Towns of Yarmouth and Barnstable as an extension to the Cape Cod Rail Trail (CCRT). Work includes construction of a new bridge carrying the CCRT over Willow Street and active Mass Coastal Railroad tracks in Yarmouth.

Director Beggan indicated that all six construction contracts appearing on today's agenda were carefully considered by the Capital Programs Committee during its regular meeting last week. After discussion of each project, the Committee unanimously voted to recommend approval of all six

projects. The Committee indicated that these are good, necessary projects and all were in line with the Engineer's Estimate for project cost.

On motion duly made and seconded, it was by call of yeas and nays:

VOTED: To authorize the Secretary of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, or her designee, to award and execute MassDOT Construction Contract 127855– Yarmouth Barnstable– Cape Cod Rail Trail Extension, Includes New Bridge over Willow Street & Railroad (Phase III), with Lawrence Lynch Corp in the amount of \$ 16,391,305.50.

Mr. Bechard then presented Item #5, a request that the MassDOT Board of Directors authorize the Secretary of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, or her designee, to award and execute MassDOT Construction Contract 127956– Fitchburg– Twin Cities Rail Trail Construction (Phase II), with ET&L Corp, in the amount of \$22,989,530.00.

Mr. Bechard explained that the proposed Phase 2 connection begins at the terminus of newly constructed Phase 1 at 4th Street and includes an on-road section along Railroad Street to approximately 1st Street, where the trail will climb a newly retained earth structure leading to a new multi-span bridge over the MBTA Commuter Line railroad tracks, continuing across property owned by Unitil, across the North Nashua River, and over private property to

the MART/Montachusett Regional Transit Authority Intermodal Transportation Center, approximately 2,243 feet or 0.425 miles.

The new multi-span bridge will feature a prefabricated steel truss and steel plate girder superstructure with a reinforced concrete deck, safety curb, and steel railing with protective screen atop cast-in-place concrete substructure elements.

Other related work includes clearing, grading, pavement and concrete sidewalk, access ramps, installation of signage, pavement markings, plantings, trail lighting and bike path amenities.

Extensive Discussion ensued.

On motion duly made and seconded, it was by call of yeas and nays:

VOTED: to authorize the Secretary of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, or her designee, to award and execute MassDOT Construction Contract 127956– Fitchburg– Twin Cities Rail Trail Construction (Phase II), with ET&L Corp, in the amount of \$22,989,530.00.

Mr. Bechard then presented Item #8, a request that the MassDOT Board authorize the Secretary of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, or her designee, to award and execute MassDOT Construction Contract 127958– Springfield– Reconstruction of Sumner Avenue at Dickinson Street

and Belmont Avenue (The 'X'), with Baltazar Contractors Inc., in the amount of \$22,700,755.00.

The proposed project will address immediate needs to increase intersection safety, reduce congestion and delay by improving operations and progression, replace the deteriorated pavement and improve deficient pedestrian and bicycle accommodation while improving safety, as well as reducing ongoing maintenance costs for the City of Springfield in this area of Sumner Avenue at Dickenson Street and Belmont Avenue. The roadway work is comprised of traffic pattern modifications, new traffic signal installations, new traffic signal coordination, provision of 5-foot bicycle lanes, widening of sidewalks to shared-use paths, reconstruct and reconfigure sidewalks, pedestrian facility and accessibility upgrades, bus stop and shelter upgrades, replacement of street lighting, furnishings and landscaping, auxiliary lane additions, and installation of pedestrian plazas.

On motion duly made and seconded, it was by call of yeas and nays:

VOTED: to authorize the Secretary of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, or her designee, to award and execute MassDOT Construction Contract 127958– Springfield– Reconstruction of Sumner Avenue at Dickinson Street and Belmont Avenue (The 'X'), with Baltazar Contractors Inc., in the amount of \$22,700,755.00.

Mr. Bechard then presented Item #7, a request that the MassDOT Board authorize the Secretary of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, or her designee, to award and execute MassDOT Construction Contract 127960: Leominster-Reconstruction and Related Work on Route 12 from the Sterling Town Line to Tocci Street, with J H Lynch & Sons, Inc, in the amount of \$22,891,725.50.

The proposed project will address needs to replace the deteriorated pavement, install a roundabout, upgrade traffic signals, and replace Bridge L-08-022 over Fall Brook, and improve deficient pedestrian and bicycle accommodations while improving safety, while reducing ongoing maintenance costs in this area of Route 12. The roadway work is comprised of excavation, borrow, grading, installation of full depth hot mix asphalt pavement at the roundabout location, fine milling and pavement overlay with box widening as required at intersections and project limits, installation of granite curb, retaining wall construction, signal installation, bridge construction, guardrail, pavement markings, installation of new roadway drainage, relocation of overhead utilities, and related work. Traffic management set-ups include lane closures with one lane of alternating

traffic, lane shifts, and quadrant closures along the corridor. Site specific set-ups are proposed at the intersection of Litchfield Street and Route 12 (Central Street) and at the Fall Brook Bridge. Set-ups include construction staging with vehicle/truck detours and temporary signal systems.

On motion duly made and seconded, it was by call of yeas and nays:

VOTED: to authorize the Secretary, or her designee, to award and execute MassDOT Contract No. 604499 titled Reconstruction and Related work on Route 12 from Sterling Town Line to Tocci Street, for Highway Construction, with J H Lynch & Sons Inc., in a form approved by the General Counsel, in the amount of \$22,891,725.50.

Mr. Bechard then presented Item #8, a request that the MassDOT Board authorize the Secretary of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, or her designee, to award and execute MassDOT Construction Contract 127970– Corridor Improvements and related work on Route 3A in Cohasset– Scituate with PA Landers Inc. in the amount of \$ 17,679,256.90.

The proposed project will address immediate needs to replace the deteriorated pavement as well as add pedestrian and bicycle accommodation to this arterial roadway. The work to be done consists primarily consists of milling and resurfacing the route Route 3A, adding

sidewalks and a bike path with associated retaining walls. There is significant drainage improvements and utility relocation required. Other related work includes upgrading non-compliant guardrail and end treatments as required; improving drainage and stormwater improvements; installing final pavement markings and signage, implementing all safety controls and signing required for the necessary work zones; and other incidental items of work as determined by the Engineer.

No bridge work will be included in this project.

Extensive discussion ensued.

On motion duly made and seconded, it was by call of yeas and nays:

VOTED: to authorize the Secretary of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, or her designee, to award and execute MassDOT Construction Contract 127970– Corridor Improvements and related work on Route 3A in Cohasset–Scituate with PA Landers Inc. in the amount of \$ 17,679,256.90.

Item #9, a request that MassDOT Board to authorize the Secretary of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, or their designee, to award and execute MassDOT Construction Contract 126251: Bridge Replacement, H-12-040=M-17-030, I-495 (NB & SB) over Merrimack River and M-17-031, I-495 (NB & SB) over Route 110 and H-12-056; Industrial Avenue (EB & WB) over I-495 with

SPS-D.W.White Joint Venture in the amount of \$337,584,363.00 was pulled from the Agenda.

Mike O'Dowd, Director of Major Projects, then presented Item #10, a request that the MassDOT Board of Directors authorize the Secretary of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, or her designee, to award and execute MassDOT Construction Contract No.115770 titled Bridge Replacement & Related Work F-04-017 Water Street over Boulder Drive and Pan AM Railroad & F-04-018 Water Street over North Nashua River, for Highway Construction, with MIG Corporation., for the amount of \$27,847,783.50.

The proposed project will address immediate needs to replace the deteriorated Bridge infrastructure and pavement, and improve deficient pedestrian and bicycle accommodations while improving safety, as well as reducing ongoing maintenance costs for the Town of Fitchburg in this area of State Route 2A and Route 12. F-04-018 was originally constructed in 1937 and consists of built-up plate girders with vertical stiffeners and riveted connections. The abutments are gravity on spread footings and are integral with the channel wall system. The deck was rebuilt in 1961. The overall condition is fair to poor. The roadway work is comprised of excavation, borrow,

grading, installation of full depth hot mix asphalt pavement, fine milling and pavement overlay with widening as required at intersections and project limits, installation of granite curb, retaining wall construction, guardrail, pavement markings, installation of new roadway drainage including, construction of overhead and underground utilities, and related work. Traffic Staging on the Boulder Drive and PanAm RR crossing shall be done in Three Stages (Stage 1-3). During the demolishing stage, work to be completed during off-peak traffic hours using typical details & maintaining one (1) southbound lane and one (1) northbound lane. During Stage 1 & 2, one (1) southbound lane and two (2) northbound lanes shall be maintained for the traffic movement. Shift traffic to the final alignment and maintain two (2) southbound lanes and two (2) northbound lanes. Construct the remaining portion of the Shared Used Path Traffic Staging on the Nashua River Bridge crossing shall be done in Three (3) Stages. During Stage 1, one Lane of Traffic shall be maintained by utilizing temporary one-way alternating traffic with a temporary signal. Interim Stage, maintain one-Lane of traffic in each direction along the Bridge. When required, active traffic detours may be implemented during bridge construction for safety and truck movement.

On motion duly made and seconded, it was by call of yeas and nays:

VOTED: to authorize the Secretary, or her designee, to award and execute MassDOT Contract No. 127064 titled Bridge Replacement & Related Work F-04-017 Water St. over Boulder Drive and PanAM/CSX/BERX Railroad & F-04-018 Water Street over North Nashua River, with MIG Corporation, in a form approved by the General Counsel, in the amount of \$27,847,783.50.

STANDING REPORTS

Chair Tibbits-Nutt then presented her report to the Board. The Chair provided funding updates on the Municipal Pavement Program Grant Program and Complete Streets Program. The programs have recently distributed more than \$44 million to 66 communities.

The Secretary also discussed the recent Mapfre Safety Summit, at which she was the Keynote Speaker. Director Mazzarella expressed concern that incidents of road rage, distracted driving and aggressive driving seem to be on the increase across the country. He asked the Secretary to come back to the Board with more information and, if possible, a plan to address these concerns.

The Secretary also provided an update on the West-East Rail and announced that the Federal Railroad Administration has awarded a \$37

million CRISI Grant for the Springfield Area Track Reconfiguration Project.

Rail and Transit Administrator Meredith Slesinger then provided her report to the Board. The Administrator announced that \$30 million in Grants have been provided to 13 RTAs to provide year-round transit service.

Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver provided his report to the Board. Administrator Gulliver provided the Board with the seasonal Temperature and Precipitation outlooks for the winter season. While warmer than average temperatures are expected, there is a likelihood for extreme cold periods in January and February. The Department is prepared for the snow and ice season.

Mr. Gulliver also provided the annual Thanksgiving Travel Forecast. MassDOT expects more travelers this holiday season and recommends getting an earlier start on any travel plans.

The Reports for the RMV and Aeronautics were provided in writing.

Chair Tibbits-Nutt asked for a motion to adjourn.

On a motion duly made and seconded, it was by call of yeas and nays:

VOTED: To adjourn at 1:47 p.m.