



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



MINUTES

Meeting of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation Board of Directors

OCTOBER 15, 2025 AT 11:00 A.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 Monica Tibbits-Nutt, Director Eric Batista,
Director Ilyas Bhatti, Director Joseph Beggan,
Director Richard Dimino, Director Lisa Iezzoni,
Director Tim King, Director Tom Koch (left
meeting at 1:30 p.m.), Director Dean
Mazzarella (left meeting at 1:30 p.m.), Director
Thomas McGee*

**OTHERS
PARTICIPATING:**

*Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver,
Registrar of Motor Vehicles Colleen Ogilvie,
Administrator of Rail & Transit Meredith
Slesinger, Aeronautics Administrator Denise
Garcia, Darrin McAuliffe, Deputy Chief Engineer
John Bechard, Executive Director of the Office of
Transportation Planning David Mohler*

OTHERS PRESENT:

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

Chair Tibbits-Nutt called to order the meeting of the MassDOT Board

at 11:04 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 Iezzoni | Present |
| Director King | Present |
| Director Koch | Present |
| Director Mazarella | Present |
| Director McGee | Present |

Safety Briefing

Darrin McAuliffe presented the Safety Briefing. Mr. McAuliffe provided Halloween safety tips for drivers.

Mr. McAuliffe reminded the Board that, according to the American Medical Association, the risk of pedestrian fatalities is 43% higher on Halloween compared to any other night. Children between the ages of 4 and 8 are 10 times more likely to be hit by a vehicle on Halloween than any other evening.

Employee Recognition

The Chair recognized seven MassDOT employees for extraordinary work achievements.

Larry Piazza was recognized for his exceptional performance within Highway District 5.

Jonathan Church, Charles Major, Misrak Sultan, Courtney Quirmbach, Elizabeth Flett and Marthinus (MJ) Riekert, members of the MassDOT-UMass Exchange Program were recognized for their exemplary work on the program.

Public Comment

Deputy General Counsel Owen Kane informed the Board that it had received two voicemail messages that were apparently misdirected. Mr. Kane forwarded the messages to the MBTA.

Eric Slifka, vice president of Global Partners, spoke about the Service Plaza contract. Mr. Slifka repeated his comments from previous Board meetings and encouraged the Board to rescind its decision to award the contract to Applegreen and re-open the bidding process.

Executive Session

At 11:15, the Chair then requested a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss strategy related to ongoing and potential litigation.

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

VOTED:

That the Board of Directors enter Executive Session to discuss strategy related to ongoing and potential litigation.

| | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| Chair Tibbits-Nutt | Yes |
| Director Batista | 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 |

The Board returned to Open Session at 12:42 p.m.

Presentations and Actions

Highway Division Administrator Jonathan Gulliver presented **Item #3**, an update on the Service Plaza Procurement.

Administrator Gulliver provided some background on the Plazas and the procurement. He reminded the Board that 17 out of the 18 service plazas

provide fuel (Plymouth does not); McDonald's holds a Master Lease for food for 14 of the 18 Service Plazas and a Master Lease for fuel at the Newton and Lexington Service Plazas (on 95); Gulf holds a Master Lease for fuel at the 11 Service Plazas on the Pike; Global Partners holds a Master Lease for both food and fuel at 4 Service Plazas: Barnstable, Beverly, and the two Bridgewater locations and has a service agreement for fuel with several leaseholders at other Service Plazas.

Most Service Plazas are more than 20 years old; 14 of the 18 leases expire on 12/31/2025 and that the 4 leases held by Global Partners expire 6/30/2027.

After a lengthy preliminary evaluation process, two bidders made it to the final evaluations: Applegreen and Global Partners. Following a thorough final evaluation process, Applegreen received a higher cumulative score than Global Partners based on criteria in the RFP. During the June 18, 2025 meeting, the Board authorized the Secretary to award the Transition and Lease Agreements to Applegreen.

Negotiations on final Lease details were ongoing when Applegreen announced it was rescinding its proposal and would not execute a Lease.

After careful evaluation of all risks and options following Applegreen's announcement, MassDOT is preparing to reprocure the Service Plaza contract to deliver the highest quality facilities and services for travelers while ensuring the best value for taxpayers and toll payers.

Negotiations with current leaseholders for extensions will begin immediately. MassDOT has initiated a review of the original procurement. Prior to issuing a revised Request for Proposal, MassDOT will undertake market sounding. In addition, an evaluation of Service Plaza maintenance needs will be conducted and deficiencies will be prioritized for correction.

The Administrator assured the Board that an update will be at the next meeting and updates will be provided throughout the review process and then throughout the new RFP and evaluation process.

Deputy Chief Engineer John Bechard presented **Item #4**, a request to authorize the Secretary, or their designee, to award and execute MassDOT Contract No. 132185 Entitled Reconstruction and Related Work on Rhode Island Road (Route 79) from the Taunton City Line to Clean Pond Road in Lakeville, MA, with P A Landers Inc, in a form approved by the General Counsel, in the amount of \$17,385,000.00.

The proposed project consisted of reconstructing a section of Route 79, promoting safety through improving intersections and the addition of new bicycle and pedestrian accommodations. The work will include pavement reconstruction, new signage, and stormwater improvements.

Mr. Bechard explained that the project used a design-bid-build approach and stated that PA Landers was the low bidder following a competitive procurement. He noted that the project was funded through a combination of state and regional MPO funds.

Director Beggan noted that this matter was discussed at the recent Capital Programs Committee and that the committee unanimously voted to recommend the project to the full Board.

Directors King and McGee inquired about whether this project will include separated bike lanes. Mr. Bechard stated that the project will include wide shoulders with appropriate striping for the bike lane.

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 132185– Lakeville – Reconstruction and

Related Work on Rhode Island Road (Route 79) from the Taunton City Line to Clean Pond Road, with P A Landers Inc, for the amount of \$17,385,000.00.

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| Chair Tibbits-Nutt | Yes |
| Director Beggan | Yes |
| Chair Tibbits-Nutt | Yes |
| Director Batista | 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 |

Executive Director of the Office of Transportation Planning David

Mohler then presented **Item #5**, the FY26 Fair Share CTF Expansion. Mr. Mohler outlined the expansion of the MassDOT Capital Program, with the FY26 Budget including \$550 million in Fair Share Funding to the Commonwealth Transportation Fund, which will be bonded into \$2.5 billion for MassDOT, \$1.5 billion for Chapter 90, and \$850 million for the MBTA. Breaking down the MassDOT funding, Mr. Mohler reviewed the Bridge and Pavement Asset Management Program, the Rapid Repair and Replacement Program for

municipal bridges, the Community Culvert Grant Program, and \$615 million in funding for the Allston Multimodal Project, currently held in reserve pending independent review of the project.

He then addressed the \$850 million for the MBTA, which could be allocated to the Widett Circle Phase 1 project, the Arborway Maintenance Facility, Green Line Infrastructure Improvements, and locomotive procurements.

Director Beggan noted that the presentation by Mr. Mohler to the Capital Programs Committee was very helpful and that the committee unanimously voted to recommend the transfer.

Director Dimino expressed his appreciation to the Legislature for the substantial increase to MassDOT and the MBTA. He noted that MassDOT will receive \$2.5 billion as a result of this action.

Further discussion ensued.

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

VOTED:

To authorize the Secretary of Transportation or her designee, to execute an Agreement with the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) transferring \$850,000,000.00 in Commonwealth

Transportation Fund (CTF) bonding capacity to the MBTA to fund certain transit and transit related investments as determined by the General Manager of the MBTA.

FURTHER VOTED:

To authorize the Secretary, or their designee, to execute any necessary or ancillary documents to effectuate the transfer of \$850,000,000.00 to the MBTA pursuant to this Agreement.

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| Chair Tibbits-Nutt | Yes |
| Director Beggan | Yes |
| Chair Tibbits-Nutt | Yes |
| Director Batista | 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 |

Item #6, an update on the 2026 FIFA World Cup was removed from the agenda at the request of the Department.

The Chair then asked for a Motion to Approve the Minutes from the September 17, 2025 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 September 17, 2025.

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| Chair Tibbits-Nutt | Yes |
| Director Beggan | Yes |
| Chair Tibbits-Nutt | Yes |
| Director Batista | Yes |
| Director Beggan | Yes |
| Director Bhatti | Yes |
| Director Dimino | Yes |
| Director Iezzoni | Yes |
| Director King | Abstain |
| Director Koch | Yes |
| Director Mazarella | Yes |
| Director McGee | Yes |

STANDING REPORTS

The Secretary presented her report to the Board. She indicated that the Moving Together Conference is right around the corner.

This year's conference will be in person only and takes place on Tuesday, October 28, at the Sheraton Hotel in Boston. The event is officially sold out, with nearly 1,300 registered attendees.

Massport CEO Richard Davey will open the event with welcoming

remarks. We will also announce the winners of our Safe Streets/Smart Trips High School Video Contest.

Throughout the day, attendees can expect engaging workshops and panels focused on pedestrian, bicyclist, and public transit topics.

The event will offer rich networking opportunities with colleagues from the public, private, and academic sectors, along with site visits and mobile workshops led by engineers and advocates.

Topics on this year's agenda include MassTrails, micromobility, accessibility, artificial intelligence, climate resiliency, grant funding, and more.

The Secretary also mentioned various events she has attended since the last Board meeting.

Registrar Colleen Ogilvie presented the report of the Registry of Motor Vehicles. The Registrar announced that a new skills site will open in November at 901 East Street in Pittsfield. This location will offer commercial skills testing as well as passenger skills testing.

The Registrar also announced that the FMCSA has issued an interim final rule that makes immediate changes to the eligibility and issuance requirements for Non-Domiciled commercial driver licenses (CDL) and

commercial learner permits (CLP). The new requirements are effective as of **September 29, 2025.**

Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver provided his report to the Board. Administrator Gulliver updated the Board on the Snow and Ice preparation for Winter 2025–2026. Snow and ice vendor agreement have been posted and distributed to vendors for signups. Vendor inspections and training sessions are in-process.

Mr. Gulliver noted that vendor signups continue to decline: **down 10% on average over past two years.**

The reports from the Rail and Transit and Aeronautics Divisions were presented in writing.

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 1:44 p.m.

| | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Chair Tibbits–Nutt | Yes |
| Director Batista | Yes |
| Director Beggan | Yes |
| Director Bhatti | Yes |
| Director Dimino | Yes |
| Director Iezzoni | Yes |
| Director King | Yes |

Director McGee

Yes