

Rail & Transit Report

MassDOT Board Meeting
March 16, 2022

Administrator Meredith Slesinger

Rail Activities

- Submitted State-Highway Grade Crossing Safety Action Plan to the Federal Railroad Administration. This plan, required by the FAST Act, will be jointly implemented by the Rail & Transit, Highways, Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities, and railroads operating in the Commonwealth.
- Submitted comments on the Federal Railroad Administration's Request for Information regarding the Corridor Identification & Development Program authorized under the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (IIJA). This program will be the primary federal funding source for rail services off the Northeast Corridor.
- Advertised contract for Berkshire Line Track Improvements to install 9 miles of continuous welded rail in Pittsfield, Lenox, Lee, Stockbridge, Great Barrington, and Sheffield.
- Design to reconstruct 14 grade crossings in Eastern and Central Massachusetts will be completed this month and advertised for bids. All crossings are scheduled to be completed in calendar year 2022.
- Continuing to work with Amtrak, CSX, and key stakeholders on scheduling initial Berkshire Flyer service this summer
- Updating Asset Management Plan to reflect data from emergency inspections and repairs as a result of extreme weather conditions stemming from climate change.
- Selected candidate for Budget Analyst position will begin later this month.



Transit Activities

- On Monday, March 7, FTA announced the availability of approximately \$1.47 billion in competitive grant funds to help modernize bus fleets and facilities across the country, which will support good-paying jobs and help reduce carbon emissions, leading to cleaner air, healthier communities, and better transportation. This Notice of Funding Opportunity is a combined announcement for the Low or No Emission Grant Program and the Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Program. Applicants must submit proposals electronically by 11:59 PM Eastern Time on **05/31/2022**.
- Selected candidate for new Transit Analyst position will begin this month. This position is critical given the increased level of legislatively mandated performance analysis that is required on funding tied to the RTAs.
- Provided testimony on RTA funding levels at the Joint Ways and Means Committee FY23 Budget Hearing held on Friday, March 11th.
- Working closely with the Office of Diversity and Civil Rights on the submission of the FY22-24 DBE goals required by FTA.

