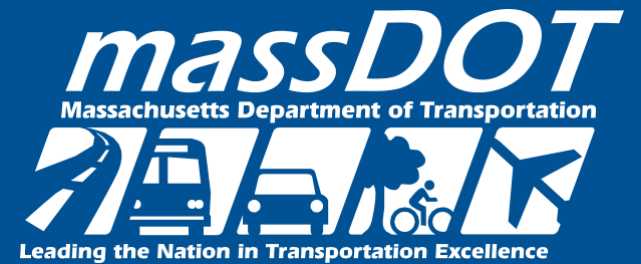


# Rail and Transit Report

*October 18, 2023*



# Table of Contents

3	Transit Update
5	Rail Update

## **Community Transit Grant Program (CTGP) – FY 24 Operating & Mobility Management Cycle**

Grants to RTAs, municipalities, and nonprofits to expand mobility for older adults and people with disabilities supporting transit operations and mobility management initiatives

- 61 applications from 47 organizations (doubled from last year)
- Recommending funding 43 organizations for 55 projects for a total of \$4,739,266
- Funded with FTA Sec. 5310, ARPA, and CRSSA funds, and discretionary funds in the state budget to expand the Community Transit Grant Program, and
- Projects include funding to continue effective services that meet the needs of older adults and people with disabilities, as well as new pilots to address gaps in the current transportation network

## **BusPlus+ Program**

Public/private partnership in which MassDOT provides new buses to private bus companies for regional service.

- After reaching end of their useful lives, MassDOT recently released 17 buses to Peter Pan and 5 buses to DATTCO.
- MassDOT completed an FTA review of its BusPlus program this month.

# Transit Update

## (continued)

4



### Upcoming Grant Opportunities

- Community Transit Grant Program vehicle cycle – open for applications November 28
- Fare Free Transit – new \$15M discretionary program in FY24 state budget, in development
- Regional Transit Innovation Grant – new \$15M discretionary program in FY24 state budget, in development

### Other Transit Highlights this Month

- RTD completed its FTA State Management Review and program is deemed compliant.
- RTD is working with RTAs to evaluate impacts of MA adoption of California CARB standards
- MassDOT and RTA Council have agreed to a funding formula for the additional \$56M operating funds to be distributed this year.
- RTD initiating rebuild of Ride Match website

# Rail Update

## Federal Grants

5

### Recently Executed:

- East Deerfield Yard Intermodal Project – \$4,480,000
- SMART: Improving Rail Safety, Efficiency, and Climate Resilience by Using Drones and Sensors to Monitor and Analyze Railroad Infrastructure Threatened by Ground Water Variability – \$2,000,000

### Newly Awarded:

- CRISI: Connecting the Commonwealth: Early Actions for the Inland Route Project – \$108,000,000

### Proposed:

- SMART: Active Railroad Trespassing Monitoring and Warning System Based on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Edge Computing – \$1,324,616 request
- FRA Corridor Identification & Development: Submitted Boston–Albany and Inland Route Corridors



East Deerfield Yard



# Rail Update

## (continued)

6

### Berkshire Flyer

- Berkshire Flyer finished up the 2nd pilot season last weekend
- Season, which started on Memorial Day weekend was marred many weather and congestion related delays
- Will be working with CSX, Amtrak & NYSDOT to identify if/how to operate next year

### Knowledge Corridor Passenger Rail Ridership

- Added a new Northeast Regional round trip between Springfield & NYC – morning trip very popular
- The first half of the year Jan–July saw 99,000 trips to/from Massachusetts stations (30% higher than pre-covid levels)
- August had record breaking ridership of almost 17,000 riders.

### Berkshire Line Safety:

- Following 8/4 worker fatality, the contractor provided an updated Health and Safety Plan to MassDOT and the Federal Railroad Administration.
- Safety procedures have been reviewed, and work has since restarted on the line.
- MassDOT continues to work with National Transportation Safety Board on their investigation.



# Thank You

