

Rail & Transit Report

Meredith Slesinger | Rail & Transit Administrator

July 20, 2022



TRANSIT UPDATE

- MassDOT Transit received 68 applications for the SFY23 Community Transit Grant Program. The 68 applications were submitted by 47 organizations, 9 of which were new to CTGP. There were 29 operating and mobility management applications and 29 proposals for new transit vehicles. MassDOT Transit will review and score the applications over the next several weeks and provide recommendations for the Secretaries consideration.
- MassDOT Transit received 50 applications for the position of Manager of Grant Programs that is being vacated. The interview committee expects to make a hiring recommendation within the week.
- The next meeting of the RTA Council will be held on July 27th from 10:00AM-12:00PM the following items will be on the agenda:
 - *Item 1 Workforce Shortage -Standing check-in from RTAs/MBTA*
 - *Item 2 RTA Capital Planning – TransAM Migration Project -Presentation from Price Armstrong and Satyen Patel, Cambridge Systematics, Inc. (CS)*
 - *Item 3 Ransomware Attacks: Prevention & Response -Presentation from Buck Dowdell, MassDOT Chief Information Security Officer & Tom Cahir, CCRTA Administrator*
 - *Item 4 Follow-Up from May RTA Council Meeting*
 - *Item 5 Public Comment*
- MassDOT Transit finalized award decisions for the 2022 Helping Hands Mini Grant. \$17,553 was distributed to 22 agencies. Reimbursement requests will be accepted until 7/29/2022.

RAIL UPDATE

- FRA selected the Springfield Area Track Reconfiguration Project for a CRISI grant which will fund 50% of the \$3.5 million cost of preliminary engineering and environmental evaluation to reduce passenger and freight conflicts by improving capacity and efficiency. Scope is being prepared to select design consultant to start survey and conceptual design.
- 13 applications were received for the FY2023 IRAP program. Review is ongoing with EOEA to determine benefits of each application. Award recommendations will be made later this summer.
- CSX transaction to acquire Pan Am went into effect on June 1. Discussions continue to confirm staffing, resource, and service impacts. Passenger and freight service will continue operate with existing schedules.
- Berkshire Flyer service launched successfully on July 8 between New York City and Pittsfield via Albany with celebratory events in New York and Pittsfield.