



Charles D. Baker, Governor
Karyn E. Polito, Lieutenant Governor
Stephanie Pollack, MassDOT Secretary & CEO
Astrid Glynn, MassDOT Rail & Transit Administrator



To: MassDOT Board
From: Astrid Glynn, Rail and Transit Administrator
Re: Recent Activities
Date: March 19, 2020

Transit:

RTA Coronavirus Coordination: MassDOT has been gathering information from the Regional Transit Authorities on the actions that they have been taking to reduce the spread of Coronavirus and to keep their riders and employees well informed. A conference call has also been scheduled for Monday, March 16th with the 15 RTAs and FTA to continue this ongoing coordination

BusPlus Bus Re-assignment: Two lessees have returned MassDOT owned intercity coaches to MassDOT. These have been advertised to the bus industry. MassDOT is in negotiations with a responsive bidder and looks forward to returning the busses to active use soon.

Community Transit Grant Training: Training that explains the Community Transit Grant program and application process to potential applicants will be offered through webinars this Spring.

Rail:

East-West Passenger Rail Study: MassDOT Rail and Transit is working with the Office of Transportation Planning to apply alternative assumptions in the calculation of the basic ridership figures projected for East-West Passenger Rail and to augment them with projections for induced demand. While the requisite analysis is being undertaken, written material in the form of FAQs is being prepared to clarify some aspects of the analysis – particularly with respect to the differences between the current study and MassDOT's earlier Northern New England Intercity Rail Initiative.

Valley Flyer: Valley Flyer ridership has been strong (80%+ of the target corridor increase) but may be adversely affected by the overall impact of Coronavirus on travel plans. MassDOT is therefore not planning to include ridership during this period as part of the pilot performance data, but does intend to continue supporting the service as long as the base service between New Haven and Springfield is maintained by Amtrak and to extend the pilot period as necessary and appropriate.

BUILD Grant with NECR: MassDOT partnered with NECR to secure this \$10.6m Federal BUILD grant that will help NECR raise the weight limit on the MA portion of its line from CT to VT. MassDOT has been working closely with FRA to establish a schedule for engineering and environmental review and to make sure that NECR will be ready to start construction within the timeframe allowed by the grant.

State of Good Repair: MassDOT has awarded contracts to install 23,000 ties, including 12,000 on the Cape Main and 2,500 on the Middleboro line. MassDOT has also awarded a contract that will rehabilitate 22 grade crossings, including 16 on Cape Cod.