



Charles D. Baker, Governor
Karyn E. Polito, Lieutenant Governor
Jamey Tesler, Acting MassDOT Secretary & CEO
Meredith Slesinger, Acting MassDOT Rail & Transit Administrator



To: MassDOT Board
From: Meredith Slesinger, Rail and Transit Administrator
Re: Current Activities
Date: May 18, 2021

TRANSIT

Battery Electric Bus (BEB) Studies for RTAs

On May 11, MassDOT Rail & Transit (MassDOT RTD) released a Task Order RFP to model BEB battery ranges for RTAs and identify the number of conventional bus vehicle blocks that can be replaced with current BEB technology at a one-to-one ratio. This work is expected to be completed in 2021. Later this year, RTD will issue a full procurement for the completion of multiple studies that will ascertain the required investments in RTA facilities that may be necessary to accommodate fleet electrification.

FY22 State Budget Update on RTA Funding

Both the House and Senate versions of the FY22 state budget have been released. The proposed House Budget includes \$94M in funding for the RTAs, an increase of \$3.5M over H.1 funding levels and proposes all funding be distributed to the RTAs as State Operating Assistance. Unlike H.1, the House Budget does not recommend funding RTA discretionary grants, which allows the RTAs to competitively apply for funding to implement innovative transit initiatives. Discretionary funding requires an MOU between MassDOT and the RTAs.

The Senate version also proposes funding the RTAs at \$94 million *and* includes discretionary grant funding in the amount of \$3.5M. However, there have been amendments proposed to the Senate budget that, if adopted would mirror the House proposal.

FY22-23 RTA State Operating Assistance MOUs

MassDOT RTD continues to negotiate the SFY22-23 Biennial Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with the 15 RTAs. The MOUs are required by the Legislature in the annual state budget language. The major content of the MOUs includes mutually negotiated performance metrics in the Ridership, Customer Service, Asset Management and Financial Performance categories, as well as submission of information on financial planning, capital planning and budget adherence. MassDOT RTD intends to have final executed MOUs with all RTAs before the end of June in preparation for the flow of state contract assistance for SFY22 in July.

FY22 Community Transit Grant Program Announcement

The next round of the Community Transit Grant Program (CTGP) for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2022 opened April 30th. CTGP is the consolidated competitive grant for Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities funds and State Mobility Assistance Program funds.

MassDOT RTD hosted remote application training sessions covering program eligibility and requirements, the online application process, and tips for submitting a successful proposal. Attendance at one of the trainings was mandatory for any new applicants and previous awardees are encouraged to attend. The application closes at 5:00pm on Friday, June 25, 2021.

RAIL

Industrial Rail Access Program

The latest round of the Industrial Rail Access Program (IRAP) solicitation was posted on May 20, 2021 with a June 17, 2021 deadline for applications. Announcement of grant awards is planned for August.

Intercity Passenger Rail Service

The Vermonter service north of New York will resume service on July 19 and MassDOT RTD is working with Vermont, Connecticut, and Amtrak on a marketing campaign and promotional sale. The Valley Flyer is still operating reduced service with one round trip per day. Discussions with Amtrak and state partners continue regarding timing for resuming this service.

Sale of Pan Am Railways

MassDOT RTD is monitoring the acquisition of Pan Am Railways by CSX. The Commonwealth filed to participate in the proceedings and is continuing conversations with CSX to address issues related to the sale.

Construction Activities

- Hyannis Yard's track work is complete and is ready to accept the Cape Flyer train traffic. Entrance to the yard has been relocated in conjunction with the Route 28 highway project.
- A bridge in Norton is being replaced on the Middleboro Subdivision. Bids are due on May 20.
- A project to clean up all contaminated materials at the East Wareham Rail Storage Yard has been completed satisfying all MassDEP concerns.

- Approximately 17 miles of continuous welded rail has been installed on the Framingham Secondary Line. This will help the MBTA Foxboro Pilot Service and is partly funded by the MBTA.
- Three bridges have been replaced on the Berkshire Line and another 3 will be repaired this summer in advance of the 12 miles of continuous welded rail project this fall.