



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: Current Activities
Date: July 12, 2017

Transit:

Together with MassPort, the Seaport Economic Development Council, the Massachusetts Convention Authority, and the Barr Foundation, MassDOT is supporting a study designed to evaluate water transportation opportunities in the greater Boston area, identify 2-3 routes that could be financially sustainable, and formulate criteria by which the financial viability of other routes can be evaluated in the future. The study is being managed by Boston Harbor Now, a non-profit organization with a focus on harbor usage. A team headed by Steer Davies Gleave is conducting the study. On July 10, 11 and 12 the study team hosted three workshops and asked stakeholders to comment on waterfront terminal sites that should be considered and the criteria by which routes should be evaluated. The workshops were held in Salem, Quincy, and Boston.

Also this summer, MassDOT is funding a short term ferry from Lynn to Boston as mitigation for highway work affecting the Sumner Tunnel and Route 1A. Since the disruption's impact is limited, the mitigation itself is limited to one round trip per day through September 22. However, this service will give the City of Lynn an opportunity to gather data should it choose to submit a proposal for an MBTA pilot service in the future. MassDOT's transit staff – working with MassDOT's Office of Transportation Planning – advised Lynn on what information would have to be gathered both daily and by survey and how that information could help Lynn identify future service opportunities.

MassDOT's transit staff is currently providing all fifteen Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs) with contracts for FY18 funding in accordance with the new CIP. This will allow the RTAs to execute and return the contracts before the end of July so that work on projects and procurements can commence immediately.

Rail:

Work authorized through the CIP is progressing. Wharf Yard in Fall River now has all new tracks and was reorganized to better accommodate intermodal traffic. This facility has been prioritized because it handles hazardous cargoes. On the Middleboro Secondary

8500 ties were installed, a culvert was repaired, and a bridge replacement in Taunton was advertised.

Springfield Union Station opened to the public on June 25, 2017. Work on a new accessible platform will extend until next Spring/Summer, but Amtrak will continue to use the existing platforms in the interim. Amtrak will occupy space in the new station, joining the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority and Peter Pan Bus Lines, both of which will also operate out of the restored facility.

On July 12, 2017 the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) released the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Northeast Corridor as part of the NEC Future project. Beyond acknowledging proposed projects such as South Station Expansion, the preferred alternative described in the ROD includes modest expansions in Massachusetts and places significant emphasis on improving the condition of the existing system. This accords with the comments that MassDOT filed earlier in the process.