

Rail & Transit Report

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TRANSIT UPDATE

- **Governor's Budget.** For Regional Transit Authority (RTA) State Contract Assistance \$94 million “hold harmless” funds with \$2.8 million distributed with the 60/30/10 formula (ridership/population/service coverage area) with an additional \$25 million for regional transit programs in a combination of formula and discretionary grants.
- **Statewide System of Regional Mobility Managers Study.** The MassDOT Rail and Transit Division has awarded a contract to AECOM to develop a blueprint for establishing a statewide system of regional mobility managers (RMMs) in Massachusetts. Mobility management focuses on meeting individual customer needs through a wide range of transportation options and service providers. Mobility managers help communities develop coordination plans, program, policies, and build local partnerships. The scope of work has three components: learning from other states, hearing from Massachusetts practitioners, and developing a recommended plan of action for implementation. AECOM will work with MassDOT and the Project Advisory Committee throughout the study.
- **BEB Incentive Document.** MassDOT Rail & Transit Division, in consultation with the 15 Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs), recently issued recommendations for a comprehensive program of incentives for the RTAs to implement and maintain a zero-emission fleet. This list of incentives and recommendations includes a summary of past or ongoing opportunities for zero-emission fleet transition, opportunities for the future, as well as recommendations for a comprehensive incentive program. The document was submitted to the legislature in early February in accordance with the requirements of Section 91 of Chapter 179 of the Acts of 2022, An Act Driving Clean Energy and Offshore Wind.
- **MARTA Legislative Luncheon** – MassDOT will attend the annual Massachusetts Association of Regional Transit Authorities (MARTA) Legislative Luncheon on Tuesday, March 7th.

RAIL UPDATE

- **Governor's Budget.** Contains \$12.5 million for early action projects in Pittsfield and Palmer to support West-East Rail.
- **Risk Management.** The Rail & Transit Division (RTD) is reviewing all risks that may cause derailments. All track joints, turnouts and interlocks are being thoroughly inspected. All signal systems are being tested. All hot box detectors are all working to detect failing axles. Radio communication is being reviewed for full coverage. We will continue to monitor all risk daily.
- **Federal Grants.** RTD, with commitment from FHWA to transfer funding to FRA for \$5.6M (20% State match) will reconstruct tracks in East Deerfield Yard. This intermodal grant will improve the yard for additional freight capacity. We continue to work with CSX and Amtrak to advance the Springfield Area Track Reconfiguration planning and environmental work which was awarded a \$1.75M CRISI grant last summer and prepare applications for additional FRA Notices of Funding Opportunities.
- **CSX/Pan Am Merger.** RTD continues to work with CSX on their implementation plans since the merger with Pan Am Railways. Berkshire & Eastern, a subsidiary of Genesee & Wyoming, will begin operating Pan Am Southern this spring which maintains the Knowledge Corridor for Amtrak passenger service. Once Berkshire & Eastern starts, discussions will follow with details on the PTC signal system that is being programmed into the CIP. Installing PTC will enable additional train service on the Knowledge Corridor.