



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: March 9, 2017

**Transit:**

- **Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs):** MassDOT Transit had its quarterly RTA Council meeting with the 15 RTA's. On the agenda was a presentation by Jim McAuliffe of Omni Navitas. Omni provides a solar panel covered canopy parking product for commercial and institutional facilities. Some RTAs are expected to ask MassDOT for funding to build facilities to cover their fleets and MassDOT arranged for this presentation so that the RTAs could consider alternatives to the traditional, more costly approach to vehicle storage. Omni currently has a contract with the MBTA to provide solar canopies on several MBTA owned sites. The RTAs were receptive to the concept and MassDOT will be following up on the possibility of a coordinated procurement.
- **Community Transit Grants:** MassDOT Transit staff is in the final stages of updating and improving the Community Transit Grant application. It is expected that the application period for this year's funding round will commence in the month of May.
  - MassDOT staff continues to meet with Community Transit grant recipients to provide technical assistance and to better understand their needs and transit service programs. This month MassDOT met with Greater Lynn Senior Services and the Town of Millbury.
  - This month MassDOT expects to begin receiving Community Transit Grant funded vehicles, which will then be delivered to successful applicants from last year's funding round.
- **Federal Grant Compliance:** MassDOT staff members will be conducting a Community Transit Grant Program - Compliance Review Reporting Workshop for all grant sub recipients for whom a compliance review will take place in 2017. The workshop is designed to introduce to grant sub recipients the nature and scope of MassDOT's federal compliance oversight requirements as well as an introduction to MassDOT's GrantsPlus Compliance Reporting requirements. MassDOT staff will

also conduct Drug and Alcohol oversight technical assistance trainings for the three rural RTAs.

**Rail:**

- ***Amtrak:*** the MBTA and Amtrak have reached an agreement in principle with respect to Northeast Corridor Service. The contract is being developed.
- ***Industrial Rail Access Program:*** MassDOT has received ten applications for the next round of funding from the Industrial Rail Access program (IRAP). The private sector matches that are being offered by the applicants range from 40% to 86%.
- ***Springfield Union Station:*** MassDOT continues to discuss construction of Platform C with the Springfield Redevelopment Authority. Until Platform C is ready, rail passengers will continue to board as they have, i.e., without the benefit of a high-level platform. When Platform C has been finished, passengers will be able to use a high level platform.