

Rail and Transit Report

Administrator Meredith Slesinger

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Comprehensive Regional Transit Plans

Update of the five-year plans for each Regional Transit Authority (RTA)

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A Pioneer Valley Transit Authority bus parked outside of Springfield Union Station, November 2024

Comprehensive Regional Transit Plan (CRTP)

- Each of the fifteen RTAs publishes a 5-year CRTP.
- The plans were last updated in 2021 with MassDOT support.
- MassDOT has recently awarded a task order to AECOM to support updates to all RTA CRTPs.
- The CRTP development process includes stakeholder coordination, an evaluation of system data, alternative analysis, and recommended programs/projects.
- The updates are anticipated to be completed by March 2026.

World Cup 2026

Northeast Corridor Commission convenes states to coordinate preparations

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- The World Cup will be hosted by North American cities in June/July 2026.
- MassDOT and MBTA have been coordinating with other states and Amtrak through the Northeast Corridor Commission (NECC) to plan for the anticipated travel demand.
- Three venues along the Northeast Corridor: Boston (Foxboro), New York/New Jersey, and Philadelphia.
- 21 of 104 matches (20% of total) played in these venues.
- Each host city anticipates 450,000+ visitors with 150,000-240,000+ daily visitors to each Fan Festival.
- Planning must anticipate ticketed/non-ticketed visitors, planned construction/outages, intermodal connections, other simultaneous events (e.g. USA 250th anniversary).

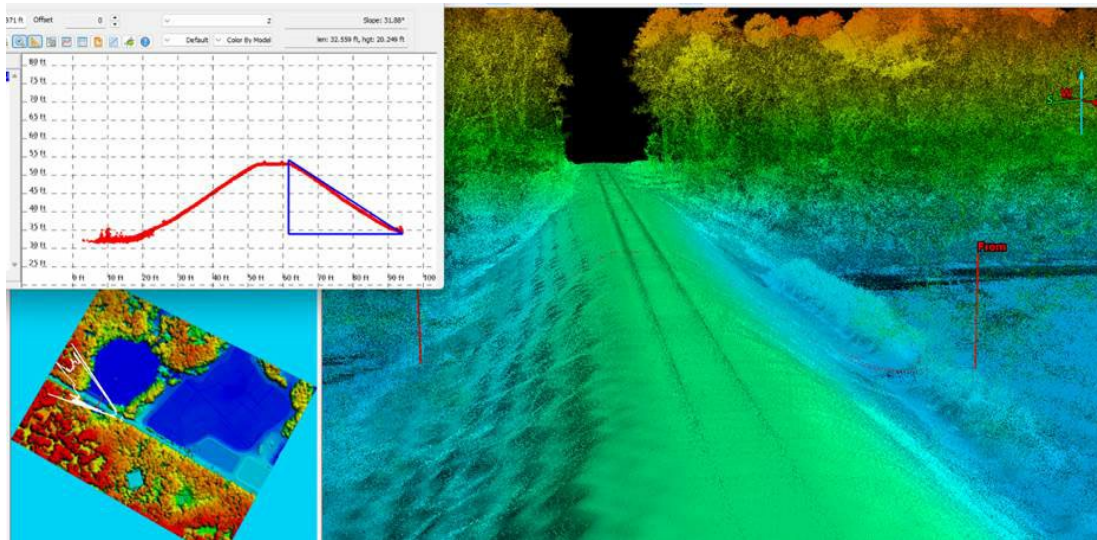


Three northeast American cities will host World Cup matches

Drone Data of Rail Embankments

Survey data collected by drone supports rail research project

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Lidar Point Cloud Sample. This showcases high density points clearly depicting (the previously inaccessible) embankment gradient below tree canopy.

- MassDOT had been awarded a \$1.9 million federal grant from the US Department of Transportation's Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Program.
- UMass Boston is a research partner on the project.
- The project intends to evaluate drought-related conditions that can potentially lead to failure of a rail embankment and pilot an early warning system.
- Early actions included drone-based survey data collection, coordinated through MassDOT's Aeronautics Division, to identify preferred locations for research.
- Survey was collected using lidar technology.
- Next steps include installing sensors at pilot sites to monitor groundwater and surface water levels.
- UMass Boston will also soon begin outreach activities to include and inform the public and stakeholders.

Remembering Tom Cahir

MassDOT reflects on the legacy of the Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority Administrator

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Tom Cahir
September 19, 1952 – March 12, 2025

Notable Achievements at Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority (CCRTA) under Tom Cahir

- The complete reconfiguration and modernizing of the Hyannis Intermodal Transit Center
- Built a strong network and coalition of local partnerships on Cape Cod
- Successfully applied for competitive federal funding to upgrade and modernize the CCRTA bus fleet
- Effectively leveraged federal COVID relief funds to modernize CCRTA
- First RTA to pay off and eliminate their Revenue Anticipation Notes
- Partnered with the Steamship Authority to report into the National Transit Database resulting in a tremendous increase in federal funds for the Barnstable UZA
- Developed an extremely popular microtransit program – SmartDART

Thank You

