

Rail and Transit Report

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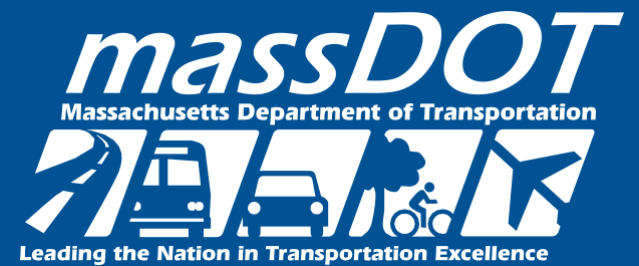


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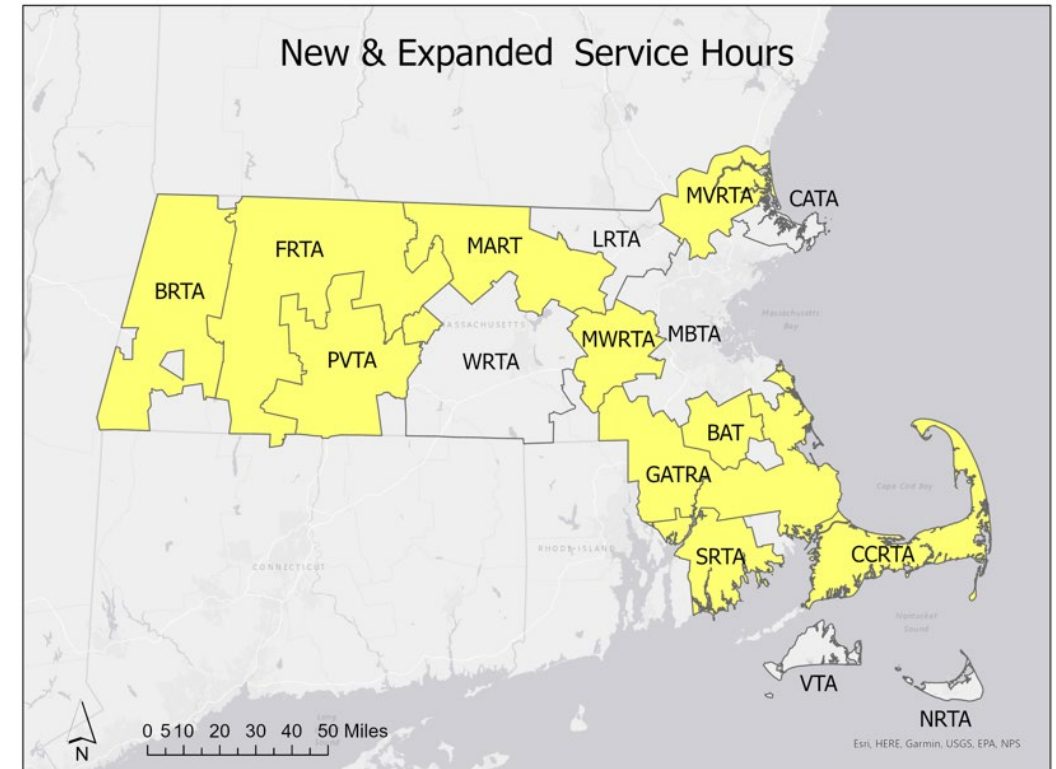
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New Transit Service Initiatives

Regional Transit Authority (RTA) Fiscal Year 2024 Service Initiatives

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- New and Expanded Service Hours–Evenings and Weekends
- New and Expanded Fixed Route Service
- New and Expanded Demand Response Service
- New and Expanded Microtransit Service
- Bus Network Modifications and Service Assessments
- New Vehicles and Fleet Enhancements
- Electrification/Zero Emission Implementation
- Improved Wayfinding and Information Access
- New Fare Collection Technology
- Fare Free Service
- New Hiring and Recruitment
- Enhanced Employee Services
- Improved Bus Stops and Bus Shelters
- Rider and Employee Surveys



Industrial Rail Access Program (IRAP)

Fiscal Year 2025 Project Solicitation

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*2023 IRAP project
Pioneer Valley Railroad, Easthampton Yard Track*

- IRAP is a competitive grant program created in 2012 to fund freight rail projects that grow shipping operations, create jobs, and reduce trucks the road
- \$3 million available each year for awards up to \$700,000
- Eligible entities are public and private sector.
- MassDOT will open the Fiscal Year 2025 application period on April 24th
- The Rail and Transit Division will hold a webinar to guide prospective applicants through the process

Passenger Rail Updates

2024 Berkshire Flyer Season

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An Amtrak thruway bus

Berkshire Flyer

- MassDOT will continue the service pilot for a third season in summer 2024 from June 21 – Labor Day weekend
- Service will operate New York to Pittsfield on Fridays and return Sundays
- MassDOT is investigating the potential for supplemental bus service between Albany and Pittsfield to begin after Labor Day

Berkshire Flyer at Pittsfield Station



Passenger Rail Updates (cont.)

Knowledge Corridor February Ridership

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Holyoke Station

Knowledge Corridor Services

Regarding Springfield, Holyoke, Northampton, and Greenfield stations:

- February ridership was 52% higher than last year and 57% higher than pre-pandemic levels.
- Most growth was on trips with direct connections to New York City.

Thank You

