

Rail and Transit Report

Administrator Meredith Slesinger

February 26, 2025



Table of Contents

- 3 Transportation Management Association (TMA) Grant Program
- 4 Western Mass Rail Construction
- 5 Compass Rail Updates
- 6 Rail Safety Grant Award

Transportation Management Association (TMA) Grant Program

3



In the FY25 round, the Charles River TMA received funds to add mid-day service to their shuttles

Transportation Management Association (TMA) Grant Program

- Opened February 10; applications due April 10
- Open to established TMAs for projects to reduce single-occupancy vehicle usage, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, facilitate mode shift, and expand mobility
- \$3 million available

Western Mass Rail Construction

Improvements continue on Berkshire Line and Knowledge Corridor

4

East Deerfield Intermodal Yard Project

- Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) grant \$4.48M
- Upgrade (4) four existing yard tracks and (4) four existing receiving yard tracks.
- The expanded use of East Deerfield Yard for rail/truck intermodal transport will result in greater operating efficiency and sustainability in the safe movement of goods throughout the region by reducing regional truck traffic
- Construction Bid Award expected February 2025, substantial completion December 2025



East Deerfield Yard (Looking East)

Berkshire Line Tie Project

- Railworks was awarded to install 20,250 Ties on the north 13 miles of the Berkshire Line from Pittsfield to Lee
- Railworks installed 14,454 over 2 weeks in November 2024
- Remaining work to be finished in spring 2025



Railworks Tie Gang, Pittsfield

Compass Rail Updates

Intercity passenger rail projects are advancing

5

Early Actions for the Inland Route

- MassDOT and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) have executed the grant agreement for \$108 million.

Boston & Albany Corridor

- MassDOT submitted an application to advance to Step 2 of FRA's Corridor Identification Program with a \$3.5 million grant.

Palmer Station Planning and Design

- MassDOT has reached a milestone in completing its alternatives analysis of potential future station locations.
- Study has identified Site B (South of Palmer Yard), which is about ½ mile from downtown Palmer, as the preferred site to advance to conceptual design.
- Next, conceptual design will allow MassDOT to meaningfully engage railway owner CSX, the site property owner, and proposed operator Amtrak on the feasibility of constructing a future station.



Rail Safety Grant Award

MassDOT awarded funds from federal Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant Program

6

- The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) announced a \$1.2 million award to MassDOT from the Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant Program.
- Matching funds are provided by MassDOT and Amtrak.
- The Longmeadow Passive Crossing Improvement Project will plan the closure of two grade crossings on the Amtrak-owned New Haven-Springfield Line.
- MassDOT-supported service on this line includes the Valley Flyer, Vermonter, and Hartford Line Shuttles.
- Project scope includes preliminary engineering and environmental review.



Bark Haul Road crossing in Longmeadow

Thank You

