

Rail and Transit Report

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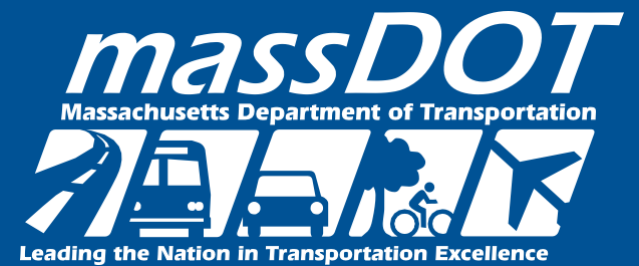


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Transit Connectivity Grant Program

Grants Awarded to 10 Transit Projects

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

- In December, MassDOT awarded \$10 million to 10 Regional Transit Authority (RTA) projects to improve transit connectivity.
- The grants will allow RTAs to pilot new expansions, continue promising pilots, and improve existing connections.
- Five of the projects were jointly submitted by two or more RTAs.

Example Projects

- Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA) and Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA) to create two new north-south routes and new microtransit service.
- Montachusett Regional Transit Authority (MART) to offer service between Fitchburg, Devens, and Emerson Hospital to assist patients with local hospital closures.

Hyannis Rail Infrastructure Improvements

Improvements to Passenger Platform and Engine House

Passenger Platform

- MassDOT-owned platform is used by seasonal MBTA Cape Flyer and Mass Coastal Railroad (MCRR) tourist services.
- The wooden platform is deteriorating. MassDOT is procuring a consultant to begin design for replacement/repair.
- MassDOT will consider new material types for platform.
- Design is expected to occur spring/summer.

Engine House

- Existing house used by MBTA and MCRR for maintenance purposes.
- Building is in poor condition. MassDOT is procuring a consultant to design a replacement.
- The proposed building includes two tracks, a crane, and an inspection pit.
- Design is expected to occur spring/summer.



Temporary platform repairs



Engine house

Palmer Station Planning & Design Update

Project Team Narrows List of Feasible Sites

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- MassDOT is planning for a new, intercity passenger rail station in Palmer to be served by Compass Rail trains.
- The effort will identify a location and develop conceptual design by summer 2025. Construction funds have not been identified.
- Through an alternatives analysis, MassDOT and the local steering committee have narrowed eleven possible sites down to six.
- MassDOT held a public meeting in Palmer 12/16 to provide information and solicit community input on site selection and future design considerations.
- The meeting was well-attended, and the project team received useful feedback to improve project deliverables.



Public meeting at Palmer Public Library on 12/16/24

Thank You

