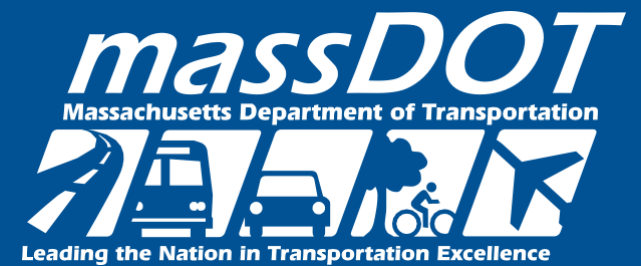


# Rail and Transit Report

## Administrator Meredith Slesinger

*May 15, 2024*



# Table of Contents

3	Transit Workforce Housing
4	Fare Free Transit
5	West-East Rail

# Transit Workforce Housing

Workforce housing purchased for Nantucket Regional Transit Authority (NRTA)

3



- NRTA has struggled to maintain a sufficient workforce due to the high cost of housing on the island.
- MassDOT has transferred funds to NRTA to purchase workforce housing that will add 10 new housing units for NRTA employees.
- NRTA will own the property and will incur the additional operating costs within their operating budget.
- One home is new construction, while the other will require improvements.



# Fare Free Transit

Remaining Fiscal Year 2024 funds are awarded to Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs)

4

- The Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 budget included \$15 million for fare free programs for RTAs.
- MassDOT managed a competitive solicitation for project applications.
- Earlier this year, MassDOT awarded \$11,329,433 to fourteen RTAs that submitted a joint application: RTA Expanded Try Transit Program.
- \$506,758 was also awarded to Cape Cod RTA for fixed route free fare program for older adults and persons with a disability.
- The fifteen RTAs have submitted a joint application – Try Transit 3.0 – to obligate the remaining FY 2024 funds.
- MassDOT has awarded \$3,163,809 for this project.



# West-East Rail

Congressman Richard Neal convenes local officials for West-East Rail updates

5



*Rail & Transit Administrator Meredith Slesinger speaks to media alongside Congressman Neal*

- On April 22, Congressman Neal invited MassDOT Rail & Transit Administrator Meredith Slesinger and West-East Rail Director Andy Koziol to Springfield Union Station to meet with local elected officials and stakeholders.
- MassDOT provided an overview of Compass Rail, the Commonwealth's vision for intercity passenger rail, and gave updates on Compass Rail projects.
- Elected officials had the opportunity to ask questions and provide their perspectives on the future of passenger rail in Western Massachusetts.
- A media availability followed the closed-door meeting.

Thank You

