

Rail and Transit Report

Administrator Meredith Slesinger

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Transit Grant Programs Update

MassDOT will be reviewing applications for recently closed grant opportunities

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Recent Grant Activity

- **FY26 Community Transit Grant Program (CTGP) Operating & Mobility Management**
 - Funding for projects that expand mobility for older adults, people with disabilities, and low-income individuals
 - Approximately **\$5.5M available**: Applications closed November 7th.
- **Microtransit & Last Mile Transit Grants**
 - Funding for microtransit (shared-ride, on-demand, technology-enabled services) & last mile services
 - **\$10M** available in ETF funding through the FY25 supplemental budget: Applications closed November 7th.



*Clients engaged in travel training through Greater Lynn Senior Services, a program funded by MassDOT's CTGP.
Credit: National Aging and Disability Transportation Center*

Transit Grant Programs Update

High demand for newly launched grant opportunities

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Grant Program	Number of Applications	Total Requested	Total Available
FY26 Transit Connectivity	10 applications, covering 16 projects	\$16.2M	\$10M
Microtransit & Last Mile Transit Grants	24 applications	\$42.9M	\$10M
FY26 Community Transit Grant Program – operating & mobility management	61 applications	\$14.3M	\$5.5M
FY26 Community Transit Grant Program – vehicles	52 applications, totaling 229 vehicles	\$27.9M	\$18M

Boston & Albany Service Development Plan (SDP)

\$3.5 million federal grant will plan West-East Rail expansion

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An Amtrak train at a platform at Springfield Union Station.

- The Boston & Albany Corridor was accepted into the Federal Railroad Administration's multi-step Corridor ID program in December 2023.
- Step 1, scoping an SDP, is complete.
- MassDOT recently executed a Step 2 grant of \$3.5 million to undertake the SDP to identify service levels and necessary capital projects to enable the service.
- Once complete, MassDOT anticipates a Step 3 award to conduct preliminary engineering and environmental review for needed infrastructure.
- Completion of Step 3 will enable project eligibility for specific federal funds for implementation.

Cape Main Line Culvert Improvements

Two culverts slated for replacement at mileposts 44.27 & 44.29

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A failing culvert at milepost 44.29 is unable to efficiently clear stagnant water.

- Both existing stone box culverts were extended with pipes in 1986 to support construction of the Southeastern Massachusetts Resource Recovery Facility (SEMASS) Waste-to-Energy plant.
- After 40 years, the seams at both culverts have developed issues which are now affecting the track geometry.
- The design bid package to replace both culverts is 95% complete and due to go out to bid shortly.
- The goal is for construction to be complete by Memorial Day 2026 before Cape Flyer service begins.

Council on Rail Transportation

MassDOT Rail & Transit Administrator moderates panel at annual meeting

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Rail & Transit Administrator Meredith Slesinger represented MassDOT at the AASHTO Council on Rail Transportation in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where she moderated a panel titled "Adjusting to Changing Travel Patterns – Enhancing the Passenger Experience," alongside representatives from Amtrak and DB ECO North America.

Thank You

