Rail and Transit Report

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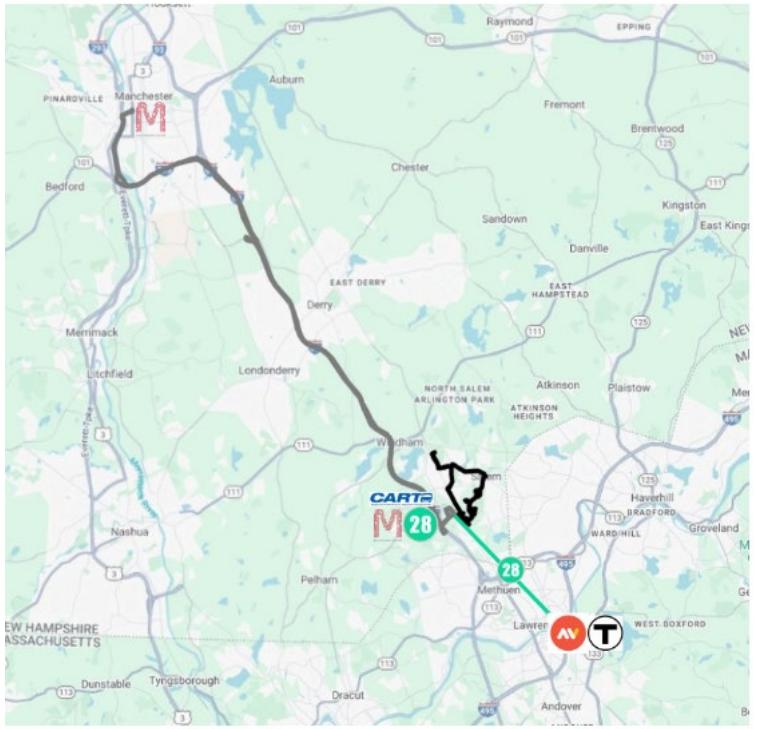
Transit Connectivity Awards

$10M to expand regional transit service across Massachusetts and New England

- $10 million in Fair Share funding through the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 state budget
- Funding to Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs) to support 16 projects
- Grants will allow RTAs to pilot new expansions, continue promising pilots, and improve existing connections
- Three awards facilitate connections to destinations & transit systems in neighboring states:
  - Lowell Regional Transit Authority year-round service to Nashua & connections to the Nashua Transit System
  - Merrimack Valley Transit (MeVa) service to Salem, NH & connections to the Manchester Transit Authority
  - Southeastern Regional Transit Authority and Rhode Island Public Transit Authority partnering to expand connections between Fall River, Providence, and Newport



New MeVa service will connect to key destinations in Salem, NH and also connect to the Manchester Transit Authority

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Palmer Station Study is Finalized

Planning and design study for a potential Palmer station posts final documents online

At right, a potential station layout is superimposed upon an aerial photo of the preferred station site in Palmer.

- MassDOT had identified an undeveloped site on South Main St. as a preferred station location.
- The project team then completed a conceptual design with cost estimates for further consideration.
- The two-year study is concluding in January 2026 with final documents to be publicly posted.

Documents include:

- Conceptual Design Report
- Traffic Impact and Access Study
- Environmental Scoping Report
- Market Analysis

Grade Crossing Research Project

Evaluating survey methods to assess risk from "humped crossings"

Background

- “Humped crossings” with sharp vertical elevation changes create hang-up risk, especially for long-wheelbase or low-clearance vehicles.
- MassDOT has partnered with UMass Lowell to evaluate various data collection means for identifying humped crossings and their risk to various vehicle types.
- The study sought to evaluate survey collection means that are faster and cheaper than traditional ground survey, such as drone-based or vehicle-mounted LiDAR.

Conclusions, Next Steps

- Agencies can use highway vehicle-mounted LiDAR scans as the best cost-accuracy tradeoff.
- Using this method, MassDOT will begin statewide survey of grade crossings to locate humped crossings.
- Identified crossings will be properly signed to notify drivers of affected vehicle types.

Ground truth elevation data was also collected at all six study sites using a high-precision total station surveying system.

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Thank You

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