

Rail and Transit Report

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FY26 Transit Connectivity Grants in Action

Spotlight: Past Grantee Merrimack Valley Transit (MeVa)



- MeVa launched new Routes 25 and 28 on April 6, thanks to funding from the FY26 Transit Connectivity Grant
- Route 25 provides cross-town connections for Methuen, reducing transfers & travel time
- Route 28 adds a long-requested connection to key destinations & Manchester Transit services in Salem, New Hampshire
- Rider feedback: “Right now, it takes us almost 4 hours round trip to get to Market Basket. We can’t get back before our milk goes sour. Being able to get home from Market Basket in 10-15 minutes is a blessing.”

MeVa staff and city officials celebrate the launch of Route 28

Berkshire Flyer

The 2026 season introduces service enhancements to grow ridership

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A Berkshire Flyer train at Pittsfield Station.

- Seasonal rail service between New York City and Pittsfield returns in 2026 operating between June 12 and September 13.
- This season introduces a second round trip, with round trip service on Fridays and Sundays.
- The schedule is optimized for earlier Friday arrivals in Pittsfield (3:00 pm), and the second round trip caters to Berkshire County residents seeking a weekend away in New York.

Industrial Rail Access Program (IRAP)

MassDOT launches a modified program for Fiscal Year (FY) 2027

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- In May, the Rail & Transit Division has opened the application window for FY 2027 IRAP applications.
- IRAP funds rail access projects that serve a public benefit, e.g. increasing jobs and decreasing truck traffic.
- Changes in FY 2027 include
 - Narrowing eligible projects to limited rail access infrastructure.
 - Increasing state share from 60% to 80%.
 - Accepting rolling applications with quarterly evaluations and awards rather than once annually.
- IRAP continues to a successful program for promoting a strong, statewide freight network.



A completed IRAP project at the Pioneer Valley Railroad

Thank You

