

Rail and Transit Report

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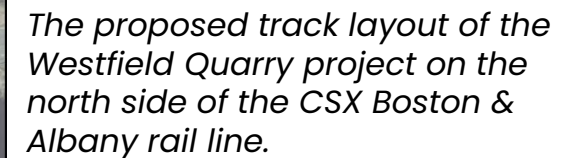


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MassDOT announces Industrial Rail Access Program (IRAP) grant in Westfield

- IRAP is a public-private partnership grant program that funds freight rail access infrastructure projects that improve, expand, or reinstate rail service for industrial and commercial uses.
- Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 offered \$3 million total, with individual grant awards up to \$700,000.
- Last month MassDOT awarded \$680,000 to John S. Lane & Son Inc. who operates the Westfield Quarry.
- The project will improve access to the regional freight rail network by rebuilding and expanding existing siding infrastructure.
- Benefits include an increase in freight rail shipments by ~1,700 railcars annually, retention of 21 jobs, and elimination of ~5,950 truck trips each year.



Boston & Albany Corridor

MassDOT holds a public meeting to kick-off Service Development Plan (SDP)

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- MassDOT held a virtual, public meeting on October 6 to inform the public of an ongoing planning effort to create an SDP for the Boston & Albany Corridor.
- This corridor represents the extents of West-East Rail.
- The effort is funded through a \$3.5 million grant from the Federal Railroad Administration.
- The SDP will identify appropriate service levels, the capital projects necessary to achieve these levels, and other related information, such as governance structures and phasing plans.
- The public meeting made clear where the public has opportunity to provide input and shape this SDP.

Boston and Albany Corridor Study Corridor



200-mile rail corridor connecting Boston & Albany via Worcester, Springfield, and Pittsfield

Corridor's market area includes:

- 364 municipalities
- 7.1 million residents
- 3.9 million jobs

Corridor supports both passenger rail and freight service

massDOT
Massachusetts Department of Transportation

**BOSTON & ALBANY CORRIDOR
SERVICE DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

Andy Koziol - MassDOT

Deputy Rail Administrator Andy Koziol presenting an overview of the Boston & Albany Corridor at the virtual, public meeting

Permanent Berkshire Flyer

MassDOT funds Pittsfield Track Capacity projects to enable permanent rail service

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- The Berkshire Flyer service between New York City, Albany, and Pittsfield began as a pilot in 2022.
- The seasonal service has operated on weekends, generally between Memorial Day and Columbus Day.
- Early agreements with CSX stipulated that MassDOT would implement capacity-building infrastructure to enable a permanent service.
- MassDOT recently entered into funding agreements with CSX to construct a 3-mile siding in Richmond and improve a siding at CSX's Pittsfield Yard totaling ~\$18 million.
 - A siding is an additional track parallel to the main line which allows trains to safely pass each other.
 - With these investments, the pilot has concluded, and the Berkshire Flyer will continue as a permanent, seasonal service.
- A related planning and design study to add a second passenger platform in Pittsfield is evaluating options to improve accessibility.



A Berkshire Flyer train at Pittsfield Station

Microtransit & Last Mile Transit Grants

\$4.4 million awarded, funded through the FY26 supplemental budget

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Funding to four of last year's grantees to help sustain or extend service for riders:

- **City of Salem** received **\$1,000,000** to continue funding the Salem Skipper microtransit service serving Salem.
- **City of Woburn** received **\$1,000,000** in funding to support their regional microtransit service in partnership with Burlington, Wakefield, and Reading.
- **Fourteen Regional Transit Authorities of Massachusetts** received **\$2,222,237** through a joint application to support and expand microtransit services across select communities.
- **Montachusett Regional Transit Authority** received **\$177,763** for their microtransit pilot connecting community college campuses with healthcare and employment centers.



Ribbon cutting for the new microtransit service serving Woburn, Burlington, Wakefield, and Reading – launched by a grant from the first round of microtransit/last mile funding and now receiving additional funding through the second round

Thank You

