

Rail & Transit Report

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February 2, 2023



TRANSIT UPDATE

- **RTA Annual Report Submission** – Was submitted to the Legislature on January 3, 2023, detailing the data that MassDOT has collected during FY22 on the performance of the Regional Transit Authorities. The data provides insights into the performance of each RTA in the categories of Ridership, Customer Service and Satisfaction, Asset Management and Financial Performance, including Farebox Recovery, as well as the additional performance category of Safety. The report also provides a detailed overview of the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on RTA operations and recovery.
- **FY23 RTA Fare Free Initiative** – RTAs are submitting data on the fare-free initiative required in last year's state budget. MassDOT will compile and analyze the data and submit a report to the Legislature this spring on the results of the program.
- **BEB Studies and Report** – The planning and implementation studies for each RTA are underway. Phase 1 reports are being submitted to MassDOT for review while the Phase 2 RFP will be out shortly. A report to the Legislature on incentives for ZEB/BEB will be submitted by the February deadline.
- **FTA State Management Review** – This process, to ensure MassDOT is compliant with FTA requirements for the programs it administers, began in December and will continue throughout the year

RAIL UPDATE

- **Western Mass Rail Commission** – First two meetings of the Commission, co-chaired by Sen. Crighton and Rep. Straus, met in Pittsfield and Greenfield to take public input on the appropriate governance entity for Western Massachusetts rail service as required by MassTrac. A report is due March 31, 2023.
- **Federal Grants** – MassDOT, with financial commitment from Amtrak and a support letter from CSX, applied for a \$108 million FRA CRISI grant for infrastructure improvements between Springfield and Worcester for eventual *Inland Route* service between Boston, Springfield, and Hartford with connections to New York. MassDOT will also apply to FRA's Federal-State Partnership National Network program for which the project is also eligible.
- **CSX/Pan Am Merger** – MassDOT continues to work with CSX on their implementation plans since the merger with Pan Am Railways. Berkshire & Eastern, a subsidiary of Genesee & Wyoming, will begin operating Pan Am Southern this spring which maintains the Knowledge Corridor.