



Charles D. Baker, Governor
Karyn E. Polito, Lieutenant Governor
Stephanie Pollack, MassDOT Secretary & CEO
Astrid Glynn, MassDOT Rail & Transit Administrator



To: MassDOT Board
From: Astrid Glynn, Rail and Transit Administrator
Re: Current Activities
Date: January 4, 2020

TRANSIT

Second Round of Covid Relief Funding

A second round of Covid-19 relief funding was enacted on December 27 that will provide close to \$15 billion of emergency transit funding to the transit industry and provides funding based on a formula. MassDOT is currently analyzing the impacts of the legislation which provides additional funding for some, but not all, RTAs. A summary of the \$15B Transit relief component of the bill can be found below:

- \$13.27 billion for 49 U.S.C. § 5307 grants (including the 49 U.S.C. § 5337 formula) to urbanized areas. Generally, the amounts made available for these grants, combined with CARES Act grants, may not exceed 75 percent of the urbanized areas' 2018 operating costs. Remaining amounts will be distributed to agencies that did not reach the 75-percent operating cost threshold in the same proportion as the initial distribution. If amounts remain after this second distribution, the grants will be distributed to urbanized areas in the 75-100-percent operating cost threshold. No urbanized area may receive more than \$4 billion from amounts made available by these grants, combined with CARES Act grants, until 75 percent of the funds provided are obligated and the recipient certifies to the Secretary of Transportation that additional funds are necessary to prevent layoffs or furloughs directed related to demonstrated COVID-19 revenue losses.
- \$1.0 billion for 49 U.S.C. § 5311 grants to rural areas. Generally, the amounts made available for these grants, combined with CARES Act grants, may not exceed 150 percent of the State's combined 2018 rural operating costs. Remaining amounts will be distributed, using the same formulas, to agencies that did not reach the 150-percent operating cost threshold.
- \$100 million for 49 U.S.C. § 5310 grants for seniors and persons with disabilities.

FY20 Program Preview

RTD recently completed the annual Program Preview meetings with each of the 15 Regional Transit Authorities. This year's Program Preview meetings were held virtually and once again provided an opportunity for the RTAs and MassDOT to conduct a deep dive into the RTAs operations and share information. This year's meetings focused on the impacts of the Covid-19

Pandemic and how each of the RTAs are coping, as well as discussions on the 5-year Comprehensive Regional Transit Plans currently under development.

Program Preview is an annual review of each RTA's condition, plans and projects, including its audit, budget projections, ridership trends, and other performance reports. As part of this process several members of the MassDOT transit staff meet with the Administrator of each RTA and key staff.

MassDOT Capital Improvement Plan Discussion with the RTA's

MassDOT Transit provided the RTAs with updated guidance for the development of their 2022-2026 CIP Scenarios. RTAs will develop their CIP Scenarios based on the following:

- Transit Asset Management Plans
- Agency Safety Plans
- Comprehensive Regional Transit Plans
- MassDOT-RTA MOUs
- Other relevant regional planning documents
- The deadline for submission is January 4, 2021
- MassDOT Transit is forecasting CIP program sizes using the RTAs asset inventories

RAIL

Second Round of Covid Relief Funding

The covid relief funding law provides \$1 billion in direct assistance to Amtrak. Of the \$1 billion, there is \$174.85 million directed to support state-supported services. MassDOT is working with the State-Amtrak Intercity Passenger Rail Committee (SAIPRC) and partners in Connecticut and Vermont to finalize the credit due to Massachusetts for its share of the Vermonter and New Haven-Springfield services.

Industrial Rail Access Program

MassDOT made 6 awards on the 2021 IRAP program for \$2,424,207. Applications were received from freight railroads, one municipality, and businesses representing companies involved in waste/recycling, energy, manufacturing, warehousing/distribution and construction materials. An additional \$5,012,320 will be leveraged from as match for a total of \$7.436 million in investment resulting from the program. Contracts are being formalized now for construction to start in the spring. Once complete, there will be 7,000 annual railcars on the Massachusetts rail network, a reduction of 42,000 annual truck trips on Massachusetts roads and 22 additional jobs.

Sale of Pan Am Railways

MassDOT is monitoring the acquisition of Pan Am Railways by CSX. The Commonwealth is committed to protecting passenger operating rights and ensuring a strong and competitive freight network.

Construction

- 25 grade crossings surfaces have been totally reconstructed; 22 new signals and gates at grade crossings have been installed; 26,700 ties were replaced on the Cape Main, Falmouth, and Middleboro Lines.
- The 300 foot embankment failure that occurred on October 26th on the Cape Main in East Sandwich was restored on November 27th. The trash train from the Cape restarted with daily runs replacing 70 daily truck trips.