

Transportation Secretary and CEO Jamey Tesler's Report to the Board

September 21, 2021



Highway Employees Keeping Roadways Safe

- August 19: flooding and trees down due to severe weather.
- Tornado warnings and flood watches in some communities.
- District 3 crews among those thanked for responding to issues.



Nathalie Pozo @Natha... · 3h ...
Rt. 20 in Worcester looks like a river...4 cars submerged off of 122/Grafton St @MassDOT crews on scene now working to clear the storm drains. We are hearing that everyone was able to get out of their cars, but waiting on official confirmation @WCVB #wcvb



Julianne Lima ✓ @Juli... · 4h ...
BREAKING: Route 20 at Grafton St. in #Worcester shut down with 4 cars totally submerged underwater. Tow truck driver tells me they're waiting for the water to recede a bit before they can get the cars out

@boston25



569 views



Christina Hager ✓ @H... · 3h ...
MassDOT crews waist-deep in flood conditions clearing drains on Rte 20 in Worcester under Rte 122 overpass. #wbz



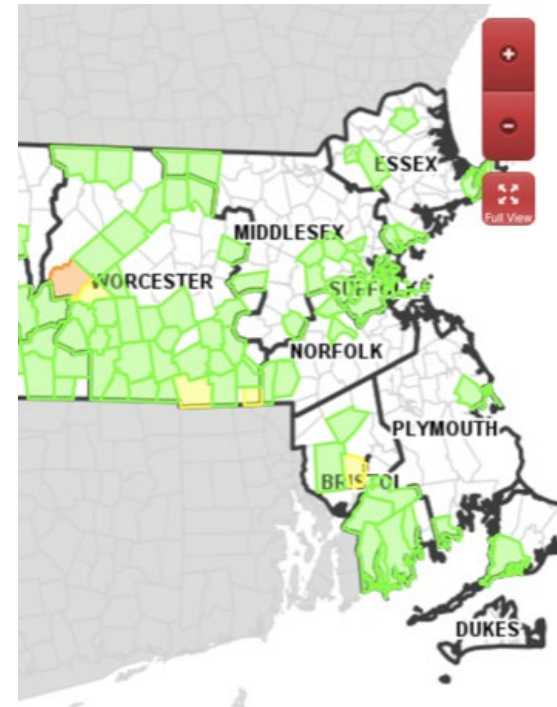
1 629 views

MassDOT and MBTA Employees Storm Preparation

- Henri hit landfall on Long Island and CT Sunday, 8/22, then weakened entering MA.
- MassDOT and MBTA employees prepared - staging tree clearing crews, cleaning catch basins, cautioning public about travel, etc.
- MBTA suspended ferry service 8/23 and did not run trains on Green Line D and Mattapan lines. Speed restriction of 40 m.p.h. on I-90 N.Y. border-Chicopee several hours 8/23 due to heavy rain & strong winds.



Governor Baker hosted storm preparedness news conferences 8/21 and 8/22.



MEMA website had map of power outages.

RMV Employees Deliver Safety and Customer Service

*I just want to thank the people at the Plymouth registry office on August 26 who helped me transfer my registration and title. I had used an insurance binder that was out of date. Mia(sp?) and Paul both gave up part of their lunch hour to help me out. So helpful, so kind!
Thank you*

I was wondering if I wanted to send a letter of appreciation and let someone know what fabulous service I received at the Watertown Registry today 8/4/21 where can I send it. From the phone call to set up the appointment for my 87 year old mom to the minute I walked through the door was outstanding. The staff at the registry was wonderful. The security noticed my mom was using a walker and asked if she wanted to go ahead of the line and sit down. The security guard also then walked us down to the HP station and even got her seat so she didn't have to stand and answer questions.. The man behind the counter was so pleasant, his smile was infectious. The was a super experience and I just wanted someone to know it doesn't go unnoticed.

I consider Denise Blakely a Most Valuable Employee of the RMV because of the calm manner and respect she treated me with during our pleasant conversations correcting the problem. Without the actions and sincere concern of Denise Blakely, I would have been writing this letter to the Governor.

WELL DONE DENISE BLAKELY, THANK YOU !!!!



Tobin Bridge SB Bus Lane Pilot IUpdate

Impacts on Route 111 Runtimes

- Peak hour (8am) travel times on the affected segment (last stop before bridge to first stop after) decreased from 16.4 minutes to 6.1 minutes at the median, a savings of 10.1 minutes and 62%.
- Travel times savings on “bad days” in peak hours (7am and 8am hours) were even more pronounced and represent much more consistency and reliability in the schedule. Travel time improved from 20 minutes to 7.5 minutes at the 90th percentile (“bad days”), a savings of 12.5 minutes and 63%.
- Other modest travel time savings were seen throughout the rest of the day.

2021 Climate Week

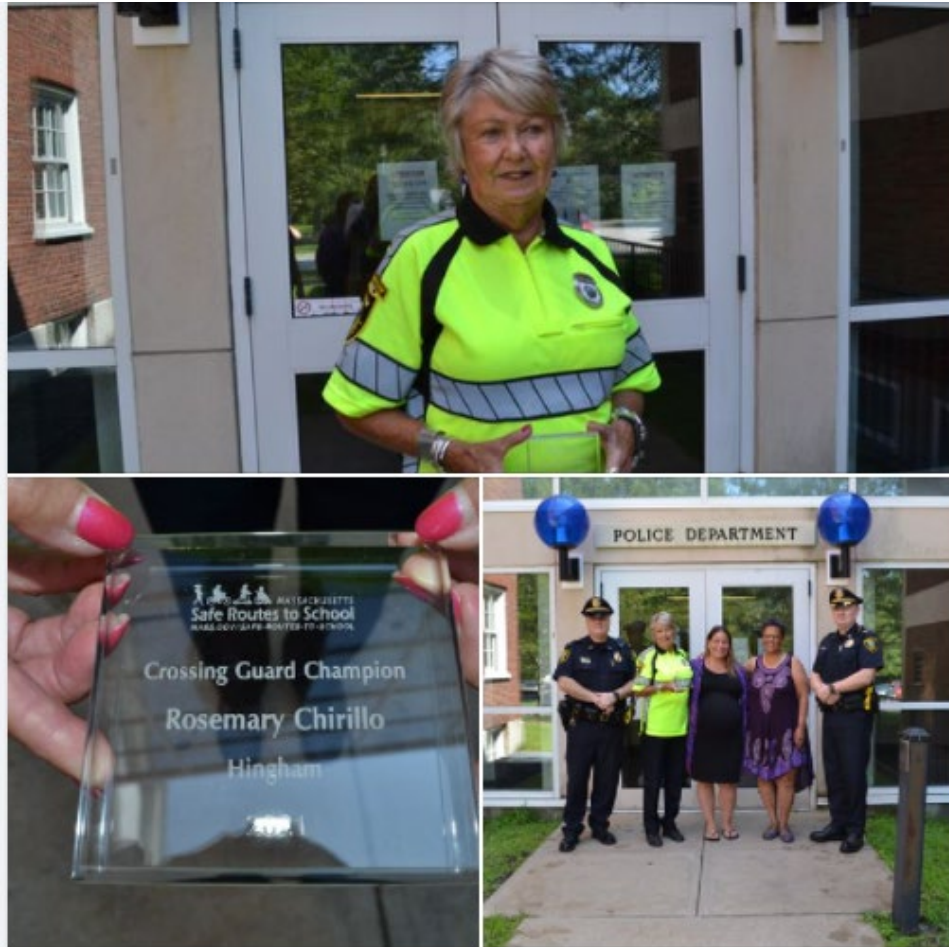
- Summer weather underscored MA climate is changing - storms and heat waves becoming more frequent and more intense.
- Like all government agencies that are stewards of public infrastructure, MassDOT and the MBTA need to continue and redouble work to protect infrastructure from extreme weather.
- Multiple efforts underway to identify areas and assets of greatest vulnerability, the results of which will allow plans for upgrading assets to new standards, based on priorities that combine vulnerability and criticality. MassDOT continues collaboration with the Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs on resiliency issues.
- Proposed Federal Infrastructure Bill - would provide funds to support these kinds of needs and problems – the needs that Hurricane Ida, other storms, made vivid.
- Using state funding, MassDOT will shortly be launching a new municipal grant program to help our cities and towns to repair their small bridges – structures that are small in size but large in importance for managing flooding and keeping roads open during storms.

Massachusetts Registry 2021 Low Plate Lottery



- Annual low-plate lottery drawing on Wednesday, September 8; live-streamed on mass.gov.
- Record number of applications - 17,017 submitted for 197 available low number plates.
- Thanks to the RMV team for organizing this year's lottery and to Phyllis and Liz for hosting the drawing.

MA Safe Routes to Schools Crossing Guard Champions



- Hingham crossing guard Rosie Chirillo was presented an award in early August along with other “champions” in the Safe Routes to Schools recognition program.



Hingham Police ✓

August 10 at 12:28 PM · 🌐



On Friday, Crossing Guard Rosie Chirillo was presented with her award from the "Massachusetts Safe Routes to School Program" as a Crossing Guard Champion. She was a top five finalist out of the 170 crossing guards nominated in Massachusetts. We congratulate Rosie on her well deserved recognition.

Shared Streets & Spaces Funding Program

- To date, a total of \$33 million has been awarded to municipalities through the competitive grant program launched in June 2020 by the Baker-Polito Administration.



Outdoor dining along Strong Street in Northampton created with Shared Streets funding. A second creative idea is visible: a repurposed tunnel which is now an indoor restaurant. This site is adjacent to a section of the Norwottock Trail which connects the communities of South Amherst, Hadley and Northampton and passes by many scenic areas such as the Elwell Recreation Area.

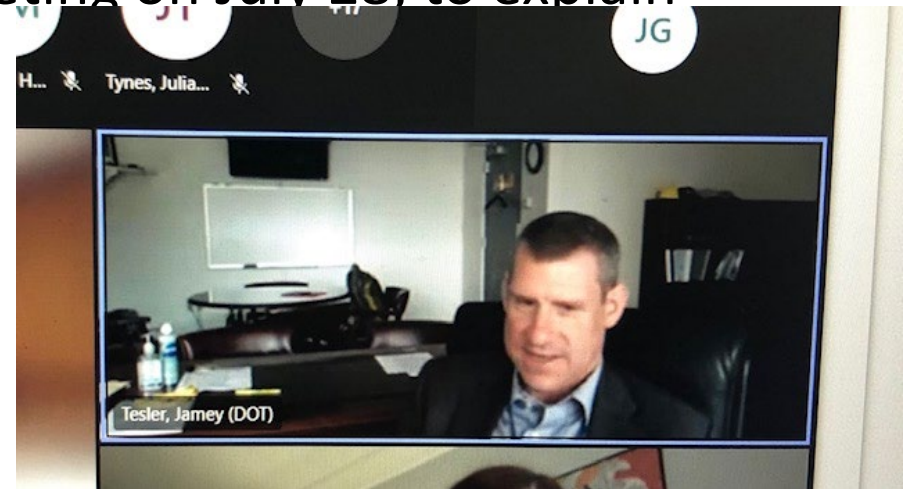
- MassDOT plans to open another round of grants in the coming months to have a focus on road safety.

MassDOT and UNIT A & D Reach Agreement

- In May 2021, MassDOT began separate negotiations with National Association of Government Employees Local R1-292 (“NAGE”) and the Coalition of MassDOT Unions for Unit D for a succession both July 1, 2017-June 30, 2020 collective bargaining agreement (“CBA”).
- On August 11, 2021, MassDOT executed Memorandum of Agreements with Units A and D (collectively “MOAs”) for successor agreements.
 - Updates included Union Security, Sick Leave, Paid Family Medical Leave, and the Juneteenth Holiday.
 - Agreement also defined salary increases for the next 3 years.

Future of Work

- In keeping with CDC and state health guidance, MassDOT continues to work toward the return many employees to office areas who have been working remotely since March 2020.
- Employee updates on health and safety protocols and what to expect are provided in regular communications, including a virtual meeting on July 28, to explain expectations and goals.
- MassDOT is striving to be a "model employer" for the "new normal" for office settings and the way to achieve that is listening to guidance, listening to employees: "It's not about having all the answers, it's about asking the right questions."



July 28 employee virtual meeting, part of "Lunch and Learn" series.

Governor Mandates Vaccination: Executive Branch Employees

- August 19: Governor signs Executive Order mandating vaccination for Commonwealth's Executive Branch employees.
- Employees will need to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or have secured a medical or religious exemption by Oct. 17, or face the risk of consequences including losing their jobs.
- Order applies to Governor's office, state's various executive offices, and "any agency, bureau, department, office, or division of the Commonwealth within or reporting to such an executive office of the commonwealth."
- In addition to MassDOT 3,600 employees, the policy will also apply to our contracted workers.

Progress With Pedestrian and Bicycle Path Infrastructure

- August 17: Lt. Governor Polito and other officials attended a ribbon cutting ceremony in Salisbury for the Multi-Use Trail Extension.
- Trail part of the Border to Boston Trail and Salisbury section is nearly 2.3 miles, extending from the state border to Mudnock Road.



- In July, Baker-Polito Administration announced \$4 million in grant funding to support 52 trail projects across the Commonwealth as part of the MassTrails Grant Program.
- Administration plans to put federal relief funding to immediate use - proposing to direct \$100 million to parks and open spaces, including the expansion of Massachusetts' long distance trail network.

Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons Public Campaign Launch

- A public awareness campaign was launched for Pedestrian Hybrid Beacons (PHB) or “HAWK” signals on Thursday, August 26.
- The campaign involved videos on social media, targeted municipal campaigns, resharing on PD accounts statewide, and local public access channels.
- HAWK signals are used in high traffic areas where full traffic signals are not warranted. They are dark until activated by a pedestrian and function with a bottom yellow light that warns of a pedestrian about to cross and two horizontal top red lights that warn of a pedestrian crossing.

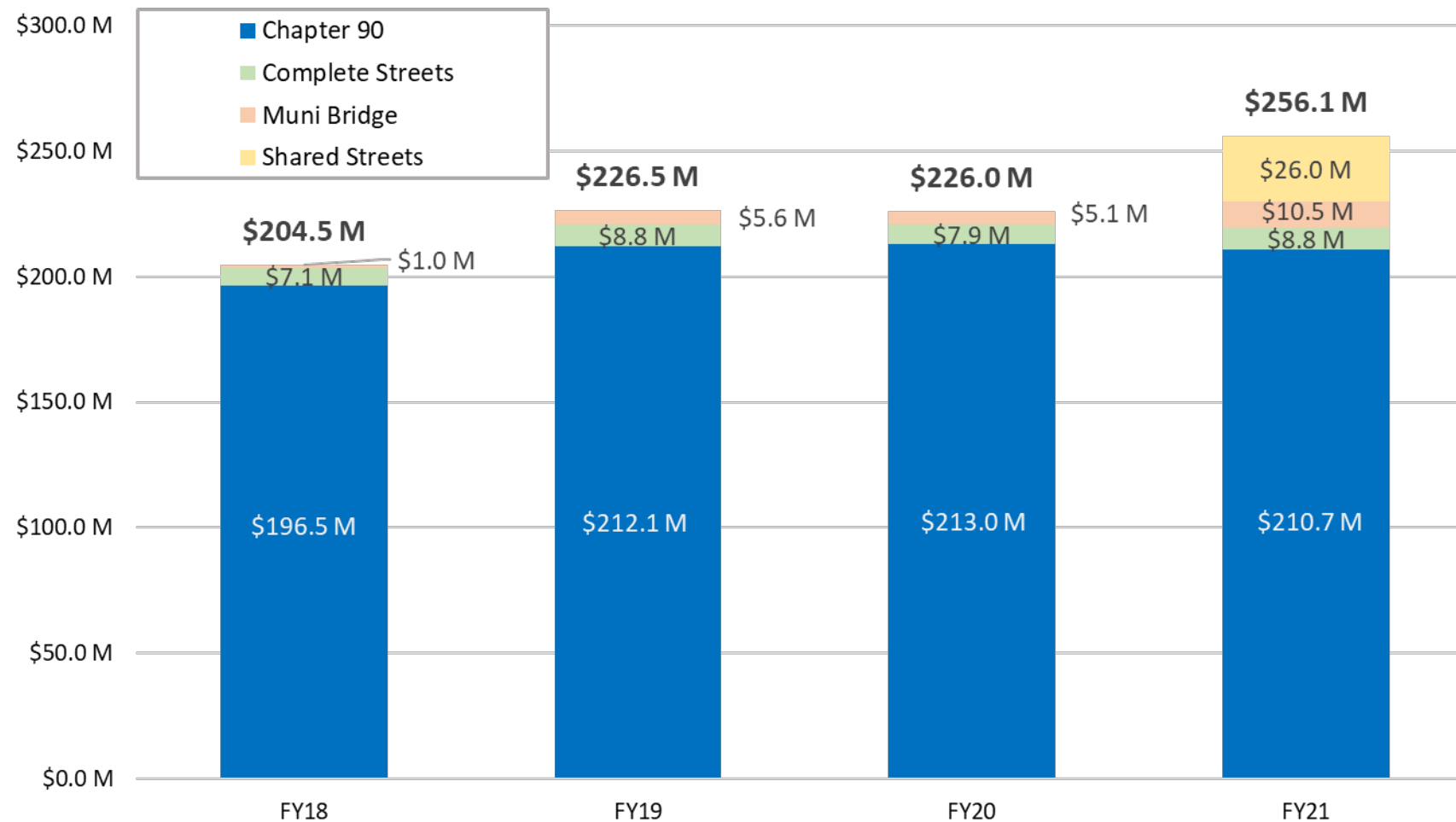
Great job: Acceler-8 Team

- Eight weekends of work; eight bridges on I-90 in Southborough and Westborough replaced during six of those weekends.
- Remaining work through November includes removal of I-90 temporary median crossovers and temporary lighting, guardrail and median barrier replacement, highway paving and stormwater drainage upgrades.
- Project page: <https://www.mass.gov/acceler-8>



\$256.1 Million Invested in Commonwealth Communities

MUNICIPAL INVESTMENTS FY18-FY21 (includes Chapter 90, Muni Bridge, Complete Streets and Shared Streets)



East Boston Ferry Pilot

- Pilot to start on September 27
- Connects East Boston (Lewis Mall) to Seaport (Fan Pier)
 - every 20 mins during peak
- Service will be funded by public ridership-\$5/ride
- MassDOT, Massport, and the City of Boston partnered to reconstruct Lewis Mall ferry facilities.
- Ferry service potential in East Boston was identified in Boston Harbor Now business plans funded by MassDOT and Massport with additional support from other sponsors.
- SeaportFerry.com/East-Boston-3



Morning		Evening	
East Boston	Fan Pier	Fan Pier	East Boston
5:55 AM	6:05 AM	3:15 PM	3:25 PM
6:15 AM	6:25 AM	3:35 PM	3:45 PM
6:35 AM	6:45 AM	3:55 PM	4:05 PM
6:55 AM	7:05 AM	4:15 PM	4:25 PM
7:15 AM	7:25 AM	4:35 PM	4:45 PM
7:35 AM	7:45 AM	4:55 PM	5:05 PM
7:55 AM	8:05 AM	5:15 PM	5:25 PM
8:15 AM	8:25 AM	5:35 PM	5:45 PM
8:35 AM	8:45 AM	5:55 PM	6:05 PM
8:55 AM	9:05 AM	6:15 PM	6:25 PM
9:15 AM	9:25 AM	6:35 PM	6:45 PM
9:35 AM	9:45 AM	6:55 PM	7:05 PM
9:55 AM	10:05 AM		

Thank you