

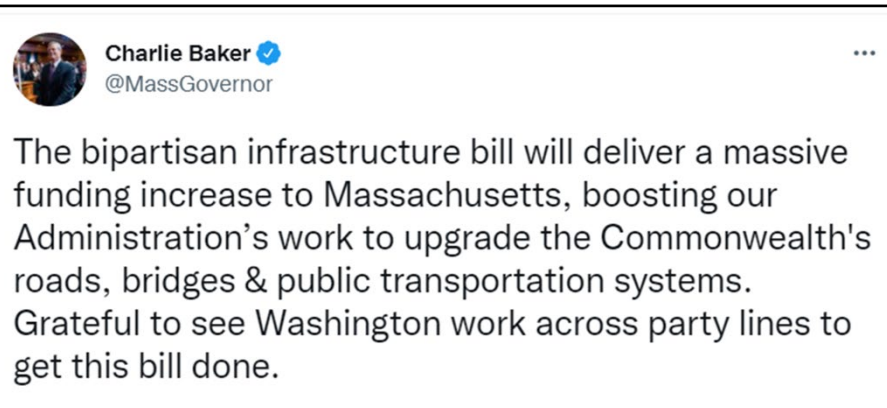
Transportation Secretary and CEO Jamey Tesler's Report to the Board

November 18, 2021



Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act

- Enacted into law on November 15, 2021, subject to further Congressional appropriation of funding in the coming weeks / months -- includes significant funding increases for road, bridge and rail projects, public transit, water systems and broadband access, electrical grid work and new electric vehicle charging stations.
- While overwhelming majority of IIJA funding flows through existing formula program funds, IIJA also creates or reauthorizes additional discretionary, competitive grant programs (i.e. RAISE Grants); requires USDOT's release of application guidance but MassDOT is planning to mount and pursue an aggressive strategy by which to compete across all categories.
- MassDOT welcomes this opportunity and funding influx, and has begun preparing internally to ramp up its processes and efforts to put this 5-year funding increase to work by both accelerating projects throughout the existing [State Transportation Improvement Plan \(STIP\)](#) and advancing the project pipeline.



Thanksgiving Travel

- Travelers reminded to plan ahead for the upcoming Thanksgiving Holiday week, use available technology tools and resources to make informed decisions, and pack essential items such as face coverings.
- High Occupancy Vehicle lane on I-93 from Boston to Quincy will extend its hours two afternoons: open from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., on Tuesday, November 23, and from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., on Wednesday, November 24. HOV lane closed on Thursday, November 25, and Friday, November 26.
- MassDOT will also be suspending scheduled construction operations statewide from 5:00 a.m. on Tuesday, November 23, through 9:00 p.m. on Monday, November 29.
- For information about MBTA schedules on Thursday, November 25, please visit www.mbta.com/holidays. The [CharlieCard Store](#) is also closed on November 25. Customers are reminded that face masks or face coverings are required while onboard MBTA vehicles and within the MBTA system.
- Thursday, November 25, is a state holiday and among offices closed are those of the Registry of Motor Vehicles.
- MassDOT wishes everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving holiday, and encourages everyone to consider public transportation for trips.

COVID-19 Updates

- Similar trends as what the Governor's office recently reported for the Executive Branch as a whole.
- ODCR is working through remaining exemption requests and are mindful to comply with U.S. DOT regulations and their determinations are rooted in pre-existing ADA and EEOC standards.
- MassDOT is monitoring retirements -- proactively hiring in some areas to both address those retirements and also likely needs to implement the federal infrastructure bill funding.
- While MassDOT has operated as safely as possible throughout the pandemic, having a vaccinated workforce gives employees and customers greater confidence as responsibilities are handled.

- Inaugural MBTA Board & Committee Meetings held since appointment of Members in October – focus on initial administrative and setup items including governance / charter documents and establishment of Committees.
- MBTA honored by the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) with 2021 Rail Safety Gold Award for Light Rail / Street Car Systems – recognizes the T for the development of its SMS Safety Risk Management Process and the Green Line Speed Reduction Program within category for transit agencies demonstrating commitment to improving safety and security for employees and customers.
- MBTA Better Bus Project & Bus Facility Modernization Program work, with focus on improving T garages where buses are stored and maintained, continues with update on the Quincy Bus Maintenance Facility Project – calls for existing building to be demolished and replaced with accompanying public shared-use path. Program goals include:
 - Expanded system capacity for more buses and additional service
 - Ability to accommodate a zero-emissions fleet of battery electric buses (BEBs)
 - Modern, efficient work environments for our employees

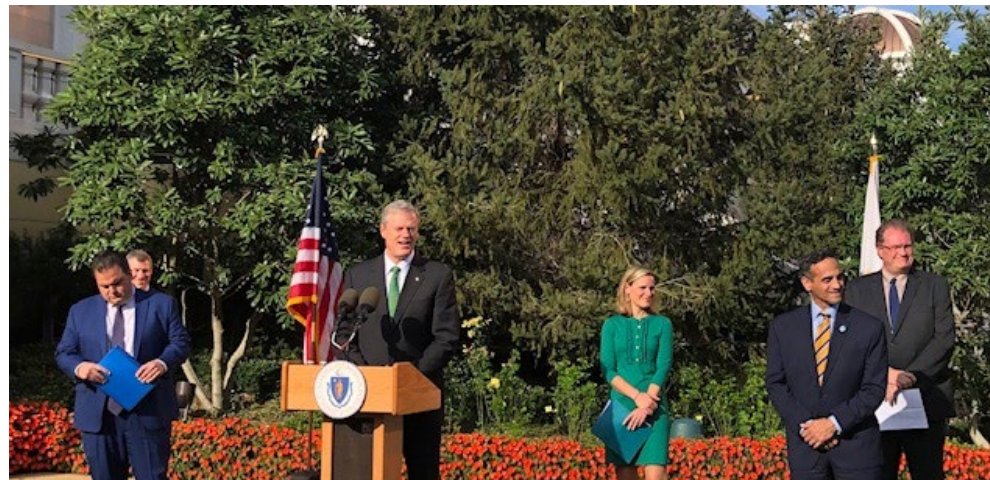
1st Center-Running Bus Lane in New England: Boston

- New center-running Columbus Avenue bus lane, operating between Jackson Square and Walnut Avenue/Franklin Park.
- Lane used by MBTA bus routes 22, 29 and 44.
- Project included full replacement of 8 existing bus stops with new platforms and amenities, such as electronic message boards displaying real-time T service information. The project also includes pedestrian safety and accessibility.
- Project included new crosswalks, ramps, signals, and curb extensions.
- Designed and constructed in partnership with the City of Boston.



Mystic River Bridge Project

- On October 22, Governor Baker announced that the Baker-Polito Administration has committed to completing the design, permitting, and construction of the Mystic River Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridge.
- The bridge project, once constructed, will provide a connection from Draw Seven Park near the MBTA Assembly Station in the City of Somerville to the City of Everett next to the Encore Boston Harbor Resort.
- The bridge between Somerville and Everett will connect the Northern Strand to the Mystic River and Malden River trail networks.
- State officials estimate that approximately 2,300 pedestrians and more than 350 bicyclists will utilize the bridge daily.



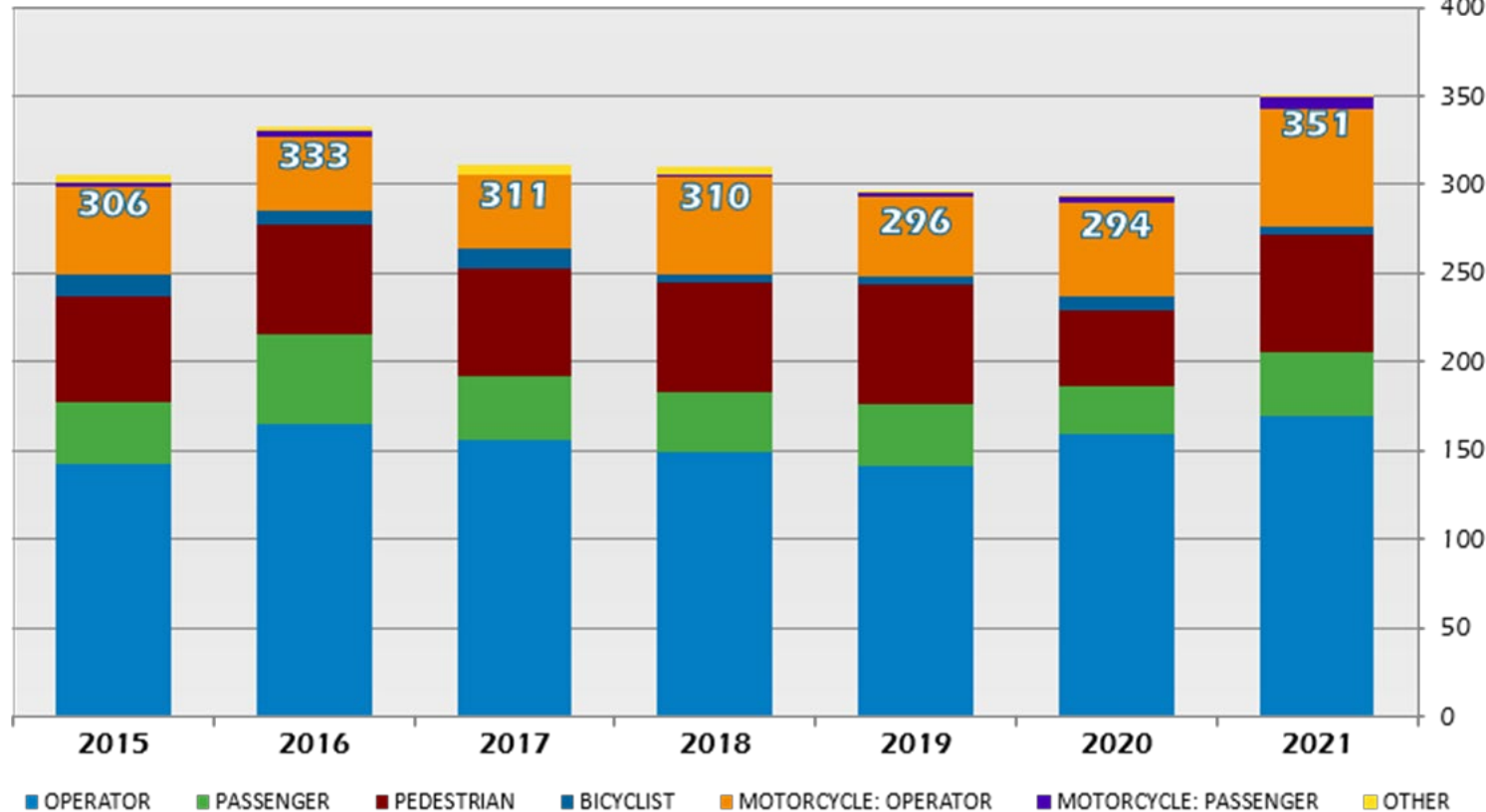
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Report

- NHTSA report: [Early Estimate of Motor Vehicle Traffic Fatalities for the First Quarter of 2021.](#)
- NHTSA estimates 8,730 people died in motor vehicle traffic crashes in the first three months of 2021, a 10.5% increase from the 7,900 fatalities the agency projected for the first quarter of 2020.
- These increases in fatalities come even as driving declined; preliminary data reported by the Federal Highway Administration show that vehicle miles traveled (VMT) in the first three months of 2021 decreased by 2.1%, or about 14.9 billion miles.
- Drivers seem to be engaged in more risky behavior, including speeding, failing to wear seat belts, and driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Roadway Fatalities

- Roadway fatalities are on the rise in 2021, even when factoring in a decrease in overall vehicle miles traveled (VMT.)

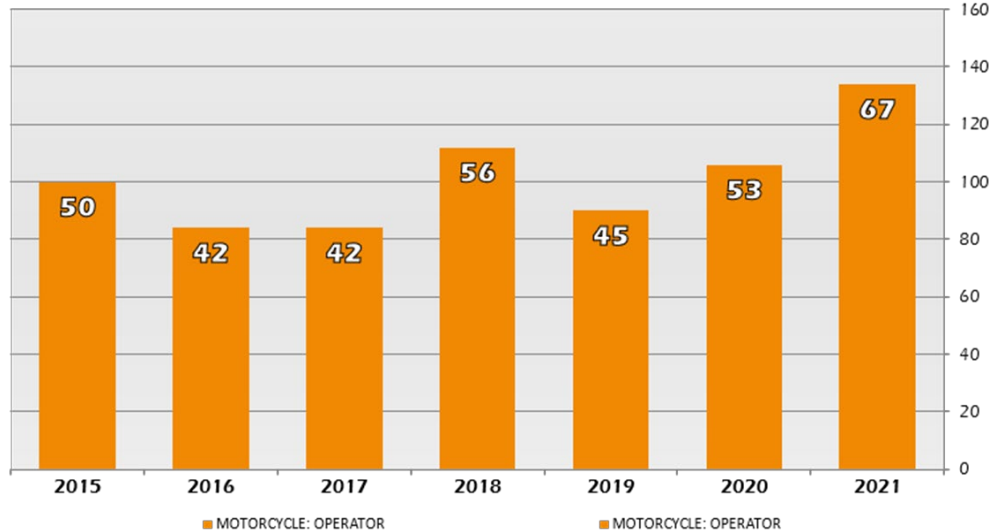
Overall Fatalities (thru November 14)
PRELIMINARY RESULTS



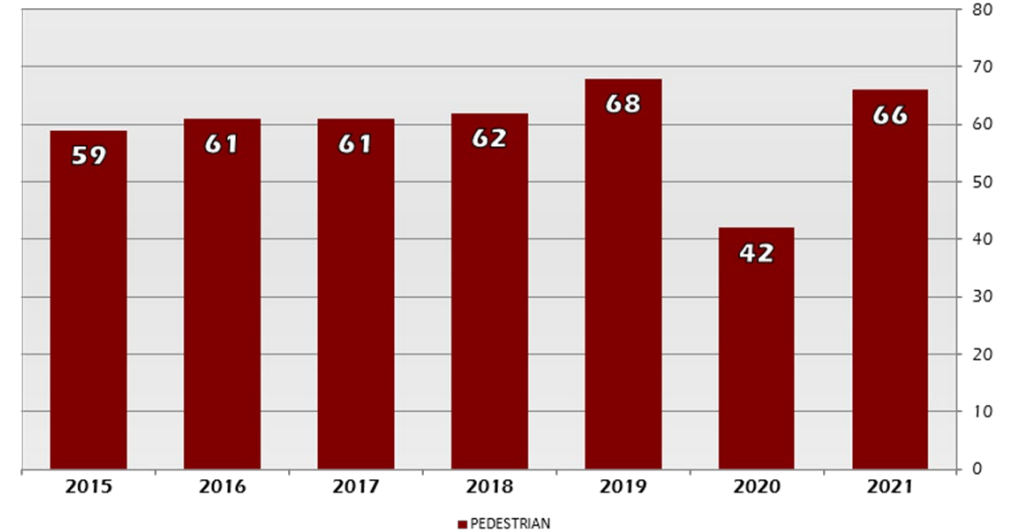
Motorcycle & Pedestrian Fatalities

- Motorcycle fatalities have increased significantly in 2021, across age groups. MassDOT is monitoring and studying.
- Pedestrian deaths, after a slight decrease in 2020, are now in 2021 at a level in line with pre-pandemic levels.

MOTORCYCLE: OPERATOR (YTD)
PRELIMINARY RESULTS



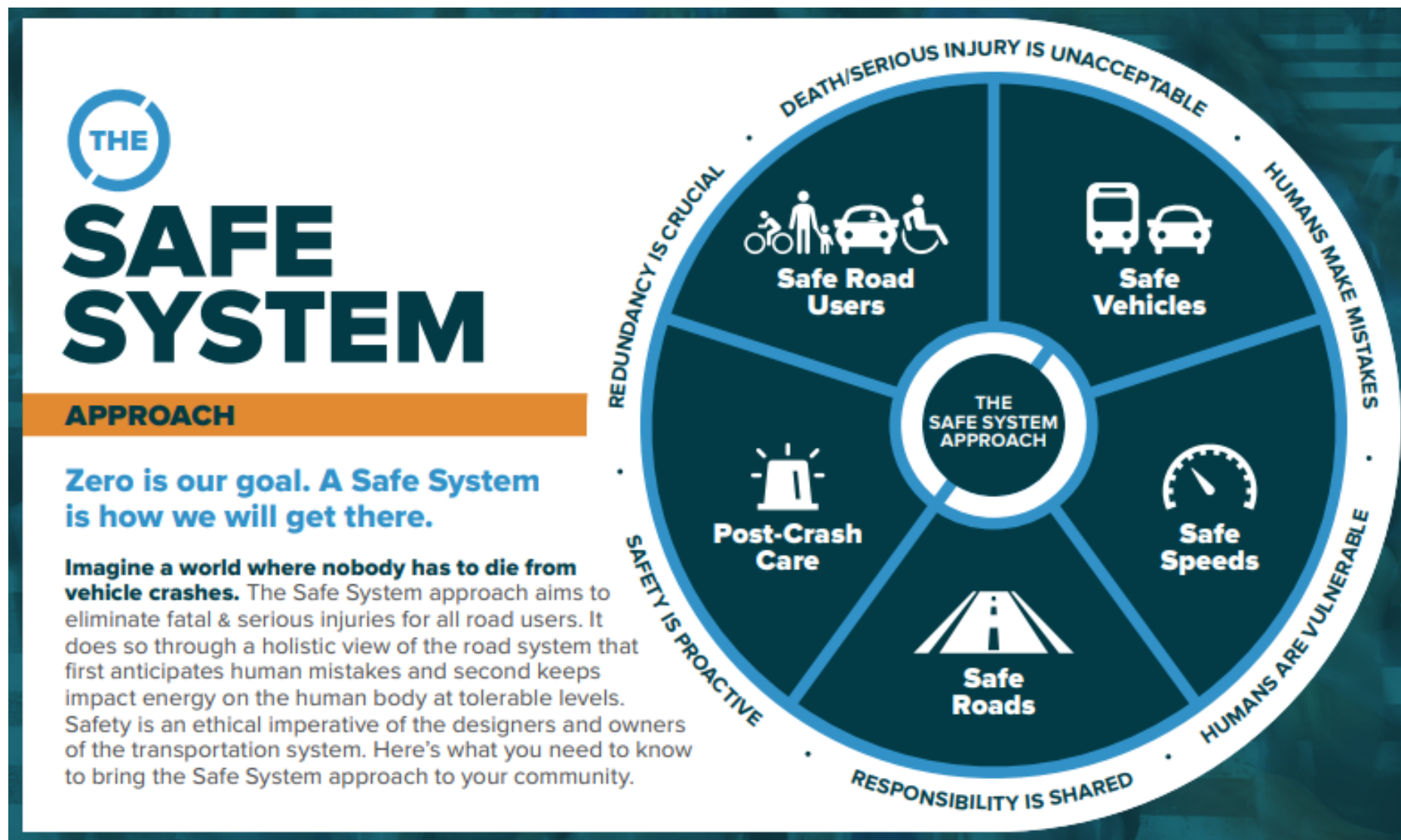
PEDESTRIAN (YTD)
PRELIMINARY RESULTS



Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP)

- Federally mandated plan, being developed by MassDOT - statewide multi-disciplined plan to reduce fatalities and injuries on roadways.
- Goal: zero fatalities and serious injuries on roadways in MA.
- Plan critical now because, while 5-year average of fatalities and serious injuries has decreased slightly, we are not trending to zero, especially with number of fatalities during pandemic.
- Last plan was in 2018.
- We are considering a Safe System framework for the SHSP as a way to really drive down the fatalities and serious injuries to meet our long-term goal of zero
 - (https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/zerodeaths/docs/FHWA_SafeSystem_Brochure_V9_508_200717.pdf).

Safe System Approach



An Act Relative to Improving Safety on the Roads of the Commonwealth

- Governor Baker filed this legislation in April, 2021 and additional newly filed items announced recently.
- Bill would update road safety laws by implementing uniform standards, promote proven strategies & would implement recommendations made by the Special Commission on Operating Under the Influence and Impaired Driving.
- Bill titled, “Trooper Thomas Clardy Law,” honors Trooper Thomas L. Clardy, killed by an impaired driver in March 2016. Proposals include prohibiting drivers from having loose or unsealed packages of marijuana in the driver’s compartment of a vehicle, recognizing effectiveness of horizontal gaze nystagmus test, (shown through scientific research to be the single most reliable field sobriety test), empowers police officers to seek electronic search warrants for evidence of chemical intoxication.

2021 Proposal

- **New Proposals**

- Haley's Law
- Camera Traffic Enforcement Local Option
- 7D transportation vehicles
- Crash Data reporting
- Correction to Hands Free law – clarification of penalties for failure to take the required course
- RMV Board of Appeals Jurisdiction clarification
- Bicycle safe passing law

- **Refile of previous proposals**

- Primary Seatbelt
- Classification of electric scooters and electric bicycles
- CDL changes
- Convex mirrors and lateral protective devices

Speed Management Project

- Speed management is a key component of a Safe System Approach
- Reducing speed at which people drive vehicles can reduce serious and fatal crashes by reducing impact forces, providing time for drivers to stop, and improving visibility.
- Project is initiative to implement 2019 Statewide Pedestrian Plan, 2019 Statewide Bicycle Plan, and 2018 Strategic Highway Safety Plan
- MassDOT is developing a new website that will assist municipalities and the public and provide action steps of what can be done to improve safety on the roads by controlling speeds and better explain the processes and provide information on the association of speeding with crash severities.

Pre-Apprentice Program



Apprenticeship program graduate Fidel Escarela seen on the job in 2019 with Springfield DPW.

- Office of Diversity and Civil Rights (ODCR) has issued an RFR to implement next generation of its Pre-Apprentice Program. Focused in particular on helping get individuals credentialed for Commercial Driving Licenses (CDL) and for maintenance responsibilities.
- Program first created after 2014 bond bill and has continued ever since.

- ODCR seeking qualified Bidders who can provide Pre-Apprentice Training, with a concentration in transportation and/or highway construction to low-income, minority, youth, or young adult populations. Eligible Bidders must demonstrate their qualifications and experience in the delivery of a comprehensive training program aimed at providing individuals with opportunities and exposure to careers in transportation and/or highway construction.
- Apprentice program more important than ever as federal infrastructure bill approval will increase number of jobs available in construction fields.

Road Test Applicants



- The Registry of Motor Vehicles reminds individuals planning to take a road test that as of January 2022 applicants will need their own vehicle for the test which meets all requirements.
- Due to the pandemic and health and safety protocols, since June of 2020, the RMV has deployed a fleet of Commonwealth-owned vehicles for road tests which were cleaned and sanitized on a regular basis. The use of these Commonwealth-owned vehicles will end on December 31, 2021. Info:
- <https://www.mass.gov/news/massachusetts-rmv-announces-road-test-applicants-will-need-own-vehicles-as-of-january-3-2022>
- Road tests are scheduled 60 days in advance and times slots are added each business day throughout the day so if there are no available times, the public should try again later.

Lunch and Learn – Emerging Mobility Technologies

- On November 2, MassDOT held a lunch and learn on emerging mobility technologies with Secretary Tesler, Jackie DeWolfe, Aeronautics Administrator DeCarlo, Neil Boudreau, and Sara Lavoie.
- Speakers discussed new mobility technologies and MassDOT's support of them, including electric bike shares, e-scooter pilots, emergency drone deliveries, and connected corridors.

Agenda

- Welcome & Introduction – Secretary Jamey Tesler
- Micromobility – Jackie DeWolfe
- Advanced air mobility – Jeff DeCarlo
- Connected and automated vehicles – Neil Boudreau & Sara Lavoie
- Q&A discussion

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Secretary Tesler



WHAT IS MICROMOBILITY?

Micromobility refers to a range of small, lightweight devices operating at speeds typically below 25 km/h (15 mph) and is ideal for trips up to 10 km / 6 miles

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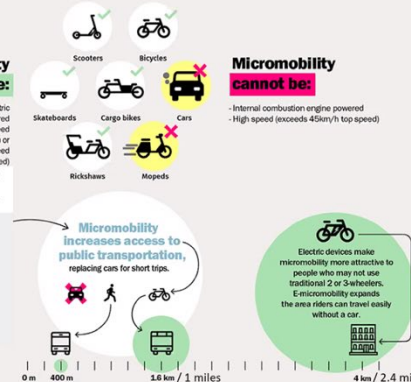
Micromobility can be:

- Human powered or electric
- Privately owned or shared
- Most commonly low speed (25km/h top speed) or sometimes moderate speed (45km/h top speed)

25 km/h = 15 mph
45 km/h = 28 mph

Micromobility cannot be:

- Internal combustion engine powered
- High speed (exceeds 45km/h top speed)



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Jackie DeWolfe

Aeronautics Division Drone Program

- MassDOT has been working on social media education to teach the public about how we use drones as tools.
- For example, MassDOT's Drone Team supports MassDCR's efforts to keep regional drinking water clean and safe.
 - By collecting drone data during sunset at Quabbin Reservoir, we assist DCR in tracking gull migration and roosting patterns, enhancing management efforts.
- For more information, visit MassDOT's site on drone use: <https://www.mass.gov/massdot-aeronautics-division-drone-program>



New Specialty Plate Option for Drivers

- Last month, a new team specialty plate became available to reflect the New England Patriot's six Superbowl wins. The plate is available on the RMV website (www.mass.gov/rmv) and can be ordered through RMV Service Centers.
- The new plate design features the Patriots logo along with the words "6X Champions". Below this text are the numerals of each Super Bowl the Patriots have won and a star for each championship.
- The fee for the redesigned plate will remain the same (\$60 registration fee, plus \$40 special plate fee). The special plate fee will still benefit the New England Patriots Charitable Foundation.

