

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

April 13, 2022



MassTRAC Announcement in Worcester

- **March 17:** Joined Governor Baker, Lieutenant Governor Polito, Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Theoharides, Highway Administrator Gulliver, and General Manager Poftak along with municipal leaders in Worcester at an event to announce the Baker-Polito Administration's filing of "An Act Relative to Massachusetts's Transportation Resources and Climate," (MassTRAC) a \$9.7 billion infrastructure bond bill.
- This bill will advance and support significant investments in the Commonwealth's transportation and environmental infrastructure, as well as provide critical and required state matching funds to compete for, unlock and leverage federal formula and discretionary investments provided by the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) enacted in November 2021.



MassTRAC Hearing on Tuesday, April 12th

- Tuesday, April 12, legislative hearing: “An Act Relative to Massachusetts’s Transportation Resources and Climate,” (MassTRAC).
- MassTRAC is a \$9.7 billion infrastructure bond bill has \$6.2 billion to support core federal formula programs for highway, transit, and environmental projects and has \$3.5 billion in potential state matching resources to support the aggressive pursuit of new and existing federal discretionary and competitive grant.



Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grants

- RAISE program great way to fund municipal mobility goals. Maximum award for a RAISE grant is \$25 million and several MA municipalities and agencies have applied; examples – Mattapoisett, Boston, Framingham, Massport.
- Recent RAISE grant funded projects include \$15 million grant to City of Boston for Blue Hill Avenue transportation needs, including center-running dedicated MBTA bus lanes and protected bike lanes along section of Blue Hill Avenue.
- Meanwhile, MassDOT is currently evaluating projects for the MEGA/INFRA/Rural “one application” process. Applications are due on May 23.

GLX: Green Line Extension Project (GLX)

- **March 21-** Ribbon-cutting event as service began to run to Union Square Station and the newly constructed and relocated Lechmere Station.
- The Medford Branch of GLX, anticipated to open in summer 2022, will run approximately 3.7 miles parallel to Lowell Commuter Rail Line to College Avenue in Medford.
- Seven new stations are part of GLX project along with new vehicle storage and maintenance facility in Somerville.



- The total project cost is nearly \$2.3 billion, which includes other project components such as real estate, professional services, contingency, and the procurement of 24 new trolleys to augment the existing Green Line fleet.

Next Funding Round: Community Transit Grants

- Two virtual training sessions to help applicants prepare for the next round of competitive grants for the Fiscal Year 2023 Community Transit Grant Program (CTGP) will be held: April 21 and April 27.
- Next round of applications opens on Friday, April 29, and funding is available on a competitive grant basis through the Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities funding programs.
- Grant money can be used for mobility management, new capital equipment and investments, and for transit operational costs to meet the mobility needs of older adults and individuals with disabilities of any age.
- Info: <https://www.mass.gov/community-transit-grant-program>.
- In December 2021, MassDOT announced a total of \$8.9 million in CTGP funding - to 27 organizations for vans and minibuses and to 18 entities for 23 operating and mobility management projects.

Boston Marathon: Monday, April 18th

- MBTA offering special Commuter Rail fare: \$15 Marathon Pass valid for all-day, unlimited travel on all Commuter Rail lines through all zones. Pass can be bought on mTicket app & at offices at North, South, and Back Bay Stations. Pass on April 18 only can be bought aboard trains via cash or credit card.
- For public safety reasons, Copley Station closed Monday. From approximately 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Monday, above-ground Green Line stops at South Street (B branch), Kent Street (C branch), and St. Mary's Street (C branch) will be closed.
- Buses on regular weekday schedules April 18, though some routes detoured due to day's activities.
- Commuter Rail, MBTA ferry, The RIDE all operate on weekday schedules Monday.
- Highway Division supporting Marathon w/public messaging on sign boards about road detours, etc.
- Registry customer service centers closed Monday as it is a Commonwealth holiday.

Make Ready Work Partnership Involving MassDOT

- Baker-Polito Administration has announced completion of Make Ready Work, a 4-year coordinated effort to remove the largest obstacle to extending broadband access across 53 “Last Mile” communities in Western and Central MA, eliminating roadblocks where fiber construction crews were actively building new network.
 - A complex integrated schedule was created & managed.
 - Efforts & resources were coordinated.
 - Make Ready impacted approximately 40,000 utility poles, allowing for the installation of 2,000 miles of fiber optic cable across cities/towns these regions.
- Make Ready Working Group members: MassDOT, Eversource, National Grid, Verizon, Westfield Gas and Electric, Comcast, Charter, ITG, Sertex, Department of Telecommunications & Cable, Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development, MA Broadband Institute.
- Make Ready does not instantly translate into broadband service; it removes hurdles that blocked broadband access.

Parcel 13 Update

- **April 7:** Peebles Corporation officials, joined by MassDOT Undersecretary Scott Bosworth, attended an event at Parcel 13 in Boston's Back Bay neighborhood, at Massachusetts Avenue and Boylston Street to announce a new Letter of Intent with the Boston Planning and Development Agency.
- New revised proposal for mixed use development has 100% affordable housing units.
- New ADA accessible MBTA Hynes Station is integrated into the project's ground floor w/ new entrance off Boylston. New T headhouses will be built.



Performance Recognition

Manuel Carballo Governor's Award for Excellence in Public Service:

- **Laura Brelsford**, from the **MBTA**.
 - In her role, Laura oversees the accessibility of bus, subway, ferry, and commuter rail operations. Laura has led a collaborative effort that brings departments together to work in one collaborative direction. Laura has been the voice of the riders with disabilities and has used that voice to implement substantial changes to benefit those riders.
- **Jim Zoino** from the **MBTA**.
 - Over two years ago, Jim volunteered to run the in-house oil lab in support of the "Project Velocity" oil analysis program at the MBTA Commuter Rail. He demonstrates leadership by example and has a "can do" attitude that goes above and beyond for the T to create extraordinary value.
- MassDOT staff members who were awarded the Manuel Carballo Governor's Award for Excellence in Public Service for their participation in the cross-secretariat groups; **the Future of Work Initiative and the 7D Transportation Mission Team, Operation Children First.**

Governor Paul Cellucci Award for Leadership and Mentoring in State Government:

- **Bruno Lopes** from the **MBTA**.
 - Bruno Lopes leads the Parking and Station Access team covering maintenance and capital work at parking lots and garages, technology implementations, and revenue collection, enforcement, and analysis. He has devoted his time, energy, and expertise to the professional and personal development of the Parking and Station Access team and has inspired those around him to be thoughtful and conscientious public servants inspired to provide the best possible service to the T's riders.



Registrar Honored

- Registrar Colleen Ogilvie received the 2020 Lifesaver Award from AAMVA on Friday, April 1, 2022.
- AAMVA is a tax-exempt, nonprofit association developing model programs in motor vehicle administration, law enforcement, and highway safety.



Compliment for Wilmington RMV Customer Center

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Mr. Jamey Tesler
Registrar, Registry of Motor Vehicles
P.O. Box 55889
Boston, MA 02205

Dear Mr. Tesler

Just a quick note to say that this morning I experienced one of the most surprising, efficient and enjoyable business experiences ever! I will be 81 in just a few weeks.

At 10:30 a.m. I left my house in Winchester, drove to your Wilmington office, obtained my Mean drivers license and was back home by 11:25. This included about a 15 minute drive each way, plus time to fill out the application at the Registry and to conduct my scheduled visit.

Everyone, from the security people at the door, to the front desk and on to my clerk, was cheerful, informative and helpful. In fact, the entire process from reviewing information on line in advance, to making a reservation, to preparing for what documents I would need was clear and easy. As an added bonus, the facilities are clean and welcoming.

Over all my years dealing with the Registry, this was like the sun coming out at midnight! Oh, do I ever remember so many other occasions where one needed psychiatric aid after dealing with the RMV!

Finally, a special word regarding your clerk who served me: his name is Edwin S. and he is clearly a person who represents the Registry in a most exemplary manner. I hope someone in charge has an encouraging eye on him.

Congratulation to you and your management team for this extraordinary turn-around.

Sincerely,

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██████████
Winchester

P.S. I am a long retired Senior Vice President of several elite institutions including Boston Children's Hospital and the American Museum of Natural History (NYC) where I was responsible for fundraising and public relations functions. So I well know how difficult the job is to deal effectively with a huge and demanding public. Again, congratulations!

- An 81 year-old wrote to compliment the service he received for a license transaction at the Registry customer center in Wilmington.
- Customer: "Everyone, from the security people at the door, to the front desk and on to my clerk, was cheerful, informative and helpful. In fact, the entire process from reviewing information on line in advance, to making a reservation, to preparing for what documents I would need was clear and easy. As an added bonus, the facilities are clean and welcoming."
- Compliment to one employee in particular, Edwin, who "represents the Registry in a most exemplary manner."