

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

June 22, 2022



# Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill- Discretionary Funding Update

- Good news: Biden Administration has awarded almost \$1.8 million to MA to improve rail infrastructure, enhance safety & improve train capacity in Western MA near Springfield Union Station. MassDOT applied for this funding under Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant program.
- Not approved: MassDOT's application for CRISI grant seeking \$12 million for safety and other improvements along Knowledge Corridor which runs parallel to Connecticut River.
- Pending: 4 Submissions for the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MDPG) Opportunity
  - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers application for federal **INFRA** and **MEGA** funding to replace the federally owned Bourne and Sagamore Bridges.
  - MassDOT and City of Boston co-applicant request for a **MEGA** grant seeking \$1.191 billion for the Allston Multimodal Project, (which has a total project cost estimated to be \$1.985 billion).
  - MassDOT **RURAL** grant application seeking \$24.5 million for project which would replace a historic bicycle, pedestrian, and snowmobile bridge over the Connecticut River in Northfield.

# MassTRAC – Update

- June 1: Joint Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets held a hearing on MassTRAC, An Act relative to MA Transportation Resources and Climate.
- June 23: MA House scheduled to discuss
- MassTRAC, a \$9.7 billion infrastructure bond bill filed by the Baker-Polito Administration, 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).
- MassTRAC will also make a meaningful difference in the acceleration of projects that are set to receive federal funding, and includes additional authorization to support investments in cities and towns to promote bicycle and pedestrian safety and to help municipalities with infrastructure improvements, such as those funded from several grant programs, including Shared Streets and Spaces and Complete Streets.



## Baker-Polito Administration Files \$1.7 Billion FY 2022 Supplemental Budget

- Filed on May 18.
- Legislation includes approximately \$1.7 billion in spending, supported by state tax revenues that exceed FY22 benchmarks through April by \$4.23 billion (14%).
- The current surplus also prompted the Administration to formally upgrade the FY22 tax benchmarks on May 18, increasing the total fiscal year projection to \$37.666 billion.
- Legislation includes funding to support a variety of transportation and environmental infrastructure projects, including \$235 million for transportation projects, \$200 million for Cape Cod water and sewer initiatives, and \$100 million for ports in Salem, New Bedford, and Somerset. It also builds in funds necessary for the implementation of more than \$9.5 billion provided through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) over the next five years, as well as funding that will allow Massachusetts to access additional federal funding through matching grants. These funds complement investments proposed in the pending [MassTRAC infrastructure bond bill](#) and recently announced in the [FY23-27 Capital Investment Plan](#).



# Shared Streets and Spaces Awards



*Dedham -outdoor dining installed with grant money.*

- Letters recently sent to **138 municipalities and 7 Regional Transit Authorities** to say their grant applications have been approved.
- This most recent round of grant awards **totals \$16.4 million**.
- This round of funding placed particular emphasis on projects to reduce vehicle speeds in order to increase safety, and to offer municipalities a new opportunity to apply for grants for up to \$50,000 to purchase equipment to support active transportation.
- This round of awards is going to the highest number of recipients since the program was launched in June 2020. Of the awarded municipalities, 53% are designated Environmental Justice Communities.

# Promoting Safety on our Roads

- June 7: MassDOT, EOPSS, State Police & other partners hosted a news conference due to rise in roadway fatalities.
- In 2021, MA had more than 400 roadway deaths—the highest amount in more than 11 years and 22% higher than in 2020. Preliminary numbers for 2022 show an increase in roadway deaths compared with the same period in 2021. Motorcyclist deaths are at a 25-year high.
  - For motorcyclist awareness - drivers “look twice, save a life.”
  - All drivers: wear a seatbelt, drive sober, drive hands-free, travel at or below the posted speed limit.
  - Pedestrians: be visible, use crosswalks.
- MassDOT actions to increase roadway safety:
  - Safe System approach
  - Investing in bicycle-friendly roadways
  - Speed Management policy
  - Establishing target speeds



# 2022 Innovation Conference

- Governor Charlie Baker and Lt. Governor Karyn Polito were among the speakers at the 2022 Innovation Conference held at the DCU Center in Worcester on May 24 and 25.
- The Governor discussed the work across the Commonwealth to improve Massachusetts' transportation infrastructure and encouraged legislators to approve the Administration's proposed infrastructure bond bill, MassTRAC.
- Lt. Governor Polito highlighted municipal grant programs. In addition to the \$1.56 billion in annual municipal transportation aid provided since 2015 through the Chapter 90 Program, the Baker-Polito Administration has facilitated the investment of an additional \$178 million through current and future innovative grant opportunities, including Municipal Small Bridge, Shared Streets and Spaces, and Complete Streets.
- More than 1,000 individuals participated in this year's conference, attending in-person or virtually for various workshops.





# Parcel 12 Air Rights Project over I-90 Boston

- Event last week celebrated completion of the 40-ton deck over 8 lanes of I-90. Project going up along Massachusetts Avenue between Boylston and Newbury Streets.
- Beam signing ceremony with Governor Baker, Lt. Governor Polito, and members of the trades.
- This is the first air-rights project over the Mass Pike in more than 40 years. Project logistics have required that the I-90 westbound on-ramp be closed by Newbury St and required one lane of travel on I-90 in each direction be closed in this area.





# FHWA North Region UAS Workshop

- MassDOT Aeronautics joined colleagues from the region on June 7 for a FHWA workshop in Revere.
- MassDOT has worked extensively with the FHWA on using innovative technologies, such as unmanned aircraft, (drones), to support MassDOT and MBTA Divisions and other state agencies.
  - Collecting video to support analysis of rotaries in Massachusetts to improve traffic safety measures, including a rotary right here in Revere which has seen a significant number of truck rollovers.
  - Supporting the MBTA by providing video to structural engineers to assist with inspection of subway tunnels.
  - Collecting aerial lidar data to assist in mapping rock areas that are prone to rock slides on the Mass Pike.
- MassDOT teamed up with Skyports to evaluate ability of drones to deliver medical supplies “touchless” over significant geographic boundaries ---which would be vital in the case of an emergency.



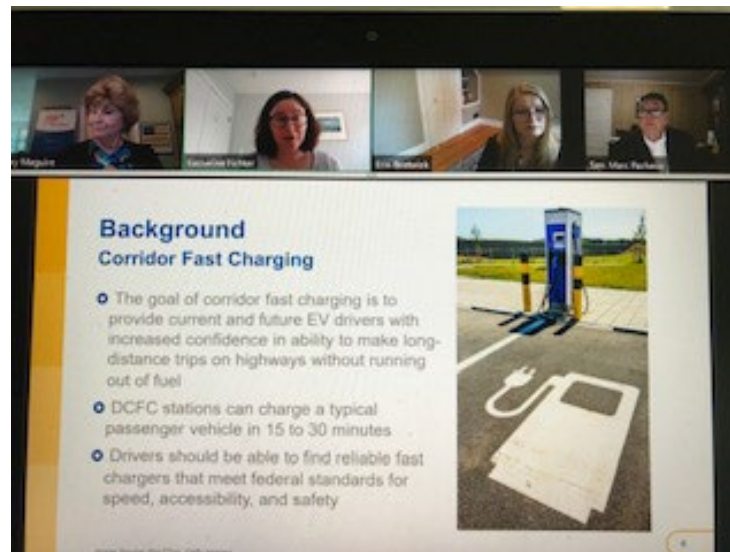
# Infrastructure Investments: New Bedford/Fairhaven

- June 21: Joined Aeronautics Administrator Jeffrey DeCarlo, Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver, Chairman Straus, Mayor Mitchell & other local officials at New Bedford Regional Airport and then at the Fairhaven Bridge (connecting Fairhaven and New Bedford).
- **New Bedford Airport-** The Commonwealth recently paved a portion of the “ramp” at the airport, the area where planes park, and the City of New Bedford has an architect and engineer studying options to expand or rebuild the terminal. MassDOT is awaiting the results of the city’s study, a cost estimate for any new terminal project options, and learning about the pros and cons of options the study recommends.
- **The Fairhaven Bridge** is a swing bridge which is more than 100 years old and MassDOT has plans to replace the bridge. Design phase of project is anticipated to take several years.



# AAA Northeast “Plugged In” Webinar

- MassDOT Assistant Secretary and Chief of Climate Kate Fichter joined AAA Northeast’s webinar June 7, “Plugged In: Expanding the EV Charging Infrastructure in Massachusetts.” She discussed the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program (NEVI).
- Massachusetts is estimated to receive \$55-60 million over five years. Massachusetts will submit a plan which is due by August 1, 2022.





## Administrator Jonathan Gulliver and Highway Division Receiving Award

- June 22 (Tonight): Women in Transportation Boston host the group's Awards and Scholarships Dinner and Administrator Jonathan Gulliver and the Highway Division will be presented with the Honorable Ray LaHood Award.
- Women in Transportation is a group dedicated to advancing an inclusive and diverse transportation industry while also advancing the women who are a part of it.
- The Honorable Ray LaHood Award is named after Ray LaHood, the 2009-2013 U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary who supported WTS's mission, including helping to bring more opportunities for gender diversity.

