

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

May 18, 2022



Baker-Polito Administration FY 2023 Capital Investment Plan (CIP)

- May 5: Administration announced FY23 CIP. It provides \$2.78 billion in state bond cap spending in FY23 to support investments in transportation, economic development, climate resiliency, housing, education, technology and health and human services.
- Plan reflects a balanced and fiscally responsible approach to long-term planning, w/funding dedicated to care and maintenance of existing assets as well as targeted new investments to support economic development and growth in wake of pandemic.
- In addition to outlining state bond cap allocations for FY23, plan charts pathway for capital investment across the next 5 years, providing a blueprint for total of \$13.9 billion in FY23–FY27 bond cap spending that leverages the unprecedented amount of federal funding the Commonwealth will benefit from in the coming years.

Baker-Polito Administration CIP: Transportation

- Plan will be supported by authorization the Administration has filed for across several bond bills, including MassTRAC infrastructure bond bill.
- Combined MassDOT and MBTA capital plan is funded from a variety of state and non-state sources. \$1.1 billion of FY23 spending is supported by state bond cap.
 - \$200 million for the Chapter 90 Program for local road and bridge repairs
 - \$25 million for the Municipal Pavement Program, established in the 2021 Transportation Bond Bill to assist municipalities with roadway pavement improvements
 - \$15 million for the Administration's Municipal Small Bridge Program
 - \$15 million for the Complete Streets Program
 - \$8.5 million for the Shared Streets and Spaces Program.
 - \$5 million for Local Bottleneck Reduction Program
 - \$5 million for Transit Infrastructure Partnership Program
- Funding round will end May 16.

Draft Capital Investment Plan (CIP) Public Engagement

- MassDOT will host a series of public meetings across the Commonwealth with participation from the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO)
- Zoom details for public meetings, including registration links, will be available at: <http://www.mass.gov/cip> when they are finalized. **All meetings will begin at 6:00 pm, EST**, and accommodation and language translation services will be provided upon request.

Tuesday, May 24th – Western Mass/Berkshires

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission / Pioneer Valley
Metropolitan Planning Organization / Franklin Regional Council of
Governments

Wednesday, May 25th – Northern Middlesex/Merrimack Valley

Northern Middlesex Planning Commission / Merrimack Valley
Planning Commission

Thursday, May 26th – Central Mass

Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission /
Montachusett Regional Planning Commission

Tuesday, May 31st – Boston

Boston MPO / Central Transportation Planning

Wednesday, June 1st – Southeastern Mass

Old Colony Planning Council / Southeastern Regional Planning &
Economic Development District

Thursday, June 2nd – Cape and the Islands

Cape Cod Commission / Nantucket Planning and Economic
Development Commission / Martha's Vineyard Commission



Discretionary Programs in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)

- BIL includes authorizations for over 35 discretionary (competitive) programs administered by the USDOT Office of the Secretary and the Operating Agencies, with total funding in excess of \$110 billion.
 - 18 existing programs are reauthorized for an aggregate amount of approximately \$77.3 billion
 - 19 new programs are reauthorized for an aggregate amount of approximately \$36.1 billion
 - These grants are administered by the following entities with USDOT
 - Office of the Secretary – 5 programs (4 new, 1 existing) authorized at \$19 billion
 - FHWA – 17 programs (11 new, 6 existing) authorized at \$28.4 billion
 - FTA – 10 programs (3 new, 7 existing) authorized at \$19.4 billion
 - FRA – 4 programs (1 new, 3 existing) authorized at \$44.3 billion
 - Maritime – 1 existing program authorized at \$2.3 billion
- ❖ Note: Transit projects may be eligible for funding under FHWA or FRA programs depending upon the statutory language and the particular project

The Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MDPG) Opportunity

- The Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MDPG) Opportunity allows eligible applicants to apply for three discretionary grant programs (INFRA, Mega and Rural) by filing a single application.
- The FY 22 funding available to be awarded under the MDPG is \$2.85 billion.
 - The INFRA Program will award up to \$1.55 billion in FY 22 funding but may be supplemented with up to \$155 million of unawarded amounts from prior years.
 - The Mega Program will award up to \$1 billion in FY 22 funding.
 - The Rural Program will award up to \$300 million in FY22 funding.
- An applicant may seek the same award amounts under multiple discretionary opportunities or may seek a combination of funding from multiple opportunities.
- Applications are due on or before May 23, 2022.

MassDOT's Proposed Upcoming Grant Applications

Project	Lead Agency	Estimated Project Cost	Grant Programs	Description
Cape Cod Bridge Program	Army Corps of Engineers	----	INFRA, Mega	The Sagamore and Bourne Bridges, which provide the only roadway connection on and off Cape Cod for the 263,000 residents of the Cape and Islands, as well as the 5 million annual visitors, are beyond their useful life, functionally obsolete and in poor condition. The project would replace both bridges and improve the adjoining roadway network.
Allston Multimodal Project	MassDOT	\$2B	Mega	The Allston Multimodal Project is an opportunity to dramatically improve livability and connectivity for residents of the Allston neighborhood while preserving and enhancing regional mobility through improvements to I-90 and its abutting interchange and the creation of a new stop on the Worcester/Framingham Commuter Line to be known as West Station.
Schell Pedestrian Bridge	MassDOT	\$50M	Rural	The project would replace a historic bicycle, pedestrian, and snowmobile bridge over the Connecticut River in Northfield. This bridge provides a vital bike/ped link in the area.
Knowledge Corridor	MassDOT	\$24M	CRISI	Amtrak Police data indicate the highest number of calls for service and incidents within the New England Division occur on the Knowledge Corridor line. This project would provide critical safety improvements, including fiber-optic cable, fencing, radio bases, aerial and ground surveillance, CCTV cameras, and blue light stations. The grant will also support the development of a real-time Amtrak surveillance center at Springfield's Union Station.
Springfield Area Track Reconfiguration Project	MassDOT	\$4M	CRISI	The project would fund preliminary engineering and environmental evaluation of the Springfield Area Track Reconfiguration Project to address conflicts between freight and passenger trains, capacity restrictions, functionality and availability of layover facilities, and improved accessibility at Springfield Union Station.

Discussion At CIM Meeting

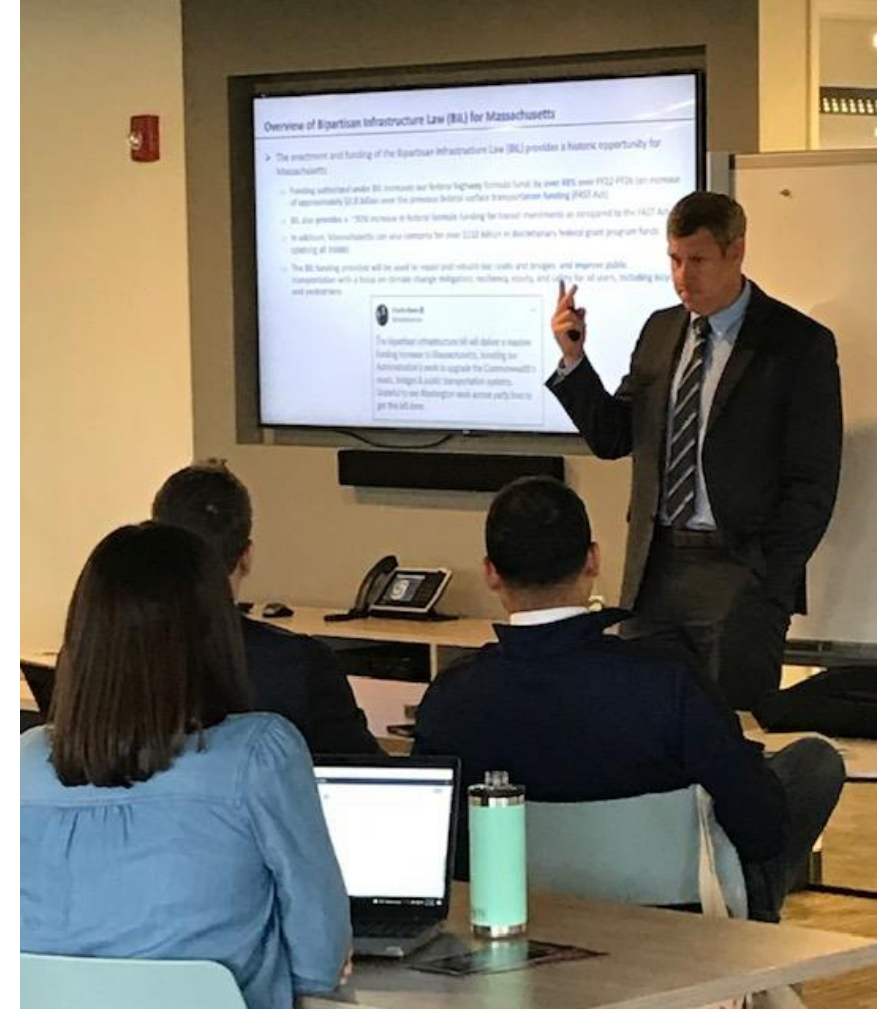


On May 2, Construction Industries of Massachusetts (CIM) members met in Waltham, covering a range of topics, including-

- Administration's Capital Investment Plan (CIP)
- Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)
- Administration's FY 2023 Budget
- MassTRAC, "An Act Relative to Massachusetts' Transportation Resources and Climate", the proposed \$9.7 B infrastructure bond bill. It was stressed MassTRAC is vital as it would provide critical and required state matching funds to unlock money in BIL.

Municipal Partnerships

- April 27: MA Municipal Association Meeting
- Topics discussed included Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), Administration's infrastructure bond bill, "Massachusetts's Transportation Resources and Climate" (MassTRAC), and Baker-Polito Administration Municipal Grant Programs for transportation-related needs.
- Summary of Municipal Grant Programs:
 - Complete Streets - \$77.4M awarded since program start in 2016 through 426 grants
 - Local Bottleneck Reduction -\$2.5M (approx) awarded since program start in late 2021 through 19 projects
 - Municipal Pavement - \$15M awarded since program start in late 2021 for 15 segments covering over 100 lane miles
 - Municipal Small Bridge -\$49.9M awarded since program start in 2016 through 117 grants
 - Shared Streets and Spaces -\$33M awarded since program start in June 2020 through 310 grants



Braga Bridge Lighting



- May 17th- Joined Lieutenant Governor Polito, Mayor Coogan and local legislative delegation members in Fall River for the lighting of the Braga Bridge.
- Project will allow the Braga Bridge to be lit along with some of our other extraordinary structures including the Zakim Bridge and Longfellow Bridges in Boston, the Fore River Bridge in Weymouth-Quincy and the Burns Bridge in Shrewsbury-Worcester

MassTrails 2022 Spring Grant Round

- The 2022 MassTrails Spring Grant Round is now open.
- MassTrails is looking to specifically fund shared use path projects that fill critical gaps in the statewide trails network.
- Applicants can receive grant funds of up to \$500,000 per award in order to help with project development, design, engineering, permitting, construction, and the maintenance of shared use pathways



2022
Spring Grant Round
now OPEN



MASSTRAILS GRANTS

MassTrails is seeking to fund shared use path projects that will fill critical gaps in the statewide trails network. Apply to receive grant funds up to \$500,000 per award for project development, design, engineering, permitting, construction, and maintenance of shared use pathways.

DEADLINE: MONDAY, MAY 16, 2022

ONLINE SUBMISSIONS ONLY

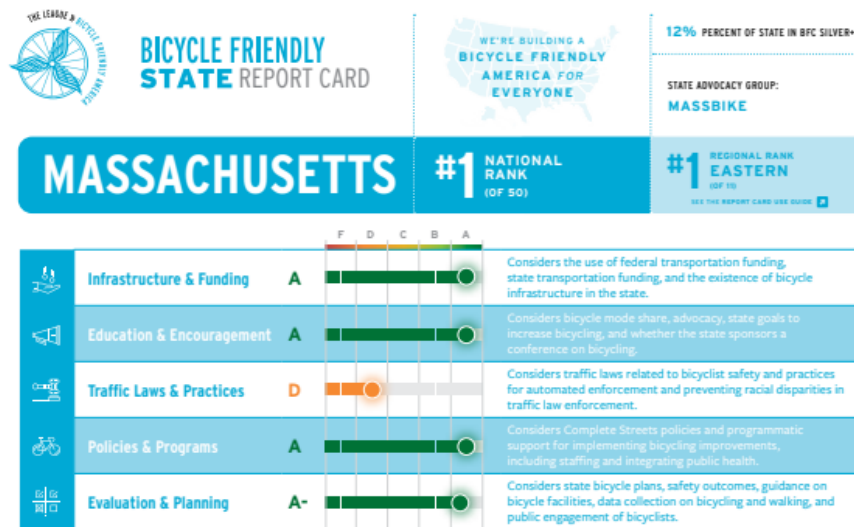
MassTrails Grants Program information, grant funding guidelines, application materials, and the online grant proposal submission portal can be found here:

www.mass.gov/guides/masstrails-grants

QUESTIONS? Contact Amanda Lewis, MassTrails Program Manager by email at amanda.lewis@mass.gov or by phone at 617-645-8314



MA Named Number 1 For Bicycling



Based on the information we obtained for Massachusetts, the League of American Bicyclists believes the following actions will improve the safety, comfort, and accessibility of bicycling in Massachusetts.

Massachusetts had one of the most robust responses to COVID-19 in terms of creating space for people. The Baker-Polito Administration's Shared Streets and Spaces Grant Program awarded \$33 million dollars to 183 municipalities and four transit agencies for a total of 310 projects. This response is commendable and the lessons learned and people engaged through the program should inform continued efforts to create safer, slower, spaces for people biking and walking.

Adopt a safe passing law with a minimum distance of 3 feet to address bicyclist safety. Over the last two decades most states have adopted a safe passing law to protect people biking. Massachusetts is one of 11 states that has not.

The Municipal Modernization Act of 2016 allows municipalities to establish regulatory speed limits on locally-owned roadways lower than the statutory/default speed limit in certain contexts. These include 20 mph Safety Zones, 20 mph School Zones, and 25 mph zones in thickly settled business districts. Establishing special speed regulations on MassDOT-owned roadways requires MassDOT approval. Supporting Safer Speeds is a key pillar of the Safe System Approach and Massachusetts should be a leader in establishing and designing safer speed roads.

Massachusetts is very well positioned to improve bicycling through implementation of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, with former MassDOT secretary and CEO Stephanie Pollack as FHWA Deputy Administrator and strong, recent, bicycle and pedestrian plans. The state is in a position to lead on bicycling issues and we hope that it takes advantage.

On a negative note, the Transportation Climate Initiative, a multi-state initiative to cut carbon emissions in the transportation sector which Massachusetts led, is on hold. The League hopes Massachusetts continues to lead on reducing carbon emissions in the transportation sector.

Bicycle Friendly Actions	Progress?
Complete Streets Law / Policy	Yes
Safe Passing Law (3ft+)	No
Statewide bike plan last 10 years	Yes
2% or more federal funds on bike/ped	Yes
Bicycle Safety Emphasis Area	Yes

Federal Data on Biking	Rank
Ridership 0.9% of commuters biking to work	5/50
Safety 3.6 fatalities per 10K bike commuters	9/50
Spending \$4.04 per capita FHWA spending on biking and walking	14/50

SEE THE BICYCLE FRIENDLY STATE DATABASE MAP:
[BIKELEAGUE.ORG/BFA/AWARDS](https://bikeleague.org/BFA/AWARDS)

The Bicycle Friendly State ranking is based on a comprehensive survey—with over 100 data points—completed by state departments of transportation and state bicycling advocates. For more information, visit bikeleague.org/states or contact Ken McLeod at (202) 822-1333 or ken@bikeleague.org.

WE'RE BUILDING A BICYCLE FRIENDLY AMERICA FOR EVERYONE • BIKELEAGUE.ORG

- The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) and Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs are pleased to announce the League of American Bicyclists has ranked Massachusetts number 1 in the country in the organization's 2022 Bicycle Friendly State Report Card.
- The League gives Massachusetts the grade of "A" in the categories:
 - Infrastructure & Funding
 - Education & Encouragement
 - Policies & Programs
- The League's 2022 Bicycle Friendly State Report Card cites several bicycle friendly actions taken in Massachusetts, including implementation of a Complete Streets policy, implementation of a state-wide bike plan, the expenditure of 2% or more of federal funds on bicycle/pedestrian needs, and an emphasis on bicycle safety.



Ashuwillticook Rail Trail: Ribbon Cutting for Trail Extension

- May 7: Ribboncutting to officially open a new section of the Ashuwillticook Rail Trail which makes the trail nearly 15 miles long.
- The trail is an old railroad track converted into a 10-foot wide paved corridor for bicyclists and pedestrians.
- Trail includes communities of Cheshire, Lanesborough, Adams and Pittsfield.
- Cheshire Reservoir, and the Hoosic River offer outstanding views of the scenery and wildlife. Parking lots and restrooms are available at select locations along the way.



Shared Streets & Spaces Funding Program

- Program launched in June 2020 and has since made 310 funding awards totaling \$33 million.
- Currently, applications for a new funding round are being evaluated. To summarize:
 - 219 applications received, including from 7 Regional Transit Authorities. Largest number of applications ever for a round of funding.
 - 87% of projects proposed would be permanent.
 - 109 applications are for “equipment” only, including speed management signs, plows for use on sidewalks, flashing crosswalk beacons, etc.
 - New project type in this funding round: speed management.
- MassDOT extremely pleased with the response from all corners of the state.



Dedham Center Shared Streets funding site.

Regional Transit Authorities (RTA) Council Meeting

- May 12, MassDOT hosted virtual public meeting of the RTA Council, representing the state's 15 RTAs.
- Staffing needs were discussed as the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent shifts in the labor force have led to an industry-wide, national bus operator shortage.
- In November 2021, the MassDOT/MBTA Office of Performance Management and Innovation (OPMI) convened 4 RTAs (BAT, PVRTA, SRTA, and VTA) for a preliminary conversation about how they have adjusted hiring, training, and retention efforts over the past 2 years.



- During the initial conversation, the four agency representatives requested that we share information about how their peer agencies are tackling these issues; this initiative is a broader and deeper follow up to help capture this information.



Proposed Investments For Economic Recovery

- April 21, Baker-Polito Administration filed legislation which would make \$3.5 billion in investments to support the Commonwealth's path forward to improve infrastructure, create jobs, and invest in every city and town in Massachusetts.
- Bill would support hundreds of local projects, whether through funding to improve green spaces or grants to support economic development.
- Examples:
 - \$232 million to support 67 projects for parks, trails, and campground expansion and rehabilitation
 - \$97 million for 55 coastal infrastructure projects
 - \$6.4 million for resiliency and habitat projects
 - \$1.4 million for culvert projects
- This legislation includes \$2.3 billion from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), as well as over \$1.256 billion in capital bond authorization.
- \$1.2 billion in ARPA funds will be dedicated to climate resiliency and preservation efforts, including a \$750 million investment in the Commonwealth's clean energy industry.

Strategic Highway Safety Plan

- On Thursday, May 12, MassDOT State Safety Engineer Bonnie Polin discussed MassDOT's ongoing Strategic Highway Safety Plan on a webinar hosted by AAA Northeast.
- The Plan is a collaborative effort using the safe system approach. The focus includes education, engineering, enforcement, emphasis areas, and EMS.
- **Strategic Plan Webpage-** <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/strategic-highway-safety-plan>

Congratulations to Team MassDOT

- Four MassDOT and two MBTA employees ran and finished the 2022 Boston Marathon on Monday, April 18.
- We congratulate them and all runners and thank the government employees and race volunteers who worked in support of this major international event.



Congratulations to Paula Fallon of the MBTA!