

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

October 19, 2022



BIL: New “Project View” Website

- MassDOT has launched “Project View,” a BIL expenditures website which displays details on infrastructure projects, including funding source, cost, and category of spending.
- The new website informs the public regarding the expenditures made using federal funding from the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law as well as information on state matching funds.
- Website: <https://gis.massdot.state.ma.us/dataviewers/projectviewer/>
- Site is updated weekly and allows users to filter information by project type and view information on the current balances of funds that have not yet been obligated.
- Website was developed as required by *An Act Relative to Massachusetts’s Transportation Resources and Climate* (MassTRAC), Section 31, which was recently passed by the Massachusetts Legislature and signed by Governor Charlie Baker.

The screenshot displays the MassDOT Project Viewer interface. On the left, there is a 'Project Filters' sidebar with dropdown menus for Project Number, Location contains, District, MPO, Status, Program, and Funding Category. Below these filters, a section for 'Highway Projects' includes a note: '1) Apply desired project filters'. The main content area features a table with columns for 'Project Name' and 'Project # Ad Date'. The table lists several projects, including 'ABINGTON- BROCKTON- INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT NORTH QUINCY STREET, BOUNDARY AVENUE AND CHESTNUT STREET' (Project # 608143, Ad Date 8/30/2019) and 'ABINGTON- INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT HANCOCK STREET AND CHESTNUT STREET' (Project # 609440, Ad Date 1/16/2026). Each row has a 'More info' button. To the right of the table is a map of Massachusetts showing project locations with colored markers. The map includes labels for various cities and towns such as Montpelier, Augusta, Portland, Concord, Nashua, Lowell, Boston, Springfield, Worcester, Hartford, Providence, New Bedford, Taunton, Bridgewater, and Waterbury. The MassDOT logo is visible in the bottom right corner of the interface.

Project Name	Project # Ad Date
ABINGTON- BROCKTON- INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT NORTH QUINCY STREET, BOUNDARY AVENUE AND CHESTNUT STREET	608143 8/30/2019
ABINGTON- INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT HANCOCK STREET AND CHESTNUT STREET	609440 1/16/2026
ABINGTON- INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT ROUTE 18 (BEDFORD STREET) AND ROUTE 123(BROCKTON AVENUE)	612770 10/1/2050
ABINGTON- INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS, RANDOLPH STREET AND RICHARD A FITTS DRIVE (ROUTE 139) AT CHESTNUT STREET AND OLD RANDOLPH STREET	612525 10/1/2050
ABINGTON- SUPERSTRUCTURE REPLACEMENT & SUBSTRUCTURE REHABILITATION, A-01-006, CENTRAL STREET OVER SHUMATUSCACANT RIVER	607346 10/1/2050
ACTON- BOXBOROUGH- LITTLETON- PAVEMENT PRESERVATION ROUTE 2	610722 10/11/2024



Bond Sale Update

- On September 21, the Board authorized MassDOT to proceed on a dual track for Refunding/Reissuing \$371 million in MHS Subordinated Bonds
 - Option to either Issue Variable Rate Debt or Reestablish Soft Put Term Rate Debt
- DOT Fiscal, along with our Financial Advisor, OmniCap and our Lead Underwriter on the transaction, Citigroup, have decided that current market conditions are not favorable to Reestablishing a Soft Put Term Rate Structure
- The current schedule to issue Variable Rate Debt is:
 - Pricing Wednesday November 9
 - Closing Thursday November 10

Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP)

- The SHSP goal: no deaths and no serious injuries on the roadways.
- Consistent with national trends, MA is experiencing a significant increase in roadway fatalities over the last couple years.
- The Commonwealth has had a state-wide and multi-agency planning process underway and the five-year SHSP is being finalized:
 - The SHSP is done in partnership with several other state agencies including DPH and EOPSS.
 - This plan is required to unlock certain federal funds to help Commonwealth invest in key safety needs.
- We are focusing our efforts not only in this SHSP but also throughout our agency's departments on encouraging safety through the lens of the Safe System Approach, which is a holistic view of the road system which anticipates human mistakes and makes safety an imperative of designers and owners of the transportation system.
- In the coming months and new year, we anticipate that MassDOT and our many state partners will finalize this plan and seek ways to turn its vision and strategies into actions that can help measurably to reduce roadway deaths and serious injuries.

Investments at Barnes Airport Highlighted

- An event was held the last week of September to highlight the Commonwealth's investments at Barnes Airport in Westfield.
- Findings from the MassDOT Aeronautics Division's 2019 Statewide Airport Economic Impact Study indicate that Westfield-Barnes Regional Airport is a key contributor to the Commonwealth's Statewide Airport System supporting 2,174 jobs, a payroll of \$138.5 million and an annual economic output of \$236.8 million. Significant impacts from the Massachusetts Air National Guard's 104th Fighter Wing and the Massachusetts Army National Guard's 226th Division Aviation Support Battalion are also a key contributor to the airport's economic growth and development.



MARPA – DLS Conference

- September 29: Joined Governor Baker, Lt. Governor Polito, and Secretaries Acosta, Card and Kennealy at Holy Cross.
- MA Association of Regional Planning Agencies (MARPA), MA Division of Labor Services (DLS), municipal and county officials, others gathered in Worcester to hear remarks by
- There were workshops on “best practices” and a keynote speech by former Chief of Staff to Governor Baker, Steven Kadish.
- Administration’s approach to local collaboration and capacity-building was discussed along with current topics. Points were made about what has made the delivery of services to communities successful, including:
 - Hearing what localities need and developing policies and programs to meet needs. Ex: Shared Streets and Spaces Program launched in June 2020.
 - Developing resources for cities and towns to help them successfully deliver services. Ex: Administration’s Community Compact Program.
 - Helping government officials connect with funding opportunities. Ex: state created new centralized website for state grant programs.



Climate Week Celebrated

- Several events recently celebrated steps being taken around the state to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and encourage the use of green energy.
- On September 22, Rail and Transit Administrator Meredith Slesinger participated in an event in Taunton to highlight the successful replacement of six older, diesel transit buses with six all-electric transit buses, which have been on the roads in the communities served by the Greater Attleboro Taunton Regional Transit Authority.
- Collectively, the new buses provide estimated annual reductions of 453 tons of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and 1.4 tons of nitrogen oxides (NO_x) emissions that otherwise would have been emitted by the older diesel buses, polluting the air and contributing to climate change. (This photo was taken at that event.)



Massport Celebrates Success Of Port Improvements

- Massport hosted an event September 30 to thank state, federal, and business partners for supporting the Port which has a huge economic impact on the region, including supporting approximately 1,000 jobs.
- Over the last several years there have been major infrastructure investments as part of \$850 million plan to upgrade the Port of Boston, including:
 - Butler Freight Corridor - dedicated truck route built – efficient truck freight transportation is the result and trucks are kept off local Boston roads.
 - Boston Harbor Dredging Project – new 50-foot-deep berth and deeper passageways.
 - 3 new large ship to shore cranes, all fully electric.
- Conley Terminal is the only full service container terminal in New England and Conley offers direct connectivity to China, Northern Europe, Southeast Asia, Mediterranean, Middle East and Latin America.



Piers Park II Groundbreaking

- October 14: groundbreaking in East Boston at property off Marginal Street where Massport, members of the Piers Park Advisory Committee, local elected officials and community members celebrated the start of work to create Piers Park II, a new park along the East Boston waterfront. The design for the 4.5-acre park includes key resiliency features to help protect the area from flooding and sea level rise.
- Since 2017, Massport, in collaboration with the community, has worked on the design for the project.
- The park is one of several high impact mitigation projects identified by both the City of Boston and members of the Logan Impact Advisory Group (LIAG) through their review for both the Terminal E modernization and the future construction of 5,000 additional parking spaces at Boston Logan International Airport.



New Funding Opportunity: SRTS

- The Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS) has launched the 2022-2023 Infrastructure Funding Program.
- Program provides design and construction services for projects between \$300,000 and \$1.5 million in areas immediately around public elementary, middle, and high schools.
- Applications due by 5 p.m. Friday, November 18, 2022.
- To be eligible, schools must build a partnership with the SRTS non-infrastructure program that involves education, encouragement, engagement, equity, and evaluation activities and applicants must be an SRTS partner for at least six months (as of October 3, 2022) prior to applying.
- For more information: www.mass.gov/safe-routes-to-school
- Since 2019, SRTS awarded total of approximately \$35 million for 30 infrastructure projects.

