

# Secretary Stephanie Pollack's Report to the Board

January 11, 2021

Stephanie Pollack  
Secretary and CEO



# COVID-19 Update

- Employees performing work on location continue to abide by health & safety protocols, including maximum capacity limits, no access to break rooms, etc.
  - Registry of Motor Vehicles
  - Highway maintenance
  - Highway operations center
  - MassDOT laboratory
- Telework employees who signed remote work agreement in the fall continue to telework until further notice; at least until March
- Planning is underway for gradual return to work, in many cases with hybrid/telework options, for workforce that has been working from home full time since March 2020

# FY 2021 State Budget Update

- December 11, Governor Baker signed FY 2021 budget into law, a \$45.9 billion plan that protects core government services amidst the COVID-19 pandemic while making substantial investments in economic development and education.
  - \$1.302 billion in total operating budget transfers for MBTA; increase of \$98 million over FY20
  - \$381 million for MassDOT; increase of \$35 million over FY20
  - \$90.5 million for Regional Transit Authorities
  - \$800,000 increase for Merit Rating Board
- Today you will be asked to vote on a revised MassDOT budget for state fiscal year 2021

# Federal Coronavirus Funding Update

On December 27, President Trump and Congress enacted the “Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021” which includes a total of \$45 billion for various forms of transportation (highways, transit, Amtrak, airlines and airports and over-the-road bus companies)

## The new law appropriates \$10B in additional state highway funding

- Federal Highway Administration has not yet issued any guidance about the amounts to be distributed or allowable uses
- Based on preliminary interpretation of the law:
  - MA is expected to receive approximately \$150M
  - Funds can be used for capital or operating and for toll or non-toll
  - Funds are available until September 30, 2024
  - Because this funding can be used to cover either operating or capital needs and to replace toll revenues if those revenues do not rebound in FY22, staff recommends that none of this funding be used for the FY21 operating budget and to further evaluate how the funding will be used for FY22
- Additional updates will be provided to the F&A Committee and the Board

# Transportation Bond Bill

- MA Legislature approved a Transportation Bond Bill totaling approximately \$16.5 billion on January 5; highlights include
  - Authorizes \$1.25 billion in new Grant Anticipation Notes (GANS) to launch a Next Generation Bridge Improvement Program which would build on lessons learned in Accelerated Bridge Program and focus on preservation investments and “bundling” of smaller bridge projects.
  - New \$100M authorization for pavement projects on locally owned, but state-numbered roads.
  - New \$50M authorization for bus transit infrastructure to support municipalities that undertake infrastructure projects to improve MBTA and RTA bus operations.
- This bill now pending action by Governor Baker and the Board will get a more detailed briefing at February meeting, after bill is signed and as we begin a new Capital Investment Program cycle

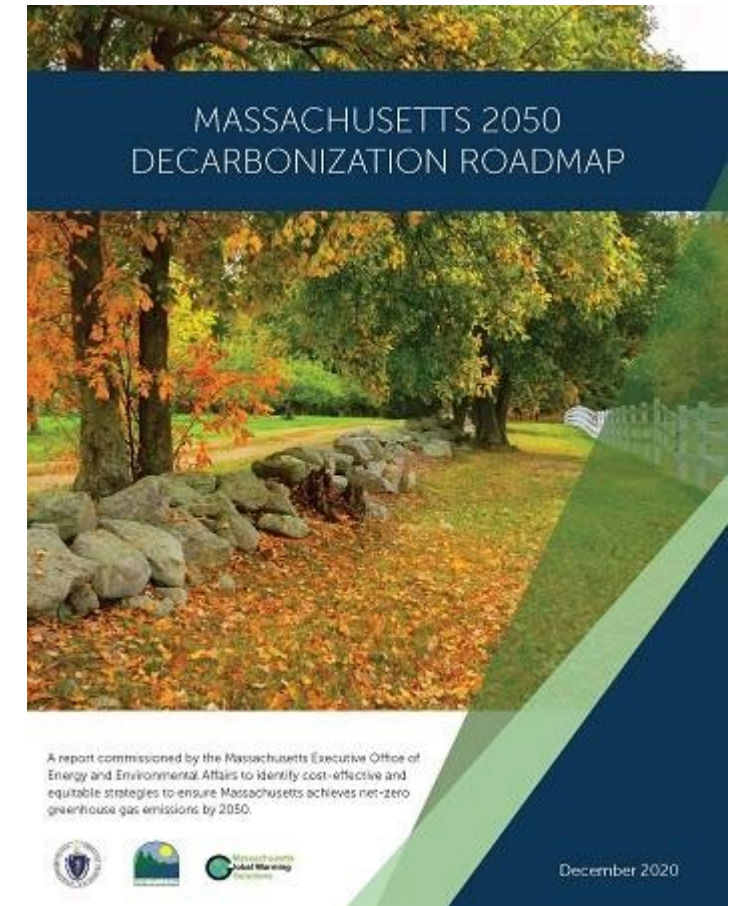
# Employee Town Halls

- MassDOT held seven Town Hall meetings in November and December which included employees from across all MassDOT departments to discuss COVID-19 workforce impacts, revenue changes and what that means for State and MassDOT Budgets, future of telework, efforts to make MassDOT an increasingly diverse, equitable, and inclusive workplace, new initiatives and programs that have been implemented and the progress made during pandemic, and what was ahead in 2021 for MassDOT and transportation trends
- One key takeaway was on what hasn't changed during the pandemic: MassDOT's goal of having a state transportation system which is focused on safety, reliability, accessibility, sustainability and resiliency, and equity



# Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI) and Climate

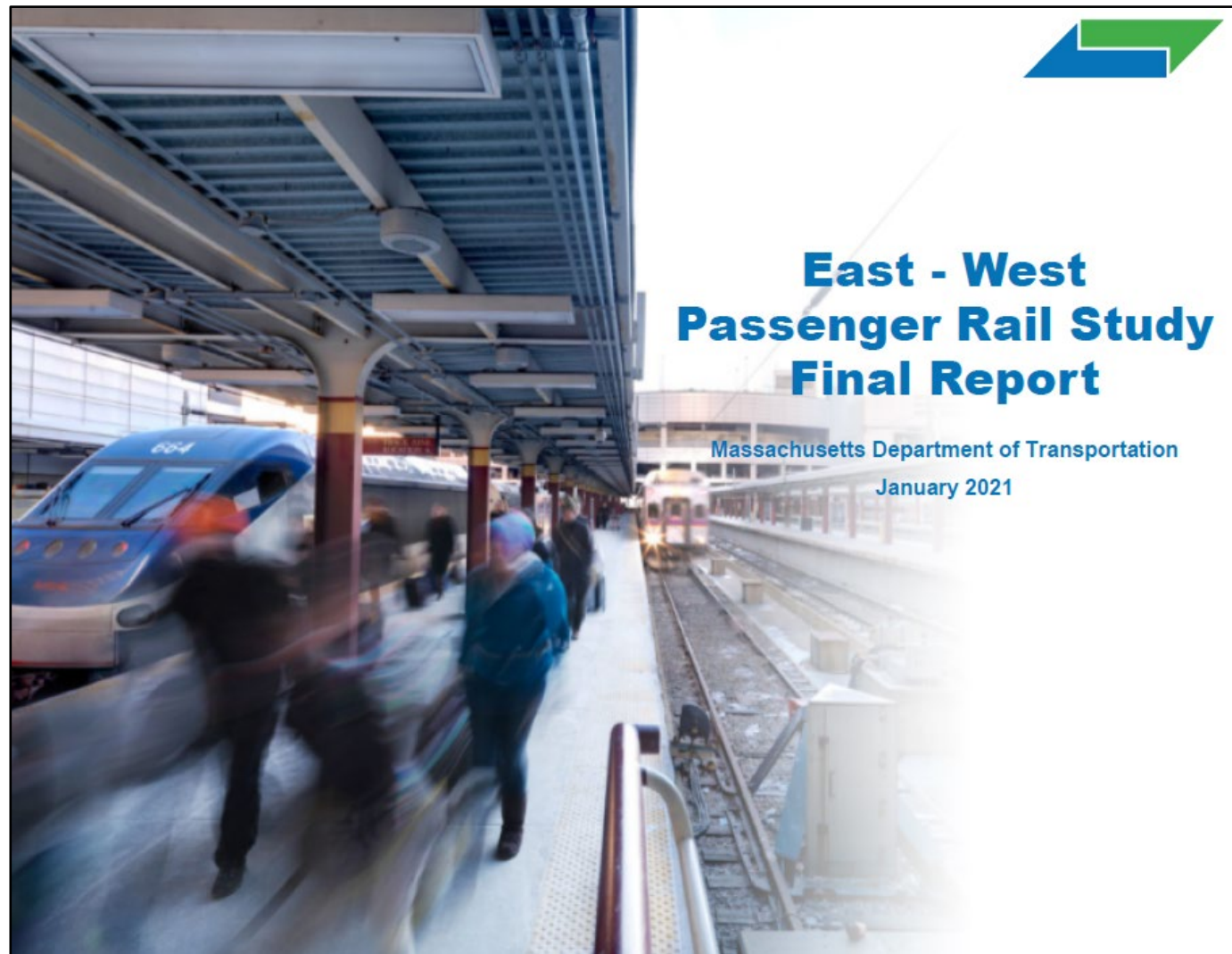
- December 21, 2020: Governor Baker, Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont, Rhode Island Governor Gina Raimondo and Washington, D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser signed a Memorandum of Understanding committing to multi-state program that will reduce motor vehicle pollution by at least 26 %
  - TCI will allow participating jurisdictions to invest in equitable, cleaner transportation options, and create significant new employment opportunities while improving public health.
  - The TCI jurisdictions have committed to invest 35 % of annual revenue in communities underserved by current transportation options, and which have disproportionately high levels of pollution.
- Administration also committed MA to achieving net zero emissions by 2050 and issued its 2050 Decarbonization Roadmap, a nation-leading planning effort that charts multiple technical and policy pathways by which the Commonwealth can equitably and cost-effectively achieve net zero emissions by 2050.



# East-West Passenger Rail Study

Four areas identified as next steps to continue advancing the conceptual planning phase for East-West Passenger Rail:

- Further Discussion of CSX Requirements
- Detailed Study of Economic and Community Benefits and Impacts
- Understand Governance Options for Expanded Passenger Rail in Western Massachusetts
- Evaluation of Funding Sources and Strategies





# Allston I-90 Viaduct Project

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Today's presentation will update Board on work underway on four tracks:

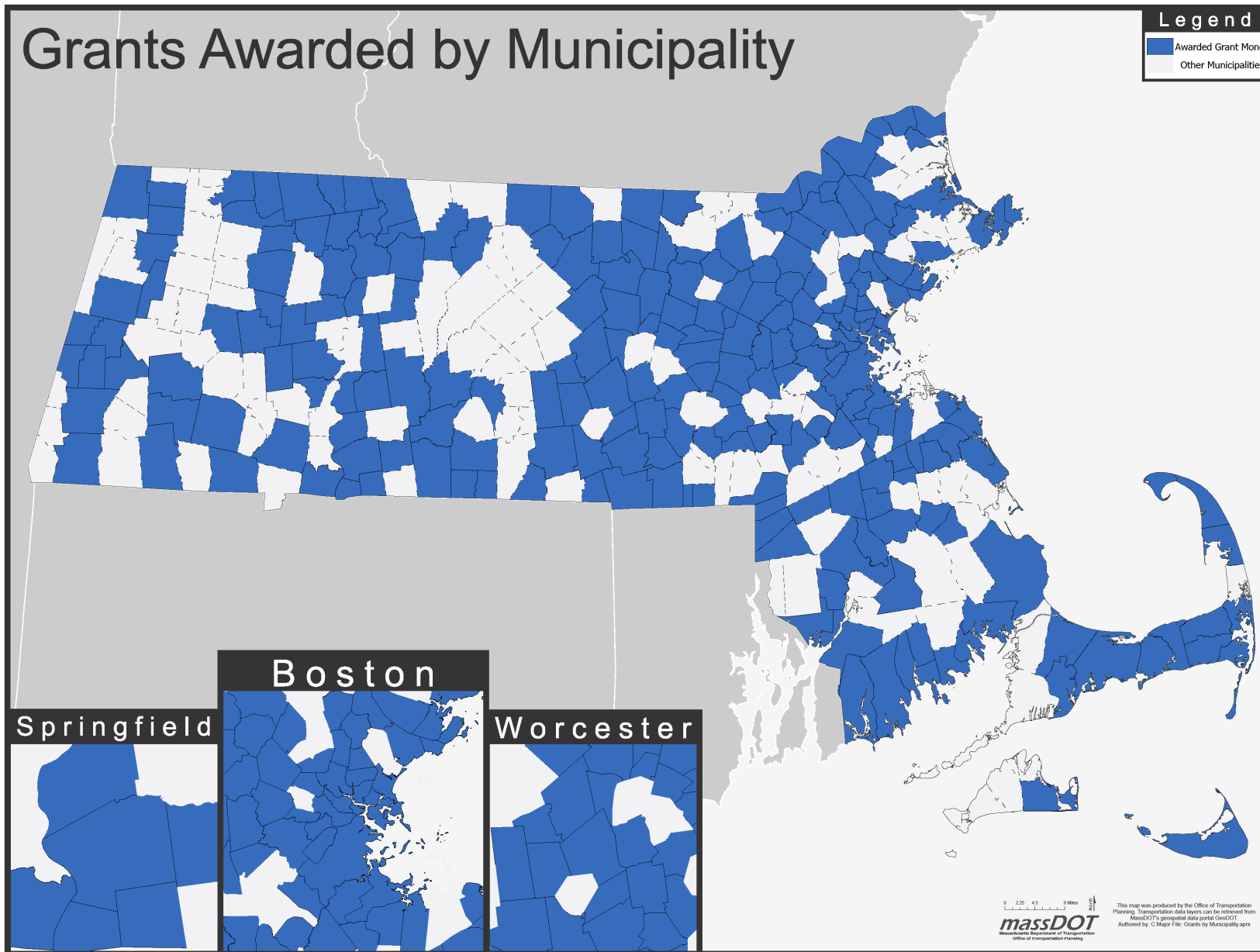
- NEPA/MEPA review process
  - Viaduct Repair Option
  - Multimodal Transportation Mitigation Plan
  - Finance Plan
- Finance Plan Policy Framework recommended to Board by Finance and Audit Committee builds on precedents set by
    - Green Line extension finance framework: Committed to cities of Cambridge and Somerville that they would be first but not last municipalities to contribute to a major infrastructure project
    - Transit-Oriented Development Policy adopted by both boards in June 2017 which defined and expressed support for application of value capture

# Transportation Grant Programs Update

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- July 2020: Municipal Small Bridge Program grants awarded. Total of \$6.3 million went for bridge projects in 27 communities. The program is a need and merit-based program for existing municipally-owned small bridges.
- November 2020: six grants awarded totaling more than \$2.42 million from the Industrial Rail Access Program (IRAP) to enhance rail and freight access, economic opportunity, and job growth.
- Complete Streets Funding Program was launched in 2016 and through the end of December 2020, 196 technical assistance grants and 160 construction grants had been provided to cities and towns which applied for funding. More than 71 percent of municipalities are currently involved in some tier of the program. The most recent round of funding totaled \$4.6 million and was awarded to 12 communities in the Fiscal Year 2021 Round 1 grants and 66% of total award dollars were to fund projects located in Environmental Justice communities.

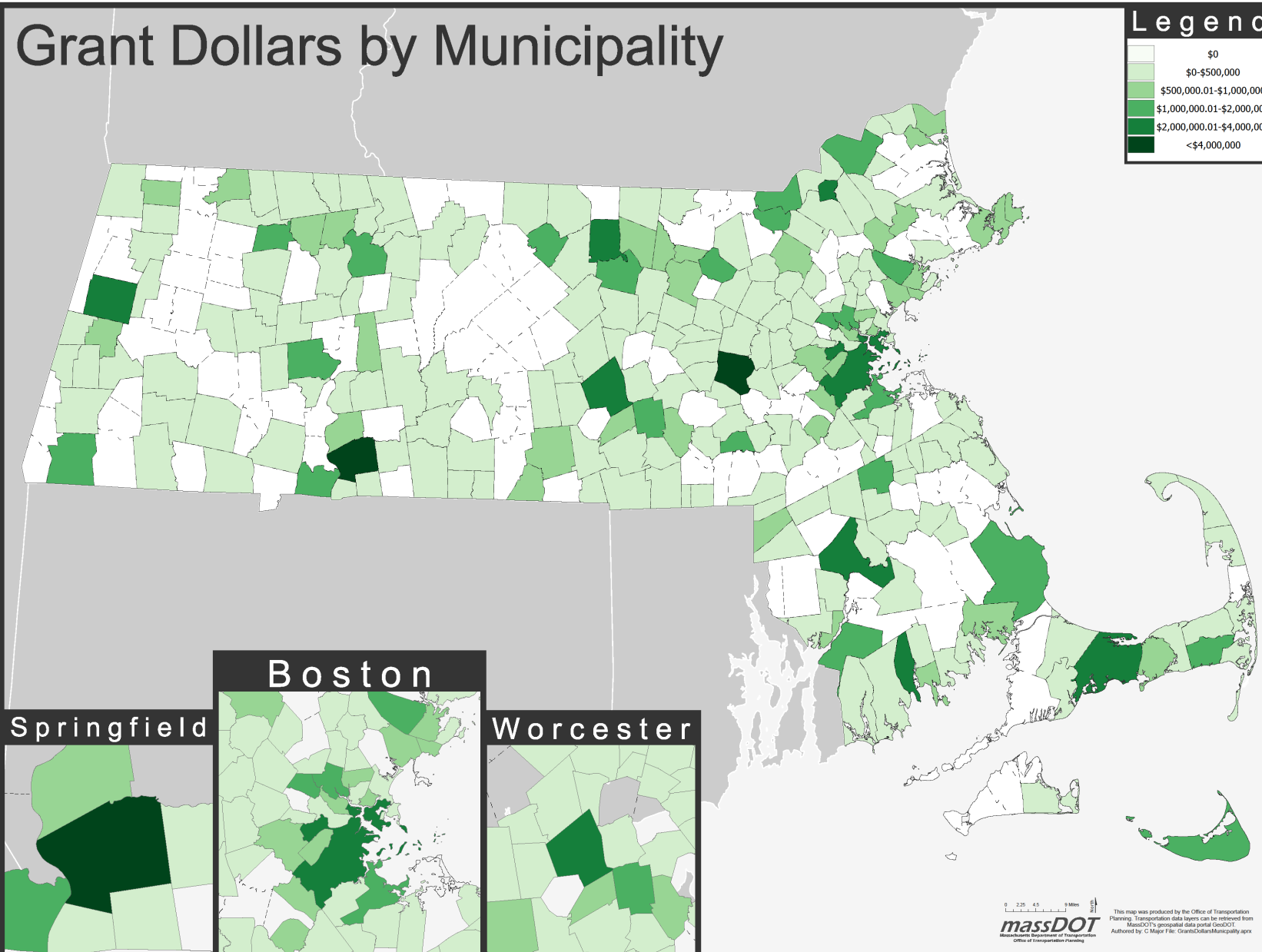
# 2019 and 2020 Grants



## Grant Programs Included:

- Safe Routes to Schools
- Shared Streets
- Shared Winter Streets (through December)
- Complete Streets
- Small Municipal Bridge
- Industrial Rail Access Program
- Community Transit

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# Shared Winter Streets and Spaces Grant Update

- In December, MassDOT announced funding awards for the first two rounds of the new Shared Winter Streets and Spaces Grant initiative.
  - The first round of awards totaled \$1,661,594 and will support projects in 11 municipalities, of which 55 percent are designated Environmental Justice Communities and 54 percent are considered high-risk for COVID-19 infections.
  - The second round of awards totaled \$3,053,464.41 and will support 17 projects in 15 municipalities, of which 62 percent are designated Environmental Justice communities and 80 percent are considered high-risk for COVID-19 infections.
- This program, a new phase of the Shared Streets and Spaces Program which launched in June and provided a total of \$10.2 million to municipalities, provides technical and funding assistance to help Massachusetts cities and towns during the winter months conceive, design, and implement tactical changes to curbs, streets, and parking areas in support of public health, safe mobility, and renewed commerce.
- Upcoming grant submission deadlines for the remaining rounds:
  - January 29th for consideration and award by February 26<sup>th</sup>
  - February 26th for consideration and award by March 26<sup>th</sup>
- The project completion and spending deadline for all four rounds is May 31, 2021.



# Update on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Efforts Underway

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Developing sustainable governance model consisting of two bodies

- DE&I Employee Advisory Council
  - Received 47 nominations from across MassDOT – narrowed down to 10 final candidates
  - Kickoff meeting scheduled for 2<sup>nd</sup> week of January
- DE&I Executive Council
  - Charter and membership being confirmed
  - Kickoff meeting scheduled for January 22<sup>nd</sup>

# DEI Efforts Underway: Employee Resource Groups

- Employee Resource Groups (ERGs):
  - ERGs are employee led, self-directed voluntary groups that offer opportunities to network internally, to attract a diverse employee base, to provide the inclusion of ideas and solutions, and to create opportunities for mentoring and career development.
  - Collaboration with MBTA to launch/re-invigorate five groups
    - Women's Employee Resource Group (WERG)
    - Accessibility and Inclusion Employee Resource Group (AIERG)
    - Multicultural Employee Engagement Resource Group
    - Veterans' Employee Resource Group
    - Pride Employee Resource Group
- Executive Sponsors identified for each group
- Training scheduled for Executive Sponsors on January 8<sup>th</sup>
- Outreach to MassDOT and MBTA employees for participation distributed in late December and early January

# DEI Efforts Underway: Mentorship Pilot

## Mentorship Pilot Program at the Registry of Motor Vehicles

- 67 pairs of mentors and proteges participating in 6 month pilot
- Trainings held for mentors and proteges in December
- Official launch on January 7<sup>th</sup>
- Protégé Demographics
  - Gender
    - Female 58%
    - Male 24%
    - Unidentified 18%
  - Race
    - Asian 1%
    - Black/African Am. 24%
    - Hispanic/Latino 10%
    - White 22%
    - Non-Specified 43%
  - Tenure at MassDOT
    - 1-3 Years 64%
    - 4-10 Years 18%
    - 11-15 Years 7%
    - Over 15 Years 11%

# DEI Efforts Underway: Training

## ➤ Executive Training

- RFR created and posted for MASSDOT senior leadership education and training effort seeks to create an educational system for diversity, equity and inclusion that is accessible to senior leadership at all MASSDOT Divisions, Agencies and Authorities

## ➤ Management Training

- For MassDOT & MBTA Middle Management
  - Mandatory Core Training launching in March 2021, course topics to include:
    - Diversity & Inclusion
    - Communication
    - Building Inclusive Teams
  - Supplemental Training launching in June 2021, course topics to include:
    - Inclusive Leadership
    - Encouraging Growth & Learning
    - Empathy

# Diversity Event: Native American Heritage Month

MassDOT was proud to host an employee event to observe Native American Heritage Month in November. Keynote speaker: Samara “Ancient Moonbeam” Julia Jackson Tobey, Student - University of Michigan, Anthropology & Native American Studies. A Community Recognition Award was given to MA Center for Native American Awareness.

