



Secretary Stephanie Pollack's Report to the MassDOT Board and FMCB

Monday, February 11, 2019

Baker-Polito Administration Proposed Road Safety Legislation

- Legislation makes number of changes recommended in State Highway Safety Plan signed in December 2018 & updates existing statutes that were drafted before recent advances in various forms of mobility.
- Goal: to move Commonwealth toward zero fatalities on the roads.
- The Baker-Polito Administration filed on January 22, “An Act Relative to Improving Safety on the Roads of the Commonwealth”
 - To reduce distracted driving w/ requirement electronic devices be used in “hands-free” mode if operating a vehicle.
 - Requires use of ignition interlock devices for 1st offenders who apply for hardship license
 - Add side guards & additional mirrors for certain classifications of trucks
 - Establish a regulatory framework for new forms of transportation such as electric scooters.

Governor's Fiscal Year 2020 Proposed Budget

- Proposed FY 2020 Budget has \$42.7 billion in gross spending, a 1.5 % increase over projected FY 19 spending.
- Assumes a reduction in the state income tax rate to 5% on January 1, 2020.
- Proposes \$741.6 million for MassDOT overall.
- \$741.6 million includes a recommendation of \$105 million for ice and snow removal costs, consistent with historical spending.
- Proposes \$86 million for Regional Transit Authorities

Smart Growth America assessment: pedestrian safety

- Smart Growth America releases quantitative assessment of pedestrian safety by metro area and state
- Massachusetts is one of the five safest states in the U.S. for pedestrians (#46)
- Boston is the third safest of the 88 large metros evaluated (Springfield is the 6th safest, Worcester is the 13th safest)
- smartgrowthamerica.org/dangerous-by-design/



East-West Passenger Rail Study

- First meeting on December 18, 2018. Next meeting: March.
- Study of rail service alternatives along Boston-Worcester-Springfield-Pittsfield corridor.
- Examining costs, benefits and investments needed for possible future passenger rail.
- For more information: mass.gov/east-west-passenger-rail-study



Traffic Congestion In Massachusetts

- This week the INRIX 2018 Global Traffic Scorecard is being released & states Boston and Washington, D.C., are top U.S. cities in terms of impact and time wasted due to congestion.
- At MassDOT, we've been less concerned with comparing ourselves to other cities & more concerned with looking at the entire state with a congestion study we have underway following Governor Baker's directive to us last year.
- The issue of congestion is important and the MassDOT study will define the types of congestion – for ex. due to traffic crashes, disabled vehicles, scheduled road work, etc.) The study will identify “hot spots” and this study will give us the framework to see where congestion is and what we may be able to do to lessen congestion.

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MBTA's Rail Vision Project

- Rail Vision: 2-year study underway
- Open House on Tuesday, March 5, 4:30-7 p.m.
- Online survey for members of public who do not use commuter rail: MBTARailVisionSurvey.com



About the Project

Timeline: 2018-2019

Status: Planning

The MBTA's Rail Vision will identify cost-effective strategies to transform the MBTA's existing Commuter Rail system to better support improved mobility and economic competitiveness in the Boston region.

[Join us for the Rail Vision Open House on March 5, 2019](#)

Cape Cod Study and Bridge Work

- On February 13, MassDOT hosts a public meeting to release the recommendations of its Cape Cod Canal Transportation Study; they include capital investments to improve bicycle and pedestrian travel, install new features at local intersections and “gateway” intersections, and create infrastructure to support the eventual replacement by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) of the Sagamore and Bourne Bridges.
- The USACE has announced it will begin 7 day a week maintenance in late March on the Bourne Bridge, resulting in just one lane of travel open in each direction until the Memorial Day Weekend in May.