



Secretary Stephanie Pollack's Report to the MassDOT Board

December 16, 2019



In memory of
Frank DePaola

Former Secretaries panel at 10th Anniversary



MassDOT Studio

- Idea accelerator grounded in design-thinking methods
- Multi-disciplinary cohort with students & professionals
- Mix of self-guided and immersive, facilitated group work
- MassDOT and external subject matter experts guide cohort's work toward Studio Challenge
- Studio Challenge grounded in foundational work done by Commission on the Future of Transportation in the Commonwealth, MassDOT Congestion Report and climate resiliency goals

Hands-Free Bill

- 11/25: Governor signed “An Act requiring the hands-free use of mobile telephones while driving, to improve road safety in Massachusetts.” Takes effect in March.
- Electronic devices can only be used in hands-free mode.
- Law enforcement making traffic stops must report data, (age, race, and gender), for person issued a warning or citation.
 - This sets forth process in event there are suspicions a law enforcement entity may be racial profiling.
 - RMV will keep data and the Secretary of Public Safety’s office will release this information to the public annually.



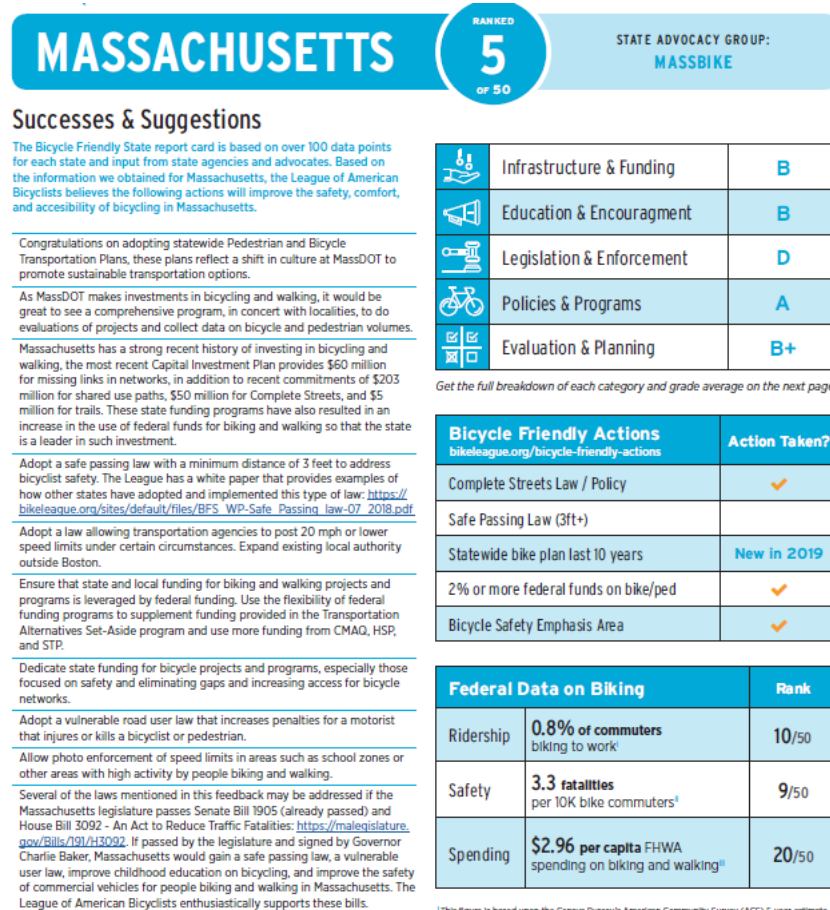
The signing of the bill at the State House on November 25. State officials, representatives from advocacy groups, and officials from the National Transportation Safety Board were in attendance.

Transportation Climate Initiative (TCI)

- TCI Senior Executives Forum with Governor Baker, Lt. Governor Polito, Secretary Pollack and Secretary Theoharides held on Wednesday, December 11. (Photo below.)
- Tuesday, December 17: draft MOU with 12 states, (including Massachusetts), & the District of Columbia will be made public. Website will publish the draft: www.transportationandclimate.org



Massachusetts' Rankings: Bicycle Friendly State Report Card



- Report Card has over 100 data points for each state
- MA ranked 5 of 50 states for infrastructure and funding, 3 of 50 states for education and encouragement, 2 of 50 states for policies and programs
- Current CIP: \$60 million for missing networks links, \$203 million for shared use paths, \$50 million for Complete Streets, and \$5 million for trails.
- The Governor's Transportation Bond Bill includes over \$100 million in new funding bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure.

Municipal and partnership grants

Grants Announced/Distributed

- ✓ Community Transit Grants
- ✓ Municipal Small Bridge Program
- ✓ Complete Streets Funding Program
- ✓ Industrial Rail Access Program

Remaining Grant Programs

- Regional Transit Authority Innovation grants (December)
- Workforce Commute Options grants (January)

Community Transit Grants

- Total of \$9.5 million for cities, towns and nonprofits for transit operating costs, mobility management or new capital investments.
- Funding just awarded going to total of 126 vans and mini-buses to 33 organizations.
- Grant recipients include those based in Andover, Ashburnham, Boston, Braintree, Brockton, Burlington, Attleboro, Franklin, Oxford, Blackstone, Marion, Plympton, Somerset, Ware, Worcester, etc.
- Groups include Berkshire RTA, Cape Ann Transportation Authority, Cape Cod RTA, MetroWest RTA, Project Independence, etc.

Municipal Small Bridge Program

- Five-year program assists municipalities with replacing, preserving, repairing bridges with spans between ten and twenty feet.
- Total amount made available by Baker-Polito Administration for five years was \$50 million.
- Program funding period: FY17-FY21.
- To date: 93 awards made totaling \$43.5 million.

Complete Streets Funding Program

- Provides technical assistance and construction funding to eligible municipalities.
- Now in its 4th year, the Program has awarded 124 construction grants state-wide totaling \$38 million.
 - For round 7, the first for Fiscal 2020, 18 municipalities will receive a total amount of \$5.1 million.
 - This award, when spent, will exhaust the funding provided in the 2014 Bond Bill
- The Baker-Polito Administration's Transportation Bond Bill, when passed by the legislature, will provide additional funding

Industrial Rail Access Program (IRAP) Grants

- 20 applications received for Fiscal 2020 funding
- 9 awards made:
 - 3 to railroads
 - 6 to shippers/receivers
- \$2,756,722 total in awards
- Matched by \$3,302,913 in private funds

Regional Transit Authority (RTA) Council

- RTA Council met on Tuesday, December 10; members heard a presentation on the MBTA Fare Transformation Initiative and some of the new technology which will be deployed.
- MassDOT expects to award \$3.5 million in discretionary grants to RTAs soon. Funds made available in the FY 2020 budget. Thirteen of fifteen RTAs applied & funding to be awarded under a competitive process.



Grant Thornton response: Streamlining Employee Reporting

Sexual Harassment, Discrimination, Reasonable Accommodation, Retaliation

ODCR

MBTA/MassDOT

Reporting mechanism:

Mail, email, fax, walk-in, phone, HR portal, MassDOT.gov website.

Tracking: Cases are logged and tracked in LaborSoft. No formal time standards for case processing.

Workplace Violence, Employee Misconduct, Workplace Policy Violations, General Employment Concerns

MassDOT: HR – OLER

Reporting mechanism: phone, email, on line via HR Portal, walk-in.

Tracking: Cases are logged and tracked in Time Matters. No formal processing standards but cases are periodically reviewed for status. Converting to LaborSoft case management software.

MBTA : Human Resources

Reporting Mechanism: phone, walk-ins, email.

Tracking: Cases are tracked by spreadsheet, often referred to other responsible department/unit (e.g. ODCR).

Fraud, Misuse of Funds/Property, Waste, “Whistleblower”

Internal Special Audit (OIG)

MBTA/MassDOT

Reporting mechanism:

No formal internal complaint procedure. Confidential hotline, email, or online submission form to ISAU (all accessible via Transnet, MBTA Intranet, MBTA and MassDOT website).

Tracking: Internal tracking by Audit Unit is manual/informal.

State Conflict of Interest, Ethics

Office of General Counsel

MBTA/MassDOT

Reporting mechanism: phone, email, walk-in. Employees also have access to confidential legal advice through state Ethics Commission.

Tracking: Informal intake process. Common to refer employees to the State Ethics Commission.

HRD Investigations COE

Discrimination, Sexual Harassment, Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault/Stalking, Workplace Violence, and Retaliation

Workplace Safety, OSHA, Unsafe Practices, Hazardous Materials

MassDOT: Traffic Safety

Reporting mechanism: Safety hotline.

Tracking: Manual. Telephone calls logged.

MBTA: Safety Department

Reporting mechanism: Safety email and telephone hotline. “Form B” notification. All on MBTA Intranet. By end of 2019, expect to make these reporting structures more robust by implementing a new Employee Safety Reporting Program.

Actions taken and underway

- ✓ Chief Compliance Officer positions for RMV and MassDOT
- Establish Hotline
- MassDOT-wide message from Secretary Pollack announcing a new hotline available for employee questions, complaints and concerns.
- Undertake an educational campaign for employees to advertise the hotline and available protections for employees who report concerns
- Establish an interdepartmental committee, chaired by MassDOT Chief Compliance Officer, that has oversight responsibility for addressing employee concerns, complaints and questions, triaging employee concerns and complaints and procurement and oversight of third party vendor services for case management services related to employee concerns, complaints and questions.

Ethics and Compliance Services

- Scope of Services:
 - 24/7 Reporting Hotline
 - Compliance Training
 - Prevention and Awareness Training
 - Incident and Investigations Management Tools such as a Case Management System for Tracking and Close Out
 - Dashboard and Custom Reporting
 - Communications Tools and Design of a Communications Campaign
 - Overall Advice on the Development and Implementation of a robust Compliance and Ethics Program

Congestion Report Follow-ups: Next Steps

- Studies
 - Scopes being finalized
 - Procurements will be underway over the next two months
- Cross-functional congestion leadership team continuing to meet and advance projects
- MassDOT conducted an employee survey this fall concerning employee transportation behaviors and preferences
 - 1,297 (34%) employees responded
 - Analyzing results and formulating potential new benefits to make MassDOT a model employer
- Will report back to the Board next meeting with more detailed update

Congestion Report Follow-ups: Studies

- Shared Commuter Network Study
 - Investigates strategies to develop and maintain a network of shared travel facilities, vehicles, and options in Massachusetts, with a focus on Greater Boston. Study will include geographic mapping of park-and-ride, bus-on-shoulder, and other shared infrastructure opportunities.
 - Target release to consultant: January, 2020
- Managed Lanes Screening Study
 - Screen our existing infrastructure for the potential development of managed lane systems to support congestion relief in Massachusetts
 - Target release to consultant: end of December, 2019
- Legal Analysis of Managed Lanes/ Federal Tolling
 - Exploring legal ability to implement managed lanes across federal and state legal parameters

Aeronautics Division Updates

- Invested \$21 million in capital improvements throughout the Commonwealth this calendar year.
- More than \$7 million went to the reconstruction of a portion of the primary runway and the secondary runway at Pittsfield Municipal Airport.
- FY19: Aeronautics invested \$740,000 in airport vegetation maintenance projects at 4 public use airports (Marshfield, New Bedford, Norwood, and Westfield-Barnes).



Signage Plan for Drone “No Fly Zones”

- Aeronautics is initiating a “No Drone Zone” sign program to inform the general public where drones should not be flown
- FAA regulations prohibit drone operations within 5 miles of an airport without prior permission from the airport manager
- Drones are also prohibited from flying directly over people
- “No Drone Zone” signs will be installed at parks, playgrounds, and fields where drones are likely to be flown
- The MassDOT Sign Shop is manufacturing the initial 60 signs to be distributed to airports prior to the holiday season

