



Maura Healey, Governor
Kimberley Driscoll, Lieutenant Governor
Monica Tibbits-Nutt, Secretary & CEO



MINUTES

Meeting of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation Board of Directors

September 17, 2025 AT 12:00 P.M.

10 Park Plaza, 2nd Floor Board Room, Suite 2890
Boston, MA 02116

***Public participation and comment was available via written
communication, voice message and in-person public comment.***

This meeting was broadcast live online.

**MASSDOT BOARD
MEMBERS
PARTICIPATING:**

*Chair Monica Tibbits-Nutt, Director Eric Batista
(left meeting at 2:20 p.m.), Director Ilyas Bhatti,
Director Joseph Beggan, Director Richard
Dimino, Director Lisa Iezzoni, Director Tom Koch
(left meeting at 2:39 p.m.), Director Dean
Mazzarella, Director Thomas McGee*

**OTHERS
PARTICIPATING:**

*Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver,
Registrar of Motor Vehicles Colleen Ogilvie,
Administrator of Rail & Transit Meredith
Slesinger, Acting Aeronautics Administrator
Denise Garcia, Undersecretary Hayes Morrison,
Chief Financial Officer David Pottier, Deputy
Chief Safety Officer Tony Abdalla, Deputy Chief
Engineer John Bechard, Director of
Megaprojects Luisa Paiewonsky, MBTA Controller
Joseph Pagliuca*

OTHERS PRESENT:

*General Counsel Carrie Wicker, Deputy General
Counsel Owen Kane*

Chair Tibbits-Nutt called to order the meeting of the MassDOT Board at 12:02 p.m. Owen Kane called the roll of the members participating, being a quorum of the MassDOT Board of Directors:

Chair Tibbits-Nutt	Present
Director Batista	Present
Director Beggan	Present
Director Bhatti	Present
Director Dimino	Present
Director Iezzoni	Present
Director Koch	Present
Director Mazarella	Present
Director McGee	Present

Safety Briefing

Deputy Chief Safety Officer Tony Abdalla presented the Safety Briefing. Mr. Abdalla stated that this month's theme for the Safety Briefing in "See Tracks? Think Train." He indicated that every 3 hours in the United States a vehicle or person is hit by a train; more than 2,300 people are injured or killed annually in railroad crossing and trespass incidents in North America; more than 60% of collisions occur at crossings equipped with lights and/or gates; trains are quieter and faster than you think, only trains belong on the tracks;

rail transit can reach speeds over 100 MPH; and trains can run on any track, at any time, from either direction.

Employee Recognition

The Chair recognized twelve MassDOT employees for extraordinary work achievements.

Stefan Cejic was recognized for his exceptional performance within MassDOT's Rail & Transit group.

Dan Flint was cited for exceptional work at Highway District 4.

Joseph Myers was saluted for going above and beyond the call of duty within Highway District 4.

Finally, the ProjectInfo Team was cited for Innovation at MassDOT IT and Highway.

Public Comment

The Board received 5 written comments via email. The comments were provided to the Directors in advance of the meeting and are attached to these minutes.

The Board also listened to ten voice mail messages.

The following individuals also appeared in person and offered testimony to the Board.

1. Robert Young – asked the Board to consider changing signs to reflect the full name of the Zakim–Bunker Hill Bridge. Mr. You also expressed great appreciation to Director King for his timely response to Mr. Young’s previous request.
2. Tom Ryan, Harry Mattison and Seth Gadbois – asked the Board to take any steps necessary to continue the Allston Multi-Modal Project.
3. Robert Sullivan – discussed the Snow & Ice program and expressed frustration at not getting prompt responses from Department staff.
4. David Bennett – discussed the Snow & Ice program and expressed concern that the Department was not paying the full performance bonuses.
5. Robert Swartz – Read a letter from Francis Garrow about the Snow & Ice program. The letter was forwarded to the Board members.
- 6.** Bob Etchingham – Applegreen – expressed his appreciation to the Board for the selection of Applegreen and defended the actions of Applegreen during and since their selection.

7. Marilyn McNabb – spoke about concerns about the RIDE service.

Secretary Tibbits-Nutt stated that we would forward her comments to the MBTA.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

By roll call vote, the Board entered Executive Session to discuss strategy related to ongoing and potential litigation. The Board remained in Executive Session for approximately one hour.

MEETING MINUTES

Upon returning to Open Session, Chair Tibbits-Nutt asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the July 30, 2025, MassDOT Board Meeting.

On motion duly made and seconded, it was by roll call:

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the MassDOT Board Meeting held on July 30, 2025.

Chair Tibbits-Nutt	Yes
Director Beggan	Yes
Director Bhatti	Yes
Director Dimino	Yes
Director Iezzoni	Yes
Director Koch	Yes
Director Mazzarella	Yes
Director McGee	Yes

Presentations and Actions

Chief Financial Officer David Pottier, joined by MBTA Controller Joe Pagliuca, presented a request related to the FY25 ETF Supplemental Transfer to the MBTA.

Mr. Pottier explained that Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) is funded through the Legislature in several ways. Depending on the source of the funding and the specifics of the legislation, the MBTA may receive funds directly from the Executive Office for Administration & Finance (ANF), through MassDOT or via any designated line item.

When the MBTA receives funding through MassDOT, these funds are transmitted following a contract between the two agencies. As with all MassDOT contracts, if these exceed \$15 million, they require approval of the MassDOT Board of Directors.

These approval requests are routine and are intended to effectuate the intent of the Legislature.

Three hundred million dollars in MBTA funding from the FY25 Fair Share supplemental budget has been transferred to MassDOT.

On motion duly made and seconded, it was by roll call:

VOTED: To authorize the Department, through the Secretary or their designee, to execute an Agreement with the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) to replenish the MBTA Deficiency Fund, as called for in the FY25 Fair Share Supplemental Budget Filing signed June 24, 2025, and subject to the terms agreed upon during the meeting of the Board on or about September 17, 2025;

VOTED: To approve the transfer of \$300,000,000.00 to the MBTA pursuant to this Agreement.

Chair Tibbits-Nutt	Yes
Director Beggan	Yes
Director Bhatti	Yes
Director Dimino	Yes
Director Iezzoni	Yes
Director Koch	Yes
Director Mazzarella	Yes
Director McGee	Yes

Deputy Chief Engineer John Bechard presented a request to authorize the Secretary, or their designee, to award and execute MassDOT Contract No. 130548 Entitled Boston – Tunnel Preservation within MHS Tunnels, with J. F. White Contracting Co, in a form approved by the General Counsel, in the amount of \$52,182,001.00

The proposed Project The award of Contract No. 130548 titled Boston – Tunnel Preservation within MHS Tunnels serves as hybrid project to address

deficiency across Tunnel Network and improvement to crumbling infrastructure for safety and reliability, as the Tunnel system is integral to destination connectivity within Boston region and Logan airport.

The work comprised repairs to Callahan Tunnel Ceiling System, cleaning and painting Callahan Tunnel ceiling stringers, adding sump pump to Vent Building 1 basement level, installation of waterproof coating over subsurface embankment within Parcel 22 adjacent to Air Intake Structure, demolition to expose the fire standpipe expansion joints within the Ted Williams Tunnel and installation of Fire rated access doors for maintenance, CASB Standpipe trench repairs, Performing preservation activities in various Tunnels for Leak sealing, Fireproofing repairs, overhead concrete repairs, wall panel anchor repairs, surface joint repairs, cleaning and repairs to tanks and sluice gates in Pump Stations and drainage repairs.

On motion duly made and seconded, it was by roll call:

VOTED: To authorize the Secretary, or their designee, to award and execute MassDOT Contract No. 130548 Entitled Boston – Tunnel Preservation within MHS Tunnels, with J. F. White Contracting Co, in a form approved by the General Counsel, in the amount of \$52,182,001.00.

Chair Tibbits-Nutt	Yes
Director Beggan	Yes
Director Bhatti	Yes
Director Dimino	Yes
Director Iezzoni	Yes
Director Koch	Yes
Director Mazarella	Yes
Director McGee	Yes

Deputy Chief Engineer Bechard then presented a request to authorize and approve the Secretary/CEO, or their designee, to execute MassDOT Contract No. 131468 titled Mendon Resurfacing and Related Work on Route 16 with LUDLOW CONSTRUCTION CO INC, for the amount of \$16,518,264.50 and for a total duration not to exceed 1325 calendar days from Notice to Proceed (NTP).

The award of Contract No. 131468 titled Mendon Resurfacing and Related Work on Route 16, from Uxbridge Road (Route 16) in Mendon just west of Taft Avenue and continues east for 1.9 miles on Route 16 to the Hopedale Town line just east of Harrington Street.

The roadway work is comprised of full depth construction; roadway widening; milling; paving; reconstructing driveways; sidewalks and pedestrian curb ramps; a shared use path; repair of an existing concrete box culvert;

landscaping; installing new granite curbing and berm; installing highway guardrail; new stormwater drainage pipes and structures; new fencing; providing and spreading loam borrow and seed; water main and gas relocation by others; tree trimming; traffic signal installation; traffic signing and pavement markings; traffic control management, secondary street improvements, relocation of utility poles and overhead wires; and shrubs within the project's right-of-way.

On motion duly made and seconded, it was by roll call:

VOTED: To authorize and approve the Secretary/CEO, or their designee, to execute MassDOT Contract No. 131468 titled Mendon Resurfacing and Related Work on Route 16 with LUDLOW CONSTRUCTION CO INC, for the amount of \$16,518,264.50 and for a total duration not to exceed 1325 calendar days from Notice to Proceed (NTP).

Chair Tibbits-Nutt	Yes
Director Beggan	Yes
Director Bhatti	Yes
Director Dimino	Yes
Director Iezzoni	Yes
Director Koch	Yes
Director Mazzarella	Yes
Director McGee	Yes

Due to time constraints, the update on the 2026 FIFA World Cup was

removed from the agenda at the Department's request. The update will be provided at a future meeting.

Director of Mega-projects Luisa Paiewonsky presented an update on the Cape Cod Bridges and Allston Multi-Modal projects.

As to the Cape Cod Bridges, Ms. Paiewonsky stated that the federally owned structures are 90 years old and carry 38 million trips annually. They are the only road evacuation route to the mainland, are needed for emergency response, transport of goods and services, connections to work, school, recreation and are, in short, essential to Cape Cod and state economy.

The Healey-Driscoll Administration has secured nearly \$1.3 billion in federal grants while contributing \$750 million in state funds. Without replacement, the US Army Corps of engineers would perform a major rehabilitation with lane closures.

MassDOT has deployed robust public outreach activities, meeting with citizens, business and environmental groups, bicycle and pedestrian advocates, media and municipal and elected officials.

NEPA and MEPA documents are underway and expected to result in

state and federal approvals in 2026, followed by 6 months of permitting. The environmental process is expected to wrap up in late 2026. Preliminary design is under review at MassDOT.

The Procurement phase of the project is expected to start in 2026. A Notice to Proceed for Design-Build contract anticipated in early 2028.

Ms. Paiewonsky then went on to discuss the Allston Multi-Modal Project.

The project reflects a major transportation infrastructure investment in Beacon Park Yard. Improvements will address rail, transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian mobility. In addition, connectivity improvements for Allston neighborhood are expected. There will be a positive statewide impact for Metrowest, Worcester, Springfield and points west of Allston.

The project also includes major rail infrastructure improvements. The MassDOT/MBTA project team has collaborated to develop a design that addresses the upcoming expansion of Worcester Commuter Rail Service. This service will include two Worcester Mainline and two station tracks providing local service at the proposed West Station. The tracks will also support the Commonwealth's West-East Rail and Amtrak intercity rail service.

While layover tracks are a critical support to multimodal transportation,

MassDOT is working with the City of Boston to explore other potential locations.

Unfortunately, due to federal government grant cuts, the project recently lost \$327 million in federal funds requiring the project team to re-evaluate the project and determine alternative funding options.

Director Beggan stated that the two mega-projects are generational and expressed his appreciation for the work done within the Department, and noted the outstanding progress, especially on the Cape project.

Director Bhatti is pleased with the report and is encouraged that the Allston project will continue.

Director Dimino asked about the status of funding for the Bourne Bridge and was told that the Department has requested additional funding for the project again this year. The state has agreed to match whatever amount is approved by the federal government. The Army Corps of Engineers has committed \$250 million for the project.

Director Dimino expressed concern about the future of the Allston project and encouraged the Department to not segment the project. While we haven't identified all of the funding for the full project, he does not believe

that “we can’t afford it.” The Director asked the Department to explore every opportunity for funding the entire project.

Further discussion ensued.

STANDING REPORTS

Due to time constraints, the reports of the Secretary and the Administrators were provided in writing.

Chair Tibbits-Nutt asked for a motion to adjourn.

On a motion duly made and seconded, it was by roll call,

VOTED: To adjourn at 3:11 p.m.

Chair Tibbits-Nutt	Yes
Director Beggan	Yes
Director Bhatti	Yes
Director Dimino	Yes
Director Iezzoni	Yes
Director Mazarella	Yes
Director McGee	Yes