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Kimberley Driscoll, Lieutenant Governor  
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Meredith Slesinger, MassDOT Rail & Transit Administrator



## **FY25 Transit Connectivity Request for Applications**

Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) Transit Connectivity Grant Program for Regional Transit Authorities, funded under Section 1596–2406 of the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Act.

### **Objective:**

Under Section 1596–2406 of the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Act, MassDOT has up to \$10 million to award grants to Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs) for the creation or altering of routes that advance connectivity between existing public transportation routes including, but not limited to RTA routes and MBTA routes. Awards will be made on a competitive basis with funding provided contractually.

### **Eligible Projects:**

Funding will be provided for operating projects that address the criteria outlined below.

- opportunities for increased ridership
- opportunities for increased total mileage covered in a single trip (i.e., coverage)
- opportunities to reach low-income individuals

### **Application Limits:**

RTAs may submit as many applications as they choose. Joint applications are encouraged. Joint applications of multiple RTAs seeking to connect their services, facilitate transfers, or provide coverage for areas between their service areas will receive bonus points.

### **Project Selection:**

All project proposals will be reviewed by a committee including the MassDOT Rail and Transit Division staff and will be selected on a competitive basis. Staff from MassDOT's Rail and Transit Division may

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[mass.gov/massdot](https://mass.gov/massdot)

contact the applicant if further clarification is needed on the submission. MassDOT reserves the right to negotiate project scope and deliverables prior to finalizing awards. Projects may not be fully funded up to the dollar amount requested in the proposal. MassDOT is not obligated to award the entire \$10 million in response to this solicitation if the total requests that are deemed to meet the goal of the grant program are less than \$10 million. RTAs may submit a joint proposal that implements a pilot program across RTA boundaries or demonstrates joint benefits, and whose implementation can be more cost effectively achieved through a joint effort. Similarly, a single grant may be awarded to multiple RTAs in cases where more than one RTA submits similar proposals, and cost savings or other efficiencies may be realized through implementing the proposals as one project. Grant awards shall be distributed in a geographically equitable manner to the extent possible.

### **Selection Criteria and Weights:**

Scoring will be based on a 50-point scale, with the potential to earn additional 10 bonus points.

### **Application Questions:**

Please use the online form available at [www.mass.gov/how-to/fy25-transit-connectivity-grant](http://www.mass.gov/how-to/fy25-transit-connectivity-grant) to answer the following questions about your proposed project.

#### *Basic Information*

1. Unique name of your proposed project
2. Lead applicant RTA
3. Additional partner RTAs, if applicable
4. Main contact person name
5. Main contact person email
6. Main contact person phone number
7. Proposed dates of service

*Service Plan (15 points)*

8. Describe your proposed service.
9. What routes or service areas does this proposed service connect?
10. Are you proposing fixed-route, microtransit, dial-a-ride, or some other mode? Why is this mode the best choice for your proposed service?
11. What is your plan and schedule for implementation?

*Project Need (10 points)*

12. How do you know this is a need? Cite any studies such as the Comprehensive Regional Transportation Plans, Coordinated Human Service Transportation Plans, or others as well as rider surveys or requests from riders and potential riders.

*Prioritization (15 points)*

13. Increasing ridership: what ridership do you expect on this service and how did you calculate that estimate?
14. Increasing coverage: will this proposed service increase the area you are able to cover? What is the square mileage of the new area that will be served if this project is funded?
15. Does your project prioritize low-income individuals? If so, describe how, and describe any partnerships with community-based organizations to help reach low-income riders for this service.

*Evaluation (5 points)*

16. Successful applicants will be required to report on ridership on routes that are created or altered due to this grant funding, for a report MassDOT must submit to the legislature. How will you track this ridership?
17. List any other ways you will track whether this pilot is successful.

*Bonus Points (10 points)*

18. Bonus points available for joint application submitted between RTAs connecting their service
19. Bonus points are available for an RTA looking to connect service with the MBTA, if the applicant takes step to collaborate with the MBTA, at minimum by reaching out to Glenn Geiler at [ggeiler@mbta.com](mailto:ggeiler@mbta.com) before submitting the application and sharing a draft scope/abstract and explanation of any role you anticipate for the MBTA. Please describe your collaboration attempts here.

*Budget (5 points)*

Please fill out the budget spreadsheet.

**Grant Contract Award:**

The project funding will be provided contractually. Funding is available in State Fiscal Year 2025. Subject to Board approval, it could also carry over into FY26. In late FY25, any applicant hoping to carry funds into FY26 will need to provide estimated carryover amounts.

**Total Amount Available:**

Up to \$10 million is available for allocation. There is no minimum or maximum amount that an applicant may apply for. MassDOT may approve projects at less than the amount requested.

**Number of Awards:**

There is no minimum or maximum number of awards. Projects will be selected on merit based on the weighted selection criteria.

**Schedule:**

Proposals are due September 20. Please submit your responses and upload your budget through the online form available at [www.mass.gov/how-to/fy25-transit-connectivity-grant](http://www.mass.gov/how-to/fy25-transit-connectivity-grant)