



Charles D. Baker, Governor
Karyn E. Polito, Lieutenant Governor
Stephanie Pollack, MassDOT Secretary & CEO
Astrid Glynn, MassDOT Rail & Transit Administrator



To: MassDOT Board
From: Astrid Glynn, Rail and Transit Administrator
Re: Current Activities
Date: December 8, 2017

Transit:

- MassDOT’s transit Staff continues to meet with each of the 15 Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs) as part of the new program preview process. Each meeting includes the following topics:
 - Overview of process
 - Pressing issues from the RTA’s perspective
 - Overarching questions from MassDOT
 - Highlights, accomplishments, challenges
 - Previous fiscal years (FY16/17)
 - Current fiscal year (FY18)
 - Upcoming Fiscal years (FY19-20)
 - Program preview documents, including budget information and audit
 - Performance data
 - Ridership and other metrics
 - Update from RTA on Regional Transit Plan implementation
 - Capital Planning
 - Quarter 1 spending review
 - FY18 requests
 - FY20 vehicle requests
 - All other FY20-23 requests
 - Asset management plan
 - Summary of next steps and follow up

Rail:

- MassDOT rail staff met with the Massachusetts Railroad Association. The Industrial Rail Access Program (IRAP) was discussed, along with the recently issued Freight Plan the upcoming Rail Plan. The Association expressed interest in bringing shippers and receivers to the table and a willingness to help MassDOT conduct a survey of past IRAP grant projects.

- MassDOT and the current operator of MassDOT's South East lines reached agreement on a 9 month extension of the current contract. This will give bidders more time to prepare thoughtful responses; allow MassDOT and the successful bidder more time to negotiate the terms of the new contract; and provide a reasonable time frame for the intricacies of any operational transfer.
- MassDOT Rail continues to work on new contract management procedures that will be used for all its rail operational agreements.
- MassDOT Rail met with Connecticut DOT and Amtrak to explore the feasibility and costs of new services in Western MA. Connecticut is sponsoring new passenger rail service between New Haven and Springfield in May. Since some of the service would be covered by the existing Knowledge Corridor Agreement between Amtrak, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Vermont, an amendment to that agreement could enhance services that benefit the Pioneer Valley.