



GLENN A. CUNHA  
INSPECTOR GENERAL

## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

### Office of the Inspector General

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June 22, 2017

The Honorable Brian Dempsey, Chairman  
House Committee on Ways and Means  
State House, Room 243  
Boston, MA 02133

The Honorable Karen Spilka, Chairwoman  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
State House, Room 212  
Boston, MA 02133

**Re: FY 2018 Budget: MassDOT Real Estate Procedures**

Dear Chairman Dempsey and Chairwoman Spilka:

I write to you in support of three outside sections in the Senate's budget that would amend the procedures the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) must follow for real estate transactions.

Senate outside sections 8, 121 and 122 raise the threshold from \$5,000 to \$50,000 for MassDOT and the MBTA to dispose of real property through an advertised, competitive bid process. The language also adds safeguards by requiring that the agency disposing of the property publicly declare it available for purchase and specify any restrictions on future uses of the property. These changes strike the balance between allowing MassDOT and the MBTA to operate efficiently while also providing transparency. The House version of these sections raises the threshold to \$100,000 without providing for transparency. I urge you to accept the Senate language.

Thank you for your consideration of these outside sections. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Glenn A. Cunha".

Glenn A. Cunha  
Inspector General