



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: February 10, 2017

**Transit:**

***Federal Grant Compliance:*** MassDOT staff members are working with consultants to establish how MassDOT will comply with new Federal Transit Administration (FTA) requirements for asset management. The consultants will also help MassDOT staff understand how other state DOTs are applying the new rules to other grantees, such as the Regional Transit Authorities that will have their asset management obligations under FTA's regulations. MassDOT is encouraging the RTAs to regard their FTA required asset management systems as a data source for MassDOT's CIP process.

***Community Transportation:*** With a small grant from MassDOT and a matching grant from the local hospital, several rural towns in central MA (Belchertown, Brookfield, Hardwick, Monson, Palmer, Ware, Warren and West Brookfield) have created a local transit service. Unlike traditional paratransit this service is open to all and priority is given to trips for employment, job training and educational/community college programs. Trips are offered within and between the participating towns. The service is particularly aimed at helping residents become certified nurses' assistances through programs in the participating communities. That training is offered at Holyoke Community College's satellite facility in Ware and the students will help fill the staffing needs of local health care facilities, including the Baystate Hospital in Palmer and Baystate's Outpatient Center in Ware.

**Rail:**

***Amtrak:*** the MBTA and Amtrak have reached an agreement in principle with respect to Northeast Corridor Service. The contract is being developed.

***Cape Rail:*** MassDOT is conditionally extending until December 2017 the license by which Cape Cod Rail provides dinner train service on Cape Cod during the tourist season. This is a popular local activity that uses MassDOT's rail line to Hyannis as well as the rail yard in Hyannis.

***Maintenance of MassDOT Owned Rail:*** MassDOT completed rehabilitation of some 3 miles of track on MassDOT's Watuppa line. This work allowed a local scrap company to continue using rail for its shipments. MassDOT also took delivery of the remaining portion of the 92,000 ties that MassDOT had earlier ordered and is using on MassDOT owned rail lines across the Commonwealth.