HOUSE . . . . . No. 6108

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

FRANCIS W. SARGENT
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
STATE HOUSE • BOSTON 02133

March 8, 1973

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:

Today I submit the first comprehensive transportation bond authorization request in the history of the Commonwealth. Capital outlay needs in the field of transportation have previously been dealt with on a piecemeal basis: highways in one bill, MBTA in another, aviation in still another. One product of Phase I of Reorganization is that we have begun to think comprehensively about the transportation needs of the Commonwealth. This broader perspective has become essential in recent years. The need for it will continue to intensify in the years ahead.

My requested bond authorization totals $107 million, for the following purposes:

1. $25 million for commuter rail improvements;
2. $25 million for other MBTA construction and design activities;
3. $20 million for capital investments by the proposed regional transit authorities;
4. $35 million for Chapter 90 highway aid to communities outside the MBTA district; and
5. $2 million for assistance to city, town, and county-owned airports in their capital improvement activities.

The first three of these requests, for transit bonding authority, are intended to match Federal aid. We may anticipate that the requested $70 million of state and local money will support a total investment of $210 million. If my companion proposal to have all transit costs borne 50 per cent by the state and 50 per cent by the local communities is approved, the state share of this cost will be only $35 million.

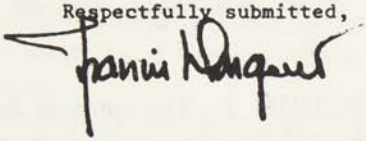
The Chapter 90 request would increase the authorization for this purpose in the Accelerated Highway Program of 1972 from $50 million to $85 million. It is anticipated that $21.5 million of this total will be needed to fund the statewide Chapter 90 distribution over the next two years, and that $60 million will be neede for the proposed additional distribution to cities and towns outside the MBTA district -- before allowance is made for a second year cost of living increase and for adjustments to ensure that no community is harmed by the program transition. Taking these additional factors into account, I believe that $85 million will be necessary to fund the proposed Chapter 90 program through fiscal 1975. I do not intend to submit another transportation bond authorization request before 1975.

The general aviation airport development program is currently funded on the following basis: 50 per cent Federal, 40 per cent state, 10 per cent local. The Massachusetts Aeronautics Commission has a substantial backlog of worthy project applications that it has been unable to fund over the past year due to an exhaustion of its previous bond authorization. Combined with Federal and local contributions, the proposed authorization will support

a total investment of $5 million, which should be adequate to meet essential local airport needs through fiscal 1975.

I hope that you will act quickly on these requests, so that together we may get on with the job of improving our transportation system throughout the Commonwealth.

Respectfully submitted,



GOVERNOR

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy-Three.

AN ACT TO PROVIDE A LOCAL-AID TRANSPORTATION BOND AUTHORIZATION TO ASSIST HIGHWAY, TRANSIT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT IN CITIES AND TOWNS THROUGHOUT THE COMMONWEALTH.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. The sums set forth in sections five through nine of this act for the several purposes and subject to the conditions in said sections and any general or special law, are hereby made available, subject to the provisions of law regulating the disbursement of public funds and the approval thereof to assist highway, transit and airport development throughout the commonwealth.

SECTION 2. Paragraph (b) of section 4 of chapter 161A of the General Laws, as appearing in section 18 of chapter 563 of the acts of 1964, is hereby amended by striking out in line 3 the words "clause (4)" and inserting in place thereof the following words: – clause (3).

SECTION 3. The first paragraph of section 23 of said chapter 161A, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out clause (2).

SECTION 4. Said first paragraph is hereby further amended by renumbering clauses "(3)" and "(4)", as appearing in section 3 of chapter 1075 of the acts of 1971, as "(2)" and "(3)" respectively.

SECTION 5. Said section 23 is hereby further amended, by striking out the third paragraph, as so appearing, and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph: –

Not more than three hundred and ninety-nine million dollars of bonds of the authority under clauses (1), (2) and (3) above

shall be outstanding at any time and twenty-five million dollars of such bonds shall be issued to finance capital improvements for the provision of commuter railroad service by agreement or otherwise. Such improvements shall include, but not be limited to, upgrading of rights of way, construction and reconstruction of stations and maintenance facilities and renovation or acquisition of rolling stock.

SECTION 6. Section 15 of chapter 161B of the General Laws, as appearing in section 0000 of chapter 0000 of the acts of 1973, is hereby amended by inserting at the end of the second paragraph the following sentence: –

The aggregate principal amount of bonds for all authorities established under this chapter which may be outstanding at any one time under this section shall not exceed the sum of twenty-million dollars; provided, however, that no such bonds may be issued under this section without the prior approval of the secretary.

SECTION 7. Section 4 of chapter 765 of the acts of 1972 is hereby amended by striking out the first paragraph and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph: –

Pursuant to the provisions of section one, the department is authorized and directed to expend a sum not less than eighty-five million dollars for construction of town and county ways under subdivision (a) of clause (2) of section thirty-four of chapter ninety of the General Laws.

SECTION 8. The second paragraph of section 9 of said chapter 765 is hereby amended by striking out in lines 6 and 7 the words "fifty-one million five hundred thousand dollars" and inserting in place thereof the following words: – eighty-six million five hundred thousand dollars.

SECTION 9. The department of transportation and construction is hereby authorized and directed to expend a sum not exceeding two million dollars for airport systems planning in the commonwealth and for reimbursements to cities, towns and

5 counties for planning, design and construction of airports
6 pursuant to sections thirty-nine F and fifty-one K of chapter
7 ninety of the General Laws. Funds provided in this section shall
8 be in addition to any prior appropriations authorized for the
9 purposes of this section.