



**MassDOT April Board Meeting**

**April 15  
Transportation Building  
10 Park Plaza  
Suite 3830  
Boston, MA 02150**

[Full Meeting Schedule](#)

**On the MassDOT Blog**

**MassDOT Community Transit Grant Recipients Announced**



MassDOT's Rail & Transit Division has announced the FY 2016 award recipients for the MassDOT Community Transit Grant Program.

A total of 44 applicants, including Regional Transit Authorities, are receiving approximately \$10 million from the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Transportation for Elderly Persons and Persons with Disabilities, Bus and Bus Facilities, and Rural Intercity Bus programs, in addition to the Commonwealth's Mobility Assistance Program (MAP).

This award funding will be used toward the purchase of 140 fully accessible vans and minibuses for use by Councils on Aging, private non-profits and RTAs across the Commonwealth, in addition to other capital, mobility management, and operating projects. The majority of this funding is used to support mobility options for seniors and people with disabilities.

The FTA and the Commonwealth provide financial assistance through a number of programs to

**April 10, 2015**

**Governor Baker Approves \$200 Million in Chapter 90 Funding for Local Infrastructure**



Governor Charlie Baker has signed House Bill 3187 authorizing \$200 million in Chapter 90 transportation funds for municipalities, bringing the total funding available this construction season to \$300 million, with an additional \$30 million allocated through the same Chapter 90 formula for winter pothole repair and paving projects

"Our Commonwealth can only be as strong as every city and town, and Lt. Governor Polito and I are pleased to fulfill our commitment to support municipalities and grant access to critical funding for transportation improvements," said Governor Baker. "After a rigorous winter, the timely delivery of these funds is a much-needed resource and welcome opportunity to spur economic growth in every zip code."

The administration released \$100 million in Chapter 90 funding on its first day in office, and in March announced \$30 million for a Winter Recovery Assistance Program (WRAP) to provide additional resources to cities and towns after an unprecedented winter. Allocated through an existing fiscal 2015 bond authorization from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT), WRAP was distributed through the same formula as Chapter 90.

"As we continue to build strong partnerships with our cities and towns in every corner of the Commonwealth, we are glad to release additional funds to municipalities to assist with local construction projects and boost recovery efforts after an unprecedented winter," said Lt. Governor Polito. "I look forward to proceeding with my statewide tour to visit with local officials to talk about the important issues facing our cities and towns as we work collaboratively toward a stronger state for all families and communities."

Through Chapter 90 bond issuances, cities and towns are reimbursed for eligible transportation projects, submitting qualifying costs to their local MassDOT Highway Division district for review by MassDOT's Fiscal Department. [Learn more about the Chapter 90 Program.](#)

**MBTA, Keolis Commuter Rail Tie Replacement: Haverhill and Lowell Lines**

The [MBTA](#) and Keolis Commuter Services announced that work will begin next week on the first of several railroad tie replacement projects on the Lowell and Haverhill lines, part of a total \$100 million investment in infrastructure improvements for both lines that will increase passenger comfort and reliability.



Beginning **Monday, April 13**, Keolis will begin replacing nearly 12,000 railroad ties on the Lowell Line. The work will take place during off-peak hours, and officials said commuters should experience only minor delays in service during this phase of this project, which is scheduled to last through May 3. Once complete, a short period of speed restrictions will be needed to enable the new track work to settle.

On **Monday, May 4**, the project shifts to the Haverhill Line, where 15,000 railroad ties will be replaced between Reading and Haverhill through June 12 during off-peak hours. Because this section of the Haverhill Line is single track, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. passengers will be bused between Reading and Haverhill, adding a total of 25 minutes to the journey in and out of Boston. All other passengers will see minor schedule changes and delays of up to five minutes.

"We appreciate our customers' patience and understanding as we work to improve their commute," said MBTA interim General Manager Frank DePaola. "This project is a critical part of our ongoing efforts to ensure the delivery of safe and reliable Commuter Rail service for many years to come."

"We understand these projects are happening shortly after full service was restored on March 30, but in getting the system up and running, we must also maintain and improve it," said Keolis Commuter Services General Manager Gerald C. Francis. "Many of these ties are approaching the end of their life cycle and the work is necessary. Delays should be minimal, and we will be monitoring the projects' impact on commuters to make sure it stays that way." This tie-replacement project is part of several projects on the Haverhill and Lowell lines, including planned repair work on the Shawsheen River Bridge in Andover, a \$50 million project to install double track along portions of the Haverhill Line, and the \$58 million rehabilitation project on the Merrimack River Bridge between Haverhill and Bradford.

develop new transit systems and improve, maintain, and operate existing systems.

A list of the award recipients is now available on the [Community Transit Grants website](#).



- ▶ [Renew Your Driver's License](#)
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For more information, contact Keolis Customer Service, 617-222-3200.

### New Motor Vehicle Light Law



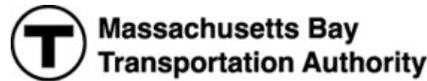
The MassDOT Registry of Motor Vehicles and Highway Divisions, along with the Massachusetts State Police, advised motorists of a new law taking effect on April 7 requiring the use of headlights and taillights on motor vehicles during inclement weather and when windshield wipers are in use. The law is intended to increase safety and visibility of vehicles on the Commonwealth's roadway.

The changes to Mass General Law Chapter 85, Section 15, signed into law in January, require that front and rear motor vehicle lights be activated in all of the following conditions:

- ▶ When windshield wipers are on
- ▶ When low light or weather conditions prevent other vehicles or persons from being seen at 500 feet
- ▶ From ½ hour after sunset to ½ hour before sunrise

Relying on daytime running lights for these conditions is not sufficient under the law. A violation of this law is considered a surchargeable minor motor vehicle traffic law violation for insurance purposes. For more information on the Safe Driver Insurance Plan and insurance surcharge information, please visit the RMV's [Merit Rating Board](#).

### MBTA Announces Youth Pass Pilot



In a partnership with the Cities of Boston, Chelsea, Malden, and Somerville, the MBTA announced a [Youth Pass Pilot program](#).

The Youth Pass is a LinkPass valid on local bus and subway and will be open to up to 1,500 eligible youth between the ages of 12 and 21 who live in the cities of Boston, Chelsea, Malden and Somerville.

"The Youth Pass Pilot demonstrates how MassDOT and the MBTA are building innovative relationships with cities and towns to meet the mobility needs of their residents," said MassDOT Secretary and CEO Stephanie Pollack.

The Youth Pass will cost \$26 a month or \$7 for a 7-day pass (7-day pass availability depends on city partner).

Interested youth can apply to participate in the Youth Pass pilot and spots will be allocated based on a random lottery of eligible applicants.

Applications are due April 30, 2015. The pilot starts July 1, 2015 and will last for a year.

Passes will be sold at municipal partner offices in each city and participants will have to return each month or week to pay.

- ▶ **Boston:** Department of Youth Engagement and Employment, 1483 Tremont Street
- ▶ **Chelsea:** Chelsea Collaborative, 318 Broadway
- ▶ **Malden:** Malden City Hall, 200 Pleasant Street
- ▶ **Somerville:** Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue

### Eligibility criteria

Individuals between the ages of 12 and 18 are eligible if they live in Boston, Chelsea, Somerville or Malden. Twelve year olds will have to apply at their municipal partner office. Residents aged 19-21 will have to meet need based criteria by demonstrating enrollment in high school, a GED or other education program, job training program, or state or federal benefit program (like Mass Health, WIC, or living in public housing). For a full list of eligible programs or other information email: [youthpass@mbta.com](mailto:youthpass@mbta.com) or call (617) 222-1513.

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