



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: October 13, 2017

Transit:

- MassDOT Transit staff attended the Fall conference of the Massachusetts Association of Regional Transit Authorities (MARTA) held on Cape Cod. Updates were provided to the RTAs on the following items:
 - FY19-23 CIP Process/Timelines and FY18 RTACAP Spending Update,
 - Community Transit Grant Program updates, including a new Grant Guide that was distributed to all RTA Administrators,
 - New MOUs that MassDOT proposes to enter with each RTA,
 - Implementation and timelines for the upcoming Annual Program Review with all 15 RTAs.
- FTA announced that the Martha's Vineyard Transit Authority (VTA) was awarded an FTA LO/NO Emission discretionary grant. The grant will provide \$1.2 million in FTA funds.
 - The funds will be used to support the purchase of two electric buses and an energy storage system, supplementing \$1.4 million in state capital funding provided by MassDOT'.
 - These electric buses are expected to be more than four times as energy efficient as diesel buses and save an estimated 336,000 gallons of diesel fuel, translating into a 40,668-metric ton reduction in carbon dioxide emissions over the 12-year service life of the buses.
 - The new electric buses are also projected to save the VTA an estimated \$650,000 in fuel costs and \$384,000 in maintenance costs over those 12 years

12 years.

- VTA is participating in a MassDOT study that will compare the operational characteristics and efficiencies of various electric bus technologies.
- Design Thinking Workshops held:
 - MassDOT Rail & Transit Division used FTA funds to sponsor a “Design Thinking Workshop” on September 13 and 14.
 - Approximately 25 mobility managers, Regional Coordinating Council leaders, and other stakeholders from across the Commonwealth gathered at Worcester Union Station for a two-day Design Thinking for Community Transportation Workshop.
 - The workshop was hosted by the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission, funded by MassDOT, and delivered by the Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA).

Rail:

- The first meeting of the Berkshire Flyer Working Group was held pursuant to the outside section of the budget that directed the establishment of a Working Group to examine the feasibility of a “Berkshire Flyer” – i.e., a seasonal service akin to the Cape Flyer that currently operates between Boston and Hyannis on summer weekends. The Working Group is expected to file a report to the Legislature in March 2018.
- MassDOT is developing a Request for Proposals seeking an operator for the Cape Main and other lines that MassDOT owns in the South East part of the state. This follows a Request for Information (RFI) that MassDOT issued earlier this year to gather insights and information from stakeholders. The current operating agreement has been in effect for 10 years and expires at the end of this calendar year.
- In concert with the Office of Transportation Planning MassDOT held meetings in Springfield and Fall River to encourage shippers and receivers to provide information for the new Rail Plan. MassDOT staff also met with representatives of the Massachusetts Association of Railroads to discuss the Rail Plan, IRAPs, and the disposition of surplus material.

- MassDOT continues to participate in the Northeast Corridor Commission (NECC) and its discussion of possible revisions to the Policy that currently governs the allocation of costs among users of the Northeast Corridor. A mid-term review is expected in 2018 and the NECC has begun to gather data for that purpose.