



# MASS MOBILITY



## In This Issue

[Apply for funding](#)

[New pilot offers visual interpreter service on the MBTA](#)

[Business and transit partner on Nantucket](#)

[New resources highlight TNC partnerships](#)

[Share your feedback on the HST brokerage](#)

[Share your suggestions for next year's conference](#)

[Job posting](#)

[Transportation coordination in the news](#)

## Quick Links

[Contact Us](#)

[MassMobility website](#)

[Follow @MassMobility on Twitter](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Greetings!

Happy spring! This May 2019 issue of the **MassMobility** newsletter covers news related to mobility for older adults, people with disabilities, and low-income individuals in Massachusetts. Read on to learn about an upcoming funding opportunity, a new pilot to increase transit access for blind and low-vision riders, new resources, opportunities to share feedback, and more.

May is [Older Americans Month](#), observed nationally and in [Massachusetts](#). This year's theme - *Connect, Create, Contribute* - emphasizes that when older adults are engaged in their communities, we all benefit. Thanks for everything you do to ensure that older adults and others have access to the transportation they need to participate in community life here in Massachusetts.

This newsletter is compiled by **MassMobility**, an initiative of the [Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services](#) with support from [MassDOT](#).

## Annual funding opportunity opens this month

MassDOT announced that its [Community Transit Grant Program \(CTGP\)](#) - the annual competitive funding opportunity for projects enhancing the mobility of older adults and people with disabilities - will open May 28 and close June 25. From May 13 to 24, MassDOT is holding a series of [training sessions](#) in locations around the state. Training is [mandatory](#) for new applicants, but past applicants are also welcome.

Municipalities, Regional Transit Authorities, non-profit organizations, and some transportation providers are [eligible](#) to apply for funding. Funding can be used to purchase vehicles, pay mobility management-related expenses, or support operating costs for service supplementing what is already available for older adults and people with disabilities. [Projects](#) should be targeted to older adults and people with disabilities but can serve others as well if space allows.

Check out the [CTGP website](#) for more information, including examples of past awards. Visit the MassMobility [funding website](#) for [data sources](#) to use in crafting your proposal, as well as additional funding opportunities.

[New pilot offers visual interpreter service on the MBTA](#)

In partnership with Aira, the MBTA launched the [Access AI Pilot Program](#) to provide indoor and outdoor wayfinding to help blind and low-vision individuals find and use transit stations. Riders who download the Aira app can receive free access to visual interpreter services throughout the MBTA bus, subway, commuter rail, and ferry systems. The app connects users remotely to professional agents who, through the technology, are able to see the user's surroundings and offer verbal directions to help the rider get where they need to go. [Check out this video](#) to see a demonstration. During the pilot, Aira is free for anyone using it on the T.

The pilot started on May 1 and will run through the end of October. Interested riders can [download the app](#), attend a [training session](#), or participate in a [focus group](#).

#### Local businesses partner with NRTA to promote year-round service

In March, the [Nantucket Regional Transit Authority](#) (NRTA) partnered with local island businesses on a promotional contest. The contest invited participants to answer trivia questions about the history of transit on the Island, find a special code listed on ads on buses, and take a selfie on the bus. Two winners each won a basket of prizes donated by local businesses. NRTA offered the contest to promote its new [year-round service](#).

#### New report, webpage highlight TNC partnerships

Interested in learning more about how organizations in Massachusetts are partnering with Transportation Network Companies (TNCs), like Uber and Lyft, to improve mobility? Check out our new [webpage on partnering with TNCs](#) to increase access for transportation-disadvantaged populations.

The webpage features our [new report](#) "Partnering with Transportation Network Companies to Improve Mobility for Older Adults, People with Disabilities, and Low-income Individuals in Massachusetts." The report discusses how organizations in Massachusetts have structured and funded their partnerships, as well as challenges they have encountered, with additional programmatic details in a [table](#). The [webpage](#) also highlights emerging partnerships and links to national resources.

#### EOHHS seeks input on HST brokerage through listening sessions & RFI

EOHHS is hosting [public listening sessions](#) for the Human Service Transportation Office's (HST) Brokerage System. The [HST Office](#) oversees non-emergency medical transportation for MassHealth members as well as transportation for Department of Developmental Services, Department of Public Health, Department of Mental Health, Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission, and Massachusetts Commission for the Blind programs. MassHealth covers transportation for trips to medical, dental, mental health, or substance use disorder appointments, as well transportation to Day Habilitation programs.

EOHHS invites consumers, MassHealth members, and other stakeholders to attend, share their experiences with the program, and make suggestions for improvement. Comments and suggestions made at the listening session may be used to inform program design and procurement going forward.

The [listening sessions](#) are open to all members of the public. The first took place in Boston on April 29. Additional sessions are scheduled in Springfield on May 6 and in Chelmsford on May 8. Locations, timing, and details are available on the [HST website](#). If you have questions or need to request accommodations, please [email HST](#). Occupancy may be limited and will be available on first-come, first-served basis.

EOHHS has also released a [Request for Information](#) (RFI) to solicit written input from all interested parties on an array of topics under consideration, including improvements to consumer experience, integration of additional service levels, and inclusion of ride-hail services in the future.

#### Share your feedback on the conference

Thanks to all who attended the [2019 MassDOT Transportation Innovation Conference](#)! The Community Mobility Track offered breakout sessions on topics related to community transportation and mobility management. Whether or not you attended this year's conference, please share your [suggestions for next year](#).

#### Job posting

The American Public Transportation Association (APTA) is hiring a [Program Manager for Planning and Policy](#) to organize APTA's mobility management activities and support the National Center for Mobility Management.

#### Transportation coordination in the news

Congratulations to [CrossTown Connect](#) for being featured on a [WGBH news broadcast](#).

#### Follow us on Twitter

Are you on Twitter? If so, follow us @MassMobility for links to community transportation resources relevant to organizations and agencies here in Massachusetts. If you aren't on Twitter, you can still see our posts online at [twitter.com/MassMobility/](https://twitter.com/MassMobility/).

#### We want to know your stories

If you have suggestions for news items or topics to cover in future newsletters, please [contact us](#) or [submit a guest article](#). Comments, questions, and feedback are also welcome.

#### Please share this newsletter

Please forward this newsletter widely to others who are interested in mobility management, community transportation, or related topics and encourage them to [subscribe](#) to receive future newsletters and publications.

You can also read [past issues of all MassMobility newsletters](#).

Sent by [hstmobility@state.ma.us](mailto:hstmobility@state.ma.us) in collaboration with



Try email marketing for free today!