



January 27, 2017

MassDOT Announces Online Comment Tool for Capital Investment Plan

MassDOT announced the opening of its [online comment tool](#) that enables members of the public to easily provide input and suggestions on potential transportation projects to be included in the agency's upcoming five-year [Capital Investment Plan](#) (CIP).

Following last year's successful public input process that also included the use of an online comment tool and helped develop the CIP for fiscal years 2017 – 2021, MassDOT is now in the process of updating the CIP for fiscal years 2018 – 2021 and adding on fiscal year 2022.

"We are committed to continuing to engage members of the public and learning more about their needs, priorities, concerns, and ideas as we update our Capital Investment Plan for the next five years," said Transportation Secretary and CEO Stephanie Pollack. "The comments and suggestions we received through this tool last year helped us develop the first comprehensive, data-driven CIP to include all MassDOT agencies and the MBTA, and we look forward to continuing to receive input and collaborate with members of the public throughout the Commonwealth."



Last year, MassDOT received nearly 1,400 written comments throughout its public engagement process and every suggestion, comment, or e-mail was taken into consideration. MassDOT encourages members of the public to submit comments or suggestions on current or future projects and transportation programs and priorities by using the online comment tool.

MassDOT and the MBTA plan, fund, design, construct, and maintain transportation assets that enable the Commonwealth and its people and economy to flourish. For this to happen, the MBTA and each MassDOT agency must identify and prioritize the most beneficial investments, those that will most help to meet long-term goals for mobility, sustainability, and broad-based prosperity. These investments are funded through the CIP, which uses state and federal funding to pay for long-term improvements to the transportation system. In the past, transportation capital plans consisted almost entirely of long lists of funded projects, with little strategic context and even less demonstrable evidence that the investments chosen out of thousands of possible projects would best accomplish the overall goals of the agency and of the Commonwealth.

The CIP is different in that it is informed by a strategic vision, influenced by public and stakeholder input sought from the beginning of the process, built around funding programs, and made up of projects selected on an objective and comparative evaluation.

Public comment may also be submitted by email to masscip@state.ma.us

MassDOT Presented with National Award for Burns Bridge Project

MassDOT was presented with the American Public Works Association's (APWA) Public Works Project of the Year Award for the Kenneth F. Burns Memorial Bridge Replacement Project. The \$144 million project fully replaced the old Burns Bridge over Lake Quinsigamond and links Shrewsbury to Worcester.

The award was presented to MassDOT Secretary and CEO Stephanie Pollack and Highway Administrator Thomas Tinlin by the New England Chapter APWA, the regional chapter that nominated the project, at the Joint Meeting of the MassDOT Board of Directors and the Fiscal Management Control Board.



"We would like to thank the American Public Works Association for recognizing this signature project," said Transportation Secretary and CEO Stephanie Pollack. "The Kenneth F. Burns Memorial Bridge is an example of how MassDOT approaches new construction with the priority of building projects that encompass all modes of transportation and address the needs of the surrounding communities. The people who use our infrastructure, whether by walking, cycling, or driving are the central focus of how we are building our infrastructure."

The bridge project was completed four months ahead of the scheduled completion date of January 2016 and \$5 million under the original \$110 million budget. The new Burns Bridge replaced a 100-year old

MassDOT February Board Meeting

**February 13
Transportation Building
10 Park Plaza
Second Floor Board
Room
Boston, MA 02150**

[Full Meeting Schedule](#)

On the MassDOT Blog

Celebrate Winter Walk to School Day February 1st



Put on your winter hats, scarves, mittens, and lace up those boots because Wednesday, February, 1st is the second annual Massachusetts Safe Routes to School Winter Walk to School Day!

All Massachusetts public elementary and middle schools are [invited to register!](#) This event is a great way to keep students motivated to continue walking (or biking) to school year-round.

View the entire [Winter Walk to School](#) blog post.



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structurally deficient bridge.

The Burns Bridge project began in late June 2012 and was officially completed in August 2015. The contractor was Middlesex Corporation. The new five span steel deck arch structure provides three travel lanes in both directions on Route 9 with exclusive left and right-turn lanes on the westbound approach into Worcester. The bridge will accommodate projected increases in traffic and includes bicycle lanes and sidewalks in both directions of the bridge. The project also included improvements on Lake Avenue to the north and south of Route 9 to improve bicycle and pedestrian accommodations. The roadway profile has been raised in order to provide improved vertical under-clearance for recreational users of the Lake Quinsigamond.

MBTA: Framingham/Worcester Line Commuter Rail Schedule Public Meetings Set

The MBTA will hold three public meetings for people to share comments and suggestions about proposed [Framingham/Worcester Line Commuter Rail scheduling changes](#). The meetings will be held in Newton on January 31, in Worcester on February 1, and in Natick February 6 as follows:

Tuesday, January 31 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Newton City Hall War Memorial Auditorium 1000 Commonwealth Avenue - Newton

Wednesday, February 1 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Union Station Second Floor 2 Washington Square - Worcester (Parking is available in the Union Station Garage at 225 Franklin St.)

Monday, February 6 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Natick Town Hall Second Floor 13 East Central Street - Natick

Comments and other material presented at the meetings will be recorded and considered by the MBTA Fiscal and Management Control Board and MBTA management.

Comments about MBTA Commuter Rail schedules will be accepted through February 17.



Registry of Motor Vehicles Opens New Springfield Service Center

On Monday, January 23, the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles opened a new Springfield Service Center which features a customer-friendly design, hundreds of parking spaces, and is fully accessible.



The address of the new service center location:
1250 St. James Avenue, Springfield, MA 01104

The service center's hours will remain the same as the Springfield location which is being closed:

- ▶ Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 9:00am – 5:00pm
- ▶ Thursday: 10:00am – 6:00pm

The new Springfield Service Center is larger (a total of 17,142 square feet) than the current location and will have 707 public parking spaces. There will be 16 upgraded workstations for conducting multiple transaction types.

For more Registry information, visit www.MassRMV.com