

Schedule is as of September 28, 2023. Any last-minute changes to the conference schedule will be reflected in the online schedule.

2023 Moving Together Conference Schedule

Registration/Exhibits - Pre-Function and Constitution
Ballroom

Breakfast Buffet - Constitution Ballroom: 7:45 am - 8:45 am

WELCOME SESSION: 8:45 am - 9:15 am

Grand Ballroom

Master of Ceremonies - **Pete Sutton**, Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Coordinator, MassDOT
Morning Keynote - **Kim Driscoll**, Lieutenant Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Break/Exhibits - Pre-Function and Constitution Ballroom:
9:15 am - 9:30 am

CONCURRENT SESSION #1: 9:30 am - 10:45 am

Session 1A: Enhancing Climate Resiliency - Room A

Find out about the MBTA's latest efforts related to coastal flooding and other related initiatives; as well as Chelsea's recently completed Eastern Ave Climate Resilience Vision - via a grant from the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program. Rounding out the session, one local agency has secured nearly \$57 million for climate resilient projects in the Mystic Watershed, with the goal of securing an additional \$100 million in public funding over the next three years.

Panelists:

Hannah Lyons-Galante, Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA)

Alex Train, City of Chelsea

Karl Alexander, Mystic River Watershed Association

Moderator:

Daisy Brown, MassDOT

Session 1B: GeoDOT 2.0 - The Next Generation in Collaboration and Data Management Room B

Join us as MassDOT's Geospatial Technology Group unveils GeoDOT 2.0. This new version will provide easier access to information in a "menu" like format, giving users a more intuitive experience guiding them to their specific interests. Other enhancements to the platform include a more robust Project Viewer allowing more visibility to our investments, new Update Reporters for bicycle and pedestrian facilities, a revamped Road Inventory Submission Application and data collection for statewide trails mapping to enhance the data accuracy of our multimodal network.

Panelists:

Charles Major, MassDOT

Michael Melencio, MassDOT Office of Performance Management and Innovation

Carl Hughes, MassDOT

Moderator:

Jose Simo, MassDOT

Session 1C: Corridor Spotlight: Multimodal Infrastructure in Southeastern Massachusetts - Room C

The nearly completed South Coast Rail Project will open dozens of multimodal connection opportunities along its two corridors. Roadway reconstruction projects along Davol Street (Route 79) and MacArthur Drive parallel to both rail lines will both modernize and realize a full Complete Streets approach. Wending its way between all this new infrastructure is the emerging South Coast Bikeway, which stretches nearly 50 miles on and off-road between Rhode Island and Cape Cod.

Panelists:

Jean Fox, MassDOT

Jackie Jones, Southeastern Regional Planning & Economic & Development District

Barbara Lachance, MassDOT

Moderator:

William Simon, MassDOT

Session 1D: Expanding Mobility in Urban, Suburban, and Rural Settings - Room D

Different environments can require different approaches to expanding mobility. Hear three case studies about expanding transit in urban, suburban, and rural contexts: Increasing service in Lawrence through branding, frequency, and new fixed route bus service to the beach; improving microtransit for seniors and other underserved populations in Newton; and creating a new demand response service for an Environmental Justice rural area with few travel options.

Panelists:

Josh Ostroff, City of Newton

Noah Berger, Merrimack Valley Transit

Jen Healy, Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation

Moderator:

Rachel Fichtenbaum, MassDOT

Session 1E: MassTrails - Investments in Trails Across the Commonwealth (Hybrid) - Grand Ballroom

MassTrails represents one vision, one action plan, and one team with the purpose of expanding and connecting the Commonwealth's networks of off-road, shared use pathways and recreational trails for all users across Massachusetts. The Team has recently completed its fifth round of grant funding, awarding \$11.6 million in MassTrails Grants to 68 projects. Learn about how the Team is investing in trails through new and existing grant funding, successful project implementation from three municipalities, and feedback on the launch of the Team's Priority Network Vision.

Panelists:

Brendan Callahan, City of Peabody

Amanda Lewis, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)

Cynthia Henshaw, East Quabbin Land Trust

Pete Sutton and **Lorenzo Varone**, MassDOT

Paul Tilton, Town of Sandwich

Moderator:

Kurt Gaertner, MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

Break/Exhibits - Pre-Function and Constitution Ballroom:
10:45 am - 11:15 am

CONCURRENT SESSION #2: 11:15 am - 12:30 pm

Session 2A: Securing Mobility During Disruptions – Sumner Tunnel Shutdown – Room A

MassDOT's Sumner Tunnel serves 39,000 vehicles daily and provides a vital transportation link for Logan Airport and communities north of Boston. When critical work necessitated a two-month closure, MassDOT/MBTA/Massport staff, advocates, and municipalities pooled resources to develop optimal mode shift strategies. Learn how the action plan – including messaging, free subway, bus and ferry service, and low-stress bicycling routes – came together and what takeaways can be applied to future disruptions.

Panelists:

Neil Boudreau and **Joe Foti**, MassDOT

Lynsey Heffernan, MBTA
Joel Barrera, Massport

Moderator:

Jonathan Gulliver, Highway Administrator, MassDOT

Session 2B: Equity Initiatives in our Gateway Cities and Towns – Room B

Three different agencies – regional, statewide and national – offer up multiple perspectives on effective integration of equity: a deep dive into the direct connection between social infrastructure, public health, and community resilience; opportunities at the local and regional levels to create better environments for walking; and hear how a national advocacy non-profit works to expand access to bikes and bike infrastructure through programs and collaboration, focused on improving social and racial equity.

Panelists:

Andre Leroux, MassINC

Beth Giannini, Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Martina Haggerty, People for Bikes

Moderator:

Austin Sanders, MassDOT

Session 2C: Pedestrian Safety and Equity in the Commonwealth and across State Lines – Room C

Hear about the continued success, growing membership, and rebranding of WalkMassachusetts in fostering mobility, access, and community in the Commonwealth. Crossing state lines, learn how Rhode Island's DOT developed a road segment risk assessment for pedestrian safety that prioritizes countermeasures focused on equity, and now is identifying grants for project funding. The session will also cover a regional undertaking in central Massachusetts to create a toolkit for grading the inclusion/accessibility for trails and providing recommendations for improvements.

Panelists:

Brendan Kearney and **Althea Wong-Achorn**, WalkMassachusetts

Skye Levin and **Kayla Northup**, VHB

Sarah Plutnicki and **Sam Carter**, Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission

Moderator:

Patrick Snyder, MassDOT

Session 2D: Corridor Spotlight – Cross-Commonwealth Investments – Room D

Multimodal improvements are highlighted across dozens of projects in three distinct regional corridors: Complete Streets improvements in Western and Central MA on Route 9 through Pittsfield, Hadley, and

Natick; an economic impact study positing the financial return on investment upon completion of the 104-mile Mass Central Rail Trail from Northampton to Boston; and updated progress on Vision 88 to create a completely off-road shared use path network on Cape Cod from Woods Hole to Bourne to Provincetown.

Panelists:

Tony Vona, Tom Ruta and **Ann Sullivan**, MassDOT

Amelia Casey, Arup

Craig Della Penna, Norwottuck Network, and **Alex Garbier**, Kittelson & Associates

Steve Tupper, Cape Cod Commission

Moderator:

Michelle Scott, MassDOT

Session 2E: State of the Practice – Federal Transportation Research, Initiatives, and Best Practices (Hybrid) - Grand Ballroom

Federal research, initiatives, and national best practices can offer important guidance for identifying Massachusetts transportation priorities and state policies. High-level overviews will be given regarding recent FHWA findings on separated bike lanes on high-speed roads, and trends, impacts and opportunities identified through a just-released E-bikes literature review summary from the USDOT Volpe Center and FHWA. This session will also feature USDOT's new Reconnecting Communities and Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity grant programs.

Panelists:

Darren Buck, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and **Conor Semler**, Kittelson & Associates

Jonah Chiarenza, USDOT Volpe National Transportation Systems Center

Derek Krevat, MassDOT, and **Elizabeth Oltman**, City of Lowell

Moderator:

Cassandra Ostrander, FHWA

LUNCHEON/KEYNOTE ADDRESS/VIDEO AWARDS: 12:30 pm - 1:45 pm

Grand Ballroom. Lunch Buffet in Pre-Function Area

Luncheon Keynote - **Monica G. Tibbits-Nutt**, Acting Secretary and CEO of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT)

CONCURRENT SESSION #3: 1:45 pm - 3:00 pm

SITE VISIT: Walking Tour of Charlesgate Projects

Meet at the Registration Table directly following the conclusion of the lunchtime awards

Note: Tour is limited to the first 25 attendees to sign up at the registration table the morning of the conference.

Two MassDOT projects currently in design will replace the structurally deficient Bowker Overpass over Interstate 90, and replace and reconfigure the Storrow Drive eastbound bridge over the Bowker ramps to better manage traffic patterns, maximize parkland, and reestablish the connection between the Emerald Necklace and the neighborhood. This work is a great example of community, non-profit and public collaboration, and multi-modal connectivity.

Guides:

Robbin Bergfors and **Alwin Ramirez**, MassDOT

Scott Carpenter, Gill Engineering, and **Parker James**, Charlesgate Alliance

Karen Mauney-Brodek, Emerald Necklace Conservancy, and **Dan Adams**, Landing Studio

SITE VISIT: Tremont Street Separated Bike Lanes

Meet in the Hotel Lobby directly following the conclusion of the lunchtime awards

Note: Tour is limited to the first 25 attendees to sign up at the registration table the morning of the conference.

Stroll Boston's newest curb- and parking-protected bike lanes on Tremont Street in the South End. New curbs, bus stops, and raised crosswalks along Tremont Street create a Complete Street between Massachusetts Avenue and Herald Street. This project reduced the number of motor vehicle driving lanes from four to two, while also making room for physically protected bike lanes and raised crosswalks at intersections.

Guide:

Nathaniel Fink, City of Boston

Session 3A: MassDOT Resources Supporting Safe Travel to School - Room A

The Massachusetts Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS) works to increase safe biking and walking among elementary, middle, and high school students by using a collaborative, community-focused approach. New SRTS products, projects and initiatives are featured in this session: accommodating five travel modes in every school zone, Pop-Up Projects Guide, traffic gardens, a recap on recent funding grants including Signs and Lines, and a showcase of completed projects featuring Brayton Elementary School in North Adams.

Panelists:

Judy Crocker, Massachusetts Safe Routes to School, AECOM

Jessica Wilson and **Sophie Mortimer**, City of Lowell

Fionnuala Quinn, Discover Traffic Gardens

Miranda Briseño, MassDOT

Moderator:

Alyssa Ring, MassDOT

Session 3B: 2023 Strategic Highway Safety Plan - Room B

The 2023 Strategic Highway Safety Plan provides a framework for how the Commonwealth is working to make Massachusetts roadways safer for all people. No matter how people get around, it is essential that everyone feels safe traveling throughout the Commonwealth, regardless of age, ability, and lived experience. Speed management and direct vision (what motorists can see around them) of cyclists, pedestrians and other vulnerable roadway users will be highlighted as will shared strategies in MassDOT's updated Project Development and Design Guide.

Panelists:

Kris Carter, MassDOT

Kirsten Johnson, MassDOT

Jim Danila, MassDOT

Moderator:

Ana Fill, MassDOT

Session 3C: Corridor Spotlight - Southwest Corridor and Beyond to the Blue Hills - Room C

After more than 30 years, Boston's Southwest Corridor Park is due for renewed attention and investment that renovate and modernize while strengthening and supporting the communities it serves. In nearby neighborhoods of Mattapan, Dorchester and Hyde Park, hear how agencies are planning for improved cycling and walking to the Blue Hills Reservation. Both these initiatives pivot off a multimodal study to address transportation equity and access issues to and from these same neighborhoods.

Panelists:

Amber Christofferson, DCR

Marah Holland, Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Sean Rourke, Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization

Moderator:

Jaclyn Youngblood, MassDOT

Session 3D: Hot Topics in Transportation - Room D

Learn about a study to examine the costs, benefits, and investments necessary to implement passenger rail service from Boston to Springfield and Pittsfield, with the speed, frequency, and reliability necessary to be a competitive option. Also, hear about attracting more college students to transit through sustainable and sticky fare program channels, and about a new app for ADA compliance that allows members of the accessibility community to rate and review the world according to their unique needs.

Panelists:

Meredith Slesinger, Administrator, MassDOT Rail and Transit Division

Carmel Levy, MBTA

Jake Haendel and **Chris Beissel**, Ahoi!

Moderator:

Nathaniel Kerr, MassDOT

Session 3E: Virtual Session

During this session, virtual attendees have the opportunity to view a livestreaming of the conference on the UMass Transportation Center's Facebook page or view a pre-recorded presentation from MassDOT's Innovation Webinar Series. Attendees can watch a presentation by clicking on the links provided. Effectiveness of Bike Boxes in Massachusetts, Asset Management Systems Utilized by Municipalities in Massachusetts, or Universities Exploring Community Transportation. All recordings from the MassDOT Innovation Webinar series can be found on the MassDOT Innovation Webinar Series webpage.

**Break/Exhibits - Pre-Function and Constitution Ballroom:
3:00 pm - 3:15 pm**

CONCURRENT SESSION #4: 3:15 pm - 4:30 pm

Session 4A: Mega Session: Safe Roads for All and Other Grant Funding For Municipalities (Hybrid) - Grand Ballroom

The federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law established the new Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) discretionary program, with \$5 billion in appropriated funds over 5 years, 2022-2026. The SS4A program supports regional, local, and Tribal initiatives through grants to prevent roadway deaths and serious injuries. Ten Baystate municipalities and seven MPOs/RPAs were awarded grants earlier this year. Hear them present on their respective projects and visions. The session will also highlight MassDOT's and FHWA's creatively developed process for implementing systemic projects, and provide examples.

Presenters:

Chris Cignoli, City of Springfield

Patrick Reed, Merrimack Valley Planning Commission

Todd Kirrane, City of Worcester

Dakota DelSignore, MassDOT

Moderator:

Carrie Lavallee, Highway Chief, MassDOT

Session 4B: Promoting Equitable Access to Affordable Healthy Food and Other Destinations - Room B

This panel will highlight recent MassDOT research focused on measuring food accessibility, analyzing gaps, and how to improve access, and will provide information on available MassDOT resources and data for measuring access to food and other essential destinations. Moving from data to action, the Metropolitan Area Planning Council will share key takeaways on using food systems data to strategize with stakeholders and residents to equitably improve community food access.

Panelists:

Jessika Brenin, Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Eleni Christofa, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Derek Krevat, MassDOT

Moderator:

Anil Gurcan, MassDOT

Session 4C: SWAG Quarterly Meeting (open to outside attendees) - Room C

The Geospatial Technology group at MassDOT created a forum for GIS users called SWAG (Spatial Website Analysis Group) to share applications, analysis and ideas that use GIS technology, either on our GeoDOT platform or in a standalone space that could be integrated with our platform. We have these sessions on a quarterly basis and for the first time, we are meeting at the Moving Together Conference - to allow the greater GIS community to share how they are innovating and building new and exciting GIS tools. Everyone who has an interest in how GIS can be used to support our multimodal transportation network should attend. There will also be trivia questions with prizes in an open forum brain teaser portion of the session.

Panelist:

Katie Grillo, City of Cambridge

Carl Hughes, MassDOT

Charles Major, MassDOT

Derek Shooster, MassDOT

Arthur Getman, Replica

Moderator:

Jose Simo, MassDOT