



President's Message



Lisa DeMeo

Happy Spring!
Just having wrapped up a winter season that was less snowy than usual, it is time to prepare for our other busy season: paving. All municipalities are struggling to fund all of the road work that needs to be done across the Commonwealth. Even with increased local contributions to paving budgets, it is harder to keep up with the workload. On March 7th, staff from MMA along with our members Dave Knowlton, Dave Desrosiers, and Mike Hale, submitted testimony on Beacon Hill requesting an increase to the Ch.90 allotment. All the testimony was relevant and strong. Unfortunately, both the House and Senate budgets have not included any increase over the \$200M that we have received for the last 12 years.

I would like to share a project I am working on at home. Our neighborhood group is working to restore a local park. We have restored a large World War I Memorial and a Spanish American War Memorial. A Women's War Memorial that is isolated will get walkways connecting it to the others. My favorite part of the project is replacing an old, broken fountain with a new 3-tiered granite fountain. This fountain will be dedicated to all first responders. Our local DPW crews have assisted with demolition of the old fountain and a walkway around the World War I monument. The DPW will be invited to the dedication ceremony along with local EMTs as well as local veterans. We hope that this visual representation for first responders will keep our actions in the forefront for the public.

As I wrap up my term as President, I am humbled by the people around me on the Board of Directors including our vendor representatives. This is such a wonderful and hard-working group of Public Works supporters. I am personally grateful that you all had faith in me to be the first female President of the MA Highway Association. It has been an honor to serve as your President and I know the members who will be voted on at the Annual Meeting on May 4th will continue to serve the organization professionally and provide strong leadership for the future.

Lisa E. DeMeo, P.E.
Town Engineer, Lynnfield, MA

Annual Meeting, Scholarship Awards, Election Results to be held May 4th at Pleasant Valley Country Club

The MHA Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 4th at the Pleasant Valley Country Club in Sutton with the following agenda:

CDL Training/Testing

Sgt. Michael Tucker, MSP

CDL Panel Discussion

Dan Lacroix, ATG Health, Safety, Vehicle and Environmental Compliance Manager
Megan Savage, Town of Barnstable PW, Safety Officer
Gretchen Daley, MA DOT/RMV CDL Program Coordinator

MMA Legislative Update

Adrienne Nunez, Legislative Analyst, Mass Municipal Association

Continued on Page 2

43rd New England Public Works Expo to be held September 20-21

The 2023 New England Public Works Expo, sponsored by the Massachusetts Highway Association, will be held at the Royal Plaza Trade Center in Marlboro, conveniently located off Rte. 495, on Wednesday and Thursday, September 20th and 21st.

A record number of attendees and vendors participated in last year's show which featured a return to the same venue MHA used several years ago. The venue allows for expansion and ample parking, which was not available at the previous location in Boxborough. Tickets include coffee, donuts and lunch. For information visit the website npublicworksexpo.org.

Chris Bouchard Joins MassDOT

Christopher J. Bouchard resigned his position as South Hadley Director of Public Works to become MassDOT District 2 State Aid Administrator, effective February 12th. Chris began his public works career in 2000 with the Town of Longmeadow Department of Public Works. He served as Highway Superintendent for the Town of Otis for 10 years, from 2003 to 2013, and as Highway Superintendent for the Town of Becket for seven years, from 2013 to 2020. He became Director of the South Hadley Department of Public Works for three years, from 2020 to 2023.

Chris has served as President of the Berkshire County/District #1 Highway Superintendent's Association (BCHSA) and most recently as President of the Massachusetts Highway Association (MHA). Chris will remain as co-Chair of the MHA Driver Skills Committee and has been involved with the implementation of the state-wide mutual aid system, a joint venture of MHA, MEMA and MassDOT.

Chris lives in Otis with his wife and two children and has been a member of the Otis Volunteer Fire Department for 30 years, where he currently serves as Assistant Chief. We all wish Chris well in his new position.

Annual Meeting

Continued from Page 1

MassDOT Initiatives & Updates

Carrie Lavallee, Acting Deputy Admin. & Chief Engineer
MassDOT.
John Bechard, Deputy Chief Engineer of Project Development
MassDOT

Buffet Lunch

Results of Annual Election*, Awards and Scholarship Recipients

*Election ballots must be received no later than 9:00 a.m. on May 4th. Positions to be filled are:

President, one year term	John Haines, East Bridgewater
1st Vice President, one year term	Scott Crisafulli, Milford
2nd Vice President, one year term	Roby Whitehouse, Yarmouth
Trust Fund Trustee, four-year term	Joseph Pipczynski (Ret.), Easthampton
Barnstable County Director, three-year term	Roby Whitehouse, Yarmouth
Tri-County Director, three-year term	Robert Colson, West Springfield
Worcester County Director, three-year term	Jay Fink, Worcester

Meeting announcements have been sent. Please reply early to ensure an accurate lunch count.

Mutual Aid Update

by David Lane for the Mutual Aid Committee

The Mass Highway Mutual Aid system continues to work behind the scenes. The most recent calls were from towns in the western part of the state following a heavy snowstorm. The deep snow and winds combined to cause large snow drifts and downed wires across the roads in many towns. Our Mass Highway coordinators worked closely with MEMA to review the calls that were coming in and, once again, find out what was happening and what each town needed. A few towns didn't require assistance and simply needed to wait until the next day to open some gravel roads, while others needed contracted equipment - mostly dozers - to clear the snow.

The mutual aid system can work behind the scenes, and we all need to remember that we never know when our own community will need help. Because of this, we all need to be ready to answer the call and enthusiastically send help when we are asked. Our upcoming goals are to work on training a few of our new coordinators and continue to strengthen the connection between our program and the MassDOT maintenance staff.

Women in Construction Week 2023

During the week of March 5 to 11, 2023, we recognized and celebrated Women in Construction Week (WIC Week). The first **Women in Construction Week** was proclaimed in honor of the **National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC)** in September 1960 by Amarillo, Texas Mayor A.F. Madison. As an international association, NAWIC leadership officially moved its WIC Week celebration to the first full week of March to coincide with the recognition of International Women's Day, the first Tuesday in March, beginning in 1975.

WIC Week is celebrated to bring awareness to industry and the women in it. Awareness brings knowledge and knowledge brings opportunity and opportunity brings change. The statistics of women in the construction industry haven't significantly changed since the early 1970's, but what is changing are the roles, the responsibilities, and the effect women are having within industry organizations and the companies where they work. An upward tick in the statistics is coming. More and more senior leadership on major construction projects (from demo to construct) are being led by women...in both the vertical and horizontal sectors. **Massachusetts Highway Association** is following this trend with our election of the first woman president in the nearly 130-year existence of the Association.



MMA Board representative Adrienne Nunez, MHA Board representatives Roby Whitehouse, Catherine Schoenenberger, and MHA President Lisa DeMeo



Stay Safe
TRAFFIC PRODUCTS, INC.
Catherine Schoenenberger | President

www.StaySafeTraffic.com
Westford, Massachusetts

Certified WBE & DBE throughout New England
All products compliant with OSHA, ANSI, and MUTCD requirements and recommendations

For all your traffic control, sign, and safety needs

J.C. Madigan, Inc.
TRUCK EQUIPMENT SPECIALISTS
LANCASTER, MA
978-847-2900

HI-WAY





MOBILE PARTS STORE
978-847-2900
LANCASTER, MA
www.jcmadigan.com

J. C. Madigan, Inc.
TRUCK EQUIPMENT SPECIALISTS

Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) Update

by Adrienne Núñez, MMA Legislative Analyst

It's spring! The snow is melting, crocuses are blooming, and the new administration and legislature are settling into a new session. Since the start of the year, thousands of bills have been filed, legislative rules and committees have been set, and bills are being dispatched to committees.

In these few months, we have seen much early action in the legislature with the movement of two supplemental budgets, Governor Healey's first budget filing, and swift action on the Chapter 90 bond bill.

First, on March 29, a combined fiscal 2023 supplemental budget and immediate needs bond bill was signed by Governor Healey. The legislation includes more than \$740 million in bonding authorizations, \$389 million in supplemental spending, and policy provisions that extend pandemic-related authorizations related to public meetings and outdoor dining. Among other allocations, the law includes authorizations for \$400 million for the MassWorks Infrastructure Program and \$104 million for the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust. As well, the law continues the allowance of remote and hybrid public meetings including representative town meetings through March 31, 2025; pandemic-era reduced quorums for open town meetings have also been extended to March 31; and expedited outdoor dining permitting and to-go cocktail options will be permissible until April 1, 2024.

An additional \$734 million fiscal 2023 supplemental budget was filed on March 17. Currently with the House Committee on Ways and Means, this legislation proposes \$75 million in support for school districts to offset significant anticipated increases to private out-of-district special education tuition rates, \$171 million to extend state-funded universal free school meals through the 2023-2024 school year, and \$5 million for grants to aid municipalities with costs associated with early voting and vote by mail. The bill also proposes funding for clean energy, MBTA hiring and many other one-time priorities alongside adjustments to municipal finance laws that would provide cities and towns flexibility with spending opioid settlement money and simplify accounting practices.

In the fiscal policy spotlight is the Governor's fiscal 2024 budget proposal (H. 1). For several weeks, the Joint Committee on Ways and Means has hosted hearings on the proposed budget. With a handful of hearings remaining, we anticipate that the Committee will make recommendations to the legislature by April 12.

The Governor's budget proposes increases for regional school transportation, vocational school transportation, special education reimbursements, payments-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILOT), transportation of students in temporary housing, library aid, and rural school aid. She also proposes an increase to Unrestricted General Government Aid (UGGA) by 2% over last year.

House 1 would also establish a new Education and Transportation Fund that would receive all revenues from the Fair Share tax and further recommends using \$1 billion in investments from Fair Share revenue in fiscal 2024 — \$510 million for education and \$490 million for transportation. Transportation funding recommendations include \$186 million for the MBTA, \$164 million for MassDOT Highway, \$40 million for MassDOT Transit and Rail, and \$100 million for a new MassDOT Municipal Partnership Grant program. This program would provide technical and design assistance to communities to help prepare for or apply for state and federal grant programs, fulfill local match requirements, begin construction, or leverage outside funding sources.

The MMA testified at a hearing with the Joint Committee on Ways and Means, advocating for additional increases to education funding, full funding for the PILOT program, and an increase to UGGA to 6.13% over last year.

Beyond the budget, this year's Chapter 90 bond bill has moved quickly through the legislative process. The bill has been passed in both the

House and Senate with small variations between the two.

First filed by the governor in January, the initial bill would have authorized \$200 million per year for two years. The Joint Committee on Transportation hosted a hearing for the bill and revised the legislation, reducing the authorization for Chapter 90 funding to \$200 million for one year while also including \$150 million in bond authorizations for transportation-related grant programs: \$25 million each for the Municipal Pavement Program, the Small Bridge Program, Complete Streets, and three accounts that would fund grants for transit access and infrastructure as well as fleet electrification. The House passed this version of the bill (H. 3547) on March 23.

Just a week later on March 30, the Senate passed a version of the bill that resembles the bill passed by the House, with the exception of a change in one of the added programs.

Rather than the \$25 million that the House proposed for the Municipal Pavement Program, the Senate proposes \$25 million in new road maintenance funding targeting small and rural communities. The funding would be based on a formula that factors road mileage and population density, with prioritization given to municipalities with low population density.

The two chambers must now reconcile this difference before the legislation can move forward.

The MMA, along with a number of municipal officials including Mass. Highway board members Mike Hale and Dave Desrosiers, testified before the Joint Committee on Transportation on March 7 in support of the two-year authorization proposed by Healey, and requested an increase to at least \$330 million per year, indexed to inflation.

The MMA also submitted written testimony to the Transportation Committee and to the Joint Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets asking legislators to raise the annual authorization to at least \$330 million, emphasizing community need and the impact of inflation on the Chapter 90 program, which has lost two-thirds of its purchasing power over the last 11 years.

The MMA's recent biennial Chapter 90 survey estimates municipal road repair needs at \$715 million for fiscal 2024, underscoring the need for additional state support. We will continue our advocacy efforts in this session and beyond to raise the authorization for this critical program.

Finally, as we move forward into the session, we are watching and strategizing around many policy areas including housing, PFAS, recycling and extended producer responsibility (EPR), and much more. Also, we are advocating for 24 local government bills outlined in the MMA's 2023-24 Legislative Package. Among these 24 bills are proposals to address:

- the establishment of a Municipal & Public Safety Building Authority
- modernizing legal notices
- municipal procurement
- EPR for Paint
- the creation of sustainable water resource funds
- local authority in public rights of way

When you have a moment, take a look at our Legislative Package. Each of these bills has been filed and we are now seeking co-sponsors. Please help us in advocating for your community by encouraging your legislators to co-sponsor these bills!

In the meantime, please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or input. I'm available at ANunez@mma.org and I'd love to hear from you!

Safety Corner

compliments of Jennifer Tetreault of HaZCompliance, LLC

Work that ZONE!

Here comes spring- a time for yellow daffodils and purple crocus popping up. Alongside them are an increased number of orange safety cones being planted around the streets of town. Like signs of spring, work zone projects increase in their appearance as the potholes and heaves from the winter are tended to by the highway divisions much like an excited gardener tends to their chive sprouts. But unlike the natural resilience the new growth has from the sporadic harsh winter elements as the season makes its' exit, our DPW workers are not immune to the increasing hazards on the road.

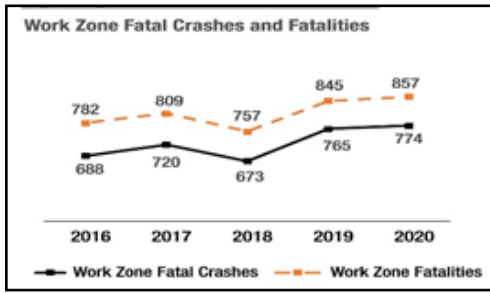


Figure 1 <https://workzonesafety.org/work-zone-data/>

There were an estimated 102,000 work zone crashes in the recorded year 2020 (note: large scale data tends to lag behind a couple of years). Interesting is that from four years prior in 2016 the overall total number of work zone crashes has declined, yet the severity of the crash has increased, thus resulting in an increased number of work zone fatal crashes. In Massachusetts in the year 2022 AA Northeast reported 681 work zone crashes were filed in the Commonwealth last year, the highest number reported since 2017. A staggering number of at least 430 deaths resulted from traffic crashes in Massachusetts.

Also increased is the percentage of fatal crashes involving speeding. Although accidents are unintended events, we raise the risk or probability of an accident occurring when safety protocol is not followed by the motorist, such as speed limits. All unintentional injury-related deaths are preventable but, historically, inadequate progress has been made in reducing these deaths. After overtaking stroke deaths in 2013 and chronic lower respiratory disease in 2016, unintentional injuries are currently the fourth leading cause of death behind heart disease, cancer, and COVID-19 (<https://injuryfacts.nsc.org>). We must do better at preventing these accidents.

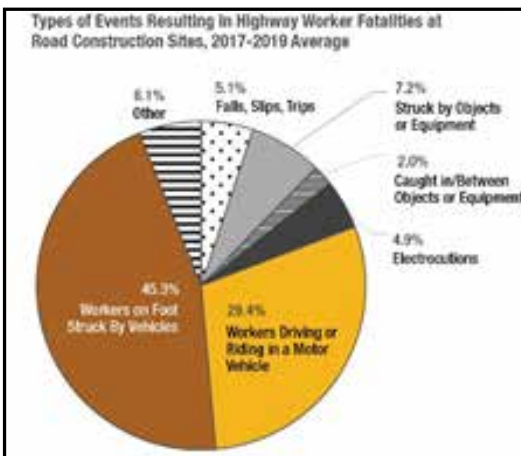


Figure 2 from <https://workzonesafety.org/work-zone-data/worker-fatalities-and-injuries-at-road-construction-sites/>

The work zone trends of crashes leading to injuries and fatalities continue to rise. Figure 1 shows the general trend according to the National Work Zone Safety Information Clearinghouse.

Worker fatalities within work zones on the roadway are not only caused by crashes. There are other safety considerations to assess and plan for on any construction site (see Figure 2). When our work zone is set up and we have our focus on vehicular traffic, it is equally as important to ensure that we

train employees to pay attention to the tasks at hand as well. Dump truck rollovers and other struck by equipment are a large contributor to these fatal numbers in the workplace. Additionally, any excavating equipment or trenches can pose a serious threat to the safety and health of a work zone worker if safety is not a priority.

Just as sure as the seasons change, we are assured there will be inherent hazards associated with the many jobs a DPW worker is faced with. Work zone hazards are one of them. These hazards must be assessed and communicated with crews. Some questions you could ask your department:

- _ Do your road crews know how to set up a safe and compliant work zone?
- _ When was the last time you held a work zone safety training?
- _ Do you have compliant equipment for the work? (Some roadway work requires orange cones rather than your choice of town colors)

With clear and effective training, the safe controls, and the proper equipment, we can drive these fatality and injury statistics down. Though it does not eliminate the hazard, we can enhance our advanced notification and visibility with motorists, thereby increasing the safety of the work zone. We can cultivate safety intentions within the divisions and grow our awareness to a higher level.

Stay safe this work zone season.

BAYSTATE ROADS Upcoming Training

by Kathryn Donnelly, Digital Marketing Specialist

Baystate Roads Safety Skills Training Videos

Baystate Roads has partnered with *Safety Skills*, a leader in online safety training content development, to provide **FREE Safety Training videos** this year! Videos ranging from 3 – 13 minutes in length create an engaging experience for your next tailgate talk, safety meetings and more!

Baystate Roads Workshops through June 2023

Pavement Markings – Use, Application, Compliance and Materials

6/15/23- Chicopee

Large Mower Operations & Safety

5/4/23 – Plymouth

5/18/23 - Fitchburg

Class 2 and Class 4G Hoisting CEU

5/8/23 – Greenfield

Essential Supervisory Skills

5/11/23 – Buzzards Bay

6/1/23 – New Marlborough

Work Zone Safety

5/23/23 - Newton

Confined Space Hazard Awareness

5/24/23 – Sudbury

Design of ADA Curb Ramp and Pedestrian Access Routes

6/6/23- Plymouth

6/7/23 - Newton

6/8/23 – Chicopee

Flagger/First Aid Certification -Virtual

6/13/23

6/14/23

Wood Chipper Operation & Safety

6/14/23 – New Marlborough

6/29/23 - Greenfield

Chainsaw Storm Debris Cleanup

6/15/23 – Berlin

Street Tree Essentials

6/27/23 - Waltham

6/28/23 Orleans

County Association News

Barnstable County – Roby Whitehouse



Barnstable County Public Works Association is celebrating 30 years! Information about the celebration will follow in the coming months.

Barnstable County Public Works Association takes great pride in the annual Scholarship awards which provided \$16,500.00 in scholarships in 2022. The deadline to submit scholarship applications was May 1, 2023.

The Barnstable County Public Works Annual Golf Tournament, the largest fund-raising event for BCPWA, will be held on June 5th at the New Seabury Country Club. Golf/meal reservations can be emailed to Golf Committee Chair Paul Maher (Muni-Tech) via Sam Nastasia (Muni-Tech) samn@munitechinc.com. Reservations must be received no later than noon, FRIDAY, MAY 19, 2023, and members are responsible for reservations not cancelled by the due date. Sponsorship information is available by contacting Paul Maher/Sam Nastasia of Muni-Tech, Inc. at samn@munitechinc.com.

Berkshire County/District #1 Hwy. Supt. Assoc. – Curt Wilton

2023 President	Charles “Chip” Dazelle <i>Town of Chester</i>
2023 Vice President	Bob Navin <i>Town of Otis</i>
2023 Secretary	Gerald Coppola, Retired <i>Town of Richmond</i>
2023 Treasurer	William Elovirta, Retired <i>Town of Becket</i>
2023 Directors	Justin Russell <i>Town of Peru</i> Jamie Boyer <i>Town of West Stockbridge</i> Chuck Loring <i>Town of New Marlborough</i> Brad Curry <i>Town of Sandisfield</i>
2023 Vender Reps.	Harold “Huck” House <i>All-States Materials Group</i> Jason Page <i>Advantage Truck Group</i>

As the Berkshire County Highway Superintendent’s Association enters its 43rd year, we are excited that the past few years are behind us, and we move forward with our meetings/workshops and events that keep our brotherhood/sisterhood strong. Our 2023 events and locations have been set, but agendas have not been finalized.

April 27, 2023 - 1st Meeting/Workshop, Italian American Club, Pittsfield

June 16, 2023 - Annual Charity Golf Tournament, Bass Ridge CC, Hinsdale

June 22, 2023 - 2nd Meeting/Workshop, Italian American Club, Pittsfield

August 24, 2023 - 3rd Meeting/Workshop, Italian American Club, Pittsfield

September 15, 2023 - 39th Annual Equipment Show & Picnic, Hinsdale Volunteer Fire Grounds

October 26, 2023 - 43rd Annual Conclusion Meeting and Scholarship Awards, Italian American Club, Pittsfield

New Positions and Congratulatory Kudos.

Chester - Charles “Chip” Dazelle, Highway Superintendent, formerly Huntington Highway Superintendent

Hinsdale - James Callahan, Highway Superintendent

Congratulations to Chris Lemoine on his retirement as Williamstown Highway Superintendent.

The Berkshire County Highway Association would like to thank MHA President Lisa DeMeo and all the members for their support and continued efforts to fight for our common cause, and Secretary Jerry Coppola and Treasurer Bill Elovirta for their leadership and commitment to keeping our organization strong and resilient. Together we are “Public Works Strong, First to Respond, Last to Leave.”

Essex County – Michael Hale

The Essex County Highway Association kicked off its 2023 program of events with the Spring Technical Session on Tuesday, April 11. The program included an update on MS4 requirements as well as other initiatives the ECHA has taken on as part of its strategic plan implementation. As a reminder, the 2023 ECHA schedule of event is as follows:

- Trade Show - Tuesday, May 9, 2023
- Summer Meeting - Thursday, June 1, 2023
- Golf Tournament - Monday, August 7, 2023
- Fall Training - TBD
- Fall Technical/Annual Meeting - Thursday, December 7, 2023

ECHA recently updated its strategic plan to bring the association in line with current challenges and practices in our industry. One of the primary initiatives is to develop a Younger Professionals Group to integrate our younger members into the association and hear their perspective on the industry and its future. This will allow us to assist with succession planning to address the “Great Resignation” and attract younger staff to our critical and impactful industry. That initiative is being led by Vice President Carlos Jaquez, Deputy Director of Public Works in Andover. The Spring Technical meeting included a session updating the association on the group’s development and future plans.

There have been some new hires at various municipalities in the county. Former ECHA President Lisa DeMeo was named Town Engineer in Lynnfield, Jamie Tuccolo was named Director of Public Works in Salisbury, William Paulitz was named Acting Director of Public Works (and City Engineer) in Peabody, Robert Labossiere was named Director of Public Works in Winchester, and Jon-Eric White was named Acting Director of Public Works (and City Engineer) in Newburyport. Please join us in congratulating them on their new roles.

Norfolk-Bristol-Middlesex – Robert Cantoreggi

NBM Awards Scholarships

Norfolk Bristol Middlesex Highway Association (NBM) awarded \$28,250 in academic scholarships at the March Meeting held at Paddy’s Public House in Newton. Scholarship award amounts ranged from \$3000 to recipients studying toward a career related



to Public Works, to \$750.00 to a part-time student. A total of 15 scholarships were awarded; three recipients received a \$3000 scholarship, 11 students received a \$1750 scholarship, and

County Association News

one received a \$750 scholarship.

Franklin Youth Intern Program

If you spend time with management staff in any industry these days, there is one topic everyone is talking about, “How are you finding folks to fill open positions?”

This issue is plaguing every industry and Public Works Departments are no different. With the jobs in Public Works requiring such a varied range of skills and licenses, it can be difficult to fill them. We have all been there, sifting through piles of resumes - you might find a candidate who has some of the basic licenses required, but even that could be a long shot. And then once you have interviewed a few candidates and offered a job to the most promising one, they turn down the offer because “the money just isn’t there”. It’s a story I’m sure everyone can relate to.

So how do we solve this issue of staffing shortages and missing licenses? Franklin DPW has taken a step back, and decided to start from the beginning, by taking on and training High School co-op students. For the past two years, we have brought on a group of seniors from Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical School as co-op students. These students come from Plumbing, Mechanical, Engineering, and even legal shops at Tri-County and spend every other week working 40 hours alongside our crews.

While working as co-op students they rotate on a weekly schedule through every department within the DPW, which includes Highway/Grounds, Water/Sewer, Stormwater, and Engineering. These students get to experience the day-to-day operations of Public Works year-round, helping with everything from paving, mowing, leaf cleanups, water leak repair, hydrant painting, and construction design /oversight. Upon completion, students have realistic expectations of what work life will be like after graduation.

You might ask yourself, “Why go through all this trouble?” It’s simple. By introducing students to what our industry does day in and day out, we hope that a few might choose a career in Public Works. The student has an entire year to experience working in our industry, while also giving us a year-long interview, which enables us to bypass the blind hiring process. If, at the end of the co-op program, they express interest in coming on full time, we have now spent a year getting them ready for the next steps in this career. Franklin has also found that by working alongside the DPW crews, the students have a better grasp of how to obtain the various licenses, and even a drive to get them.

After two years of running this program, we have had one co-op student come on full time, and in less than one year he is fully licensed for the job. With our second year coming to a close soon, we have an additional student who intends to come full time, and we welcome the opportunity to hire him.

Franklin DPW plans to build on this success by adding a co-op position in the Central Motors mechanic shop, offering what we hope will be a more sustainable way to bring future mechanics into our field. As we view it here in Franklin, if we can teach a few students how this career looks in high school, and even one of them becomes a full-time employee, then the payoff is invaluable.

Now how do we answer that first question, “How are you finding folks to fill open positions?” Start them early, teach them correctly, encourage licensing and training, and give them a place to work once they graduate where they can see a lifelong career. We believe by following this plan, Franklin and hopefully other DPWs, can be the



change we need to bring in the next generation of Public Works employees.

Sudbury Job Fair

As municipalities throughout the Commonwealth continue to struggle with workforce deficiencies, the Town of Sudbury Public Works Department is taking steps to recruit at local job fairs and schools. Members of the Sudbury Public Works team recently attended an event at Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School. The team showcased a slideshow presentation highlighting projects completed by the Department.

Teammates were also on hand to provide insight on Public Works’ operations and answer any questions from the students.



Plymouth County – Chris Peck

The Plymouth County Highway Association (PCHA) met each month during Fall 2022 and Winter 2023.

The November meeting featured Cassandra Gascon of MassDOT who presented MassDOT grant opportunities.

In December, we held our annual corporate sponsor appreciation meeting in Marshfield. This is a yearly event where the Association thanks the corporate sponsors who help support the Plymouth County Highway Association.

The Association welcomed Richard Feeney of RTF Consulting to our January meeting. Mr. Feeney presented the Massachusetts Hoisting License requirements, updates and training opportunities. This was a very informative meeting that provided information for any DPW employee currently with a hoisting license or looking to obtain their hoisting license.

The Plymouth County Retirement Association was our presenter at the February meeting. Timothy Smyth of the retirement board spoke about the current state of the county retirement association, how to contact the association and updated the PCHA on several different programs currently offered.

In March, the association held its annual St. Patrick’s Day meeting at the Upland Club in Plympton. The meeting is a well-attended event featuring local comedians who entertained the attendees followed by a corn-beef and cabbage lunch. Thank you to John Peters for making the arrangements for the comedian every year.

The PCHA hosted chainsaw safety training in conjunction with the April meeting in Hanson.

We would like to thank all our members and corporate sponsors for supporting the Plymouth County Highway Association as we look forward to an enjoyable spring and summer 2023.

Tri-County Highway Association – Rob Colson

Tri-County Association Directors met on February 16th and set the following meeting schedule:

The winter meeting was held on April 6th at the Bluebonnet Diner in Northampton. Speakers and topics included Chris Bouchard,

the new MassDOT District 2 State Aid Administrator - MassDOT funding programs; Joel Faria, Regional Manager with Indus - pavement preservation; Andy Pickert, Quality Control Manager with All States Materials Group - Section 460 Paving; and Christopher Cignoli, PE, with the City of Springfield speaking on FHWA Safe Streets for all (SS4A) funding program.

The April 29th meeting will be held at the Whately Inn, 193 Chestnut Plain Road. Bring your guest to this annual event and take time to get to know your Tri-County "family."

The Annual Meeting will be on June 1st. Further details will be available as the date gets closer.

The Summer Meeting and golf outing at Southampton Country Club will be held on August 17. Anyone who would like to sponsor a hole can contact Tom Poissant (Ashfield, 413-628-4448, highway@ashfield.org); Matt Smith (Chesterfield, 413-586-1508, highway@townofchesterfieldma.com); or Rob Colson (West Springfield, rcolson@tows.org 413-427-9507). We hope you can join us as your participation is what makes it a success.

Remember, Tri-County has a Scholarship Program and applications are due to the Scholarship Committee by September 15th.

Save the date ... the Annual Joint Meeting with the Mass Highway Association will be held on November 14, 2023, from 9 am to 1 pm at the Castle of Knights, 1599 Memorial Drive, Chicopee, MA.

Worcester County – Jay Fink

Worcester County Highway Association held a very successful meeting in November at The Barn in Sutton. The meeting included vendors who spoke about products and services that they provide.

The March meeting was held at The Manor in West Boylston. Highlighted topics included CDL Q&A with members of the Massachusetts State Police Truck Team, GIS Implementation, and a discussion on employee recruitment and retention.

A Fleet Maintenance roundtable was held on April 25th. Future meetings include the Vendor Appreciation Clambake at Wachusett Mountain on June 13th, and the Annual Golf Tournament benefitting the Annual Scholarship Awards on September 19th. Look for these upcoming announcements in your email or reach out to info@worcestercountyhighway.com.

The WCHA also made three donations of \$500 each to very worthy causes including: The Mustard Seed, Why Me House, and Pathways for a Better Life. As always, we thank our sustaining members and municipal members for their involvement with the WCHA and continued support.

ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERS

— An Apex Company —



envpartners.com



ATG
ADVANTAGE TRUCK GROUP
- WE KNOW TRUCKS.
SALES | SERVICE | PARTS

EXPERIENCE **THE POWER**
OF THE ATG NETWORK



MASSACHUSETTS
Raynham | Shrewsbury | Westfield

NEW HAMPSHIRE
Lancaster | Lebanon
Manchester | Seabrook

VERMONT
Westminster

AdvantageTruckNE.com | 800-395-8494



AQUAPHALT®

permanent repair for asphalt + concrete



ONE AND DONE

THE ORIGINAL ONE-TIME FIX FOR ASPHALT & CONCRETE

Ranked #1 by Consumer Reports



THE ONLY POTHOLE PERMANENT REPAIR MATERIAL ON THE MARKET, GUARANTEED.

Aquaphalt is the first water-activated, permanent patch material designed to last. It can be installed in any season, any weather — especially below freezing temps. Just pour, water, tamp, and areas can be opened to traffic/use right away. Backed by an unlimited curing guarantee and 3-year warranty.

annie@aquaphalt.com | (203) 209-9322

Franklin, MA helps Amory, MS after devastating tornado destroys town

Mutual Aid! Franklin Public Works Director Brutus Cantoreggi and his son, Carlson Cantoreggi (Mass Highway Scholarship winner) who is studying Urban Forestry at Mississippi State University spent a day helping the Town of Amory, MS clean-up after Tornado destroyed the Town on March 24th, 2023.




Vermeer
All Roads

EQUIPPED TO DO MORE.

Horizontal Directional Drills | Skid Steers | Trenchers

Truck & Trailer Vacuum Excavators | Wheel Loaders

844-VERMEER | VermeerAllRoads.com

MHA 2023 Scholarship Winners

The MHA Scholarship committee has announced the 2023 Scholarship award winners.

The students will be awarded their scholarships at the Annual Meeting on May 4th.



PRECISION
CONCRETE CUTTING

~ GPS sidewalk assessment
~ Trip Hazard Removal

Trip Hazard Mitigation Service

800-553-0949



AMERICAN SHORING INC.

Leader in High Quality, Steel & Aluminum Trench Shoring
Sales★Rentals★Service★Repairs★Trade-ins★Recertification

238 E Cherry Street
Shrewsbury, MA 01545
1.508.842.2822
www.americanshoring.com
E-Mail us at: sales@americanshoring.com



Newsletter Update

This Spring 2023 Newsletter is being distributed digitally only, plus it will be on the MHA website at masshwy.org. If you are a member of MHA and not receiving the Newsletter please contact the editor, Bill Elovirta, at bille@msn.com and give him your email address. All advertisers have a link to their websites. Please support our advertisers. All news items should be sent to your MHA County Director or direct to the editor. The next issue will be distributed in the Fall of 2023.

2023 MHA Larry Bombara Memorial Charity Golf Tournament

by Ryan Bartlett, Charity Golf Chairman

Save the Date!



Jerry Coppola

The 2023 MHA Larry Bombara Memorial Charity Golf Tournament will be held at Brookmeadow Country Club, Canton, MA on Tuesday, August 15th.

This year's honoree is Jerry Coppola. He has chosen Dana-Farber/Boston Children's Cancer and Blood Disorders Center as his charity of choice. More details will follow soon.

Driver Skills and Safety Training Event (aka Snowplow Rodeo)

by Chris Bouchard, Chair

The Snowplow Rodeo is scheduled to be held on Wednesday **July 19th** at Wachusett Mountain Ski Area in Princeton.

The Driver Skill and Training Committee will be releasing details about the event in the coming months. Please save the date and stay tuned. We look forward to seeing you at this year's event.



Bartlett

Roadway Safety Is Our Priority





- Engineers
- Scientists
- Planners

Lincoln, RI (HQ)
8 Blackstone Valley Pl
Lincoln, RI 02865
401-334-4100

Foxboro, MA
10 Lincoln Rd, Suite 210
Foxboro, MA 02035
508-543-1755

Holyoke, MA
14 Bobala Rd, Suite 2B
Holyoke, MA 01040
413-507-3448

TRANSPORTATION
CIVIL
STRUCTURAL
ENVIRONMENTAL
WATERFRONT
GEOTECHNICAL

www.parecorp.com



Former North Reading DPW Director Master Chief David P. Hanlon, (USN retired) 78, of Rochdale, formerly of Auburn, died December 15, 2022. He leaves his wife of 55 years, Suzanne M.

(Allaire) Hanlon; three sons, Patrick Hanlon and his wife, Leigh-Ann of Laconia, NH, Shane Hanlon and his wife, Nicole Vachon Hanlon of Pittsford, VT, and Eran David Hanlon and his husband, Chad Basile of Webster, NY; and four grandchildren. Dave also leaves his faithful companion, his dog, Ben. Dave graduated from Auburn High School. He continued his education, earning an associate degree from Wentworth Institute of Technology, Bachelor's degree from Northeastern University, and Master's degree from Nichols College.

Master Chief Hanlon was a decorated veteran serving as a Seabee with the United States Navy Seventh Naval Construction Regiment. He received the Navy Achievement Medal for his professional achievement from August 1992 until August 1996.


As a Civil Engineer, Dave had a notable career in public works, nationally recognized for his leadership and more greatly regarded for his friendship. After 40 years leading public works for several communities in the states of Massachusetts and New Hampshire, Dave retired as Director of Public Works for the town of North Reading, MA in 2009. However, he continued his career as a consultant assisting several organizations until 2018.

Dave will always be remembered for his charisma, charm, generosity, humor, warmth and dedication to his friends, colleagues, family and all those who have been fortunate enough to know him.




Hot In-Place Asphalt Recycling
The Energy Saving Method!

Dave Capelle • 508-208-8467
dave@highwayrehab.com • www.highwayrehab.com



C.N. WOOD CO., INC.

For over 50 years, C.N. Wood has been a trusted heavy construction dealer throughout New England. We know the importance of the work you do and are here to support you. *With C.N. Wood, you're never alone!*

www.cn-wood.com

PARTS • SERVICE • SALES

WOBURN, MA 200 Merrimac St (781) 935 -1919	AVON, MA 140 Wales Avenue (508) 584 - 8484
WHATELY, MA 102 State Road (413) 665 - 7009	SMITHFIELD, RI 3 Rocky Hill Road (401) 942 - 9191