



# Massachusetts Highway Association

Since 1893

Volume 55 2024

## FALL NEWSLETTER

### President's Message



Dear MHA Family,  
With summer past, fall slipping away, and winter knocking on our doors, it's time to think about "Waxing the Plows." (Not sure I've ever waxed a plow, it's what I was told long ago.)

**Scott J. Crisafulli**

It is with great pleasure that I share my first President's message. The first half of my Presidency has been eventful, to say the least. I am grateful to have worked alongside a very professional Board of Directors whose guidance is highly appreciated, valued, and respected.

I am happy to announce we have updated our Code of Conduct to be voted on by the membership at our next Annual Meeting. I am looking forward to working on new challenges with the help of MMA and our legislative committee on such things as the Heavy Duty Omnibus regulation and the new truck safety regulations.

I am excited to report that the Mass Highway Association 2024 New England Public Works Expo held in Marlborough was a huge success reaching record breaking numbers for attendance and for vendors. A feat that could not be accomplished without the leadership of Dave Capelle, the committee members, and all the volunteers.

Our MHA Larry Bombara Memorial Golf Tournament was held in August at Brook Meadow Country Club. Our very deserving and selfless honoree this year was Donna Grant from the town of Norwood.

At our last meeting we had a change to the Board of Directors. David Lane has retired from the Board and as Secretary. Thank you, Dave, for all your many years of dedication and hard work to Mass Highway Association. Dave has agreed to stay on as Interim Secretary until a new Secretary is in place and up to speed.

There will be a joint annual meeting between Mass Highway Association and Tri-County Highway Superintendents Association on November 19th, at the Castle of Knights in Holyoke.

The program committee is hard at work compiling a program for our Winter meeting to be held on Thursday, February 6, 2025, at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester.

I would like to wish everyone a safe winter season. We all face the same challenges, at different levels. The final outcome is the same, safe roads, clean drinking water, and a safe environment for all to enjoy. Sometimes that's a thankless job but in my opinion it's the best job I've ever had.

Regards,  
Scott J. Crisafulli  
MHA President

### The Record-breaking 44th Annual New England Public Works Expo was held September 18-19 in Marlborough

The 2024 New England Public Works Expo, sponsored by the Massachusetts Highway Association, was held at the Royal Plaza Trade Center in Marlborough, on Wednesday and Thursday, September 18-19.

This year's event broke all records, with more than 2,200 attendees plus approximately 220 vendors for the two-day show. Each year, under the chairmanship of David Capelle, the Expo grows and grows. This year the show had a patriotic theme with patriotic decorations throughout the exhibit hall.

When attendees checked in at the registration desk, they were not only given their meal ticket and free gift card but were also given an American flag pin that could be used as a lapel or hat pin. The appreciation of this little piece of patriotism was overwhelmingly appreciated with many thanks and thumbs up given. The registration committee strongly recommends that this be considered again next year.

Check our website at [npublicworksexpo.org](http://npublicworksexpo.org) for pictures of the 2024 Expo and updates for the 2025 Expo.



## Massachusetts Helps North Carolina Hurricane Recovery

by Michael Collins, PE, Beverly Commissioner of Public Services

I just got back from North Carolina. It ended up being a 24-day deployment, which is the longest in history. Jake Pike from Beverly DPW was also deployed as a Communication Specialist. Aaron Miklosko, Concord Highway Superintendent, deployed as a Logistics Specialist. I was there as a Heavy Equipment and Rigging Specialist and worked with the team on a number of rescues and recoveries throughout western North Carolina.

Almost all of the 28 federal Urban Search and Rescue teams were operating at some point. Highlighting the inherent danger of the deployment is the fact that two members of CA-TF8 are still in the hospital with serious injuries resulting from an accident during deployment. 63 members of MA-TF1 were deployed before the hurricane hit and went to work immediately. They continued working on lifesaving and recovery efforts over the 24-day period before returning home.

## Winter Meeting Set for February 6th

The program committee is hard at work planning the program for the winter meeting which will again be held at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester on Thursday, February 6, 2025. This is a central location with plenty of parking and spacious meeting rooms. Mark your calendar and be on the lookout for the program announcement that will be sent in early January.

## Vocational School Students Visit 2024 EXPO

by Erin Gingerella, Digital Media and Content Coordinator MPAV/STP

The September 19th Career Fair was a success! We met students from Norfolk County Agricultural High School, Clifford Academy, Southeastern Regional Vocational Technical High School, Norton High School, Salem High School, and Nashoba Valley Technical High School. Approximately 80 students met with employers in a quiet room at the Royal Plaza Hotel and Conference Center in Marlborough where they discussed job and co-op opportunities and had the chance to ask some great questions and exchanged information and even resumes.

Afterwards, students explored the Equipment Expo, met with vendors, asked more questions, and enjoyed lunch while checking out the tools and equipment of the trades. We thank all of the schools that came and all the employers that were there to greet them. It was a great event.



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## 72nd Annual Joint Meeting to be held on November 19th

The 72nd Annual Meeting of the Massachusetts Highway Association and the Massachusetts Tri-County Highway Superintendents' Association will be held on Tuesday, November 19th at the Castle of Knights in Chicopee.

Registration will begin at 9:00 a.m. followed by an interesting program:

- Municipal Public Procurement in Massachusetts
- Navigating Grant Central
- Electric vs Diesel Heavy Vehicle Purchases
- ACT/HDO Massachusetts Legislative Update

The program will be followed by a social time and prime rib dinner. No tickets will be sold on the day of the meeting so please get your reservations in to either MHA or Tri-County no later than Friday, November 15th.

## Need an Extra Set of Hands for Your City or Town?

by Tory Perrotta of MPAV/STP

Let us help connect you with a pool of great candidates. We have a list of interns and co-op students that were outstanding graduates of the Massachusetts Pre-Apprenticeship and Vocational School Training Program. This one-week program is taught by members of the New England Laborers Training Trust Fund at Vocational High Schools across the Commonwealth. It is funded by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation. Register now to get an extra set of hands!

- All students are graduates of the Massachusetts Pre-Apprenticeship & Vocational School Training Program.
- Students work for you during their shop week instead of going to school.
- Reimbursement of student wages of up to \$15 per hour for 160 hours may be available. It may be possible to extend the hours as well.
- Students gain experience and may be eligible to earn scholarships for CDL-B License and test preparation for hoisting license exam.

To register for more information: Tory Perrotta at [ToryP2327@gmail.com](mailto:ToryP2327@gmail.com) or visit [www.MPAVSTP.com](http://www.MPAVSTP.com) under the "Employment" tab.



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## The MHA Annual Meeting was held on May 2nd in Sutton

The MHA Annual Meeting was held on May 2nd at the Pleasant Valley Country Club in Sutton. The event was well attended with many members on hand for the excellent program and Scholarship and Awards presentations.

New officers elected were:

President - Scott Crisafulli, Milford;

1st Vice President - Roby Whitehouse, Yarmouth;

2nd Vice President - Robert Colson, West Springfield.

Representing Berkshire County – Jamie Boyer, West Stockbridge. President Crisafulli appointed Jennifer Tetreault-Mannarino from HazCompliance as the new Vendor Director to replace the three-year term of Jason Page from ATG.

Appointed in June to fill Director vacancies representing NBM – James McGonagle, Newton; and Tri-County – Allison McMordie, Westfield.

Awards were presented to the following recipients: The Grainger Award to Sean Divoll, Worcester Water and Sewer; The John Kiley Award to Catherine Schoenenberger of Stay Safe Traffic Products; and the Recognition Award to Curt Wilton, West Stockbridge DPW Director, and Jason Page of Advantage Truck Group (ATG).

The highlight of the Annual Meeting is the awarding of scholarships. This year, \$1,500 scholarships were awarded to 36 individuals:

Marissa Borges, Jennifer Bouchard, Emma Breen, Anthony Breen, Vivian Burr, Dillon Burr, Amelia Cantoreggi, Carlson Cantoreggi, Madison Carreiro, Tyler Charpentier, Joshua Colby, Elizabeth Collins, Abigail Colson, Conner Crane, Adrianna Crisafulli, Joseph Deluca, Lois Divoll, Ryan Field, Yvonne Haines, Benjamin Haines, Haden Hale, Ava Hale, Siri Hale, Tyler Halnon, Ella Hanlon, Hannah Johnson, Richard Kelly, James Langley, Alexandra Lavenia, Hailey Magaldi, Meagon McGonagle, Tyler Nason, Danica Poirier, Cameron Shave, Jenna Stencil and Emily Woodsmall.

Congratulations to all award and scholarship winners.



## MHA Sponsored Driver Training Skills (Rodeo) Results

by co-Chairs Jamie Boyer, Jason Page, Chris Bouchard

The MHA Driver Skills and Safety Training was held on July 17th at Wachusett Mountain Ski Area under great weather at a great location. Fortunately, we did not have to do the set up in the rain this year; it almost seemed wrong.

This year, the competition included a single axle truck event and a wheel loader event. Thank you for making this year our largest event to date as we had 31 loader operators, and 34 truck teams compete. It was very competitive and helped build comradery among all competitors, along with great peer interaction.

We would like to thank all the teams and the cities and towns that you represent for your participation in this training event, as we would not have the event without you. Secondly, the judges and the cities, towns, State agencies and vendors that you work for are a key component to making this event happen and run smoothly and efficiently. We would also like to thank our vendor sponsors and the cities and towns that helped us get the loaders and trucks that we use in the event, and Baystate Roads Program for handling the registrations and advertising, as this greatly helps us with our event.

2024 MHA results:

Single Axle Truck, 1st Town of Belmont – Henry Manuel / Paul Mosca, 2nd Town of Wellesley – Dan DaSilva / Bob Zani, 3rd Town of Haverhill – Anthony Shimmel / Steven Allen.

Wheel Loader: 1st Town of Oxford - Matt Masiello, 2nd Town of Shrewsbury – Brett McCann, 3rd City of Worcester – Patrick Sullivan

We travelled to the Western Snow and Ice Conference from September 25th to 27th and competed at the National Finals. The competition was tough this year with the largest field of competitors from across the country. We attended the supervisor's winter certificate program, along with a host of other great seminars, workshops, round table discussions, along with plenty of peer interaction at the event.

Our finishes were Belmont - Single Axle Truck: 24th out of 51 teams, Belmont - Ten Wheel Truck: 29th out of 80 teams, Oxford - Wheel Loader: 21st out of 97 teams, Oxford – Skid-steer: 25th out of 97 teams and Motor Grader: 4th out of 55 teams. The MHA team competed in the overall team for the day by competing in all 5 events and finished in the top 10 out of 23 teams.

Other team finishes NE APWA, MCAPWA: Single Axle Truck: 5th, E Providence, RI, 10th Maine DOT, 18th Narragansett, RI out of 1 teams, Ten Wheel Truck: 48th Narragansett, RI, 28th Maine DOT out of 80 teams, Wheel Loader: 26th N. Kingston, RI, 34th Maine DOT, 62nd Narragansett, RI, 82nd Maine DOT out of 97 teams, Skid-steer: 34th Maine DOT, 71st Maine DOT out of 97 teams, Motor Grader: 14th Maine DOT, 44th Maine DOT, 55th Maine DOT out of 55 teams.

Great job by all the New England representatives at this year's national event!

Finally, we need to thank the MHA Board of Directors for their continued support of this training event and the ability to take the winners to the National Finals in Colorado and to represent Massachusetts. We also have to give recognition to the Board of Directors for their continued support and their approval this past winter to purchase a new larger trailer and new equipment for the courses as we had out-grown our almost 20 years old trailer, and we only had equipment for one course - we were always borrowing equipment for the loader course. Thank you.

We look forward to seeing you at next year's Driver Skills and Safety Training event on Wednesday, July 16, 2025. Mark your calendars and save the date.

# Emergency Regulations and Limited Enforcement Discretion for Advanced Clean Trucks Regulations - October 18, 2024

Advisory from MassDEP on October 18, 2024

To Medium- and Heavy-Duty Vehicle Manufacturers and Other Stakeholders: This is to advise you that the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) plans to file emergency regulations, which will be effective on filing, to delay implementation of the Heavy-Duty Omnibus (HDO) regulation until Model Year (MY) 2026 and will exercise enforcement discretion to exempt vehicles purchased by state and local agencies for snowplowing and snow removal purposes (e.g., dump trucks, salt and sand spreaders, front end loaders) and street sweepers from Advanced Clean Trucks (ACT) for MY 2025 and MY 2026.

## Background

MassDEP adopted California's HDO and ACT regulations in 310 CMR 7.40 in December 2021. HDO contains more stringent exhaust emission standards and other emission-related requirements for new on-road heavy-duty engines and vehicles starting in MY 2025, and ACT requires manufacturers of on-road medium- and heavy-duty vehicles to produce and deliver for sale an increasing percentage of zero emission vehicles (ZEVs) starting in MY 2025 through MY 2035.

## Emergency Regulations

To provide certainty to all stakeholders and because the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has not granted a waiver to California under the federal Clean Air Act, MassDEP plans to file emergency regulations in the near future that move the effective model year of HDO from MY 2025 to MY 2026. These emergency regulations will also include adoption of California's 2024 amendments to its HDO legacy engine provisions and exemptions for transit buses, emergency vehicles, and military tactical vehicles from vehicle emissions standards.

## Limited Enforcement Discretion

Because manufacturers are limiting internal combustion engine (ICE) truck sales as a means to ensure their compliance with ACT sales requirements, state and local agencies are facing difficulties in purchasing new ICE vehicles for use in snowplowing and snow removal, as well as street sweeping vehicles, which are used in storm response, which could adversely affect their ability to ensure public safety during snow and other storm events.

Therefore, MassDEP will exercise enforcement discretion regarding manufacturers subject to ACT zero-emission sales requirements for MYs 2025 and 2026 to allow for purchases of trucks by state and local agencies designated for snowplowing, snow removal, and street sweeping. For purposes of ACT compliance, all ICE truck sales completed as the result of this enforcement discretion should be excluded from "total Massachusetts sales" when determining ACT deficit generation and compliance. This enforcement discretion applies to new truck purchases by authorized executive officers of Massachusetts state and local agencies designated for snowplowing, snow removal, and street sweeping. Massachusetts state and local agencies should make written requests to manufacturers or their authorized dealerships detailing the make, model, model year, and number of vehicles to be purchased. These requests should also be sent to MassDEP's Ngoc Hoang at [Ngoc.Hoang@mass.gov](mailto:Ngoc.Hoang@mass.gov) with the subject line "Enforcement Discretion Purchases." MassDEP will make a determination whether the proposed purchase is subject to this enforcement discretion and will communicate its decision to the requesting agency and the manufacturer.

**Disclaimer:** This enforcement discretion directive does not constitute "final agency action" and is not a "regulation" as that term is used in M.G.L. c.30A. It may not be relied upon to create rights, duties, obligations or defenses, implied or otherwise, enforceable by any party in any administrative proceeding with the Commonwealth. In addition, this enforcement discretion directive does not exempt any person from complying with the other requirements in 310 CMR 7.40 or any other applicable local, state or federal law or regulation.

If you have any questions about this enforcement discretion, please contact Sharon Weber at [Sharon.Weber@mass.gov](mailto:Sharon.Weber@mass.gov)



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# Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) Spring Update

by Adrienne Núñez, MMA Legislative Analyst - [ANunez@mma.org](mailto:ANunez@mma.org)

Hello MHA members!

I'm writing this on a cool autumn day, enjoying the last of the dazzling fall foliage from my office in western Massachusetts. I hope each of you are well and warm as winter inches closer and we look to a new year and new legislative session!

The past few months have remained busy at the state house. Despite the legislature's best efforts, many priority bills were left on the table at the close of the formal legislative session this year (July 31). However, the 193rd General Court does not come to an official close until the end of the calendar year and legislators are making full use of the informal session that typically sees limited legislative action (August - December). Much has been accomplished in this session and more is still to come.

A [\\$57.8 billion budget](#) was approved for fiscal 2025. Included is a 3% increase in Unrestricted General Government Aid (UGGA) over FY24. Also, schools will receive an increase to Chapter 70 minimum aid from \$30 per pupil in FY24 to \$104 per pupil this year. The budget also established a disaster relief fund to aid municipalities impacted by extreme weather events.

In transportation funding, the FY25 budget will provide a \$45 million supplemental investment in the Chapter 90 program. This support will be distributed based on the Chapter 90 formula and is funded through surtax revenues that must be used for education or transportation. Although less than was provided in FY24 (\$100m), we appreciate that the legislature and governor remain committed to supporting cities and towns in maintaining local roads and bridges.

In addition to the FY25 budget, this year's transportation bond bill also included additional aid for cities and towns. The [FY25 transportation bond bill](#) moved swiftly through the legislative process, authorizing \$200 million for the Chapter 90 program. This is consistent with what we have seen authorized for Chapter 90 for the past 12 years. Also included in the bond bill were \$25 million authorizations for 7 transportation-related accounts including the Municipal Pavement Program, the Small Bridge Program, Complete Streets, two accounts intended to fund grants for transit access and infrastructure, one account to support municipal and RTA fleet electrification, and a reauthorization of the [Rural Roadway Funding Program](#).

The Rural Roadway program provides supplemental funding to the Chapter 90 account through a formula that favors rural communities. We are delighted to see the reauthorization of the Rural Roadway Funding Program. However, MassDOT has indicated that the funding will be distributed through \$5 million disbursements over the course of 5 years. We would like to see this funding delivered in its entirety in FY25 as was provided in FY24 and we will continue to advocate for such action.

Also passed this session was the [Affordable Homes Act](#) which authorized \$5.16 billion to support housing initiatives while allowing for accessory dwelling units as-of-right in single-family zones statewide (a provision that significantly limits local authority and existing regulations on ADUs).

A [federal funds matching bill](#) passed in September. The law leverages up to \$250 million in interest generated annually by the state's stabilization fund to capitalize a matching fund intended to support the Commonwealth's pursuit of federal discretionary grants. Up to \$50 million will be dedicated to support municipal and regional matching requirements and \$12 million will be available for technical assistance to municipalities to help cities and towns with grant tracking, writing, implementation, and more. The technical assistance will be administered by the [Federal Funds and Infrastructure Office](#).

[Still on the table](#) are bills addressing PFAS, clean energy siting and permitting, the Municipal Empowerment Act, an economic development bill, and more. The omnibus PFAS legislation that included recommendations made by the PFAS Task Force did not pass in the

formal session and likely will not move further before the end of the year. However, a smaller bill banning intentionally added [PFAS in firefighter turnout gear](#) by 2027 was approved this session.

A clean energy bill that would reform siting and permitting of clean energy infrastructure continues to move through the legislative process and will likely be approved by the end of the year. On October 24, the Senate approved a compromise bill that will require a mandated consolidated permitting process for small clean energy projects at the local level, reform the Energy Facilities Siting Board, and create a site suitability methodology to minimize or mitigate the social and environmental impacts of clean energy infrastructure projects. The bill includes numerous additional sections addressing several clean energy-related topics. The bill has moved to the House for their approval. At the MMA, we will be turning our attention to the various regulatory processes that will follow the passing of this legislation. If you are interested in providing input on permitting processes for such infrastructure, please contact me.

The Municipal Empowerment Act containing numerous provisions meant to support local governments was also not approved during the formal session. The bill proposed updates to procurement and borrowing, permanent codification of remote public meetings, double poles enforcement, OPEB reform, and local option revenues. It's unlikely that we will see additional action on this bill before the end of the year, however, we will continue our advocacy into the next session.

Still pending is an important economic development bond bill that would authorize funding for key economic development accounts including \$400 million for the MassWorks program; \$100 million for the Rural Development Fund; \$150 million for the Public Library Construction Program; and more. The legislature has hinted that they will take up this bill before the end of the year. In order to move this bill forward, both chambers would need to enter into a special formal session to allow the required roll call vote to approve a bond bill.

In addition to action at the state house, there is much to be aware of in the regulatory space.

The Department of Public Utilities has approved final [Electric Sector Modernization Plans](#) (ESMPs). These are five- and ten-year plans that have been drafted by the electric distribution companies outlining plans to proactively upgrade distribution and transmission systems that would help the Commonwealth reach its greenhouse gas emissions goals.

These proposed upgrades have the potential to cause considerable disruption and considerable opportunity in communities across the Commonwealth. We recommend reviewing the ESMP relevant to your area to see what infrastructure may be planned for your community.

To read more visit:

<https://masshighway.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Massachusetts-Municipal-Association-11-24.pdf>



# Safety Corner

compliments of Jennifer Tetreault of Ha<sup>z</sup>Compliance, LLC

## Safety Training: Don't Set It and Forget It!

*The need for continued reinforcement of safety training to reduce the injury rates, which tend to be higher for newer employees.*

The dreaded class: Safety Training. You can almost feel the rumble on the ground from the massive grumbles and sighs from the crews. As a safety trainer, I must psych myself up for the massive resistance I will be up against in a class and the utter inattention from some of the students that I will receive. Likening it to lecturing to my young son why sugar is not good for you- it's a rough sell. In September, I honestly had a grown man go an entire two-hour class with his back turned to me in rebellion because he did not think that he should be sitting in safety training. Undeterred by the snores, I make it my mission to get and hold attention- and to impress the need for safe work practices.

Safety training does not always have to be associated with lectures, nor does it always have to take place in a classroom. **Safety training should be incorporated into everyday job talks and operations.** In my typical reference, "safety training" is the discussion and guidance of the safety rules and protocols on operation of equipment or task performance, complete with hazard identification and how to protect oneself. Engaging, hands-on and on-the-job safety training can be more effective for learning and comprehension for some, and more effective than computer-based or distance training. Regardless of whether it is hands-on or job discussion to get the information across- **documentation of any job talk is recommended.**

So now you have checked off the safety training and filed the sign off. Great. As a Director/ Super/ Foreman, you have done your due diligence in safety, right? You may have checked a box, but to be effective in managing a safe crew or division, that safety training should be reinforced through upholding and requiring the practices to be carried out. This positive reinforcement can be in the form of routine safety reminders of key points of the safety requirement, or it may require enforcing the use of safety protocols through administrative controls (sending someone off the job for something unsafe, or documenting failure to work safely). The point is- **simply training once and not circling back to acknowledge or to reinforce the safety practice can lessen the effectiveness of safety training.**

Research from Selective Insurance indicates that injury rates for first year employees are on the rise and cited that 38% of the workers' compensation claims result from injuries sustained by workers employed for less than a year. Further- the physical labor industry has a 3x greater claim rate. The DPW's have many openings they are looking to fill with new employees, and this may begin to drive the injury rate even higher in the municipal sector unless we can anticipate that risk and work to educate our employees and then reinforce it. Studies have shown that safety training contributes to reducing the number of injuries at work. According to the latest statistics available for Massachusetts Department of Labor Standards for the survey of occupational injury statistics, the municipal sector had an injury rate of 4.5. Compare this to the national municipal sector's injury rate of 3.5 and it suggests that we need to increase our safety and health training and enforcement.

Few people like to be lectured. When it comes to a high-risk industry, with a high-risk work force, safety training is necessary to keep injuries down and our crews safe. Safety training does not always need to be classroom learning; conduct some tailgate meetings to review equipment and tasks. Walk the work zone for proper sign placement. Demonstrate how to operate equipment. Stay engaged! But after the session, reinforce safety with continued monitoring and reminders.

Work safely.

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# County Association News

## Barnstable County – Jeff Colby

Barnstable County Public Works Association held its Annual Golf Tournament on June 3rd at New Seabury Golf Club in Mashpee. This event is the primary fundraising event that supports the annual scholarship program.

The Annual Clam Bake was held on August 1st with great attendance. The event included the awarding of \$18,500 in scholarship awards to the seven qualified applicants.

Barnstable County Public Works Association and Plymouth County Highway Association held a joint meeting at Mezza Luna restaurant on September 12th with a presentation from our MassDOT State Aid Engineer about the various programs that their office supports.

On October 3rd, the membership met in the Town of Dennis for a lunch meeting and heard a legislative update from Massachusetts Municipal Association representatives.

Upcoming Meetings:

November 7th - DPW Appreciation event at Ryan Family Amusement.  
December 5th - Holiday Luncheon.

## Berkshire County/District #1 Hwy. Supt. Assoc. – Jamie Boyer

On October 24th we held our Annual Meeting and elected and appointed the following officers for the 2024-25 year:

President, Brad Curry, Town of Huntington

Vice President, Chuck Loring, Town of New Marlborough

Board of Directors: Justin Russell, Peru; Kate Donovan, Tolland; Jamie Boyer, West Stockbridge; Craig Clough, Williamstown

The following officers were appointed:

Secretary, Gerald “Jerry” Coppola, Ret. Town of Richmond

Treasurer, William “Bill” Elovirta, Ret. Town of Becket

Assistant Secretary and Treasurer, Robert Navin, Otis

Scholarship awards were presented to two recipients, Jennifer Bouchard, and Danica Poirier. A check for \$5,000, the proceeds from our Charity Golf outing, was presented to “One Call Away.”

Berkshire County/ District #1 Highway Superintendents’ Association has been in existence since 1979 and is comprised of 56 cities and towns. We are one of the smallest and most active organizations in the Commonwealth.

### **2024 Year in Review**

- **April 25-** First meeting/ workshop, Dalton VFW. Mike Bott, owner of Frost Solutions, gave a presentation about making smart decisions on de-icing and plowing using Frost’s new and improved RWIS solutions. Jeremy Cohen (Regional Sales Manager NY and New England of Tensar Corporation), gave a presentation “using geosynthetics for roadway design and maintenance.” Aidan Woutas (Sales Development Rep) and Dave Parker (Senior Revenue Operations Manager) gave a presentation on Vialytics; A.I. Based Pavement Management Systems.
- **June 7-** 15th the annual charity golf tournament was held at Bas Ridge Golf Course in Hinsdale. One Call Away foundation was our charity of choice.

- **June 27-** 2nd meeting/ workshop, Dalton VFW. Presentations by BRPC’s Anuja Koirala, AICP- Principal Transportation Planner, and Peter Frieri, Planning Engineer District 1, on the transportation improvement process (TIP). MASS DOT Dist. 1 Director Francisca Heming and Kristen Pennuchi, community grants administrator, had an open question and answer period on Grant Central.
- **August 22-** 40th annual equipment Expo and picnic, Hinsdale fire grounds. It was a great event, and this year Mother Nature gave us a perfect day. I would like to thank all the vendors and DPW workers who attended.

We would like to thank all our members and corporate sponsors for supporting our association throughout the years and presently. Their hard work and dedication do not go unnoticed.

## Essex County – Michael Hale

See separate article by Michael Collins on page 2.

## Norfolk-Bristol-Middlesex – James McGonagle

The NBM Highway Association is gearing up for a busy Fall season! In early October, we hosted our Fall Technical Session in Dedham, with more than 80 participants from various cities, towns, and vendor partners in attendance.

The session featured insightful presentations from the DPU on worksite safety and protocols. Additionally, speakers from ATG and CN Wood discussed the upcoming EV Clean Air Act and CARB 25 regulations, which will impact future truck and equipment purchases for municipalities. We also had a presentation on Mobile Lidar and Machine Learning Technology from a UMass Amherst professor.

Looking ahead, the NBM Board has sent out ballots for the upcoming elections in November. This will be followed by our Board meeting in early December, where we will welcome our newly elected President and Board members.

Thank you for your continued support!



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# County Association News

## Plymouth County – Christopher Peck

The Association held its April meeting at the Venus III Restaurant in Hanson during which representatives from Plymouth County Mosquito Control spoke about the services they provide to the residents and municipalities of Plymouth County.

Our May meeting was held at Haddad's Ocean Café and included discussions about on-going DPW issues happening within Plymouth County.

Our annual equipment show was held in July at the Upland Club in Plympton. Thank you to all the vendors, members and employees who attended the event.

Our September meeting was also our annual joint meeting with the Barnstable County Public Works Association. The meeting took place at the Mezza Luna Restaurant in Buzzards Bay with Sean Sullivan of MassDOT State- Aid/Chapter 90 providing an update on the new Grant Central website application.

In October, we hosted the association's annual scholarship golf tournament at the Souther's Marsh Golf Club in Plymouth.

We would like to thank all our members and corporate sponsors for supporting the Plymouth County Highway Association. On behalf of the Association, we hope everyone has a safe fall and winter.

Please visit our website <https://www.pchaonline.com/> for more information.

## Tri-County Highway Association – Allison McMordie

The 72nd Joint Meeting of the Massachusetts Tri-County Highway Superintendents' Association and the Massachusetts Highway Association will be held on Tuesday, November 19th, 2024, at the Castle of Knights, Chicopee, MA.

Presentations at the meeting will include an overview of Navigating MassDOT's new Grant Central, Procurement Laws, Status of Electric versus heavy vehicle purchases, and Advanced Clean Trucks (ACT) and the Heavy-Duty OmniBus (HDO) Rules. Please mark your calendars for this upcoming meeting.

Our annual golf outing was a success at Southampton Country Club on August 15, 2024. The course was entirely full! We hope everyone who attended had a great day and are looking forward to the next golf outing on August 21, 2025. Scholarship recipients were announced at the golf outing. Congratulations to the scholarship awardees!

We are currently working on updating our Bylaws and Constitution for Tri-County.

Also, please save the 2025 dates of March 20th for our winter meeting and June 5th for our annual meeting. We would like to thank all our members for supporting the Tri-County Highway Association as we look forward to another great season.

## Worcester County

WCHA had their Training Day and Vendor Expo at Wachusett Mountain. Along with training sessions on trench safety, sweeper maintenance, and pre-trip inspections, there were several competitions -

Best Municipal Truck (Town of Milbury won first place), Excavator challenges (won by Milford and Shrewsbury), and a Cornhole Tournament (won by Town of Milford). The meeting was wrapped up with a patriotic performance by Trooper Daniel Clark.

The WCHA Scholarship Golf Tournament was a success with 76 golfers in attendance.

The next meeting will be held at the College of the Holy Cross on November 19th and will feature speakers on cameras for weather, cameras for underground infrastructure, implementing brine systems, additives to brine systems, weather forecasting, and updates on electrical vehicle mandates.

Lastly, Worcester DPW Director, Jay Fink, has resigned to take the DPW Director position in Miami Beach, Florida. We will miss Jay but wish him luck in his new position.



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**Ross B. Dindio, P.E.**, former Chief Engineer and District One Highway Director, passed away on Sunday October 6th, 2024, while at home in Florida.

Ross graduated from Wentworth University and began his career with MassDOT as a Junior Engineering Aid in 1966 at what was then known as the Department of Public Works at 100 Nashua Street in Boston. Ross worked his way up through the ranks and saw several rebranding and organizational changes of what we now know today as MassDOT. In 1977 Ross was one of the founding members of the Massachusetts Organization of State Engineers & Scientists (MOSES) and served as its first Secretary. In 1989 he went to Washington DC where he helped with the newly formed Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP).

Ross held many positions and titles including Chief Engineer for the Massachusetts Highway Department (MassHighway), District One Highway Director, and Chief of Operations for the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority prior to the formation of MassDOT. After serving as Chief of Operations for the Turnpike Authority Ross continued in an advisory role at the newly formed MassDOT helping with the reorganization of the new agency and the establishment of the Accelerated Bridge Program.

As District One Highway Director for over a decade, Ross was personally responsible for hiring and shaping the careers of many District One staff. Ross's legacy lives on as many established their careers at D1, some of whom are currently in senior leadership positions.

Everyone that knew Ross knew of his love for District One and how much he cared about staff and communities. Ross saw eight Highway Districts become five and welcomed those new towns under his jurisdiction as if they were always part of the district.

A private service honoring Ross's life will be held in Maine in the spring.

**Thomas Charles Collins**, of Sagamore, Cape Cod, formerly of Walpole and Brookline, passed away on July 23, 2024, after the most valiant of fights with glioblastoma. Born on January 16, 1954, he grew up in Chestnut Hill and played hockey and golf at Brookline High School before graduating in 1972. He received his degree from Franklin Institute of Boston in 1975, studying automotive science.

Tom was an ardent proponent of Public Works, devoting his career to the advancement of the field. It was his firm belief that Public Works is "the silent arm of public safety" and worked tirelessly to spread awareness of the often overlooked positive impact of Public Works on our daily lives.

He began his career with the Town of Brookline Public Works Department, serving as Motor Equipment Working Foreman from

1976 to 1985. He then took a position as Equipment Maintenance Division Supervisor with the Town of Natick Department of Public Works, a position he proudly filled from 1985 until his retirement in 2016, and during which he was responsible for a fleet of 485 vehicles and pieces of equipment. He also earned his place as Deputy Director of Public Works for the Town of Natick, serving from 1994 until his retirement. Additionally, he was named Interim Director of Public Works for Natick on two separate occasions between 2013 and 2015. He was a dedicated Public Works professional, coordinating emergency operations for events including snowstorms, natural disasters, and other emergencies.

A steady presence for all who knew him, Tom was a leader in every sense of the word. He gave his all to his role in the advancement of Public Works. He served in various organizations and associations working toward this goal. He was a member of the American Public Works Association (APWA) from 1986 until the present, serving on many of the association's committees over the years and serving as New England Chapter President in 2010, during which time he organized an international public works educational exposition for over 9,500 attendees for the 2010 Public Works Week APWA International Congress in Boston. He was a member of the Norfolk-Bristol-Middlesex Highway Association (NBM) since 1992, serving as President from 2007 to 2009. He also brought his talents to the Association of Fleet Maintenance Supervisors (AFMS) as a member from 1985 to present, serving as President from 1994 to 1996. He also served on the Board of Directors for each association.

During his long career, Tom developed and conducted Mechanics Workshops, informational and educational workshops for public fleet mechanics on both local and national scales. He also served 6 years on an international fleet committee working with public works professionals worldwide.

Over the course of his esteemed career, he was the recipient of several awards recognizing him for his dedication to the field of Public Works. In 2011, Tom was selected as the recipient of the Donald C. Stone Award for Excellence in Education by APWA. In 2012, he was named Public Works Leadership Fellow by APWA. Then in 2015, he was selected as one of APWA's Top Ten Public Works Officials of the Year.

After his retirement in 2016, he took positions with the Greater Boston Police Council as well as the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, acting as Vehicle Specialist for both. He also started a successful business, MTC Ops, LLC, offering Public Works fleet and facility consulting. He also continued to play an active role in several county highway associations throughout Massachusetts. He also continued to snowplow for his faithful clients, a pastime he enjoyed since he was a teenager.

# 2024 MHA Larry Bombara Memorial Charity Golf Tournament

by Ryan Bartlett, Charity Golf Chair and Jody Trunfio, co-Chair



The 2024 Larry Bombara Memorial Charity Golf Tournament was held under bright sunny skies on August 13th at the Brookmeadow Country Club in Canton. The annual event recognizes a long-standing member who has made significant contributions to the Mass Highway Association.

Proceeds raised from the event are given to the charity of the honoree's choice. The 2024 honoree, Donna

Grant, chose both St. Jude's Children's Hospital and the MSPCA-Angell Northeast Animal Shelter as this year's charities. A special thank you to Donna for her many years of service to the Massachusetts Highway Association as a volunteer for several of the Association's annual events including the New England Public Works Expo as well as the Larry Bombara Memorial Charity Golf Tournament. We would like to extend a giant thank you to all attendees, sponsors and volunteers who made this event a success. We also wish to extend special thanks to our tournament and putting green sponsors: Advantage Truck Group, All States Materials Group, BETA Group, Inc., BMC Corp, Environmental Partners, an Apex Company, Fleet Electric, and Norfolk Power & Equipment.

## MHA Website Log-in Change

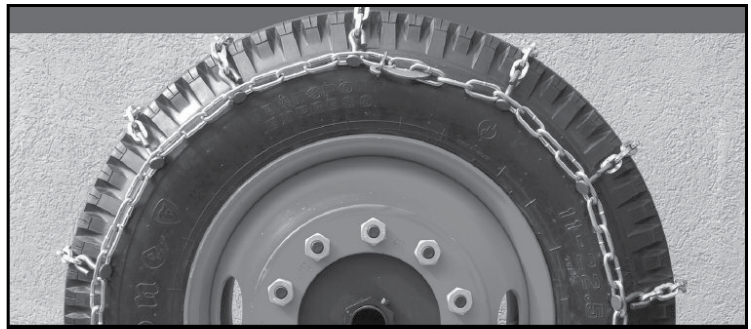
Because of some website problems you can no longer log into the Massachusetts Highway Association website by using *masshwy.org*. The new log-in is *masshighway.org*.

## Newsletter Update

This *Fall 2024 Newsletter* is being distributed digitally only and is also on the MHA website at *masshighway.org*. If you are a member of MHA and not receiving the newsletter please contact the editor, Bill Elovirta, at [bille@msn.com](mailto: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 Spring 2025.



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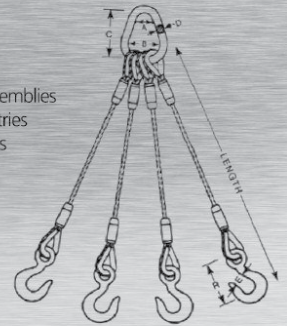
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