

Volume 57

2025

Massachusetts Highway Association

Since 1893

FALL NEWSLETTER

President's Message



Roby Whitehouse

Dear MHA members,

This summer flew by! I hope you have had a chance to slow down and enjoy the cooler weather before diving into snow and ice preparations.

New England Public Works Expo – A record year!

We're thrilled to report that this year's MHA New England Public Works Expo saw record-breaking attendance! If you joined us, we'd love to hear your feedback. Special thanks to Marlborough Mayor

Christian Dumais for stopping by and showing appreciation to our members. Congratulations to Dave Capelle and his team for organizing such a successful event!

Highlights from the first half of the year

- Driver Skills Training at Mount Wachusett (July)

A great turnout and a wonderful display of camaraderie and knowledge-sharing. I hope you'll join us next year!

- APWA Colorado Snow Event (September)

It was an honor to attend and see Committee Chair Chris Bouchard (MassDOT) win First Place in the Grader competition. Chris and Jason Page (ATG) also mentored Oxford contestants—thank you both for your leadership!

- Larry Bombara Memorial Golf Tournament

Thank you to Jody Trunfio for chairing this year's tournament at Brook Meadow Country Club on October 21st. We celebrated John Knipe as this year's honoree for his decades of service in Shrewsbury. Congratulations, John!

Upcoming events

- Joint Tri-County MHA Meeting (November 18, 2025)

Looking forward to seeing you there!

- MMA Connect 351 Conference Workshop (January 22-24, 2026)

Stay tuned for more details!

Challenge: Share your service projects

As I reflect on the Town of Yarmouth's upcoming townwide cleanup and the Yarmouth Rotary Club's involvement, I'm reminded of the power of service. I challenge each of you to share your association's community service projects with your MHA Board representatives. Let's celebrate the good we do and inspire others! "Service is a habit that grows the more one gives."

New committee announcement

We're excited to introduce the MHA Membership Committee, chaired by Brenda Codella. Interested in joining or learning more? Contact Brenda at bcodella@yahoo.com

I'm grateful to work alongside such a professional and dedicated Board of Directors. Your experience and volunteerism are deeply appreciated.

Thank You,

Roby Whitehouse

President

73rd Annual Joint Meeting to be held November 18th

The 73rd Annual Meeting of the Massachusetts Highway Association and the Massachusetts Tri-County Highway Superintendents' Association will be held on Tuesday, November 18th at the Castle of Knights in Chicopee. MHA and Tri-County have sent out flyers announcing the event, including reservation forms.

9:00 A.M.- registration and coffee

10:00 A.M. - Unpaved Roads Toolkit for Municipal Highway Departments

*Megan Rhodes, Franklin Regional Council of Governments
Angela Panaccione, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
Alison Dixon, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission*

10:30 A.M. - Pavement Asset Management

*Bill Eddy, Director of Sales, CityLogix
Peter Dadarria/Joe McGuire, Tighe & Bond*

11:00 A.M. - Social Media in the Workplace

Patricia Leavenworth, District 2 Highway Director, MassDOT

11:30 A.M.- State and Local Partnership for National Bridge Inspection Standard Compliance

John Bechard, Deputy Chief Engineer of Project Development, MassDOT

12:00 P.M.- Social Hour – Cash Bar

12:30 P.M. - Dinner - Prime Rib

Winter Meeting set for February 5th

The program committee is hard at work planning the program for the winter meeting. The meeting will again be held at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester on Thursday, February 5, 2026. This venue has proven to be a central location with plenty of parking and spacious meeting rooms. Please mark your calendar and watch for the program announcement that will be sent in early to mid-January.

The MHA Annual Meeting was held on May 1st in Sutton.



The Annual Meeting was held on Thursday, May 1st at the Pleasant Valley Country Club in Sutton. A large crowd was on hand for the excellent program and scholarship and awards presentations.

New officers elected were:

President – Roby Whithouse, Yarmouth; 1st Vice President – Michael Hale, Gloucester; 2nd Vice President – Jeffrey Colby, Yarmouth.

Representing Essex County – John Borgesi, North Andover; Norfolk-Bristol-Middlesex Counties- James McGonagle, Newton; Plymouth County – Kevin Cafferty, Scituate.

Awards were presented to the following recipients: The Past President Award to Scott Crisafulli, Grainger Award to David Desrosiers, Granby DPW Director; The John Kiley Award to Annie Kelly, Aquaphalt; and the Recognition Award to Catherine Schoenenberger, Stay Safe Products; Christopher Peck and Rob Colson.

The highlight of the Annual Meeting is the awarding of scholarships. Scholarships totaling \$76,000 were presented to 39 individuals:

Joseph Borgesi, Sophia Borgesi, Amelia Cantoreggi, Carlson Cantoreggi, Connor Chiasson, Faith Colby, Joshua Colby, Elizabeth Collins, Connor Crane, Sydney Crane, Joseph Deluca, Chloe DeMaio, Lois Divoll, Megan Field, Ryan Field, Yvonne Haines, Haden Hale, Siri Hall, Hayden Hall, Maxine Hall, Tyler Halnon, Caroline Hickey, Richard Kelly, Caleb Kemp, James Langley, McKenzie McCarthy, Meagan McGonagle, Danica Poirier, Cameron Shave, Alexis Vazquez, Emily Woodsmall, Ryan Woodsmall, Max Warner, Anthony Breen, Nicholas Breen, Alexandria Lavenia, Gabriell Palmer, and Jenna Stencil.

Congratulations to all award and scholarship winners.



MHA Sponsored Driver Training Skills (Rodeo) results

by Co-Chairs Chris Bouchard, Jason Page, Dave Desrosiers

MHA held its Driver Skills and Safety Training on July 16th, 2025, at Wachusett Mountain Ski Area, a great location with great weather yet again.

This year the competition included a single axle truck event and a wheel loader event. Thank you for making this event great again as we had 21 loader operators and 22 truck teams compete. It was very competitive and helped build comradery among all of competitors and great peer interaction.

Thank you to all the teams and the cities and towns that you represent for your participation in this safety training event as we would not have the event without you. Secondly, thank you to the judges and the cities, towns, state agencies, and the vendors that you work for, - you are a key component to making this event happen and run smoothly and efficiently. Thank you to our vendor sponsors ATG Trucks Westfield and CN Wood and the Town of Westminster for providing the loaders and trucks we use for the running event, Baystate Roads Program for handling the registrations, advertising and judging as this helps us greatly with our event.

2025 MHA results Single Axle Truck: 1st Town of Oxford – Kevin Jose / Laurie Massoni; 2nd Town of Southbridge – Michael Zuziak / John Jesky; 3rd Town of Erving – Dan Costa / Glenn McCrory.

Wheel Loader: 1st Town of Oxford - Matt Masiello; 2nd Town of Sterling – James Chiaravalloti; 3rd Town of Erving – Cody Pease.

Congratulations to the winners and all who participated in this event..

The first place truck and loader teams traveled to the Western Snow and Ice Conference on September 24th – 26th and competed at the National Finals in Loveland, Colorado.

2025 National final results: Single axle truck 35th out of 49 teams, Ten wheel truck 24th out of 69 teams, Wheel Loader 4th out of 77 teams, Skid Steer 70th out of 83 teams, Motor Grader 1st out of 39 teams, a great job by all.

As an indication as to how close the 4th place in the loader was, had

Matt gotten one more item on the walk around inspection, he would have scored a second place finish it was only a 20-point difference between 3rd and 4th and 50 points between 2nd and 3rd. Well done Matt.

The results for the other New England teams that finished: Maine DOT was 6th, North Kingston Rhode Island 63rd in Single Axle truck, Maine DOT 66th, North Kingston Rhode Island 61st in Wheel Loader.

During the Western Snow and Ice Conference we attended some workshops: So You Want To Be the Boss, Navigating Leadership Building a Culture for The Future, Circle of Safety. We listened to speaker Randy Gradishar former Denver Bronco Hall of Famer talk about his journey in a world of substance over fleeting style, showcasing the transformative power of influence. We also got to hear from Dan Schacher, Alaska DOT and Captain Eric Spitzer, Alaska State Trooper about Embracing Lifelong Learning and how that helped them bridge the two agencies for added cooperation in doing their jobs.

I want to thank the teams for their professionalism, cheering others on and really networking with public works folks representing 28 different states and hundreds of organizations as I think they made some connections to use throughout their careers, good job - mission accomplished.

Thank you MHA President Whitehouse for travelling with us to see what the event was all about. As we were checking into the conference, she jumped in and volunteered us to help load the 3500 attendee bags as they were behind with this task. Pete Adler, chairman of the conference, expressed his appreciation for our help.

Lastly, thank you to the MHA Board of Directors for their continued support of this safety training event and the ability to take the winners to the National Finals in Colorado and to represent Massachusetts. Thank you.

We look forward to seeing you at next year's Driver Skills and Safety Training event which will be held on July 15, 2026. Mark your calendars and save the date. And, if you don't wish to compete, we always need help judging, or please come out to see what our event is all about.

Mutual Aid Update

by Chris Bouchard for the committee

Happy fall everyone. The mutual aid committee has been hard at work behind the scenes working on the mutual aid program.

Mike Collins, DPW Director, City of Beverly submitted a grant application to NERAC for \$30,000 which we were awarded to refine our SOP's, develop multiple ways for requesting aid, training for the county mutual aid coordinators, and any additional development to the GIS program we are utilizing for tracking requests for aid, aid sent and when the aid has returned.

We are finalizing plans with a consultant selected by NERAC to help us get this project moving and completed.

Please stay tuned to the website masshighway.org or look for an email blast with news and updates.

Please remember to keep your city or town's DPW emergency 24 hour contact information up to date on the yearly membership form or when there is a change, as this will be very important information for the CMAC's to have when reaching out to provide or request assistance for mutual aid to have it work well.

If you have an emergency change, please send it to: MHAsecretary1893@gmail.com

When we look back and think, it seems like it was a long time ago when we were fighting to get recognized as First Responders and get Mutual Aid Agreements. It seems like it has been a long uphill journey.

Thank you to all who contributed and helped in this journey, for your vision, tenacity, strength and good-will to carry us forward on this mission for public works for now and the future.

Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) Fall Update

by Violet Gebr, MMA Legislative Analyst - Vgebr@mma.org

Hello Massachusetts Highway Association members!

There is never a dull moment in the Legislature, especially as the year wraps up and loose ends are tied before the holiday break. With no end to the current federal government shutdown in sight, its impact is still developing, just as the state begins to understand what impact recent federal policy changes will have on this year's state budget – a bit of cautious optimism, but it's naturally still developing! Here's what you need to know to stay up to date:

FY26 Budget

As mentioned, the federal landscape continues to influence how the Healey-Driscoll Administration is approaching managing the budget. With an eye toward protecting the state from any fiscal uncertainty (either from federal policy or state revenues), the Legislature and Governor included an \$800 million buffer between projected revenues and the final \$60.9 billion spending plan. This buffer will likely prove critical as the Administration aims to keep the state budget balanced in the coming months.

The FY26 budget includes several key investments for municipalities, such as school transportation funding and a 1.1% increase in Unrestricted General Government Aid (UGGA).

It also allocates \$103.7 million across two school transportation accounts:

- \$53.7 million for regional school transportation
- \$50 million for regional school and out-of-district vocational transportation

In addition, \$8.1 million was included in the recent surplus surtax supplemental budget to support FY26 regional school transportation needs which is a slight increase over last fiscal year.

The budget also directs the state comptroller to transfer \$14 million from any FY25 consolidated net surplus into the state's Disaster Relief and Resiliency Fund. The MMA strongly advocated for the creation of this fund, which will support rapid-response efforts by cities and towns facing emergency weather-related costs.

Chapter 90

As of October 23rd, the Chapter 90 companion bond terms bill was sent to the Governor's desk for her consideration! Once signed by the Governor (which we would expect soon), reimbursements for FY26 can be processed. We're grateful to Governor Healey for her leadership, and to the Legislature for their thoughtful consideration and support of this historic funding increase – and to all of you for your steadfast advocacy. Thanks to this bill, 45% of municipalities in Massachusetts will receive an 85% increase in their annual Chapter 90 apportionment.

To recap, this bill is a 50% increase to base Chapter 90 funding with \$200 million distributed using the traditional formula and \$100 million distributed based on road miles. In addition:

- \$200 million for the Culvert and Small Bridge Program
- \$500 million for MassDOT bridge and pavement asset management
- \$185 million for congestion relief and safety improvements.

We can't wait to see the improvements that happen as a result of this funding increase!

MassDOT Community Grants

MassDOT recently launched two new grant programs for municipalities: the **Community Culvert Grant Program** and the **Unpaved Roads Grant Program**.

The Community Culvert Grant provides funding for the modernization, reconstruction, removal, repair, replacement, and resilience upgrades of culverts and small bridges. To be eligible, culverts must be located on a local public way and have an existing span of 10 feet or less. The program offers support for both design and construction phases. Design projects are managed through MassDOT-led consultants, while construction projects are implemented by the municipality and funded through reimbursement-based grants. You can read more about the grant [here](#).

The Unpaved Roads Grant Program offers up to \$1 million per award to support the maintenance, repair, and improvement of locally owned dirt and gravel roads across Massachusetts. This is a highly competitive program, with only \$7 million in total funding available. Grants are reimbursement-based and cannot be used to pave an unpaved road or to fund work on roads not listed in MassDOT's official road inventory. You can read more about the grant [here](#).

Municipal Empowerment Act

The [MEA](#) was filed to support municipal operations and provide local revenue generation opportunities for cities and towns. It includes several important provisions including language on double poles and procurement. This session, it was split into three different jurisdictional committees. The Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government, which discusses the procurement efficiencies and double poles piece, will be having a hearing on Tuesday, October 28th. The MMA will be testifying at this hearing so we can share municipal feedback on the provisions. Currently, the double pole language states: "Extending the statutory prohibition against double poles from 90 days to 180 days, while giving municipalities enforcement authority with penalties for utilities that fail to comply, and empowering the Department of Public Utilities and Department of Telecommunications and Cable to establish a process allowing speedier removal while giving municipalities enforcement authority with penalties for utilities that fail to comply."

Please reach out to us if you have comments or feedback to share on any part of the bill and tune in on October 28th to watch the hearing. You can familiarize yourself with the bill via this MMA article. For any questions about the MEA, please contact Legislative and Policy Council Ali DiMatteo at ADimatteo@mma.org.

Mass Ready Act

Earlier this year, Governor Healey filed a \$2.9 billion, five-year environmental bond bill known as the [Mass Ready Act](#). This sweeping proposal authorizes funding for critical climate, resilience, and environmental priorities. These range from infrastructure upgrades and streamlined permitting for housing and environmental projects, to targeted support for the central and western regions of the state.

A key component of the bill is a \$315 million authorization for the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program, paired with important programmatic changes. These changes would broaden eligibility to include more applicants, allow nonprofit organizations to directly apply for and manage grant funding, and enable municipalities and others to hire sustainability and climate coordinators using MVP funds.

The legislation also proposes the creation of a Resilience Revolving Fund, housed within the Clean Water Trust, to offer low-interest loans for climate-resilient infrastructure. Eligible projects could include stormwater upgrades, floodplain protection efforts, and nature-based solutions.

We recognize that not every community is in a position to take on new debt right now. Still, this revolving loan fund would provide an additional, flexible financing tool for municipalities looking to advance high-impact resilience initiatives.

If you have any questions about the bill or how it may impact your community, please contact Senior Legislative Analyst Josie Ahlberg at JAhlberg@mma.org.

Finally, a few other things to note:

- Registration for Connect 351, MMA's annual conference, is now open! Register [here](#).
- And, last but not least, read more about the 2025-2026 MMA legislative package [here](#).

I look forward to seeing you all soon! Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or input — VGehr@mma.org

The 45th Annual New England Public Works Expo was held September 17-18 in Marlborough and saw records broken.

The 2025 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 17th and 18th.

This year we saw a record 2,398 attendees and approximately 225 vendors for the two-day show, which were both record breakers. Each year, under the chairmanship of David Capelle, the Expo continues to grow. This year the show had a public works theme with public works decorations throughout the exhibit hall.

Photos from the 2025 Expo can be seen on our Facebook page.

The 2026 New England Public Works Expo will be held on Wednesday, September 16th and Thursday, September 17th. More information will be soon be available on our website, nepublicworksexpo.org.





EXPERIENCE THE POWER OF THE ATG NETWORK



MASSACHUSETTS
Raynham | Shrewsbury | Westfield

NEW HAMPSHIRE
Lancaster | Lebanon
Manchester | Seabrook

VERMONT
Westminster

AdvantageTruckNE.com | (877) 4-ATG-HELP



DigSafe.com or Call 811 Before You Dig

It's smart. It's free. It's the law.



DigSafe.com



Horizontal Directional Drills | Skid Steers | Trenchers

Truck & Trailer Vacuum Excavators | Wheel Loaders

 **844-VERMEER** **VermeerAllRoads.com**

Safety Corner

Compliments of Jenni Saxton of HazCompliance, LLC

Putting Safety Plans into Action: Building a Culture of Municipal Success

When developing this safety article, I wanted to focus on something practical — a topic that helps towns stay organized, proactive, and accountable in their approach to workplace safety. One idea that continues to prove valuable is the use of a **Safety Success Plan (SSP)** — a simple, written roadmap that tracks safety improvements and follow-up actions across departments.

Presently, a Safety Success Plan is not directly required by the Department of Labor Standards (DLS), though the intended outcome of hazard identification and abatement is. To accomplish overall safety compliance, maintaining a Safety Success Plan can help municipalities document progress, assign responsibilities, and demonstrate continued commitment to workplace safety. It's a straightforward way to turn good intentions into visible, measurable results — something every town can take pride in.

What Is a Safety Success Plan?

A Safety Success Plan is a practical, working document that helps towns identify hazards, assign corrective actions, and track progress toward a safer workplace. Think of it as your town's safety "to-do list" — one that never gets buried at the bottom of a pile.

It's meant to be a **living document**, updated as issues are corrected and new ones are identified. The layout can be as simple as a table or spreadsheet that captures:

- **Hazard or Finding:** Describe what was identified or what needs attention.
- **Corrective Action:** Outline the steps that will be taken to resolve it.
- **Responsible Person or Department:** Identify who's accountable.
- **Target Completion Date:** Set a realistic timeline for resolution.
- **Verification Method:** Note how completion will be confirmed — photos, inspection logs, or training records.
- **Status:** Track whether it's Not Started, In Progress, or Completed.

This approach gives supervisors, department heads, and safety committees a clear picture of what's been addressed — whether it's in Highway, Fleet, Facilities, Parks, Water, Sewer, Police, or another division.

Why It Matters

A Safety Success Plan isn't just paperwork — it's a tool that helps people stay on the same page. It reminds employees that safety isn't just a checklist — it's teamwork in action. When leaders share updates and accomplishments at meetings, people feel involved, recognized, and more likely to keep that positive momentum rolling.

It's also a great resource when applying for safety grants, preparing for inspections, or demonstrating to the DLS that the town is actively tracking and closing out items. Having this plan in place shows that municipal safety efforts are thoughtful, organized, and transparent — not reactive.

How to Build Your Own Plan

Starting one is easier than you might think. Many towns already have the information they need — it's just spread out in inspection notes, safety committee minutes, or training files.

Here's a simple way to pull it all together:

1. **Gather Information:** Review recent inspections, near-miss reports, and safety committee notes.
2. **Organize by Department:** Group items under each division so responsibilities are clear.
3. **Assign Accountability:** Make sure each item has a name attached — someone who owns it.
4. **Document Progress:** Use photos, checklists, or sign-offs to show what's been done.
5. **Review Regularly:** Discuss updates quarterly with your safety committee or department heads.
6. **Summarize Annually:** Review accomplishments and open items with management or DLS.

In many towns I've worked with, a simple spreadsheet has turned out to be one of the best communication tools between departments — transforming scattered "to-dos" into clear, visible progress everyone can see.

From Tracking to Teamwork

The Safety Success Plan encourages collaboration and helps municipalities maintain consistency between inspections. It ensures that safety discussions lead to action — and that no follow-up item gets lost along the way.

Recognizing progress, whether it's repairing a hazard, completing a training, or updating a procedure, builds morale and reinforces a culture where safety is something everyone contributes to. The plan gives credit where it's due — and that recognition matters.

Putting It into Practice

Although DLS is not presently requesting formal written Safety Success Plans, this tool remains valuable for enhancing communication and reinforcing accountability. For towns looking to enhance safety planning or better track corrective actions, creating a simple version of this plan can be an easy, effective first step.

Whether your focus is on safety tracking, training, or work zone awareness, the goal remains the same — to keep safety active, visible, and meaningful across every department.

Because at the end of the day, "safety success" is not just about compliance — it is about commitment to your people and your community.

For More Information

For additional safety planning and compliance resources, visit:

- Massachusetts Department of Labor Standards (DLS) – <https://www.mass.gov/dls>
- Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association (MIIA) – <https://www.emiia.org>
- Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) – <https://www.osha.gov>

These organizations offer helpful tools, templates, and training programs to support towns in building a strong, sustainable safety culture.

Stay Safe.

by Kathryn Donnelly, Digital Marketing Specialist

UMass Transportation Center/Baystate Roads Training

www.BaystateRoads.org

Snow and Ice Operations for Front Line Employees

11/12/25 – Milton, MA
11/18/25 – Chelmsford, MA
11/20/25 – Cheshire, MA
12/02/25 – Chicopee, MA

All About Liquid Deicers

11/13/25 – Acton, MA
12/04/25 – Chicopee, MA

Flagger/First Aid Certification – Virtual

11/24/25, 11/25/25

Trenching & Excavating Safety: Competent Person

12/10/25 – Barnstable, MA

Go on-line to Baystate Roads to register for all classes.

2025 MHA Larry Bombara Memorial Charity Golf Tournament

By Jody Trunfio, Charity Golf Chair



The 2025 Larry Bombara Memorial Charity Golf Tournament was held under picturesque fall conditions on October 21st at the Brookmeadow Country Club in Canton. We had 104 golfers participate with an

additional 30 who attending the luncheon reception. It was a wonderful day, with the new on-course events and raffles.

The annual charity golf tournament 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 2025 honoree, John Knipe, chose both Boy Scouts of America Mohegan Council and Dana Farber as this year's charity recipients. A special thank you to John for his many years of service to the Massachusetts Highway Association, having served

as President from 2002-2003 as well as an Elected Trustee from 2005-2009.

We would like to extend a giant thank you to Brookmeadow Country Club staff, 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, BMC Corp, BETA Group, and PJ Keating.



**8 Railroad Ave
Bedford, MA 01730**

P: 781-275-9290 • Fax 781-275-8404

MEDIUM & HEAVY-DUTY TRUCKS

MA Statewide Contract GBPC

www.taylorandlloyd.com

Chassis in Stock – "Up-Fit Ready"

Need Support? Call or Text...

- **Parts:** 800-557-0704
- **Service:** 800-561-4939
- **Sales:** 800-539-8905
- **Rentals:** 800-560-3819

Your Trusted Partner

Since 1964, C.N. Wood has stood by New England's municipalities. Count on us for all your equipment needs—you're never alone!



www.cn-wood.com



IMPROVING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

BETA is proud to offer a broad range of planning, engineering, asset management, and landscape architectural services to improve the communities where we live and work.

www.BETA-Inc.com

County Association News

Barnstable County –Richard Waldo

Barnstable County Public Works Association held its Annual Golf Tournament on June 2nd at New Seabury Golf Club in Mashpee. This event is the primary fundraising event that supports the annual scholarship program.

The annual scholarship luncheon (clam bake) on August 7th was well attended. Barnstable County Public Works awarded \$17,000 in annual scholarships to seven qualified applicants, \$1,500 to Cape Cod Regional Technical High School, and \$1,500 to Upper Cape Regional Technical High School. A portion of the technical school awards supports the toolships program that allows recipients to start their careers off right and purchase the necessary tools unique to their specific trade.

Barnstable County Public Works Association and Plymouth County Highway Association held a joint meeting at Mezza Luna restaurant, on September 4th, where we heard from representatives of the Cape Cod Commission who provided an update on the Sagamore and Bourne Bridge Replacement Projects.

On October 2nd, members met in the Town of Yarmouth for a lunch meeting and heard about recent solid waste trends from Barnstable County representatives.

The DPW Appreciation event was held at Ryan Family Amusement on November 6th.

Upcoming Meeting:

December 4th - Holiday Luncheon event at Emerald Resort.

Berkshire County/District #1 Hwy. Supt. Assoc. – Gerald Coppola

President Brad Cury welcomed all to the first Workshop/Meeting of the 2025 season at the Dalton VFW on April 24, 2025,

Invited speaker Nick Russo from the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission discussed Asset Management in Berkshire County related to roads and bridges; pavement evaluation and management services for municipalities.

Western Mass Regional Unpaved Roads Project updates and the Bridge preservation needs in Berkshire County. Potential workshops for local DPWs and town managers/admins re: bridge maintenance strategies. Followed by Paul Procopio, and Loren Greestein from Kimball Midwest who did an interesting presentation On Fastener Training. “It’s not just nuts and bolts”

On June 6, 2025, we had our 16th Annual Scholarship /Charity Golf Tournament at Waubeeka Golf Links in Williamstown, MA. We had 100 golfers in attendance on a beautiful day in the Berkshires at a Class A golf course, followed by a steak and chicken luncheon. A total of \$7000 was raised which will be shared between our scholarship program, No Paws Left Behind, a local shelter in North Adams, and Missing Dogs of Massachusetts, a state-wide organization with local ties.

Our second Workshop/Meeting of the 2025 season was held on June 26, 2025, at the Dalton V.F.W. Presentations were made by Jeremy Golec, Doug McClusky, Reggy Cooley, and Don Labeau of EJ Prescott who did a product demonstration of Culvert slip-lining systems and the proper use of the Geogrid when repairing or rebuilding roads.

The Association had its’ 40th annual Equipment Show and Picnic, on August 28th at the Hinsdale Volunteer Fire Department pavilion and grounds. It was a sell-out with fantastic weather and over 200 attendees

and vendors helped to make the day a success.

Our last meeting for the 2025 season was held on October 23rd. The meeting featured a review of the year’s events and check presentations to No Paws Left Behind - \$2750; Missing Dogs of Mass. - \$2750; and a \$1500 scholarship to Jennifer Bouchard.

Election of new officers:

President - Chuck Loring, New Marlborough.

Vice President - Kate Donovan, Tolland.

Board of Directors - Justin Russell, Peru. Craig Clough, Williamstown. Dan Bannister, Williamsburg and Robert Navin, Stockbridge.

The President appointed William Elovirta, Treasurer; Gerald Coppola, Secretary; Robert Navin, Assistant to the Secretary and Treasurer. Harold “Huck” House, AMG and Jason Page, ATG as our vendor directors.

We welcome new superintendents Derek Boomsma, Sandisfield; Nate Fenwick, Lanesborough; Steve Van Tassel, West Stockbridge; Robert Navin, Stockbridge.

One sad note, our association lost a member and friend, Thomas J. Horrigan 48, passed away unexpectedly on August 1, 2025. TJ was the highway superintendent for the Town of Alford. Casey Searing, long time foreman, has stepped up to that position.

Essex County – Michael Hale

The Essex County Highway Association is continuing to have an excellent year under the leadership of President Carlos Jaquez, Andover DPW Director.

The charity golf tournament went well at the new venue this year, Beverly Golf & Tennis.

The association will be awarding seventeen scholarships to deserving students in the county.

The YP event was held at Forest River Park in Salem despite the rainy conditions. The presentations by local young professionals were well received and it was a great event despite the lack of a barbeque pig. Many thanks to Ray Jodoin and the City of Salem for a great venue and their hard work.

Plans are underway for the Annual Meeting on December 5th.



**Hot In-Place
Asphalt Recycling**
The Energy Saving Method!

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

Norfolk-Bristol-Middlesex – James McGonagle

The Norfolk Bristol Middlesex (NBM) County Highway Association kicked off 2025 by welcoming Tom DeMaio, former Brookline DPW Commissioner and recent retiree of the Holyhood Cemetery Association, to the NBM Board of Directors.

In March, NBM proudly awarded 16 scholarships to local college students, totaling over \$31,000.

April brought our annual Spring Technical Session and the first of a two-part Mechanics Workshop series — each drawing more than 70 attendees for engaging and informative sessions.

With beautiful weather in early May, our annual NBM Equipment Show was another great success, thanks to the generous support of our local vendors. Attendees enjoyed gourmet donuts, coffee, and four exceptional food trucks. We were thrilled to see record attendance and are already looking forward to an even bigger event in 2026.

In July, more than 80 golfers joined us for our annual Golf Tournament, with all proceeds benefitting the NBM College Scholarship Fund — a tradition that continues to make a lasting impact for students pursuing higher education.

NBM was also proud to participate in the MHA New England Expo this past September. We thank MHA for welcoming us to be part of such a growing and inspiring event.

As the year winds down, we close with our Fall Technical Session and the second Mechanics Workshop, both of which were well attended and featured outstanding educational programs for our members, staff, and vendors. The year culminates with the beloved NBM Gala, always a wonderful way to celebrate another successful year together.

NBM extends heartfelt thanks to MHA, our members, the Board of Directors, and especially our vendors — whose support makes everything we do possible.

We also take a moment to honor our departed member, past president, and dear friend Tom Collins, whom we fondly remember as the author of *“Public Works: The Silent Arm of Public Safety.”*

Plymouth County – Kevin Cafferty

Victor Diniak, Hanover’s DPW Director is retiring in December 2025. Victor is a 1986 graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), where he earned his degree in Electrical Engineering. He began his career with the town in June of 1982 as a Water Treatment Plant Operator and has served as Director of Public Works since August of 2004.

Throughout his career, Victor has played a vital role in numerous major projects. He takes particular pride in supervising the startup of the Greensand Beal Water Treatment Plant, leading the design of the Broadway Water Treatment Plant, and overseeing the permitting, design, and construction of the 40-acre Forge Pond Park recreation complex.

Victor also fondly reflects on his years of service to the community through his active participation in Town Meetings. He is known for his ability to address complex questions and explain public works issues—often in challenging circumstances—with clarity and professionalism. His commitment to educating residents and guiding important water capital projects has left a lasting impact on the Town’s infrastructure and community trust.

Tri-County Highway Association – David Loring

The Summer Meeting and golf outing at Southampton Country Club was held on August 18. The event was very successful with a group of 84 golfers participating in the tournament and dinner. This annual event generates the funding to support the Association’s annual Edward J. Bayon Scholarship Program.

The annual election of Officers was also held at the summer meeting. The Association’s new board includes President Randall Kemp, Southampton; Vice President Randal Brown, Westfield; Secretary Joseph Pipczynski, Westhampton; Treasure David Loring, West Springfield; Hampden County Director Elizabette Batista, Chicopee, Hampshire County Director Daniel Bannister, Williamsburg; and Franklin County Director Thomas Poissant, Ashfield.

Save the date ... the Annual Joint Meeting with the Mass Highway Association will be held on November 18, 2025, from 9 am to 1 pm at the Castle of Knights, 1599 Memorial Drive, Chicopee, MA.

Worcester County

Congratulations to Travis Brown from Hubbardston who was elected to president in May.

Worcester County held their annual clambake in June. Two hundred and fifty people enjoyed the day

Members of Worcester County attended the MHA benefit Larry Bombara Memorial Golf Tournament. This year’s recipient was John Knipe, former Shrewsbury Highway Superintendent.



PB Loader Corporation



Michael Flaherty

5778 W. Barstow Ave

Fresno, CA 93722

800-350-8521

C 805-204-6379

mflaherty@pbloader.com

PBLOADER.COM



Leighton “Lee” F. Peck Jr., 79, of Middleboro, Massachusetts, passed away on October 23, 2025, after a brief battle with Alzheimer’s disease. Born in New Bedford, MA, on April 7, 1946, he was the devoted husband of the late Pamela L. Peck (Sethares).

Lee graduated from Wentworth Institute of Technology with an associate degree in civil and highway engineering and went on to earn his bachelor’s degree in civil technology from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. His long and accomplished career in public service included roles as Superintendent of Public Works for the towns of Carver and Middleborough, and later as Director of Public Works for the Town of Plymouth from 1986 to 2003, before continuing his work as a consultant. Deeply dedicated to his profession, he was active in numerous public works associations and proudly served as past president of both the Plymouth County Highway Association and the Massachusetts Highway Association.

A proud Navy veteran, Lee served in Vietnam from 1968 to 1969 as a heavy equipment operator with the Fighting Seabees, where he earned the nickname “Lee.”

Outside of work, Lee found joy in golf, enjoying antique cars, and spending time with his beloved grandchildren, who affectionately called him “Poppi.” He especially loved cheering them on at their many sporting events.

Lee is survived by his children, Christopher P. Peck and wife Allison of Rochester, MA; Sarah K. Foley and husband Wayne of Rochester, MA; and Jeremy L. Peck of Fairhaven, MA. He was a proud grandfather to Kaitlin Peck, Nathan Peck, Andrew Foley, Connor Foley, Avery Peck, and Joshua Peck. He also leaves behind his siblings, William Peck of Falmouth, MA; John Peck of Warren, NH; and Alison Gamon of Bristol, RI.

Essex Looking for Superintendent of Public Works

The Town of Essex, MA is seeking a qualified applicant for the position of Superintendent of Public Works. The position is full-time, FLSA-exempt, and reports to the Board of public Works. Salary range is \$113,290 to \$136,813. The position requires a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering, or a related field, at least 10 years of related work experience, and a valid Massachusetts motor vehicle operator’s license. Applications are accepted until the position is filled, and interested candidates are encouraged to submit their cover letter and resume to Town Administrator Brendhan Zubricki at Town Hall, 30 Martin St., Essex, MA 01929, or by emailing to Town Administrator at bzubricki@ssexma.org.



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

AQUAPHALT®

permanent repair for asphalt + concrete

**ONE
AND
DONE**

**THE ORIGINAL
ONE-TIME FIX FOR
ASPHALT & CONCRETE**

Ranked #1 by
Consumer Reports



1
Pour



2
Water



3
Tamp



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

Newsletter Update

This Fall 2025 Newsletter is being distributed digitally only, plus it will be 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 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 Spring of 2026.



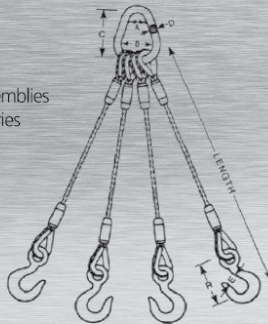
TIRE CHAINS

In all sizes and for all vehicles and equipment including custom sizes. Call us for any and all tire chain information at our Worcester, MA manufacturing facility. St. Pierre Chain & Wire Rope has been making tire chain for over 90 years.

Also Specializing in CHAIN, WIRE ROPE, SLINGS and HOISTS

LIFTING, PULLING, AND BINDING EQUIPMENT SPECIALISTS

- O.S.H.A. approved Chain, Wire Rope, & Nylon Sling Assemblies
- Hoists – Electrical, Mechanical, & Air, Gib Cranes & Gantries
- Forged Fittings, Shackles, Turnbuckles, Eyebolts, & Hooks
- Chains & Binders
- Cargo Control & Tie Downs
- Safety Belts & Harnesses
- Industrial, Roller, & Conveyor Chain
- Come-A-Longs - Chain & Wire Rope
- Ratchet Tie Downs
- Push-Pull Control Cables
- Proof Testing – Certified On-Site to 100,000 lbs



ST. PIERRE
CHAIN & WIRE ROPE

317 East Mountain Street
Worcester, MA 01606
(800) 926-2342 / (508) 853-8010
FAX: (508) 853-3860

ROADWAY SAFETY IS OUR PRIORITY



A Helix Company
TRAFFIC SOLUTIONS



**COST FREE ACCIDENT
RECOVERY SERVICES**

J.C. Madigan, Inc.

TRUCK EQUIPMENT SPECIALISTS

LANCASTER, MA
978-847-2900



**Trip Hazard
Mitigation Service**

~ GPS sidewalk
assessment

~ Trip Hazard
Removal

800-553-0949

APEX
apexcos.com