



**We are the voice of cities & towns in Massachusetts.**

We represent 351 cities and towns and the municipal officials who run them.



**MMA**

Massachusetts  
Municipal  
Association

**MHA Winter Meeting**

February 5, 2026



Massachusetts  
Municipal  
Association

# New to the Team!

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**Violet Gehr**  
Legislative Analyst

Transportation,  
Public Works &  
Public Utilities

# Look out for MMA's Legislative Alerts!

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**MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings**  
**Oct 4, 11, 18**

Please register today to meet  
with other local officials, legislators, and MMA staff

September 23, 2024

Dear Daniel Yi,

[Registration](#) is now open for the MMA's Fall series of Legislative Breakfast Meetings, which will be held on October 4, October 11, and October 18.



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- Legislative package reminder
  - Chapter 90
  - Governor's Budget
  - Key Legislation:
    - MEA
    - Environmental Bills
  - Culvert Grant Opportunity
  - Micromobility Commission
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# MMA 25-26 Legislative Package

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## **25 Bills in Total**, some Highlights:

- **Establishing a Municipal & Public Safety Building Authority**
  - Reporting deadline extended in the House and reported favorably out of the Senate
- **Assisting Municipal and District Ratepayers Through Increased Cost-benefit Analysis of Rules and Regs Proposed by the EEA**
  - Reporting deadline extended in the House and send to study in the Senate
- **Chapter 90 Bond Authorization**
  - Signed by the Gov.
- **Modernizing Legal Notices**
  - Sent to a third reading in the House and study order in the Senate
- **Improving Municipal Procurement**
  - Reported favorably in the House and deadline extended in the Senate
- **Procurement parity and technical corrections to public construction law**
  - Reported favorably in the House and deadline extended in the Senate
- **Green Lights for Municipal Emergency Management Vehicles**
  - Recently referred to the Referred to Senate Committee on Ways & Means

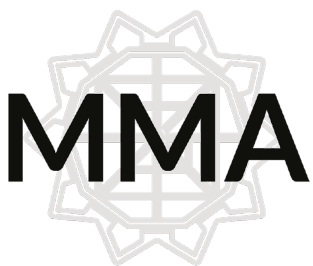


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# FY 26 Transportation Funding



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- ✓ **\$1.2B bond bill**
    - \$300m for **Chapter 90** program:
      - \$200m via previous distribution
      - \$100m via only road miles
    - Signed by the governor on October 29th!



# FY 27 Transportation Funding



- **Four-year, \$1.2 billion Chapter 90**
  - \$300 million per year
  - Preserves the 50 percent increase in Chapter 90 funding that the Governor established last year.
- **Funding for Accelerated Infrastructure Repair (FAIR) program**
  - Meant to help municipalities work through their backlog of municipal bridges in need of repair
  - Used to reopen closed bridges, remove postings on restricted bridges, and preserve additional bridges from falling into either category.
  - MassDOT is currently advancing and evaluating projects in Franklin, Hampden, Berkshire and Hampshire counties in Western Massachusetts, with additional locations across the state to follow.



# FY27 Budget

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Gov. filed approx 63b\$ budget

- **UGGA:** 2.5% increase of FY26
- **Minimum-per-pupil education aid:** \$75 per pupil increase
- **Regional school transportation:** \$112.3 million, a \$6 million increase above fiscal 2026.
- **Regional/OOD vocational transportation:** \$6.8 million for reimbursements
- **Rural School aid:** \$20 million
- **Special Education Circuit Breaker:** \$802.7 million
- **Charter School Reimbursement:** \$200.4 million
- **PILOT:** \$55.4



# Municipal Empowerment Act

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## Top Provisions Impacting DPWs

- Procurement and borrowing updates
  - Snow hauling added
- Enforcement mechanism for removal of double poles
- & Lots more!
- [Read more here](#)

# Energy Affordability

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- Last year Governor Healey filed an energy affordability bill, which had a hearing and since hasn't gotten any action:
  - Get costs off bills
  - Create greater accountability for utilities
  - Bring more energy into Massachusetts
  - Empower customers to lower bills through actions like reforming low- and moderate-income discount rates, modifying the Mass Save energy efficiency program
  - Fostering innovation and growth in clean energy
- House members of the TUE committee moved forward their own energy affordability bill
  - This got walked back
- The Legislature has been discussing various provisions of the Governor's affordability bill and their own proposals and ideas in small group meetings.



## Environmental Bond Bill

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- Now being reviewed by the Senate Ways & Means committee.
- New proposals we are following:
  - Resilience Revolving Fund
  - The Sustainable Water Resource Funds legislation
- The bill has not been redrafted yet

# Clean Energy Siting and Permitting

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- Approaching a March 1, 2026 deadline for regulations and rules to be in place
- Law required the state to develop a streamlined permitting process for state and local clean energy projects
  - All necessary permits, except electrical and street opening permits, will need to be consolidated into one final permit issued by the local government.
- Munis will have 12 months to review project proposals under this new pathway
- DOER's regional siting and permitting coordinators are happy to meet with your team to answer questions.

# DER Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance and Training

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- **Culvert or Small Bridge Upgrade or Removal**
  - Up to three stream crossings/structures can be applied for in a single application. All phases of work are eligible under this grant, including field data collection, design/engineering, permitting, and construction.
  - Typical individual grant awards range from \$25,000-\$400,000, with awards above \$300,000 intended for construction projects.
  - **Applications are due Friday, March 20, 2026 at 11:59 pm.**

# Micromobility Commission Update

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- **Charged with producing a study that includes:**
  - A review of current state and local laws and regulations for micromobility vehicles;
  - Recommendations to regulate micromobility vehicles, including on bike paths, sidewalks and shared use paths; and
  - Recommendations to support the expansion of micromobility vehicle use and innovation including shared micromobility options for municipalities.
- **Recommendations from this commission were sent to the Legislature at the end of January.**



**THANK YOU!**

**Contact:**

Violet Gehr - [Vgehr@mma.org](mailto:Vgehr@mma.org)



# Additional Resources & Links

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- [FY26 State Budget](#)
- [Surplus Surtax Supplemental Budget](#)
- [FY25 Supplemental Budget](#)
- [FY25 Closeout Supplemental Budget](#)
- [FY26 Supplemental Budget](#)
- [Transportation Bond Bill - Chapter 90](#)
- [Environmental Bond Bill Information](#)
- [MMA's Testimony on Environmental Bond Bill](#)
- [Municipal Empowerment Act](#)
- [Energy Siting Board Draft Regulations](#)
- [DOER's Local Clean Energy Siting & Permitting Draft Regulations](#)
- [EFSB's State Clean Energy Siting & Permitting Draft Regulations](#)
- [EPA to Weaken Federal PFAS Regulations](#)
- [CCC Social Consumption Regs](#)