



MMA

Massachusetts
Municipal
Association

MHA Winter Meeting

February 5, 2026



Massachusetts
Municipal
Association

New to the Team!



Violet Gehr
Legislative Analyst

Transportation,
Public Works &
Public Utilities



Look out for MMA's Legislative Alerts!



MMA | Massachusetts Municipal Association

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



MMA 25-26 Legislative Package

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



FY 26 Transportation Funding



- ✓ **\$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



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



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

- 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



- 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



- 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

- **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

- **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.**



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THANK YOU!

Contact:

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Additional Resources & Links

- [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](#)