

# Program for Mass Transportation (PMT)

MBTA Board Meeting  
June 20, 2024

# Today's Agenda

- What is Office of Transportation Planning (OTP)?
  - Why does OTP complete the PMT?
  - Development of Previous PMTs
- Current PMT Requirements
  - Proposed Scope
  - Proposed Timeline
- Next Steps

# What is the Office of Transportation Planning?

In 2004, the Office of Transportation Plan was created as the unified planning agency for all surface transportation in the Commonwealth (Ch. 196, Acts of 2004).

- As a result, the MBTA Planning Department was eliminated and existing MBTA staff were integrated into the Office of Transportation Planning.
- Today, OTP continues to staff transit planners for these purposes

Under this statutory arrangement, **MassDOT pays for all of the statewide planning with funding provided by the Commonwealth and the federal government.**

# OTP Work on Behalf of the MBTA

OTP annually consults with the MBTA to develop planning studies. The MBTA determines the priorities, reviews and approves all scopes, and helps guide all facets of the work. Examples of recent work include:

- Rail Vision
- Bus Network Redesign
- MBTA Strategic Plan
- Lynn Transit Action Plan/Lower North Shore Transit Study
- Everett Transit Action Plan/Silver Line Extension Study

# Development of Previous PMTs

- Prior to 2004, the MBTA funded and developed.
- The focus of most prior PMTs was defining and prioritizing a list of future expansion projects, the majority of which never advanced beyond planning.
- Since 2004, OTP has completed two PMTs for the MBTA.
- The most recent PMT, Focus40, was the first to center the existing system, specifically consider underserved communities, and de-emphasize large, unfunded expansion projects.

# What is the PMT?

A 25-year plan for how the MBTA can best meet the needs of the region.

- Required by MBTA enabling legislation (Chapter 161A, Section 5(g))
- A roadmap of investments to inform future MBTA Capital Investment Plans

The PMT will build the bridge between **MBTA strategic planning work, MassDOT long-range transportation planning efforts,** and the **MBTA's Capital Improvement Program** will answer the question: What does it mean for the MBTA to make investment choices aligned with its strategic goals?

# Vision for the 2024 PMT

- The PMT will have a planning horizon of 2050, which is consistent with the statewide *Beyond Mobility* transportation plan.
- The PMT aims **to build upon** recent, concurrent, or upcoming work and will utilize:
  - The MBTA's 10-Year Strategic Plan Project
  - 2023 Capital Needs Assessment Initiative (CNAI)
  - *Beyond Mobility*

The PMT will connect the capital planning process to preferred outcomes, such as service quality goals

# Proposed Scope of Work

- \$1.5M effort managed by the Office of Transportation Planning in close partnership with MBTA and in coordination with key stakeholders
- Will develop an internal working group and an external task force to provide important feedback and input on work associated with the objectives and deliverables of the PMT



# Proposed Scope of Work

- Full Public Engagement Plan to be developed in full consultation with the MBTA
- The PMT will develop priorities that will inform an evaluation framework for potential tradeoffs.
- In coordination with the MBTA Strategic Planning Department, the MBTA Board of Directors will be involved throughout the development of the new PMT

# Timeline

- The PMT will be completed over an 18-month duration.
- Suggested RFP release: Late summer/early fall to allow for comprehensive review