



Massachusetts Highway Association

Since 1893

Volume 48 2019

SPRING NEWSLETTER

President's Message



Robert E. O'Brien

Dear Massachusetts Highway Association members:

Budget season is here in both local communities and the State House. We have all been very busy advocating for Public Works infrastructure at the local and state levels. Thank you for your continued efforts on behalf of Massachusetts communities. The Association has been advocating for a multi-year Chapter 90 bill for road and bridge infrastructure with a funding request of \$300 Million annually. Robert (Brutus) Cantoreggi, Franklin testified on our behalf at the State House hearing on March 6. The Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) has also been advocating for a multi-year bill to be funded at \$300 Million annually. A special thank you to Brutus Cantoreggi and Ariela Lovett, of MMA, for their advocacy on behalf of all our communities across the Commonwealth.

Tom Reynolds, Marshfield, has been advocating for MHA through his work in testifying for The Stream Crossing Program and his work on the Public Safety Committee regarding OSHA's regulations. Thank you, Tom.

MHA has worked to update our charter at the Winter Meeting and have updated our status to maintain compliance with the Secretary of State ensuring our good standing as a nonprofit professional organization.

My thanks to the members of the Board of Directors for all of their work and contributions to the Association this past year. It has been an honor to serve as your President with such a dedicated Board of Directors. I look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting on May 2, 2019.

Sincerely,
Robert E. O'Brien
President, Massachusetts Highway Association

MHA Letter to Joint Committee on Transportation

Addressed to William M. Straus, House Chair, and Joseph A. Boncore, Senate Chair.

March 4, 2019

Dear Representative Straus and Senator Boncore:

As President of the Massachusetts Highway Association representing 351 cities and towns, I am writing to request your support for the Chapter 90 Bond Authorization Bill.

The members of the Massachusetts Highway Association (MHA) stand ready to provide you and the Legislature documentation on the very critical and well researched needs for local road and bridge infrastructure funding. The present bill as recommended by Governor Baker is a one year \$200 Million expenditure. MHA joins other stakeholders in the Commonwealth in advocating for a multi-year bond bill of \$300 Million per year. This request is based on survey data as well as local pavement management data submitted by cities and towns. The multi-year bill would provide many benefits including much improvement to planning with an efficient and more cost-effective bidding process. Every community is impacted by Chapter 90; residents and business rely on the infrastructure. It is imperative that Chapter 90 be designed to support the needs of our residents, communities and Commonwealth to maintain a robust economy.

As previously stated, the members of the MHA are prepared to assist the Legislature in understanding these needs and document the impact of these funds on local roads and bridges, and we appreciate your attention to securing this important local infrastructure funding. Thank you for your focus on the Commonwealth's transportation needs.

Sincerely,

Robert E. O'Brien, President
Massachusetts Highway Association

Legislative Update from the Massachusetts Municipal Association

By Ariela Lovett, Legislative Analyst, MMA

The 2019/2020 state legislative session kicked off in January, with several new legislators sworn in and approximately 6,000 bills filed. The MMA is tracking as many as 1,000 of these bills across all of our policy areas and will weigh in with support or opposition through oral and/or written testimony and direct lobbying.

The first hearing of the year, held on March 5th, was for the Governor's Chapter 90 bond bill (H.69), which calls for a one-year authorization of \$200 million for local road and bridge repair. As it has for the past few years, the MMA testified in support of a multi-year bill of at least \$300 million per year and indexed to inflation. The MMA's biennial survey of municipal road and bridge repair needs, last completed in Fall 2018, found that our communities need as much as \$685 million to maintain roads and bridges in a state of good repair, though they spend far less because of stark funding limitations.

Continued on page 3

40th New England Public Works Expo this Fall

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SEPTEMBER 18-19

- Over 190 vendors showcasing their products and services
- Educational Seminars
- Raffles
- Complimentary BBQ
- Complimentary Admission
- Antique Equipment Displays

The 2019 New England Public Works Expo will be held at the Boxboro Regency Hotel and Conference Center, 242 Adams Place, Boxborough, MA, conveniently located off Route 495.

This year will mark the 40th anniversary of the Massachusetts Highway Association's New England Public Works Expo, long recognized as one of New England's largest equipment expos. The show features some of the region's newest heavy equipment, construction, municipal and highway products and services from top vendors. The show was first held at the Marshfield Fairground and has been at such venues as the Topsfield Fairground, Fort Devens, and the Central Massachusetts Expo Center at the Holiday Inn in Fitchburg.

The show has come a long way since its humble beginnings; it has become the premiere heavy equipment and trade show in New England! Last year's expo was a sellout with over 200 vendors displaying their products and services. The expo was well attended with over 1,600 visitors passing through the trade center during the two-day show.

Features of the expo include:

- Over 200 vendors showcasing their products and services
- Centralized location in Boxborough
- On-site parking*
- Complimentary admission
- Raffles
- Antique equipment displays - Northeast Rockbusters will display their antique equipment
- Educational seminars on both days
- Complimentary BBQ on both days
- Complimentary coffee and doughnuts

**Because of limited on-site parking, attendees are strongly urged to car pool when possible.*

Expo hours are Wednesday from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



January MHA Board of Directors meeting held at the The Tavern @ Quarry Hills, Quincy

Thank you from Andover, North Andover and Lawrence DPW Directors

Dear Public Works Personnel,

On September 13th, our Departments, along with Andover, Lawrence and North Andover Police and Fire Departments and other first responders from the Merrimack Valley were faced with an unprecedented, unimaginable and tragic incident. The gas explosions that took place during that Thursday evening will forever be remembered in our communities.

What will also be remembered is the extraordinary efforts of the brave men and women, first responders that immediately sprang into action on behalf of the residents of the affected areas. In addition, many first responders, in particular Public Works personnel, from all across the Commonwealth, also answered the call for assistance through our tight-knit DPW community. It is to you that we write this letter.

While the relief and reconstruction efforts are still continuing today, we wanted to take this opportunity to express the sincere gratitude and appreciation from the staff of the Andover Department of Public Works, the Lawrence Department of Public Works and the North Andover Department of Public Works for your assistance and efforts during this trying time for our community.

From our DPW to yours, Thank You.

Chris Cronin, DPW Director
Carlos Jaquez, DPW Director
Jim Stafford, DPW Director

Adelsberger and Davis join EPG

Environmental Partners is pleased to welcome both Chuck Adelsberger, P.E., BCEE and Jane Davis, P.E., ENV SP. Chuck is a Senior Project Manager bringing over three decades of experience in drinking water engineering across New England. Jane is a Project Manager and brings 15 years of experience in traffic and transportation engineering to the team. Chuck and Jane strengthen the company's mission to continue providing clients with services and solutions of the highest quality within the engineering profession.

Peter Marino retires, FAMCO Reorganizes

Felix A. Marino Company, Inc. (FAMCO) announced the retirement of Peter Marino this past season after a lifelong commitment to the family business. Peter will be enjoying his time off ripping up golf courses and likely consulting to local communities, offering his vast industry knowledge. We wish Peter the best in his retirement.

FAMCO has introduced Jim Henebury as their new Director of Operations and Sales to help reorganize the business and to redevelop the leadership of the company for the future. Mr. Henebury, a Civil Engineer out of WPI, brings over 25 years of diverse experience from the engineering and construction industry. Mr. Henebury's experience includes working throughout the New England and North Atlantic

Legislative Update from the Massachusetts Municipal Association

Continued from page 1

MHA Board Member, member of the MMA's Policy Committee on Public Works, Transportation, and Public Utilities, and Franklin DPW Director, Brutus Cantoreggi, also testified as part of the MMA's panel. Cantoreggi told the Joint Committee on Transportation that increases in construction costs in recent years demand an increase in Chapter 90 funds from the state. He also explained that early authorization of Chapter 90 funds would allow municipalities to begin their construction season on time, rather than having to wait until pricing is more competitive and weather more variable. A multi-year bill allows for better planning at the local level. Both MMA and the MHA also submitted written testimony to the committee. Since the initial hearing on the Chapter 90 bond bill, the committee has not taken action on it. MHA members are encouraged to call their legislators to reiterate and ask for a multi-year Chapter 90 authorization of at least \$300 million, and to request prompt action on the bill.

State Senator Adam Hinds included in the FY19 budget a provision calling for the formation of a working group to address the issues surrounding municipally-owned culverts and small bridges, which number as many as 30,000 across the state. Both the MMA and the MHA (represented by Tom Reynolds, Marshfield DPW) are tasked with serving on this working group and representing the interests and experiences of our respective constituencies. The group is evaluating the existing permitting processes, engineering standards, and funding limitations that affect culvert management and replacement, and will make suggestions to the Legislature and Governor's Administration on improvements across each category. A draft report is due by June, and public comment will be arranged for some time after.

MHA sponsored a workshop at the MMA Annual Meeting in January on state-funded public works grant programs. Lyris Liautaud from MassDOT discussed the Small Bridge and Complete Streets programs, and Juan Vega from the Executive Office on Housing and Economic Development (EOHED) discussed the MassWorks program. Brutus Cantoreggi introduced the panelists and moderated the Q&A. The workshop was well-attended, with several attendees staying after to ask the panelists questions specific to their municipalities. The MHA also sponsored a booth at the Trade Show, which attracted the broader range of conference attendees.

At recent MHA Board meetings, other topics of policy and legislative discussions included a proposed death benefits bill for public works and other public employees, backlogs on National Grid's and other utilities' projects in the public right of way, and legislation passed last session which bans the drowning of beavers.

Please contact Ariela Lovett with questions, concerns, or input on any of the above-mentioned topics, at alovett@mma.org or 617-426-7272 ext. 161.

Region as a professional civil engineer, site work and environmental contractor, and more recently operating and leading a small heavy civil and marine site contracting business. Mr. Henebury's leadership and integrity is a strong fit to revamp FAMCO's business and expertise in the comprehensive pavement maintenance field.

FAMCO recently hired Mr. Bob Jerszyk as Regional Consultant in the Central and Western Massachusetts area. Mr. Jerszyk, a native of Worcester, brings over a decade of sales experience within the industry, dealing with contractors and municipalities throughout the Commonwealth.

Safety Corner

This is a regular feature that will appear in the Newsletter Compliments of Jennifer Tetreault of HazCompliance, LLC

On average, according to the Massachusetts Fatality Assessment and Control Evaluation (FACE) Project, 67 workers die as a result of occupational injuries each year. For the last documented recordkeeping years, 2014-2015, there were 125 deaths in Massachusetts with falls and roadway crashes being the leading causes. Some of the highest risk industries were construction works, and installation, maintenance and repair workers. Although FACE has not put out recent official numbers, a Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health (MassCOSH) report titled "Dying for Work 2018" documented an 11-year high injury number of 74 in 2017 occupational fatalities, with transportation incidents and falls again being the leading causes. That year, six were in the public administration, and another 10 were firefighters. These are the extreme cases; there were over 70,000 occupational injuries across Massachusetts in one of the last recordkeeping years of 2016. The local municipal data was unpublished, but the State workers accounted for 4,500 of these injuries.

Why the trip down injury lane? With Spring upon us, departments are gearing up to get outside and get some Spring cleanup done. With this comes the concern for numerous increased hazards such as chainsaw safety, chipper safety, bucket truck work, work zone and excavation safety issues. Most if not all, are now familiar with the recent "OSHA Law" and the required implementation of safe work practices.

When we look at statistics and the type of work that our men and women in the Public Works Departments are performing, we should welcome the encouragement of the State to hold us all accountable for providing the safest and the most healthful work places for employees. This is the purpose of the MGL§6 ½: to prevent as many injuries and fatalities as possible. It is about ensuring workers are tied off in that bucket truck- not hanging from a belt loop from the loader bucket.

It is about placing appropriate signs in the work zone for advanced warning and putting the workers in high visibility reflective gear- not throwing a single cone out in front of where the employee has a tar-coated yellow hoodie. It is about inspecting the trenches for signs of cave-in; using protective devices; saving their hearing by enforcing hearing protection; and protecting our workers from inhaling respirable silica (which can cause lung cancer).

The dramatic headlines and statistics get the attention. But safety is about taking all of our tasks, most of which have inherent safety hazards associated with them and ensuring that we have discussed with our employees these hazards that they face, and then provide them with the safe work practices and resources they need to go home totally intact.

HAVE A SAFE SEASON!!

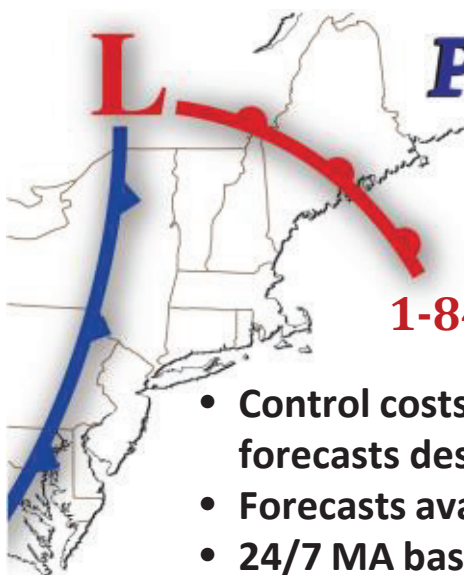
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Best Management Practices for Beaver Control

Culverts under siege by persistent beaver damming? Roads being flooded and town residents exasperated? This workshop will cover beaver behavior, best management practices, and Massachusetts regulations and permitting process. Learn about pond-leveler pipes and culvert protection strategies. Includes afternoon site visits for hands-on location-specific analysis. Dress for the elements!

4/17/19 – Bellingham Police Station – Bellingham

5/14/19 – Whately Town Offices – Whately

5/24/19 – Becket Town Hall – Becket

5/29/19 – Wenham Hamilton Public Library – Wenham

6/6/19 – Natick Public Safety Training Center – Natick

6/12/19 – Lowell Regional Wastewater Utility – Lowell

<https://www.umasstransportationcenter.org/assnfe/CourseView.asp?MODE=VIEW&clCourseID=1544&csCategory=&csFrom=&csTo=&csKeyword=&csSortBy=2&clPageNumber=1&clParentCategory=0>

Chainsaw Skills & Safety – 2 Day

Topics covered include basic safety equipment, PPE, the saws reactive forces, chain tooth parts, felling, notch and hinge, cutting techniques, wedging techniques and calculations. This class is designed for the professionals or homeowners and is designed to be a 16 hour course that would include a hands skills portion where each student fells one tree. Class size is limited to 12 students. Registrations are accepted on a first-come first-served basis.

4/18/19 – Berlin DPW – Berlin

5/6/19 – Halifax DPW – Halifax

5/28/19 – Winchendon Town Office – Winchendon

<https://www.umasstransportationcenter.org/assnfe/CourseView.asp?MODE=VIEW&clCourseID=333&csCategory=&csFrom=&csTo=&csKeyword=&csSortBy=2&clPageNumber=1&clParentCategory=0>

Preparing for an OSHA Inspection WEBINAR

This webinar is a collaboration between the Department of Labor Standards and Baystate Roads. It will include an overview of the updated law, the DLS inspection process, questions about reporting, and where to start to prepare for an inspection. In addition, the course will highlight some of specific areas of concern that are typical in city/town highway departments or DPW's. There will be opportunity for Q & A at the end of the webinar.

4/22/19 – WEBINAR

<https://www.umasstransportationcenter.org/assnfe/CourseView.asp?MODE=VIEW&clCourseID=1545&csCategory=&csFrom=&csTo=&csKeyword=&csSortBy=2&clPageNumber=1&clParentCategory=0>

Complete Streets 201: Designing Your Street for People

This training will provide an in-depth technical review of various Complete Streets design elements. Attendees will learn:

- Benefits of Complete Streets;
- Design guidance for people walking, biking, and taking transit;
- Methods to balance roadway users and apply flexibility;
- Complete Street Funding Program requirements; and
- Best practices for public engagement.

The elements discussed will be applied through a site visit (weather permitting) and design exercise. Please wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. Hard hats and safety vests will be provided by Baystate Roads.

5/15/19 – FRCOG John Oliver Transportation Center – Greenfield

5/16/19 – Hilton Garden Inn – Pittsfield

<https://www.umasstransportationcenter.org/assnfe/CourseView.asp?MODE=VIEW&clCourseID=1527&csCategory=&csFrom=&csTo=&csKeyword=&csSortBy=2&clPageNumber=1&clParentCategory=0>

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County Association News

Barnstable County – Roby Whitehouse

A First Responders Appreciation Ceremony will be held on Cape Cod Route 6 at Exit 5 (1498 RT-149), in West Barnstable, Massachusetts on Monday, April 15th at 10 a.m. New First Responders flags will be hung on Massachusetts First Responders Appreciation Day to replace the ones that are on the bridge and add a new one to represent Public Works who are officially listed as First Responders for all the critical work they do for public safety. Join us on Massachusetts First Responders Appreciation Day as we proudly hoist the new flags in recognition of our gratitude for the men and women who serve and protect us throughout the year.

Sign up/Share on Facebook to show your support:
<https://www.facebook.com/events/405171460217545/>

The 2019 BCPWA Scholarship Golf Tournament will be held on Monday, June 3rd at New Seabury Country Club in Mashpee.

Berkshire County – Chris Bouchard

The Berkshire County/District #1 Highway Superintendents' Association celebrates its 40th anniversary this year with a great lineup of workshops and meetings planned!

On April 25, the First Meeting / Workshop will be held at the Skyline Country Club in Lanesborough. Speakers will include Matt Dovell from Berkshire Regional Planning Commission who will give a presentation on the group purchasing program; David Stokes, District #1 State Aid Engineer, will provide Chapter 90 updates; Mike Callahan from Beaver Solutions will give a presentation on dealing with beavers at road crossings and culverts, and Chris Bouchard will discuss how MHA is working on the Mutual Aid Program.

On June 14, the 11th Annual Charity Golf Tournament will be held at the Skyline Country Club, in Lanesborough.

On June 27, the Second Meeting / Workshop will be held at the Skyline Country Club in Lanesborough. The program will be announced at a later date.

On August 22, the Third Meeting / Workshop will be held at the Skyline Country Club in Lanesborough. The program will be announced at a later date.

On September 13, the 35th Annual Equipment Show and Picnic will be held in Hinsdale at the Hinsdale Fire Association pavilion.

On October 24, the 40th Annual Meeting will be held at the Skyline Country Club in Lanesborough, with the annual election of officers to the board and the awarding of scholarships.

Retirements / New Superintendents:

MassDOT District #1 State Aid Engineer Kathy Stevens has retired after 24 years. She is succeeded by David Stokes.

Town of Sandisfield - Robert Obrien has left and is succeeded by Brad Curry.

Town of Blandford - Brad Curry has left and been replaced by Rene Senecal.

Town of Hinsdale - Rene Senecal has left and the position is filled by Jim Fox on an interim basis.

In Memoria - Retired Sandisfield Highway Superintendent Ed Riiska passed away in March.

Essex County – Lisa DeMeo

In December, Salisbury DPW and Weston & Sampson entered a decorated tree in the Blue Ocean Festival of Trees on Salisbury Beach. The tree was themed "Public Works Makes it Happen."

Jack Wright of Weston & Sampson assisted MassDOT with the process of reviewing various alternatives for improving the transportation corridor along I-90 at the Allston Brighton interchange as part of the \$1.1 billion Massachusetts Turnpike rebuild project. The team of consultants reviewed options for a narrow section between the Boston University Bridge and Cambridge Street. The selected design calls to re-locate the turnpike at grade level next to the railroad tracks, and to elevate Soldiers Field Road over the eastbound or westbound highway lanes. This alternative allows this major multi-modal intersection to create more open space while improving the corridor for pedestrians, bicycles, trains, and drivers alike.

Plymouth County – John Haines

The Plymouth County Highway Association continued to hold monthly meetings throughout the winter on the third Thursday of each month at various locations in Southeast Massachusetts.

In February, the association awarded scholarships to members' children who are furthering their education at the college level.

The March meeting was held at the Upland Club in Plympton to reconnect with friends and colleagues and enjoy a few good laughs.

The April meeting will be held at Haddad's in Marshfield with a discussion on How Climate Change is Affecting us on a Local Level.

Worcester County – Scott Crisafulli

For the third year, Worcester County Highway Association awarded a total of \$5,000 in scholarships to six recipients. We thank all our members for making this happen through their generous help with the Country Store. The 2019 Scholarship applications will be available soon.

We kicked off our 2019 season with a great March meeting at the Reunion Tap & Table in North Grafton. The meeting began with a 2019 MassDOT Transportation Innovation Conference update from Baystate Roads' Chris Ahmadjian. The members also heard from Indus, formerly Sealcoating Inc., regarding www.Roadsource.org, what it is and how it can help. Beta Groups' Conrad Ledger gave an interesting presentation on why you should develop a Pavement Management System. The meeting concluded with a presentation on NPDES MS4 updates presented by John Woodsmall from Holden and Mary Monihan from Fuss & O'neil. Special thanks to the guests and presenters for a fine meeting, and to Matt Stencil of Sutton for his time and effort in setting up the meeting.

The next business meeting will be held on April 23rd at a location to be determined.

Newsletter update

This Spring 2019 Newsletter is being distributed digitally only, plus it will be on the MHA website at www.massshwy.org. If you are a member of MHA and not receiving the Newsletter please contact the editor, Bill Elovirta, at bille@msn.com and provide 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 directly to the editor. The next issue will be distributed in the Fall of 2019.



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Annual Meeting to be held May 2nd

The 2019 Massachusetts Highway Association Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 2nd at the DoubleTree by Hilton, 99 Erdman Way, Leominster, MA beginning at 8:30 a.m.

The program agenda will include MA Department of Agriculture Asian Longhorn Beetle Eradication, New OSHA Standards for Municipalities, and Mutual Aid Update and Open Discussion.

The annual election results will be announced, as will the 2019 scholarship winners and the 2019 award winners.

A prime rib dinner will be served. Additional information, including program information and reservation details will be emailed. Please make remittance with your reservation.

Driver Skills and Safety Training Event (aka Snowplow Rodeo)

by Chris Bouchard, Chair

The 2019 Driver Skills and Training event will be held on Wednesday, July 17th at Wachusett Mountain Ski Area in Princeton, Massachusetts. Additional information regarding times, registration, fees, etc. will be forthcoming.



Robert L. DelRosso, age 91, of Seekonk died on December 4, 2018. Before his retirement, Bob had served as Superintendent of Seekonk's Public Works Department for many years. Under his leadership, the Town established one of the first curbside recycling programs in Massachusetts, which became a model program emulated throughout Southeastern New England and beyond.

Bob served the Town of Seekonk as a member of the Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, Conservation Commission and on several By-Law and Town Charter committees.

Thank You for Your Many Examples of Excellence



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