



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

Massachusetts Highway Association

Winter Meeting Legislative Update

February 2024

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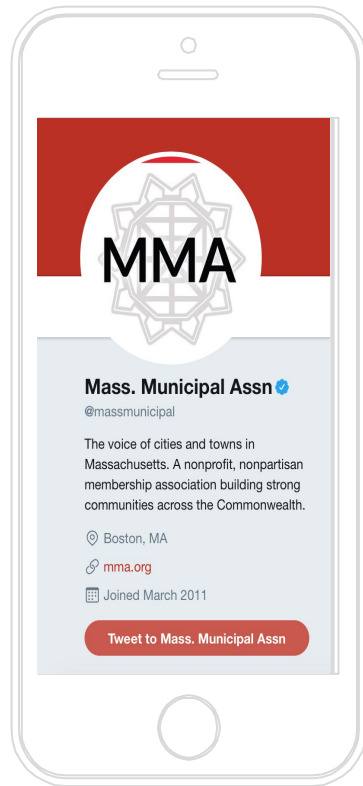


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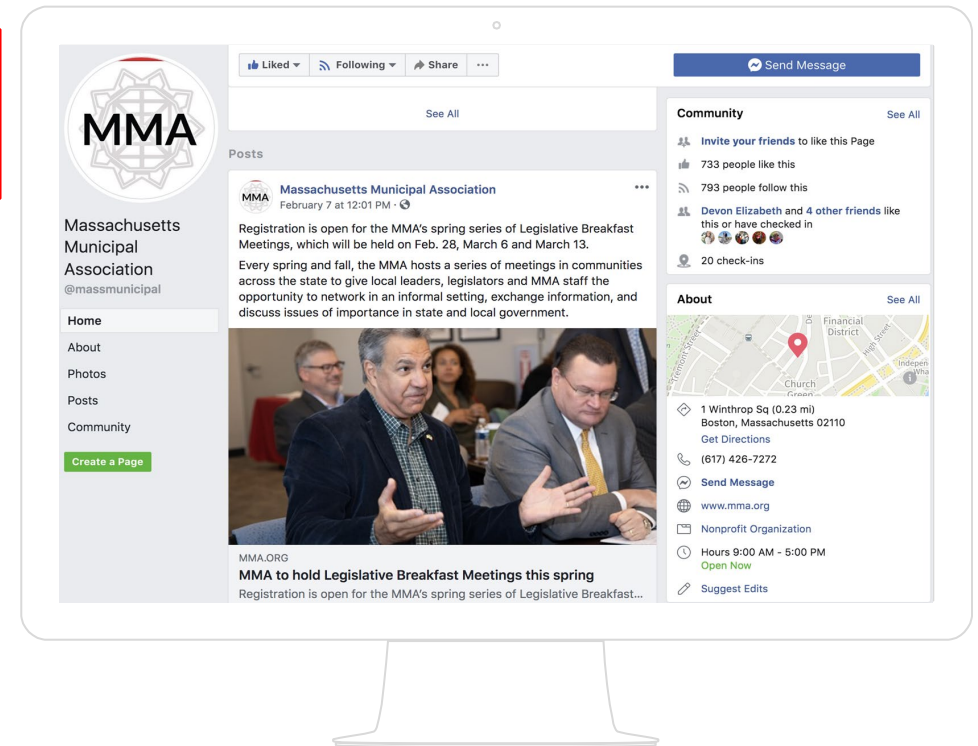
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Support for Legislative Services, Annual Meeting awards programs

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Massachusetts Municipal Association



Programs and Events



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The Voice of Cities and Towns

MMA Legislative Breakfast Meetings

February 28, March 6 and March 13

Please Register Today to Meet with Area Officials

February 5, 2020

Dear Lisa Adams,

The **MMA's Annual Spring Legislative Breakfast series** will start on February 28 as the Legislature begins work on the fiscal year 2021 state budget and sets final priorities for the legislative session that ends on July 31.

MMA Annual Meeting



- Mass Highway Weather Emergencies Workshop
- All workshop slides online
- Member Approved Resolutions:
 - Fiscal Policy
 - Climate Change
- Save the date for next year!

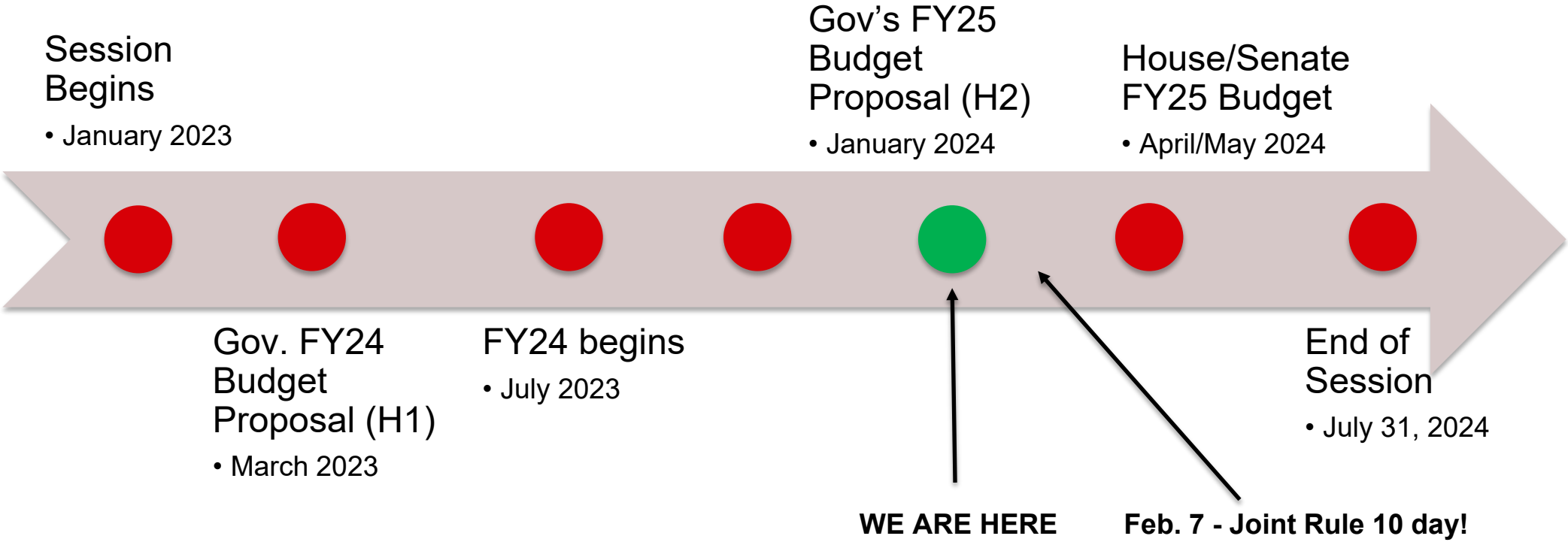


Legislative Update

- Legislative Timeline
- Key Updates - Bills of Interest
- Recent Action
 - Governor's FY25 Budget
 - Municipal Empowerment Act
 - Chapter 90
- What's Brewing



Legislative Timeline





Key Updates - Bills of Interest

- **Rural Roads Supplemental Funding**
 - Apportionments pending
 - Equation in discussion
- **An Act Relative to the Use of Green Lights for Municipal Emergency Management Vehicles (S.1589)**
 - Revisions filed to include all DPW vehicles
 - Awaiting committee report

Key Updates - Bills of Interest

- **An Act relative to municipal authority in public rights of way (H.3156, S.2107)**
 - Awaiting committee report
- **An Act to assist municipal and district ratepayers (H. 892, S. 589)**
 - Awaiting committee report
- **Also: Extended Producer Responsibility & PFAS**

Recent Action

Governor's FY25 Budget (H.2) — Filed January 24 \$58.1 billion state budget plan for fiscal 2025

- Modest increases to various education accounts
- 3% increase over FY24 for Unrestricted General Government Aid (UGGA)
- Local Road and Bridge Aid
 - \$100 million Ch.90 + \$24 million Rural Roads
- Disaster Relief Fund

Recent Action

Municipal Empowerment Act — Filed January 22

Expansive bill intended to help:

- increase municipal flexibility
- strengthen municipal finances
- address municipal workforce challenges
- improve the efficiency of local operations

Municipal Empowerment Act

Local revenue options to increase:

- meals tax from 0.75% to 1%
- lodging tax from 6% to 7% (6.5% to 7.5% in Boston).
- A new local-option 5% vehicle excise tax surcharge



Municipal Empowerment Act

Procurement Reforms

- Increases the procurement cap for municipal purchases under Chapter 30B from \$50,000 to \$100,000 for all departments
- Eliminate the requirement to publish notice of invitations for competitive bids on COMMBUYS
- Streamline procurement for electric school buses and charging infrastructure by allowing single procurements for both under Chapter 30B

Municipal Empowerment Act

- Allow cities and towns to amortize emergency deficit spending over three years
- \$500,000 to create a new program with the Collins Center for Public Management at UMass Boston focused on generating a pipeline of qualified individuals for high-demand municipal positions.



FY25 Chapter 90 Bond Bill

An act financing municipal roads and bridges (H.4283)

- Two-year, \$400 million
 - \$200m each for FY25, FY26
- Hearing Jan. 30
- Awaiting report from Joint Committee on Transportation



Local Road and Bridge Aid

FY24 Approved	FY25 Proposed
\$200 m — Chapter 90 Bond Bill	\$200 m — Chapter 90 Bond Bill
\$25 m — Rural Roads - still pending (<10k population; <500 density; road miles)	\$24 m — Rural Roads (Unknown formula)
\$100 m — Budget (50% road miles, 50%Ch.90 formula)	\$100 m — H2 Budget (Ch.90 formula)

What Else is Brewing

- MassDOT
 - Grants Central
 - Proposed Ch.90 working group
- Governor's Transportation Finance Task Force
- Regulatory Updates
 - MUTCD
 - Lead and Copper Rule
 - PFAS

What Else is Brewing

- Electrification!
 - Electric Sector Modernization Plans
 - Reform of siting and permitting processes
- Climate bill

The Road Ahead

- Which bills will move forward in the process?
- Continue to advocate for:
 - municipal road and bridge funding
 - municipal accounts in the budget
 - key provisions in the Municipal Empowerment Act



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Questions?

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