



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF TRANSPORTATION

EOT

DEVAL L. PATRICK
GOVERNOR

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

BERNARD COHEN
SECRETARY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 17, 2007

CONTACT:
Kyle Sullivan
Cyndi Roy
Becky Deusser
(617) 725-4025
John Lamontagne (EOT)
(617) 973-8093

**GOVERNOR PATRICK SIGNS MASSACHUSETTS MOBILITY
COMPACT**

*Executive Order Improves Coordination Between Fragmented Transportation
Agencies*

BOSTON—Tuesday, July 17, 2007—Governor Deval L. Patrick today marked a new partnership to improve the delivery of statewide transit services by signing the Massachusetts Mobility Compact -- an executive order that enhances communication and cooperation among the various transportation agencies.

“Critical infrastructure decisions in the Commonwealth have too often been made in silos, costing residents time and money,” said Patrick. “The Massachusetts Mobility Compact will move our transportation systems forward by improving communication among the leaders of these agencies, and making all of us more accountable.”

Led by Transportation and Public Works Secretary Bernard Cohen, the Compact is designed to promote coordination between nine agencies on issues related to planning, design, construction and operations. Compact members will focus primarily on:

- increasing mobility for people and goods safely and efficiently throughout the state;
- adopting administrative efficiency and program improvement initiatives between transportation agencies and authorities; and
- sharing best practices.

“Our transportation system is facing a troubling future, and it’s clear we need a more cooperative working relationship among these agencies,” said Cohen. “At a time when

(2)

our state's transportation infrastructure is deteriorating and funding is falling short of our needs, working together to find efficiencies and savings is a critical step.”

The agencies signing on to the compact include the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), Executive Office of Transportation and Public Works (EOTPW), Massachusetts Highway Department (MassHighway), Massachusetts Turnpike Authority (Masspike), Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA), Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport), Massachusetts Aeronautics Commission (MAC), Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) and Massachusetts Association of Regional Transit Authorities (MARTA).

The agencies have already started to meet on a monthly basis and establishing working groups to find ways to improve infrastructure needs. The Compact will issue a summary of its progress twice a year. So far, the group has established three working groups: an IT Work Group, which seeks to find ways to share resources in information technology; the Leading-By-Example Work Group, which looks for cooperation between agencies to use green technologies and find energy efficiencies, and the Asset-Management Work Group, which will facilitate information sharing on the management of agency assets. In addition, the members of the Compact have established a Transportation Security Roundtable, which is reviewing coordination of security issues among the agencies. Future initiatives will review issues concerning safety and regional congestion.

“This compact formalizes Massport's working relationships with some state transportation agencies and provides the opportunity for consistent conversation with others,” said Thomas J. Kinton Jr., executive director and CEO of Massport. “Transportation has always played a key role in the New England economy and this new collaboration will improve the safe, secure, and efficient movement of residents, visitors and goods and services.”

“Having had the opportunity to work with Secretary Cohen for six months now, I am very excited about the transportation goals that he and Governor Patrick have established,” said MBTA General Manager Daniel A. Grabauskas. “The MBTA looks forward to strengthening partnerships with other agencies to provide the citizens of Massachusetts with the safe and accessible transportation services they deserve.”

With transportation services spread across a variety of state and independent agencies, the system lacks accountability. Therefore, Governor Patrick directed Cohen, upon his appointment, to centralize the state's transportation system. As Secretary, Cohen has direct oversight over MassHighway, MAC and the RMV. He also chairs the MBTA Board of Directors. On July 1, Cohen took a step toward more centralized governance by assuming the Chairmanship of the Masspike Board of Directors as well as a seat on the Massport Board of Directors.

(3)

“It has always been easy to determine that coordination and communication have been hurdles to streamlining and improving the efficiency of our transportation system,” said Senator Steven A. Baddour, Senate Chairman of the Joint Committee on Transportation. “I am very happy that the Governor is reinforcing the mission that the Legislature laid out in the transportation reform bill that was implemented in 2004, and is enthusiastic about making sure that we continue to take steps toward solving some of the problems recognized then, and more recently in the report released by the Transportation Finance Commission.”

“In my 16 years in the Legislature, this is a first for Massachusetts transportation,” said Representative Joseph F. Wagner, House Chairman of the Joint Committee on Transportation. “This initiative takes the coordination of transportation planning and policy to a new level. The intention of the transportation reform bill of 2004 was to engage just this sort of coordination. The taxpayers of the Commonwealth will be the ultimate beneficiaries of a better coordinated transportation system.”

###