

HOUSE No. 5187

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



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GOVERNOR

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KARYN POLITO
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

August 10, 2022

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives,

Pursuant to Section 5 of Article 63 of the Amendments to the Constitution, I am today signing House Bill 5151, “An Act Relative to Massachusetts Transportation and Climate” (“MassTRAC”) and returning certain portions to you for reconsideration.

This legislation authorizes over \$11 billion to advance and support significant investments in the Commonwealth’s roads, bridges, railways, transit agencies, and environmental infrastructure, including investments made possible by the historic federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) enacted on November 15, 2021. The funding authorized under MassTRAC allows the Commonwealth to take full advantage of increased federal funding opportunities under BIL, including access to an additional \$1.8 billion in Federal Highway formula funds and the opportunity to compete for \$3.5 billion in discretionary federal grants. Overall, this legislation represents a crucial next step implementing critical infrastructure investments designed to modernize the state’s transportation network while supporting carbon reduction and resiliency goals.

Specifically, this legislation enables the Commonwealth to continue to invest in its core transportation infrastructure programs for the Highway, Rail & Transit, and the Aeronautics divisions, ensuring there is authorization in place to support the MassDOT and MBTA capital programs through 2026. It also supports strategic investments in our communities through Complete Streets, Municipal Pavement, and Shared Streets and Spaces programs and provides additional authorization to support the MBTA’s activities to address the FTA safety

recommendations. This legislation also includes funding for initial implementation efforts in support of new East-West passenger rail service. It will also enable us to increase clean energy efforts, including the expansion of our electric vehicle charging infrastructure to facilitate long-distance travel and provide additional convenient charging options.

MassTRAC provides the necessary funding to deliver critical and transformative infrastructure investments in the Commonwealth's vast transportation network while supporting carbon reduction and resiliency goals. However, there are a few sections that include wording or provisions that are inconsistent with MassDOT and MBTA operations and capital planning or will not meet the intended objective.

Accordingly, I am striking wording in items in Sections 2D, 2F and 2G as enumerated in Attachment A of this message.

I am disapproving sections 3, 3A, 25 and 26 itemized in Attachment B for the reasons set forth in that attachment.

Pursuant to Article LVI, as amended by Article XC, Section 3 of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth, I am returning sections 20, 24, 32, 54 and 61 with recommendations for amendment. Our reasons for doing so and the recommended amendments are set forth in separate letters that are dated today and included with this message as Attachments C to G, inclusive.

The remainder of this bill I approve.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles D. Baker,
Governor