

HOUSE No. 73

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts



CHARLES D. BAKER
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
STATE HOUSE · BOSTON, MA 02133

KARYN POLITO
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

February 16, 2017

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives,

I am filing for your consideration a bill entitled “An Act Financing Improvements to Municipal Roads and Bridges.”

This bill authorizes the Commonwealth to borrow \$200 million to fund improvements to municipally-owned roads and bridges. It includes a technical language change to make Chapter 90 grants easier to use for municipalities. It also authorizes \$70 million in additional borrowing for the continuation and completion of the Registry of Motor Vehicles core information technology system replacement, known as the ATLAS system. ATLAS will replace a legacy system that is 30 years old and difficult to maintain and use. ATLAS will enable better service to Registry customers, improve operational performance and efficiency, better support the Registry’s workforce, and enable the Commonwealth to comply with REAL ID standards. It also authorizes additional borrowing in the amount of \$30 million for the mobility assistance program and regional intercity bus and intermodal transit.

Prompt passage of this legislation will ensure that the Commonwealth’s roads and bridges can continue on their path to a state of good repair and will realize systems modernization and enhancements for Registry of Motor Vehicles customers, employees, law enforcement and business partners. Accordingly, I urge you to enact this legislation promptly.

In addition, in accordance with Section 3 of Article LXII of the Amendments to the Constitution, the bill includes my recommendation for the terms of the bonds to be issued thereunder. Specifically, the term of bonds issued pursuant to Section 2 of the bill shall be issued for a maximum term of years not exceeding 30 years, the term of bonds issued pursuant to Section 2A of the bill shall be issued for a maximum term of years not exceeding 20 years and the term of bonds issued pursuant to Section 2B of the bill shall be issued for a maximum term of years not exceeding 10 years.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles D. Baker,
Governor

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**In the One Hundred and Ninetieth General Court
(2017-2018)**

An Act financing improvements to municipal roads and bridges.

Whereas, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to finance improvements to the commonwealth’s transportation system, therefore, it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public convenience.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. To provide for a program of transportation development and
2 improvements, the sums set forth in sections 2, 2A and 2B, for the several purposes and subject
3 to the conditions specified in this act, are hereby made available, subject to the laws regulating
4 the disbursement of public funds. The sums made available in this act shall be in addition to any
5 amounts previously appropriated or made available for these purposes.

6 SECTION 2.

7 **MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

8 *Highway Division*

9 6122-1720. For the construction and reconstruction of municipal ways as described in
10 clause (b) of the second paragraph of section 4 of chapter 6C of the General Laws; provided, that

11 a city or town shall comply with the procedures established by the Massachusetts Department of
12 Transportation; provided further, that a city or town may expend, without further appropriation,
13 for these projects amounts not in excess of the amount provided to the city or town under this
14 item upon preliminary notice of such amount, which shall be provided by the department to the
15 city or town not later than April 1 of each year; and provided further, that the commonwealth
16 shall reimburse a city or town under this item, subject to the availability of funds as provided in
17 section 9G of chapter 29 of the General Laws, within 30 days after receipt by the department of a
18 request for reimbursement from the city or town, which request shall include certification by the
19 city or town that actual expenses have been incurred on projects eligible for reimbursement
20 under this item and that the work has been completed to the satisfaction of the city or town
21 according to the specifications of the project and in compliance with applicable laws and
22 procedures established by the department \$200,000,000

23 SECTION 2A.

24 MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

25 *Rail and Transit Division*

26 6622-1787. For the purposes of implementing the mobility assistance program pursuant
27 to section 13 of chapter 637 of the acts of 1983 and regional intercity bus and intermodal service;
28 provided, that funds may also be used for transportation planning, design, permitting, acquisition
29 of interests in land and engineering for bus and other transit projects..... \$30,000,000

30 SECTION 2B.

31 EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

Massachusetts Office of Information Technology

1709-3005. For costs associated with planning and studies, the preparation of plans and specifications, purchase, procurement and implementation of information technology-related equipment and related projects for the Massachusetts Department of Transportation

..... \$70,000,000

SECTION 3. To meet the expenditures necessary in carrying out section 2, the state treasurer shall, upon request of the governor, issue and sell bonds of the commonwealth in an amount to be specified by the governor from time to time but not exceeding, in the aggregate, \$200,000,000. All bonds issued by the commonwealth as aforesaid shall be designated on their face, Municipal Ways Act of 2017, and shall be issued for a maximum term of years, not exceeding 30 years, as recommended by the governor in a message to the general court dated February 16, 2017 under section 3 of Article LXII of the Amendments to the Constitution. All such bonds shall be payable not later than June 30, 2052, pursuant to said Section 3 of Article LXII of the Amendments to the Constitution. All interest and payments on account of principal on these obligations shall be payable from the General Fund. Notwithstanding any other general or special law to the contrary, bonds issued under this section and interest thereon shall be general obligations of the commonwealth.

SECTION 4. To meet the expenditures necessary in carrying out section 2A, the state treasurer shall, upon request of the governor, issue and sell bonds of the commonwealth in an amount to be specified by the governor from time to time but not exceeding, in the aggregate, \$30,000,000. All bonds issued by the commonwealth as aforesaid shall be designated on their face, Municipal Ways Act of 2017, and shall be issued for a maximum term of years, not

54 exceeding 20 years, as recommended by the governor in a message to the general court dated
55 February 16, 2017 under section 3 of Article LXII of the Amendments to the Constitution. All
56 such bonds shall be payable not later than June 30, 2042, pursuant to said Section 3 of Article
57 LXII of the Amendments to the Constitution. All interest and payments on account of principal
58 on these obligations shall be payable from the General Fund. Notwithstanding any other general
59 or special law to the contrary, bonds issued under this section and interest thereon shall be
60 general obligations of the commonwealth.

61 SECTION 5. To meet the expenditures necessary in carrying out section 2B, the state
62 treasurer shall, upon request of the governor, issue and sell bonds of the commonwealth in an
63 amount to be specified by the governor from time to time but not exceeding, in the aggregate,
64 \$70,000,000. All bonds issued by the commonwealth as aforesaid shall be designated on their
65 face, Municipal Ways Act of 2017, and shall be issued for a maximum term of years, not
66 exceeding 10 years, as recommended by the governor in a message to the general court dated
67 February 16, 2017 under section 3 of Article LXII of the Amendments to the Constitution. All
68 such bonds shall be payable not later than June 30, 2032, pursuant to said Section 3 of Article
69 LXII of the Amendments to the Constitution. All interest and payments on account of principal
70 on these obligations shall be payable from the Commonwealth Transportation Fund.
71 Notwithstanding any other general or special law to the contrary, bonds issued under this section
72 and interest thereon shall be general obligations of the commonwealth.