

**HOUSE . . . . . No.**

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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**  
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**MAURA T. HEALEY**  
GOVERNOR

**KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL**  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

*January 22, 2024*

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 \$400 million over the next two fiscal years -- \$200 million per year -- to fund improvements to municipally owned roads and bridges through Chapter 90 grants. These grants reach each of our 351 cities and towns directly, continuing the strong tradition of partnership between the state and local communities. I am seeking a two-year authorization to provide cities and towns with sufficient time to put the funds to work given the planning and coordination required to get these critical projects completed.

In addition to this legislation, you will see in our forthcoming Fiscal Year 2025 budget proposal a recommendation to use \$100 million in Fiscal Year 2025 from Fair Share surtax revenue to supplement this bond authorization, as well as an additional \$24 million in operating funds from Fair Share to specifically aid road and bridge work in rural communities.

Our administration has also directed MassDOT and the Executive Office for Administration and Finance to assemble a working group of state and local officials to review Chapter 90 administration and recommend ways to reduce the complexity and burdens of applying for and receiving these vital transportation funds.

Swift passage of this legislation will ensure that Massachusetts' roads and bridges can be kept in or moved toward a state of good repair. I appreciate the Legislature's attention to enact this piece of legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

Maura T. Healey,  
*Governor*

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court  
(2023-2024)**

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 section 2 for the several purposes, and subject to the  
3 conditions specified in this act, are hereby made available, subject to the laws regulating the  
4 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           6122-2127 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 March 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.....\$400,000,000

23 SECTION 3. To meet the expenditures necessary in carrying out section 2, the state  
24 treasurer shall, upon request of the governor, issue and sell bonds of the commonwealth in an  
25 amount to be specified by the governor from time to time but not exceeding, in the aggregate,  
26 \$400,000,000. All bonds issued by the commonwealth as aforesaid shall be designated on their  
27 face, Commonwealth Transportation Improvement Act of 2025, and shall be issued for a  
28 maximum term of years, not exceeding 30 years, as the governor may recommend to the general  
29 court under section 3 of Article LXII of the Amendments to the Constitution. All such bonds  
30 shall be payable not later than June 30, 2059, pursuant to said section 3 of said Article LXII. All  
31 interest and payments on account of principal on these obligations shall be payable from the  
32 General Fund or the Commonwealth Transportation Fund. Notwithstanding any other general or

- 33 special law to the contrary, bonds issued under this section and interest thereon shall be general
- 34 obligations of the commonwealth.