

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON BONDING, STATE ASSETS AND CAPITAL  
EXPENDITURES  
2025-2026 (194<sup>th</sup>) BILL SUMMARY**

**Bill Number:** H.4257  
**Title:** An Act financing long-term improvements to municipal roads and bridges  
**Sponsor(s):** Joint Committee on Transportation  
**Hearing Date:** July 21, 2025

**PRIOR HISTORY:** Recommended to Joint Committee on Transportation April 10, 2025  
Chapter 89, Acts of 2024, An Act financing improvements to municipal roads and bridges  
Chapter 27, Acts of 2023 An Act financing improvement to municipal roads and bridges  
Chapter 29, Acts of 2022 An Act financing improvements to municipal roads and bridges  
Chapter 25, Acts of 2021 An Act financing improvements to municipal roads and bridges  
Chapter 383, Acts of 2020 An Act authorizing and accelerating transportation investment

**CURRENT LAW:**

*M.G.L. Chapter 6C, Section 4 – Massachusetts Transportation Trust Fund*

*M.G.L. Chapter 29 Section 20 -- Issuance of bonds and notes payable from Commonwealth Transportation Fund*

**BACKGROUND:**

An Act Financing Long-Term Improvements to Municipal Roads and Bridges (H.53) takes a new approach to the annual Ch. 90 funding process, as follows:

- A 50% increase in municipal ways allocations (now \$300 million) to adjust for construction inflation.
- Updates the funding formula to allocate an additional \$100 million annually based on municipality road mileage.
- Gives the Executive branch discretion to service any of this debt as special obligation (SO) bonds via the Commonwealth Transportation Fund (CTF).

## SUMMARY:

- | §1 Provides for transportation development and improvements. Outlines a \$1.185 billion dollar bond authorization for the improvement of municipal roads and bridges.
- §2 \$300 million authorized and allocated for the construction and reconstruction of municipal ways (adding \$100 million for the updated road mileage funding formula), as outlined in clause b of the second paragraph of *M.G.L. Chapter 6C, Section 4* (6122-2627).
- §2A \$500 Million for bridge and pavement life cycle asset management by the highway division of Department of Transportation (6121-2617);  
\$200 Million for culvert and small bridge modernization, reconstruction, removal, repair, replacement, and resilience improvements by the highway division of MassDOT (6121-2627);  
\$185 Million for transportation capital projects targeted toward easing congestion, including improved intersections, rail grade crossings, bicycle infrastructure and shared used paths, pedestrian walkways and improvements, accessibility improvements, traffic signals, ADA compliant sidewalks and crossings, and roadway reconstruction (6121-2637).
- §3 Establishes 30-year bond issuances in the amount of \$300 million for Section 2. Principal and interest payments will be payable from the General Fund or the CTF.
- §4 Establishes 30-year bond issuances in the amount of \$855 billion in Section 2A. Principal and interest payments will be payable from the General Fund or the CTF.
- §5 Establishes that bonds issued in sections 2 and 2A are general obligations of the Commonwealth,  
Provides the Governor the option to fund said bonds as SO bonds, payable via the CTF, pursuant to *section 20 of chapter 29 of the General Laws*. Said SO bonds would not factor into the Commonwealth's statutory debt limit.  
Further provides that already-pledged funds will not be diverted from the CTF.