



MASSACHUSETTS  
**HIGHTECHNOLOGYCOUNCIL**

*Dedicated to Growth... Committed to Action*

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**July 16, 2019**

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**Council Op-ed: Leading Efforts to Solve Massachusetts'  
Transportation Challenges**

Last week, CNBC released its' [2019 Top States for Business](#) rankings. Massachusetts is ranked No. 14 overall (Virginia is #1)—down from No. 8 last year and No.10 in 2017. Infrastructure and cost of doing business sub-rankings have us in the bottom 3 in the nation—and the stakes for where we go from here will be played out over the next 2 years in key policy discussions on big-impact issues like transportation, education, publicly-funded health care, climate resiliency, energy, and housing.

Our opinion editorial published by [CommonWealth Magazine](#) over the weekend details the Council's leadership to unify business leaders around a sustained response to the transportation challenges that present a growing risk to our collective success.

The Council's approach: prioritizes innovative thinking; rejects status quo mindsets and sacred cows; demands accountability; and empowers transportation agencies with the financing, governance, operational, and management tools they need to succeed. Most importantly, we avoid "solutions" built on the type of counterproductive policies that have damaged the competitive environment in other states that now struggle against economic headwinds of their own creation.

The agenda we support centers on enhanced commitment and cooperation from employers and the adoption of overdue and fundamental public policies and best practices. This is critical in order to accommodate the effective and efficient deployment of more than \$20 billion in fully funded investments in our roads, bridges, and the MBTA the Commonwealth has scheduled over the next 5 years, *regardless* of whether transportation revenue and resources rise, fall or stay the same in the future.

The Council looks forward to working with like-minded partners to reimagine and transform our Commonwealth's transportation system and carry our economic momentum forward. As the 2019 CNBC rankings suggest, there are 47 states with better infrastructure rankings than Massachusetts. The opportunity to succeed is there for the taking, but to seize it we must toss our 19th Century baggage overboard and embrace a 21st Century mindset.

#### OUR MISSION

The Massachusetts High Technology Council is an organization of CEOs and senior executives representing technology companies, professional services firms, and academic and research institutions dedicated to creating and sustaining conditions that support investment and job growth in Massachusetts. Our members are growth-oriented, knowledge-intensive employers and institutions that develop, deliver and depend on technology products, services and innovations to advance their organizational objectives.

Our mission is to help make Massachusetts the world's most attractive place in which to live and work, and in which to create, operate, and grow high technology businesses.

For more information [visit our website](#).



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