

MASSACHUSETTS
HIGHTECHNOLOGYCOUNCIL

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Mass. High Tech Council Statement on Transportation Bond Bill

Council Calls on Policymakers to Remove Barriers to Innovation, Embrace Public Private Partnerships, Expand Project Delivery Capacity and Reject Revenue-centric Approaches

With the Commonwealth poised to invest more than \$20 billion in transportation infrastructure over the next 5 years, the Transportation Bond Bill filed today presents a critically important opportunity to advance long-overdue policy changes that will unleash innovation in the Commonwealth's approach to meeting its transportation needs and equip Massachusetts transportation agencies with the project-delivery and procurement tools they need to succeed.

Ensuring our Commonwealth has the type of sustainable, resilient, 21st Century transportation system that will meet our economic needs and enhance Massachusetts' citizens' quality of life will require policymakers as well as business and civic leaders to cast aside outdated modes of thinking and embrace new approaches to how we plan, finance, design, construct, operate and maintain our transportation assets and infrastructure.

Relying solely on revenue-centric "solutions" designed to simply push more funding through the same old systems is both misguided and inadequate and creates serious risk of damaging the economic momentum the Commonwealth enjoys today.

The Council looks forward to working with the Baker Administration and legislative leaders to advance the Transportation Bond Bill and enact policies centered on 4 core principles:

- A dearth of revenue is not the Commonwealth's most pressing challenge and should not be the primary focus of the transportation policy debate;
- Expanded project delivery capacity (including both transportation agency staff and external expertise) is the most critical element of short and long-term transportation project planning and execution.
- Optimizing the use of public-private partnerships is an essential element of extending financial resources and ensuring projects support economic development; and

- Employer collaboration in managing employee commutes is an essential element of a compact with the Commonwealth to mitigate congestion, including disruption caused by infrastructure improvement projects themselves.

The proposed Transportation Climate Initiative is the type of solution-focused policy worthy of strong consideration by our Commonwealth's leaders and has key advantages, including its regional scope and targeted investment of resources directly in the meaningful reduction of transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions which distinguish it from a retail gas tax and other revenue raising proposals.

About the Massachusetts High Technology Council – www.mhtc.org

MHTC 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.

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