



Western Mass Rail Coalition <westernmassrail@gmail.com>

FY 2024-2028 CIP Comment | Palmer and Pittsfield Rail Projects - \$12,500,000

Western Mass Rail Coalition <westernmassrail@gmail.com>
To: MassDOT CIP Comments <masscip@state.ma.us>

Thu, Jun 8, 2023 at 11:38 AM

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MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning
Attn: Director of Capital Planning
10 Park Plaza, Rm. 4150
Boston, MA 02116

REF:
Rail & Transit Division | Palmer and Pittsfield Rail Projects - \$12,500,000

To Whom it May Concern,

The Western Mass Rail Coalition requests that a new project be added to the FY 2024-2028 CIP for the "Palmer and Pittsfield Rail Projects" that Governor Maura Healey identified in the FY2024 budget that she submitted to the legislature on March 1, 2023. The total amount requested is \$12,500,000. (See Note 1 below)

These projects, as detailed in governor's budget, would provide "for one-time expenses for rail projects in Palmer and Pittsfield; provided, that not less than \$8,500,000 shall be expended for track improvements at the Pittsfield Station; and provided further, that not less than \$4,000,000 shall be expended for study and design of a Palmer Station."

The governor clearly feels that these capital projects should move forward in FY2024, hence the reason that they were included in the budget, and we firmly believe that these projects should now be included in the current CIP update, even though the legislature decided not to provide the funding for these projects in the state budget.

We believe that these projects could be funded right now from the transportation bond funding that was included in Chapter 383 of the Acts of 2020 and/or Chapter 176 of the Acts of 2022.

Note 1

The governor's budget request for \$12,500,000 for the Palmer and Pittsfield Rail Projects can be found on this link <https://budget.digital.mass.gov/govbudget/fy24/appropriations/transportation/15962407>

Thank you for considering this request.

Comment submitted by

Ben Heckscher
for the [Western Mass Rail Coalition](#)

The founding Member Groups in the Coalition are: The Train Campaign, Trains In The Valley, Citizens for a Palmer Rail Stop, and the Chester Railway Station & Museum.

The Western Mass Rail Coalition is a member of Transportation for Massachusetts (T4MA).