



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
House of Representatives
State House, Boston 02133-1054

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Rep. Smola announces grant for Quaboag Connector

BOSTON – Representative Todd M. Smola (R-Warren, Ranking Member, Committee on Ways & Means) is pleased to announce that the Town of Ware has been awarded a \$150,000 grant for costs associated with the operation of the Quaboag Connector. The funding is part of a total of \$8.9 million for municipalities, Councils on Aging, nonprofit organizations and other entities to use under the Community Transit Grant Program administered by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT). The annual competitive grant program awards funds to be used for transit operating costs, mobility management, or new capital investments.

The Quaboag Connector offers transportation to residents of Belchertown, Brookfield, East Brookfield, Hardwick, Monson, Palmer, Ware, Warren and West Brookfield. For a cost of \$2 (\$4 roundtrip), the Connector provides rides within the Quaboag region. Trips related to employment and education are reserved on a first-come, first-served basis. Rides to work, job training programs and other job-related destinations take first priority. To request a ride, local residents should call (413) 544-3401.

The Quaboag Connector is a wonderful resource for people in or community and I want to thank them for all that they do,” said Representative Smola. “Regional transit authorities and non-profit organizations provide critical services for people statewide help support our towns address their transportation needs.”

The funding being announced today is for applications made to the program during 2021 for Fiscal Year 2022. Awards include funding to 27 organizations for 115 vans and minibuses and money to 18 entities for 23 operating and mobility management projects. Award recipients include some of the state’s 15 Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs), municipalities, Councils on Aging, and eligible nonprofit organizations in Massachusetts.

The Community Transit Grant Program is the Commonwealth's annual competitive grant program to distribute both Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5310, Enhanced Mobility of Seniors & Individuals with Disabilities funds and State Mobility Assistance Program (MAP) funds. The FTA Section 5310 grant program provides funding to assist with the purchase of capital equipment, mobility management, and operational costs to meet the mobility needs of older adults and individuals with disabilities of any age. State Mobility Assistance Program funds are used to assist in the provision of transportation services to seniors and persons with disabilities exclusively through the purchase of eligible vehicles. In total in this grant round, MassDOT plans to distribute \$8,912,588 of federal and state funds for vehicles, operating projects, and mobility management projects.

For additional information please contact Representative Smola at Todd.Smola@mahouse.gov or (617)722-2100.

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