



U.S Department of Transportation  
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News

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## U.S. Department of Transportation Announces Closing of \$291 Million Loan for Boston's Widett Circle Project

### *Project acquires land for site preservation, restoration, and expansion*

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT's) [Build America Bureau](#) announced it closed a \$291.2 million [Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing](#) (RRIF) loan with the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) for the Widett Circle Right-of-Way and Site Preservation Project. The project includes land acquisition and site preparation of multiple parcels that will enable MBTA to preserve, restore, and expand rail operations. The Bureau helps communities accelerate the delivery of infrastructure projects and reduce project costs by providing low-interest, flexible-term loans and other financing tools.

“By using RRIF to finance this project, MBTA will be able to start work sooner and save money in the long-term,” said **Build America Bureau Executive Director Morteza Farajian, Ph.D.** “These improvements set the system up for continued success, to meet long-term goals, and provide more reliable transportation options. Leveraging our financing programs to accelerate these improvements at a lower cost is an innovative win-win for MBTA and their riders.”

With MBTA's South Side facilities currently operating at capacity, Widett Circle is a critical acquisition for the efficient maintenance, safe operation, and expansion of the commuter rail system.

“The Healey-Driscoll Administration is committed to pursuing all financial resources available to support existing and future commuter rail service in Massachusetts,” said **Massachusetts Transportation Secretary and CEO Monica Tibbits-Nutt.** “We are grateful to be receiving this Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing loan as the project at Widett Circle will provide layover space and maintenance facilities, which are vital now and especially in the future as we add more service and frequency, transition to an electrified fleet, and use more bilevel coaches.”

“Widett Circle continues to be a key part of advancing Commuter Rail improvements in the near term as well as the future vision for rail that is more frequent, reliable, and better positioned to embrace new and greener technology,” said **MBTA General Manager and CEO Phillip Eng**. “We thank USDOT and the Build America Bureau for this critical financing that moves this initiative forward. This is vital to our ability to continue delivering the level of service that our riders expect and deserve both for today and for future generations. We are committed to delivering meaningful service improvements as we collaborate with our partners and stakeholders.”

The MBTA initially funded the site acquisition with a combination of funds from the Commonwealth and MBTA funds, which will be replaced by the long-term RRIF loan and will be paid back through MBTA’s local revenues. Funds from the RRIF loan will also fund the site preparation.

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*The Build America Bureau accelerates investment in transportation infrastructure by lending Federal funds to qualified public and private borrowers; clearing roadblocks for creditworthy projects; providing technical assistance services and grants to build local/regional capacity and implement best practices and innovative solutions in project planning, funding/financing, delivery, and operations. The Bureau draws on expertise across DOT to serve as the point of coordination for states, municipalities, private partners, and other project sponsors seeking Federal financing.*