

730 CMR: MASSACHUSETTS TURNPIKE AUTHORITY

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6.01: Purpose

730 CMR 6.00 governs the procedures that the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority follows in implementing the provisions of M.G.L. c. 81A, § 18, regarding:

- (a) the establishment and implementation of a program for the support of tourism projects carried out for the benefit of cities and towns west of state highway route 128 that are along or contiguous to the Massachusetts Turnpike (Western Turnpike Tourism Grant Program); and
- (b) the establishment and implementation of a similar program for cities and towns that are along or contiguous to the Metropolitan Highway System (Metropolitan Highway System Tourism Grant Program).

6.02: Definitions

Authority refers to the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority created by M.G.L. c. 81A.

Eligible Applicant refers to:

- (a) a city or town listed in 730 CMR 6.09 or 730 CMR 6.10; or
- (b) an entity that proposes a project for the benefit of such city or town, that satisfies the requirements of 730 CMR 6.04(2) with respect to the submission of a grant proposal.

Grant refers to an award that the Authority makes in accordance with 730 CMR 6.00

Grant Agreement refers to the agreement between the Authority and a grantee described in 730 CMR 6.08.

Grant Funds refers to the funds described in 730 CMR 6.03.

Grant Period refers to the period during which a grant is in effect, as specified in the grant agreement.

Grant Proposal refers to documents and information, including any clarification or amendment, that an eligible applicant submits to the Authority in accordance with 730 CMR 6.06.

Grantee refers to an eligible applicant that the Authority chooses in accordance with 730 CMR 6.07 to receive a grant.

Invitation for Proposals refers to a document that the Authority issues in accordance with 730 CMR 6.05.

Metropolitan Highway System refers to the highway system that consists of the Boston Extension of the Turnpike, the Callahan Tunnel, the Central Artery, the Central Artery North Area, the Sumner Tunnel, and the Ted Williams Tunnel, as defined in M.G.L. c. 81A, § 3, as amended by St. 1997, c. 11, § 21.

Metropolitan Highway System Tourism Grant Program refers to the program for the support of tourism projects described in 730 CMR 6.01.

6.02: continued

Turnpike or Western Turnpike refers to the term “turnpike” as defined in M.G.L. c. 81A, § 3, as amended by St. 1997, c. 11, § 22.

Turnpike Corridor refers to the cities and towns of the Commonwealth from the New York state border to state highway route 128 through which the Turnpike runs and municipalities contiguous to such cities and towns, as defined in M.G.L. c. 81A, § 3.

Western Turnpike Tourism Grant Program refers to the program for the support of tourism projects described in 730 CMR 6.01.

VISTA refers to the Commonwealth Visitor Information Services Travel Alliance established by St. 1995, c. 102, § 19.

6.03: Grant Funds

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. c. 81A, § 18, each calendar year, the Authority will fund, subject to the rights of holders of notes or bonds of the Authority issued for the Western Turnpike, from Western Turnpike revenues, an amount of not less than \$500,000 nor more than \$1,000,000, allocable to the Western Turnpike Tourism Grant Program. Similarly, in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. c. 81A, § 18, each calendar year, the Authority will fund, subject to the rights of holders of notes or bonds of the Authority issued for the Metropolitan Highway System, from Metropolitan Highway System revenues, an amount of not less than \$250,000, allocable to the Metropolitan Highway System Tourism Grant Program.

6.04: Eligible Projects

(1) VISTA. In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. c. 81A, § 18, for each of the calendar years 1997, 1998, and 1999, the Authority directs the sum of not less than \$250,000 and not more than \$300,000 allocable to the Western Turnpike Tourism Grant Program, to VISTA or to such cities, towns or other public or private entities that VISTA may recommend to the Authority.

(2) Eligible Applicants. M.G.L. c. 81A, § 18 directs that the Authority establish and implement a tourism grant program “for the benefit of cities and towns located within the turnpike corridor.” The Authority construes this provision to refer to the cities and towns located along the Turnpike right of way west of state highway route 128 or those cities and towns that are contiguous to such city or town, all of which are listed in 730 CMR 6.09. Similarly, M.G.L. c. 81A, § 18 directs the Authority to establish and implement a tourism grant program “for the benefit of cities and towns through which the metropolitan highway system runs and the municipalities contiguous to such cities and towns.” The Authority construes this provision to refer to the cities and towns listed in 730 CMR 6.10. A city or town can not be an eligible applicant for both the Western Turnpike Tourism Grant Program and the Metropolitan Highway System Tourism Grant Program, therefore, 730 CMR 6.09 contains those cities and towns that are primarily located west of state highway route 128, and 730 CMR 6.10 contains those cities and towns that are primarily located east of state highway route 128. Accordingly, the Authority only accepts a grant proposal signed by:

- (a) a municipal official, i.e., an authorized signatory of a city or town listed in 730 CMR 6.09 or 730 CMR 6.10; or
- (b) an authorized signatory of an entity such as a regional tourist council, regional chamber of commerce, regional economic development or planning agency, or similar regional entity the purview of which includes at least one of the cities or towns listed in 730 CMR 6.09 or 730 CMR 6.10.

(3) Purpose. In accordance with M.G.L. c. 81A, § 18, the Authority accepts a grant proposal that documents to the satisfaction of the Authority, acting in its sole discretion, that the proposal is related to the development of tourism.

6.05: Invitation for Proposals

(1) When An Invitation for Proposals Is Issued. Beginning in calendar year 1997, the Director of Tourism and Marketing of the Authority annually advertises an invitation for proposals on or after January 2. The advertisement describes when and where an eligible applicant may obtain a copy of the invitation for proposals.

(2) Form and Content. The Authority annually determines the form and content of an invitation for proposals. The invitation for proposals provides instructions to eligible applicants regarding the scope and purpose of the grant program for that year, the anticipated range of amounts of grants that the Authority expects to award, and details regarding the preparation and submission of a grant proposal, including the form and content of both the project narrative and the project budget.

6.06: Grant Proposal

(1) Authorization and Signature. If the eligible applicant is a city or town listed in 730 CMR 6.09 or 730 CMR 6.10, a grant proposal must be duly approved by the governing body and signed by the authorized signatory of the eligible applicant. If the eligible applicant is an entity described in 730 CMR 6.04(2)(b), the grant proposal must be signed by the authorized signatory of the eligible applicant.

(2) Form and Content. The Authority specifies in its invitation for proposals the required form and content of a grant proposal.

(3) When and How Submitted. The Authority must receive a grant proposal no later than the date and time specified in the advertisement for the invitation for proposals referred to in 730 CMR 6.05. A grant proposal that the Authority receives subsequent to this date is not eligible for the Authority's consideration. An eligible applicant must address its grant proposal, consisting of one original and two complete and legible copies, to the Chairman of the Authority, and enclose it in an envelope or other container that prominently displays the words "Attention: Tourism Grant Program Proposal Under 730 CMR 6.00."

(4) Clarifications and Amendments. The Authority may request, either at its own initiative or in response to a written communication from an eligible applicant, that an eligible applicant clarify its grant proposal by providing additional documents or written information or amend its grant proposal by changing programmatic or budgetary elements. The eligible applicant addresses any such clarification or amendment, consisting of an original and one complete and legible copy, to the Chairman of the Authority, and encloses it in an envelope or other container that prominently displays the words "Attention: Tourism Grant Program Proposal Under 730 CMR 6.00."

6.07: Selection Procedure and Criteria

(1) Goal of Equitable Distribution. It is the Authority's goal to distribute grants equitably for the benefit of the cities and towns listed in 730 CMR 6.09 and 730 CMR 6.10. To this end, the Authority annually gives preference, to the extent practicable, to grant proposals submitted for the benefit of cities or towns that did not receive a grant during the prior year.

(2) Grant Amount. In order to encourage participation by as many eligible applicants as possible, the Authority envisions that each grant ordinarily will not exceed \$100,000 over the grant period. Special circumstances, as determined by the Authority, may warrant the award of a grant(s) in a greater amount.

(3) Selection Based Solely on Proposal. The Authority makes its determination with respect to the awarding of a grant based solely on its assessment of the merits of the grant proposal in accordance with the selection criteria listed in 730 CMR 6.07(4).

6.07: continued

(4) Selection Criteria. The Authority employs as its general selection criterion the relationship of the grant proposal to the goal of promoting tourism in the cities and towns listed in 730 CMR 6.00. Tourism will be interpreted so as to include projects that directly impact tourism and those that indirectly impact tourism. The Authority issues a grant in the amount specified in the grant proposal, or a greater or lesser amount as the Authority determines to be appropriate, provided that the Authority concludes that the grant proposal describes a project that satisfies the requirements of 730 CMR 6.00 and that there are sufficient grant funds for each such grant. The Authority reserves the right to award grants based on its sole discretion, however, it offers the following more specific criteria in random order as a guide for eligible applicants in preparing their grant proposal:

- (a) the strength of the connection to the promotion of tourism and the operation or impact on the Turnpike or the Metropolitan Highway System;
- (b) the benefit to the intended beneficiaries;
- (c) the benefit to communities that are eligible applicants;
- (d) the benefit to other communities of the Commonwealth;
- (e) the benefit to the economic or social well-being of the Commonwealth;
- (f) the ability to leverage private investment or additional non-profit investment;
- (g) the impact on regional or local character or identity promotion;
- (h) the degree of innovation;
- (i) the benefit to tourism in the Commonwealth;
- (j) the degree of integration with other tourism projects;
- (k) the degree of collaboration among local agencies or groups; and
- (l) other factors that the Authority determines to be relevant.

(5) Awarding of Grants. The Authority announces the award of each grant by sending a letter to the authorized signatory of the grant proposal and, in the case the grantee is not a city or town listed in 730 CMR 6.09 or 730 CMR 6.10, an additional copy to the treasurer of each such city or town within the Turnpike Corridor that benefits from the grant. However, no grant is effective, that is, the Authority will transfer no funds to the grantee and the grantee may expend no funds in reliance upon such a transfer, before the Authority and the grantee execute a grant agreement in accordance with 730 CMR 6.08. A grantee holds and expends a grant in a manner consistent with the requirements of M.G.L. c. 44, § 53A.

6.08: Grant Agreement

The Authority determines the content of a grant agreement between the Authority and each grantee. A grant agreement is not effective until it is signed by the authorized signatory of the grantee and then by the Chairman of the Authority or designee. A grant agreement specifies the amount of the grant, the commencement and completion dates of the grant, the purposes of the grant, the activities that the grantee is expected to accomplish as a result of the grant, the means by which the Authority will hold the grantee accountable for proper performance under the grant, the conditions under which the Authority will make payment to the grantee under the grant, and such other matters as the Authority determines to be appropriate. The grantee must agree that it will expend the grant strictly in accordance with law and the grant agreement. The Authority may cancel a grant if the authorized signatory of the grantee does not sign the grant agreement within a reasonable period of time, or if the grantee does not expend grant funds within a reasonable period of time, as determined by the Authority.

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6.09: Eligible Cities and Towns Along and Contiguous to the Turnpike

The cities and towns listed below are eligible applicants under the Western Turnpike Tourism Grant Program:

Agawam	Alford	Ashland
Auburn	Becket	Belchertown
Blandford	Brimfield	Brookfield
Charlton	Chester	Chicopee
Concord	Douglas	Dover
Dudley	East Brookfield	East Longmeadow
Framingham	Grafton	Granby
Granville	Great Barrington	Hampden
Holland	Holliston	Holyoke
Hopedale	Hopkinton	Huntington
Lee	Leicester	Lenox
Lincoln	Longmeadow	Ludlow
Marlborough	Mendon	Middlefield
Milford	Millbury	Monson
Monterey	Montgomery	Natick
Northborough	Northbridge	Otis
Oxford	Palmer	Richmond
Russell	Sandisfield	Sherborn
Shrewsbury	South Hadley	Southborough
Southbridge	Southampton	Southwick
Spencer	Springfield	Stockbridge
Sturbridge	Sudbury	Sutton
Tolland	Tyringham	Upton
Wales	Ware	Warren
Washington	Wayland	Webster
Wellesley	West Brookfield	West Springfield
West Stockbridge	Westborough	Westfield
Weston	Wilbraham	Worcester

6.10: Eligible Cities and Towns Along and Contiguous to the Metropolitan Highway System

The cities and towns listed below are eligible applicants under the Metropolitan Highway System Tourism Grant Program:

Boston	Brookline	Cambridge
Chelsea	Dedham	Everett
Milton	Newton	Quincy
Revere	Somerville	Waltham
Watertown	Winthrop	

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

730 CMR 6.00: M.G.L. c. 81A, § 18.

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