



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Boston claims traffic title from Los Angeles

The Hub's latest "championship" sees a region at a standstill

BOSTON – FEBRUARY 12, 2019 – [Boston was named the country's most gridlocked city](#) for the first time today, in the annual [Global Traffic Scorecard](#) released by national traffic data firm INRIX. According to INRIX, the average driver in Greater Boston spends 164 hours in congestion, costing the typical driver \$2,291 per year in lost productivity and wasted fuel.

"When people chanted 'Beat LA,' I don't think this is what they had in mind," said Chris Dempsey, director of Transportation for Massachusetts (T4MA), noting that Boston captured the worst-in-the-nation designation from long-running titleholder Los Angeles.

For T4MA, this latest "victory" is a reminder that congestion threatens our economy, our environment, and our quality of life. It raises the urgency for MassDOT to embrace solutions.

"Being recognized as the worst region in the United States for traffic is a tough pill to swallow," said Chris Dempsey, director of T4MA. "While our situation is getting worse, other cities that were previously ranked ahead of Boston are taking steps to remedy congestion. Seattle is a great model for what's possible – thanks to smart policies, the number of jobs downtown has grown at the same time the number of drivers has decreased. We need to look at this headline as a wakeup call or else run the risk of becoming back-to-back congestion champs."

Over the past two years, T4MA has solidified itself as the leading voice for implementing congestion relief strategies in Massachusetts. [Smarter tolling](#), which has yielded positive results in other parts of the country and the world, has been a particular focus. The coalition's proposal to institute a limited pilot program that would discount tolls for those driving at off-peak hours was included as a budget amendment last year. That bipartisan amendment was ultimately included in the Legislature's budget.

With the congestion situation at a crisis level, public support has grown for innovative solutions, like smarter tolling, that could ease the burden. In a [MassINC Polling Group poll](#) released last year, 60 percent of respondents expressed support for reducing tolls outside of rush hours, to encourage drivers to travel at less busy times of day.

In December, Governor Baker's Commission on the Future of Transportation issued a list of 18 recommendations, many of which mirrored [T4MA's own recommendations](#), with "better manage traffic congestion" near the top. The Commission also recommended a smarter tolling pilot program.

"We agree with the Governor's Commission on the Future of Transportation that congestion is one of the 'greatest impediments to our economy' and that DOT should 'consider and pilot' congestion pricing strategies," said Dempsey.

About T4MA

Transportation for Massachusetts (T4MA) is a diverse coalition of more than 70 member and partner organizations with a stake in improving transportation across the Commonwealth. Our coalition advocates at the state, federal, and local levels for transportation policies that are innovative, sustainable, and environmentally friendly. We want a transportation system that strengthens our economy and our communities, while also being safer, healthier, more affordable and reliable. Learn more at www.t4ma.org.

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