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### **Massachusetts Legislature Passes Landmark Transportation Reform**

The state legislature has passed a landmark transportation reform bill that abolishes the Mass Turnpike Authority, creates a consolidated transportation system, reduces healthcare and administrative costs, and improves overall transportation planning and accountability. These are the most significant changes to Massachusetts's transportation system in more than fifty years.

“I’m proud to have been a strong advocate for comprehensive transportation reform,” said State Representative Jason Lewis. “This legislation is a major step forward in providing better and more efficient management and oversight of our critical transportation infrastructure, including roads, bridges, and public transit. A strong, well-maintained transportation system is essential to the future economic success of Massachusetts.”

There are many significant reforms in this bill, including:

- Elimination of the Mass Turnpike Authority
- Creation of a single, consolidated authority to oversee and coordinate transportation policy, planning and implementation across the Commonwealth
- Transfer of Mass Turnpike and MBTA employees into the state’s GIC health insurance program, resulting in significant healthcare savings
- Consolidation of separate legal, accounting, and other back office functions, resulting in cost-savings and other efficiencies
- Improved oversight and accountability with the creation of an Office of Performance Management and an Office of Taxpayer Advocacy dedicated to transportation
- Elimination of the so-called “23 and out” pension rule for MBTA employees

It is projected that these and other reforms will save Massachusetts taxpayers an estimated \$6.5 billion over the next twenty years. The bill now goes to Governor Patrick for his signature.

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