

# **APPROVED MINUTES**

## ***TWO HUNDRED NINETY-SECOND MEETING***

of the

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

of the

## **MASSACHUSETTS TECHNOLOGY PARK CORPORATION**

November 20, 2024  
Zoom Videoconference

The Two Hundred Ninety-Second Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation (“Mass Tech Collaborative” or “Mass Tech”) was held on November 20, 2024, via Zoom videoconference pursuant to notice duly given to the Directors and publicly posted on the Mass Tech Collaborative website with corresponding notice provided to the Office of the Secretary of State and the Executive Office for Administration and Finance.

The following members of the Mass Tech Collaborative Executive Committee were present and participated: Undersecretary of Economic Development Sarah Stanton (representing Secretary of Economic Development Yvonne Hao), Rupa Cornell, Joe Dorant, Paige Fetzer-Borelli, Pam Reeve, and Bodgan Vernescu. The following member of the Mass Tech Collaborative Board of Directors was present: Jeffrey Stein.

The following members of the Mass Tech Collaborative staff were present: Carolyn Kirk, Michael Baldino, Keely Benson, Ben Linville-Engler, Marc Leonetti, Holly Lucas Murphy, Dana Nolfe, John Petrozelli, Jennifer Saubermann, Brianna Wehrs, Rachel Stachowiak, John Wetzel, Jody Jones, Joshua Eichen, and Paula Foley.

Also in attendance was Steve Baker, Director of Broadband and Digital Equity for the Executive Office of Economic Development.

Undersecretary Stanton observed the presence of a quorum and called the meeting of the Mass Tech Executive Committee to order at 2:02 p.m.

### **Agenda Item I      Report of the Board Chair**

Undersecretary Stanton began the meeting by announcing the good news that the Economic Development bill, An Act Relative to Strengthening Massachusetts’ Economic Leadership (the “Mass Leads Act”) was passed by the Massachusetts Legislature and has now been signed into law by Governor Healey. Undersecretary Stanton noted that although it took longer than originally expected, passing of the Mass Leads Act means good things for the State’s economy and growth in the emerging technologies sector, and Secretary Hao is already busy with the launch of numerous

new initiatives included in the legislation. Undersecretary Stanton noted that the efforts of MassTech personnel were instrumental in getting the legislation passed, and she thanked MassTech for all its work in securing its passage. She then asked Ms. Kirk for her report.

## **Agenda Item II Report of the Chief Executive Officer**

Ms. Kirk's report focused on how the newly signed Economic Development package would affect MassTech. Ms. Kirk noted that, in the Mass Leads Act, MassTech was allocated a total of \$490 million in reauthorizations, earmarks, and new programs. Ms. Kirk explained that the new MassTech programs contained in the Mass Leads Act include: (1) Artificial Intelligence ("AI") programs totaling \$103 million which will build off the Governor's AI Task Force Report; (2) Tech Hubs programs totaling \$155 million, for which Mr. Linville-Engler and Mr. Larkin are already engaged in program design; and (3) Robotics programs totaling \$25 million, for which MassTech's Robotics team is also currently engaged in program design and development.

Closing her report, Ms. Kirk noted that the next Board meeting would be a full in-person Board meeting on December 11<sup>th</sup> at MassTech's Boston office. Ms. Kirk indicated that this meeting would include a discussion among Board members on 2025 strategic planning, as well as feature a presentation from Mr. Linville-Engler on CHIPs and Science activities.

Ms. Kirk then turned the floor over to Ms. Jones for presentation of the agenda items.

## **Agenda Item III Mass Broadband Institute – Residential Retrofit Program: Comcast Cable Communications Management (motion item)**

Ms. Jones introduced Mr. Eichen, MBI's Director of Program Development, to discuss the first motion item. Mr. Eichen explained that MBI was seeking approval of an award to Comcast Cable Communications Management ("Comcast") in an amount up to \$287,020.00 as part of MBI's Residential Retrofit Program. This program, explained Mr. Eichen, provides funding to qualified Internet Service Providers for the deployment of fiber optic cable in public and affordable housing properties. This particular award, explained Mr. Eichen, will fund Comcast's fiber deployment in the Bryant Manor Apartments in Somerville.

After a period of discussion and upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously and without abstention VOTED by a roll call vote:

**The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation ("Mass Tech Collaborative"), acting pursuant to the authority delegated under Chapter 40J of the General Laws of the Commonwealth, does hereby authorize a grant award to support capital costs associated with the installation of fiberoptic cabling to the housing unit, as presented:**

- **to Comcast Cable Communications Management in an amount not to exceed \$287,020.**

**The total award to Comcast, inclusive of this award and \$4,329,330.00 previously awarded by the Executive Committee of the Mass Tech**

**Collaborative on September 11, 2024, and \$483,195 awarded by the Board of Directors on October 16, 2024, under the Residential Retrofit Program, RFP No. 2024-MBI-08, shall not exceed \$5,099,545 and shall be funded through the American Rescue Plan Act, Capital Projects Fund through a contract with the Executive Office of Economic Development. The grant award is subject to the execution of a grant agreement in a form and with terms approved by Mass Tech Collaborative’s Chief Executive Officer.**

**Agenda Item V      Mass Broadband Institute – Broadband Infrastructure Gap Networks Program – Round 2 Awards: Comcast Cable Communications Management and Verizon New England, Inc. (motion item)**

Ms. Jones then turned to Mr. Baldino, MBI Director and General Counsel, to discuss the next motion item. Mr. Baldino explained that MBI was seeking approval of awards in the amount of \$12.67 million (\$11,317,238.00 to Comcast and \$1,353,959.00 to Verizon), as part of Round 2 of MBI’s Gap Networks Program. This funding, explained Mr. Baldino, will result in broadband service expansion and improvements to 90 municipalities across the state and ensure high-speed broadband deployment to approximately 1,400 currently unserved or underserved Broadband Serviceable Locations (“BSLs”) in those municipalities. Mr. Baldino concluded his presentation by noting that, although this is the last round currently contemplated in the Gap Networks program, the next infrastructure deployment program to be undertaken by MBI – the BEAD Program – is designed to address all of the remaining unserved or underserved BSLs in the Commonwealth. This will result, Mr. Baldino explained, in Massachusetts being the first state, or one of the first states, to achieve 100% broadband coverage.

After a period of discussion and upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously and without abstention VOTED by a roll call vote:

**The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation (“Mass Tech Collaborative”), acting pursuant to the authority delegated under Chapter 40J of the General Laws of the Commonwealth, does hereby authorize the following grant awards to support capital costs associated with the extension of broadband infrastructure to cover unserved and underserved premises in Massachusetts, as presented:**

- **to Comcast Cable Communications Management in an amount not to exceed \$11,317,283.58; and**
- **to Verizon New England, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$1,353,959.00.**

**Mass Tech Collaborative’s Chief Executive Officer is hereby authorized to increase the grant award amounts noted above based upon the completed broadband serviceable location reconciliation process. The grants are awarded under the Broadband Infrastructure Gap Networks Grant Program, Solicitation No. 2024-MBI-01, and shall be funded through the American Rescue Plan Act Capital Projects Fund through a contract with the Executive Office of Economic Development. The grant awards are**

**subject to the execution of a grant agreement in a form and with terms approved by Mass Tech Collaborative's Chief Executive Officer.**

**Agenda Item V      Approval of Minutes**

Closing out the meeting, Undersecretary Stanton turned to approval of the minutes of the September 11, 2024, Executive Committee Meeting. After a brief period of discussion and upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by a roll call vote, with Undersecretary Stanton abstaining:

**The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation, acting on behalf of the full Board pursuant to section three of Chapter Forty J of the General Laws of the Commonwealth, hereby adopts the Draft Minutes of the Two Hundred Ninety-First Meeting of the Executive Committee, held on September 11, 2024, by Zoom videoconference, as the formal Minutes thereof.**

Having determined that there was no other business to discuss, Undersecretary Stanton adjourned the meeting at 2:19 p.m.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST: (Secretary)

DATE:

**Materials and Exhibits Used at this Meeting:**

1. Mass Broadband Institute – Residential Retrofit Program: Comcast Cable Communications Management (motion item)
2. Mass Broadband Institute – Broadband Infrastructure Gap Networks Program – Round 2 Awards: Comcast Cable Communications Management and Verizon New England, Inc. (motion item)
3. Draft Minutes for the September 11, 2024, Mass Tech Collaborative Executive Committee Meeting