

**Department of Transportation
Budget No. 801
Senate Bill Nos. 2012 and 2254: House Bill No. 1106**

	FTE Positions	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
2025-27 legislative appropriation	1,005.00	\$4,000,000 ¹	\$2,722,092,265	\$2,726,092,265
2023-25 legislative appropriation	<u>1,001.00</u>	<u>10,375,000¹</u>	<u>2,297,252,645</u>	<u>2,307,627,645</u>
2025-27 appropriation increase (decrease) to 2023-25 appropriation	4.00	(\$6,375,000)	\$424,839,620	\$418,464,620

¹These amounts are one-time funding. The agency did not receive any ongoing General Fund appropriations.

Item Description

Full-time equivalent changes - The Legislative Assembly approved 1,005 FTE positions for the Department of Transportation (DOT) for the 2025-27 biennium, an increase of 4 FTE positions from the 2023-25 biennium. The Legislative Assembly added 1 FTE bridge load rating coordinator, 1 FTE road maintenance position, 1 FTE local government assistance position, and 1 FTE interoperable radio coordinator position.

New and vacant FTE funding pool - The Legislative Assembly transferred \$13,576,477 from the salaries and wages line item to the new and vacant FTE pool line item for costs of new positions (\$845,097) and estimated savings from vacant positions (\$12,731,380).

One-time funding - The Legislative Assembly provided \$316,384,212 of one-time funding to DOT as follows:

	General Fund	Other Funds	Total
Facility improvements		\$5,970,000	\$5,970,000
Appointment system upgrade		3,000,000	3,000,000
Inventory tracking system		350,000	350,000
Walking trail grant		100,000	100,000
Increased maintenance costs		9,842,212	9,842,212
Equipment purchases		5,872,000	5,872,000
Highway projects (Strategic Investment and Improvements Fund (SIIF))		287,100,000	287,100,000
Passenger rail compact grant (SIIF)		150,000	150,000
Nonfixed transit provider grants	\$2,000,000		2,000,000
Fixed route city paratransit grants	2,000,000		2,000,000
Total	\$4,000,000	\$312,384,212	\$316,384,212

Status/Result

The positions were filled in July, August, and September 2025.

Through February 2026, the department has transferred \$901,685 from the new and vacant FTE pool line item to the salaries and wages line item for the new FTE positions. Through January 2026, the department had estimated vacant FTE position savings of \$466,913, but used \$61,542 for accrued leave payouts, extra temporary salary funding, and bonuses. The number of vacant positions ranged from 33 to 46 with an average vacancy rate of 39.43 for July 2025 through January 2026.

The following is a summary of the department's use of the one-time funding:

Facility improvements	The DOT has spent \$1.3 million on improvements to date and anticipates spending the remaining funding by the end of the biennium.
Appointment system upgrade	The project is in the planning phase and the department anticipates spending all funds on the project.
Inventory tracking system	The project is in the planning phase and project priorities are being determined.
Walking trail grant	The department received proposals and the city of Cooperstown was selected to receive the grant.
Increased maintenance costs	All funding has been obligated and will be spent by the end of the biennium.
Equipment purchases	The department is planning to use the funding as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four snowblowers (\$3.4 million) • Equipment for new positions related to US Highway 85 (\$323,000) • Engineering equipment (\$472,000) • Pavement van (\$1.5 million)

Highway projects	All funding is anticipated to be obligated for various projects.
Passenger rail compact grants	The DOT plans to award the grant funding once other states have committed to the compact.
Nonfixed transit provider grants	The department has awarded \$1 million of the funding with the remaining funds to be awarded in 2027.
Fixed route city paratransit grants	The department has awarded all funds to eligible paratransit providers.

Flexible Transportation Fund - The Legislative Assembly, in Senate Bill No. 2113 (2023), created a Flexible Transportation Fund for the construction and maintenance of state and local roads. The Legislative Assembly in 2025 provided for the fund to receive 25 percent of motor vehicle excise taxes and a one-time transfer of \$142.5 million from SIIF. A portion of the funding is distributed through a formula to non-oil producing political subdivisions and the remaining funding is available for state projects and grants for political subdivision projects.

US Highway 85 projects - The Legislative Assembly, in Section 22 of Senate Bill No. 2012, directed the Department of Transportation to complete a four-lane highway project on US Highway 85 between the Long X Bridge and State Highway 200.

Blackout license plates - The Legislative Assembly, in Senate Bill No. 2133 (2025), authorized DOT to issue blackout license plates. An additional registration fee of \$25 per registration period is required to receive a plate.

Through March 2026, a total of \$29.9 million of motor vehicle excise tax revenues have been deposited in the fund. The \$142.5 million SIIF transfer has also been made.

The DOT opened the grants program and received 674 applications for more than \$569.7 million in project costs. The DOT has committed a total of \$115 million for 103 projects.

The DOT received bids for two separate projects to complete the four-lane project. The department has obligated \$92.2 million to complete the portion of the roadway from the Long X Bridge to approximately six miles south of the bridge. The department has obligated an additional \$68 million to complete the remaining portion of the project to State Highway 200.

Through April 13, 2026, the department has issued 48,010 blackout license plates.