

Western Mass Municipal Conference

Rural Infrastructure

9 April 2022



Focus on:

- Roads, bridges, culverts
- Water and sewer
- Municipal and public safety buildings
- Green and healthy schools
- PILOT
- Regional rail

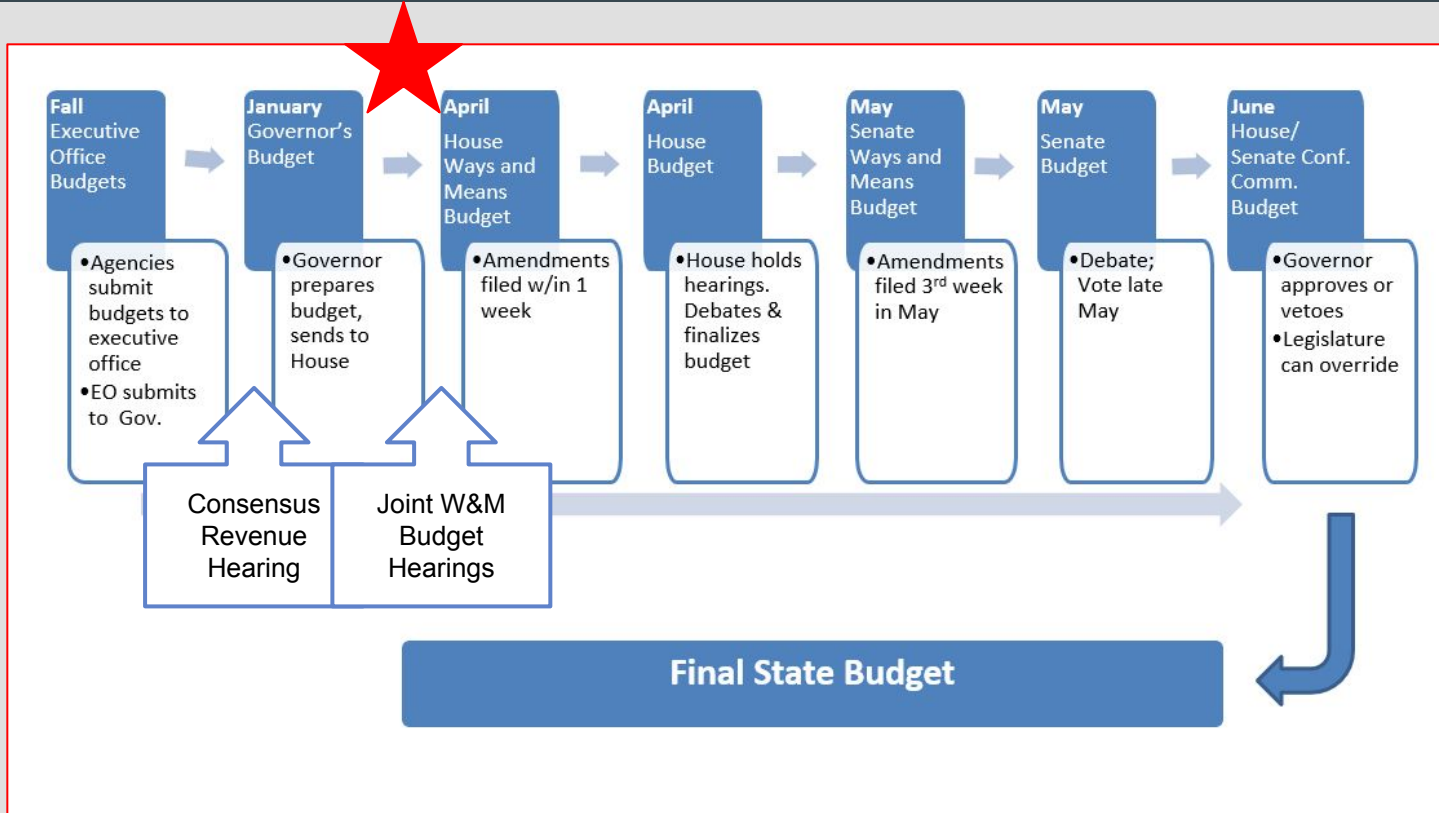


Legislation (2 year cycle)



2021-2022

State Budget Process (1 year cycle)



Roads, bridges, culverts

- ❑ Increase Chapter 90 to \$300 million
- ❑ Maintain winter road funding
- ❑ Increase funding for Small Town Road Assistance Program (STRAP) via MassWorks (via Community One Stop)
- ❑ More \$\$ for small bridge program and expand availability

Water and sewer

- ❑ Expand funding for MVP to include water and sewer
 - ❑ \$200M for environmental infrastructure
- ❑ Solidify funding for PFAS testing, mitigation, research
- ❑ Ban PFAS from the Commonwealth

Municipal and public safety buildings

- ❑ S.2457/H.3821 *An Act Creating a municipal public safety building authority*
- ❑ Extended to May 5 in Joint Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security
- ❑ Independent authority + matching funds (up to \$1M)

Green and healthy public schools

- ❑ \$100M in ARPA spending in play via DESE
- ❑ *S.1382 An Act for healthy and green public schools*
 - ❑ Assess, create standards, make recommendations

PILOT

- ❑ State-owned land is public infrastructure
- ❑ Need to increase state-owned land PILOT funding to \$45M
- ❑ Need to change PILOT formula which has disadvantaged WMA municipalities

Regional rail

- ❑ Four initiatives:
 - ❑ West/East
 - ❑ Valley Flyer (ongoing and successful pilot)
 - ❑ Berkshire Flyer (launching June 2022)
 - ❑ Northern Tier (study process kicked off)
- ❑ Federal and state efforts on governance and funding

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