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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MassDOT Names New Manager for South Coast Rail Project

BOSTON -- August 25, 2011 -- Incoming Massachusetts Department Transportation (MassDOT) Secretary Richard Davey today announced Jean Fox will become manager of the South Coast Rail project, beginning in September. A Freetown resident, who serves on the Board of Selectmen, Fox has worked at the Greater New Bedford Workforce Investment Board (WIB) since 2007.

"We have built positive state and local partnerships during the planning process for South Coast Rail and with Jean's strong connection to the community, we anticipate these will continue," said Lieutenant Governor Timothy Murray. "South Coast Rail is a priority that will deliver real economic benefits for the region for decades to come and I look forward to working with Jean as we move this project forward."

"Jean is the right person at the right time for this project," said Davey. "Her energy, attention to details, and close ties with the community will serve the project well as we work hard to deliver passenger rail service to southeastern Massachusetts."

At the WIB, Fox has worked closely with many community leaders and elected officials, and she has developed strong relationships with civic organizations and other community-based groups in southeastern Massachusetts.

As manager of the project to bring commuter rail service to Fall River, New Bedford, and Taunton, Fox's responsibilities will include lining up funding for construction and operation of the lines, shepherding the project through the environmental review and permitting process, and keeping the public fully engaged throughout the design phase.

"South Coast Rail is a priority for the Patrick-Murray Administration and the communities in the region," said Fox. "My predecessor, Kristina Egan, made great strides during her tenure in catalyzing public engagement and enthusiasm

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for commuter rail service that will build on the region's many assets. This project will also enhance growth and opportunities for South Coast residents and businesses.”

Fox earned her B.A. from the University of New Mexico and M.B.A. from George Washington University. She lives in Freetown with her husband, Lou, and has three grown children. In addition to the Freetown Board of Selectmen, she serves on the Bristol County Commission on the Status of Women, the South Coast Education Compact, as well as a number of school and education advisory boards in New Bedford.

She begins her new job at MassDOT September 12.

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