

**APPROVED MINUTES**  
***TWO HUNDRED AND EIGHTY SIXTH MEETING***  
of the  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
of the  
**MASSACHUSETTS TECHNOLOGY PARK CORPORATION**

February 26, 2024  
Zoom Videoconference

The Two Hundred and Eighty Sixth 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 February 26, 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: Secretary of Economic Development Yvonne Hao, Pamela Reeve, Julie Chen, Rupa Cornell, Paige Fetzer-Borelli, and Joe Dorant.

The following members of the Mass Tech Collaborative staff were present: Carolyn Kirk, Michael Baldino, Keely Benson, Marc Leonetti, Holly Lucas Murphy, John Petrozzelli, Jennifer Saubermann, Brianna Wehrs, Rachael Stachowiak, Cynthia Gaines, Cornell Robinson, John Wetzel, Josh Eichen, Joseph Downing, Jody Jones, Karen Jenkins, and Paula Foley.

Also in attendance were Undersecretary of Economic Development Ashley Stolba and Assistant Secretary of Program and Performance Management for the Executive Office of Economic Development Helena Fruscio-Altman.

Ms. Saubermann observed the presence of quorum and Secretary Hao called the meeting of the Mass Tech Executive Committee to order at 9:04 a.m.

**Agenda Item I      Approval of Minutes**

After a brief 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, 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 and Eighty Fifth Meeting of the Executive Committee, held on January 17, 2024, by Zoom videoconference, as the formal Minutes thereof.**

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

Secretary Hao began by thanking Ms. Kirk and the Mass Tech team for their continuing hard work. She indicated that things are very busy with numerous ongoing Economic Development initiatives including the Ocean Tech Hub, a consortium representing industry, labor, research, academia, and government based in Southeastern New England, formed in response to the CHIPS and Science Act. Secretary Hao also noted that Mass Tech’s own NEMC Hub will be submitting a number of funding applications this week to the federal government on behalf of numerous New England technology companies. Turning to a discussion on the Economic Development Plan (the “Plan”), she stated that the Artificial Intelligence Task Force discussed in the Plan is kicking off this week. In addition, the recommended legislation implementing other recommendations in the Plan, which includes robotics and other efforts currently underway at Mass Tech, is almost ready to release. In closing, Secretary Hao noted that First Lady Jill Biden was recently in Massachusetts to announce the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (“ARPA-H”) funding for research and development into women’s health, a program supported by Mass Tech’s fellow quasi-public agency, the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center.

Secretary Hao then turned the discussion over to Ms. Kirk for her report.

## **Agenda Item III      Report of the Executive Director**

Ms. Kirk explained that today’s Executive Committee meeting had a special one-item agenda, specifically grant awards for Round 1 of the Mass Broadband Institute’s (“MBI”) Gap Networks Program. This special meeting was required, explained Ms. Kirk, due to the deadlines associated with the federal funding under the American Rescue Plan Act’s Capital Projects Fund (“CPF”). Ms. Kirk then yielded the remainder of the time otherwise used for her report to Undersecretary Stolba.

Undersecretary Stolba thanked Ms. Kirk, Mr. Baldino, and the MBI team for their tireless work on the many ongoing broadband programs. She stated that the Gap Networks Program is one of several initiatives that have resulted from years of work securing federal funding. Undersecretary Stolba closed her comments by emphasizing the Commonwealth’s commitment to filling in broadband coverage gaps and expanding digital equity.

## **Agenda Item IV      Mass Broadband Institute – Broadband Infrastructure Gap Networks Grant Program – Round 1 Awards: Comcast Cable Communications Management; Spectrum Northeast, LLC; and Verizon New England, Inc. (motion item)**

Mr. Baldino began the discussion by thanking Secretary Hao, Undersecretary Stolba, and Assistant Secretary Fruscio-Altman for their supportive partnership in MBI’s ongoing broadband efforts, and in particular, the Gap Networks Program. Mr. Baldino then introduced the MBI team members working on the Gap Networks Program, including Mr. Eichen, Ms. Jones, Ms. Gaines, Mr. Robinson, and Ms. Jenkins.

Turning to the funding recommendation, Mr. Baldino explained that there are three (3) pillars that summarize MBI’s broadband goals: Availability, Adoption, and Quality of Service. The Gap Networks Program, explained Mr. Baldino, is designed to address the first pillar – Availability – to ensure that every location in the Commonwealth has high-speed internet

available. Mr. Baldino stated that the Gap Networks Program is funded by \$145 million in CPF funds and will provide grants to entities that propose to serve unserved or underserved Broadband Serviceable Locations (“BSLs”). Mr. Baldino explained that Round 1 of the Gap Networks Program had six (6) applicants, three (3) of which are being recommended to receive partial grants in Round 1, with the remainder of applications being deferred for evaluation as part of Round 2. Mr. Baldino stated that the Round 1 awards will fund the installation of network infrastructure to serve approximately 1,075 BSLs, which is roughly ten percent (10%) of the unserved or underserved locations in Massachusetts identified in current Federal Communications Commission maps. Mr. Baldino concluded his presentation by requesting that the Executive Committee approve the recommendation to award Comcast Cable Management \$2.3 million, Spectrum Northeast, LLC \$4.9 million, and Verizon New England, Inc. \$6.6 million in Round 1, with the understanding that Round 2 awards are likely to be significantly higher.

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 three grant awards in the not-to-exceed amounts specified below to support capital costs associated with the extension of broadband infrastructure to cover unserved and underserved premises in Massachusetts, as presented. The grants listed below 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.**

<b>Awardee</b>	<b>Not-To-Exceed Grant Award Amount</b>
<b>Comcast Cable Communications Management</b>	<b>\$2,333,365</b>
<b>Spectrum Northeast, LLC</b>	<b>\$4,904,841</b>
<b>Verizon New England, Inc.</b>	<b>\$6,609,094</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$13,847,300</b>

**The grant award is subject to the execution of a grant agreement in a form and with terms approved by Mass Tech Collaborative's Executive Director.**

Having determined that there was no other business to discuss, Secretary Hao adjourned the meeting at 9:37 a.m.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST: (Secretary)

DATE:

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

1. Draft Minutes for the January 17, 2024, Mass Tech Collaborative Executive Committee Meeting
2. MA Broadband Institute – Broadband Infrastructure Gap Networks Grant Program – Round 1 Awards: Comcast Cable Communications Management; Spectrum Northeast, LLC; and Verizon New England, Inc. (motion item)