



# *The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

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**GRANT PROGRAM ANNOUNCED TO REDUCE DIESEL EXHAUST**

Executive Office of Environmental Affairs Secretary, Stephen R. Pritchard, and Executive Office of Transportation Secretary, John Cogliano, announced today the release of a competitive grant program to install diesel retrofit equipment on paving equipment used in densely populated urban areas. Contractors may submit applications up until 4:00 on May 22, 2006. Grant funds were awarded to the Commonwealth by the Federal Environmental Protection Agency through their National Clean Diesel Campaign.

“Diesel exhaust has a significant impact on our health and environment that can adversely affect the operators of construction equipment, abutters to construction projects and our general air quality. Diesel retrofits can reduce the emissions of certain pollutants by up to 95%,” said Secretary Pritchard. Diesel exhaust contains over 40 toxic compounds and contains unburned hydrocarbons, oxides of nitrogen, particulate matter, carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide.

Secretary Cogliano added, “By collaborating with our state’s Environmental Agency and the Construction Industries of Massachusetts, we are demonstrating our commitment to help contractors afford diesel retrofits on their paving equipment.”

Massachusetts has demonstrated the effectiveness of achieving emission reductions in the non-road sector through its “Big Dig” retrofit project in collaboration with the Massachusetts Highway Department, Massachusetts Turnpike Authority (MTA) and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The “Big Dig” built 161 lane miles of highway directly through the middle of densely populated downtown Boston with retrofitted equipment. The participating contractors were the largest in the state and continue to use this equipment on other projects.

John Pourbaix, Executive Director of the Construction Industries of Massachusetts supported the Commonwealth's successful application to EPA's Clean Diesel Campaign. "This grant will enable Massachusetts to expand on the program undertaken by contractors on the Central Artery/Tunnel Project."

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