TRANSREPORT

JULY 2007

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BOSTON REGION METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

MEETING CALENDAR

For the most recent information on the following public meetings and others that may have been scheduled after TRANSREPORT went to press, go to www.bostonmpo.org or call (617) 973-7119.

AT THE STATE TRANSPORTATION BUILDING, 10 PARK PLAZA, BOSTON

July 11 (Wednesday)

Regional Transportation Advisory Council Freight Committee. *MPO Conference Room, Suite 2150.* 1:00 PM

Regional Transportation Advisory Council. *Conference Room 4.* 3:00 PM

July 12 (Thursday)

Boston Region MPO Unified Planning Work Program Subcommittee. *MPO Conference Room, Suite 2150.* 10:00 AM

July 19 (Thursday)

Boston Region MPO Unified Planning Work Program Subcommittee. *MPO Conference Room, Suite 2150.* 9:15 AM

Boston Region MPO Transportation Planning and Programming Committee. *Conference Room 4.* 10:00 AM

July 25 (Wednesday)

Access Advisory Committee to the MBTA. *Conference Rooms 2 and 3.* 1:00 PM

Boston Region MPO Draft TIP Workshop and Open House. *MPO Conference Room, Suite 2150.* 12:00 to 2:00 PM and 5:30 to 7:00 PM

July 30 (Monday)

MBTA Rider Oversight Committee. *Conference Rooms 1, 2, and 3.* 4:30 PM

AT OTHER BOSTON AREA LOCATIONS

July 17 (Tuesday)

Boston Region MPO Draft TIP Workshop. *Town Hall, Board of Selectmen's Room, 16 Lowell Street, Reading.* 6:00 to 7:30 PM

July 23 (Monday)

Boston Region MPO Draft TIP Workshop. *Town Hall, Council Chambers, 75 Middle Street, Weymouth.* 6:00 to 7:30 PM

July 24 (Tuesday)

Boston Region MPO Draft TIP Workshop. *Town Hall, Board of Selectmen's Room, 13 East Central Street, Natick.* 6:00 to 7:30 PM

Walking and Bicycling Targeted in MPO Report

The newly available MPO report, *Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements in Town Centers*, identifies relatively low-cost, easy-to-implement improvements to the pedestrian and bicycle environments in six small-town centers. It is designed to be a resource for those towns, and also to provide models for possible use in other municipalities.

The recommendations in the report are aimed at:

- Improving access to town centers from nearby residential neighborhoods
- Improving the connectivity of the existing bicycle and pedestrian networks
- Making walking and bicycling safer and more desirable ways of getting around

The six town centers that were evaluated in the report (in Duxbury, Essex, Holbrook, Lynnfield, Norfolk, and Southborough) are representative of the various types of town centers in the region.

Recommended improvements include resurfacing existing sidewalks, repainting crosswalks, installing new wheelchair ramps and crosswalks, clearing debris from roadway shoulders, and installing signs. The report also includes a set of general recommendations and best practices for improving bicycle and pedestrian networks.

The report may be downloaded from the MPO's Web site, www.bostonmpo.org. For more information, or to request a copy of the report, please contact Jared Fijalkowski at j_fijalkowski@ctps.org or (617) 973-7119.

Existing bicycle/pedestrian accommodations in Southborough's town center

MPO Seeks Comments on 2007 TIP Amendment and Draft 2008-2011 TIP

On June 21 the Boston Region MPO's Transportation Planning and Programming Committee voted to release for public comment an amendment to the 2007 element of the federal fiscal years (FFYs) 2007–2010 Transportation Improvement Program and Air Quality Conformity Determination (TIP) and a draft FFYs 2008–2011 TIP. The TIP is a four-year capital spending program for improvements to the region's transportation system.

The public comment period for the FFY 2007 amendment began on June 26 and the public comment period for the FFYs 2008–2010 TIP began on July 2. Both comment periods will close at 5:00 PM on July 31.

The MPO has organized four workshops around the region to hear residents' and local officials' views on these spending programs (see the meeting calendar for details).

Both documents may be obtained on the MPO's Web site, www.bostonmpo.org, or by contacting the MPO by mail at10 Park Plaza, Suite 2150, Boston, MA 02116; telephone at (617) 973-7100; fax at (617) 973-8855; TTY at (617) 973-7089; or e-mail at publicinformation@bostonmpo.org. Copies are available free of charge, upon request, and will be made available in CD, print, or accessible formats.

The members of the Boston Region MPO: Executive Office of Transportation and Public Works, Cities of Boston, Newton, Salem, and Somerville, Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority Advisory Board, Massachusetts Highway Department, Massachusetts Port Authority, Massachusetts Turnpike Authority, Metropolitan Area Planning Council, Regional Transportation Advisory Council, Towns of Bedford, Framingham, and Hopkinton

Boston Region MPO Activities

BOSTON REGION MPO ACTION ITEMS

In addition to releasing an amendment to the 2007 element of the FFYs 2007–2010 TIP and a draft FFYs 2008–2011 TIP for public review (see page 1), the MPO's Transportation Planning and Programming Committee approved two work programs that will be conducted by the Central Transportation Planning Staff (CTPS). Under the first work program, CTPS will create map sets that will be posted in rapid transit stations to show nearby bus routes and points of interest. The second work program involves surveying users of the parking lot at the Green Line's Lechmere Station. The survey results will help the MBTA determine the size of the parking area that the MBTA will have to build when the station is relocated. The MPO is also in the process of developing its draft FFY 2008 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), which will propose funding for transportation planning and studies in the region. The UPWP is currently scheduled for release for public comment in late July or early August.

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATE

Dr. Chris Caplice, of MIT's Center for Transportation and Logistics (CTL) and Executive Director of MIT's Master of Engineering in Logistics program, gave a presentation to the Advisory Council in June on the potential for economic growth and improved supply chain management that could be achieved by connecting freight corridors to ports. Through his research, Dr. Caplice has identified significant communication gaps between private-sector shippers and carriers and public officials. To help resolve this issue, CTL will host a forum in November for stakeholders involved in supply chain management in the commonwealth.

In other news, the Advisory Council created a subcommittee to recommend a formal position on the Storrow Drive Tunnel Project to the Storrow Drive Advisory Council. Also, members were reminded about upcoming elections for Advisory Council chair and vice chair.

ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE MBTA (AACT) UPDATE

AACT members were introduced to Gary Talbot, the MBTA's new Assistant General Manager for Systemwide Accessibility, in June.

The newly created Metro-West Regional Transit Authority has entered into a two-year contract for paratransit services with the MBTA effective July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2009. The contract will provide for the seamless continuation of THE RIDE service to the ADA-eligible customers in the Framingham/Natick area.

This summer, AACT members will have the opportunity to review new Blue Line subway cars now undergoing braking and propulsion testing on a test track at the Wellington Station maintenance facility.

TRANSREPORT

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TRANSREPORT is available in accessible formats to people with disabilities. Contact the MPO at (617) 973-7119 (voice), (617) 973-7089 (TTY), (617) 973-8855 (fax), or publicinformation@bostonmpo.org.

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