

TRANS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BOSTON REGION METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

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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

February 1 (Thursday)

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

February 8 (Thursday)

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

MBTA Board of Directors. *MBTA Boardroom, Third Floor. 1:00 PM*

February 14 (Wednesday)

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

February 21 (Wednesday)

Massachusetts Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board. *Executive Office of Transportation, Conference Room 1, Suite 3170. 1:00 PM*

February 22 (Thursday)

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

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MPO Seeks Comments on Draft Plan

The Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is expected to release, for comment, its draft long-range transportation plan, JOURNEY TO 2030, by mid-February. JOURNEY TO 2030 is a financially constrained program of planned highway and transit improvements proposed for the region through 2030. In development for more than a year, it will include the results of the MPO staff's recently completed environmental justice analysis, which was conducted in consultation with environmental justice communities, as well as an air quality analysis of the proposed program of projects. The Plan will also set forth MPO policies, which will guide investment decisions, and include detailed discussions of regional transportation issues.

Proposed Plan projects are presented in a special insert in this issue, and opportunities for learning more about JOURNEY TO 2030 are presented in the box to the right.

• Plan Outreach *cont. on p. 4*

JOURNEY TO 2030 WORKSHOPS

The Boston Region MPO will host the following workshops to provide an opportunity for the public to learn more about, and comment on, the draft of JOURNEY TO 2030, the MPO's long-range transportation plan. (Also see the article to the left and the special insert inside this issue.)

BOSTON

Thursday, February 22
6:00 PM–8:00 PM
State Transportation Building
Boston Region MPO
Conference Room, Suite 2150
10 Park Plaza, Boston

FRAMINGHAM

Tuesday, February 27
5:00 PM–7:00 PM
Framingham Town Hall
Memorial Building
Public Hearing Room
150 Concord Street, Framingham

THE BOSTON REGION MPO "HOW TO" SEMINARS FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS, AND JOURNEY TO 2030 PUBLIC DISCUSSIONS

Municipal officials who would like to learn how they can work with the MPO in the development of the federal fiscal year (FFY) 2008 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and FFY's 2008–2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) are invited to attend any of the seminars listed below. The public is also invited to participate in JOURNEY TO 2030 discussions, which will take place after the "How To" portion of each seminar.

SOUTH OF BOSTON

Tuesday, February 20
9:00 AM–11:00 AM
Quincy City Hall Annex
Second Floor
1305 Hancock Street, Quincy

INNER CORE

Wednesday, February 21
9:00 AM–11:00 AM
Boston City Hall
Room 801, Eighth Floor
One City Hall Plaza, Boston

WEST OF BOSTON

Tuesday, February 27
9:00 AM–11:00 AM
119 School Street, Waltham
(Park in Lexington Street garage)

NORTH OF BOSTON

Wednesday, February 28
4:00 PM–7:00 PM
MBTA Parking Garage
Corner of Market and Broad Streets, Lynn

BOSTON REGION MPO OPEN HOUSE

The Boston Region MPO invites members of the public who are interested in learning about the MPO process and recent MPO activities to an Open House, where particular attention will be paid to the recently released JOURNEY TO 2030 and the development of the next TIP and UPWP.

Tuesday, March 6
Noon–2:00 PM and 5:00 PM–7:00 PM
State Transportation Building
Boston Region MPO Conference Room, Suite 2150
10 Park Plaza, Boston

The members of the Boston Region MPO: Executive Office of Transportation, Cities of Boston, Everett, Newton, and Salem, 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, Town of Framingham, and Waltham.

MBTA Unveils Uphams Corner Station Upgrades

ate and local officials
ned MBTA General
anager Daniel A.
rabauskas on January 23 to
plaud the completion of
novations to the Uphams
orner commuter rail sta-
on. The \$7 million station
odernization is part of the
BTAs Fairmount Line
oject. Improvements to the
ation include: new, high-
vel train platforms for full
cessibility and easy board-
g, canopies, access ramps,
ew lighting, electronic mes-
ge boards, and pedestrian-
riendly walkways.

he Fairmount commuter
il line, which runs from
outh Station through
orchester and Hyde Park,
rminating in the Readville
ction of Boston, consists of
2 miles of track, four sta-
ons, and 41 bridges. It is
e only commuter rail line
at exclusively serves the
ity of Boston and the
BTAs urban core. Approx-

imately \$37 million has been
dedicated to the renovation
and rehabilitation of existing
stations, bridges, tracks, and
signal systems along the line.
In addition, the Executive
Office of Transportation, in
the transit regulation (310
CMR.7.36) recently filed by
the state's Department of
Environmental Protection,
has made a commitment to
the construction of four
additional stations on the
Fairmount
Line by 2011. One station
will be in the Four Corners
area and the remainder in
the neighbor-
hoods of
Dorchester,
Mattapan, and
Roxbury.

At a ribbon-
cutting cere-
mony held for
the reopening

of the station, General
Manager Grabauskas
stressed the importance of
investing in the community,
and the positive results that
are realized with accessible,
convenient public transporta-
tion. "We are dedicated to
investing in transportation
projects that work to main-
tain our existing infrastruc-
ture and provide our cus-
tomers with viable trans-
portation alternatives."



Uphams Corner Station on the MBTA's Fairmount Line

Calendar continued from p. 1

February 26 (Monday)

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

February 28 (Wednesday)

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

**AT OTHER BOSTON
AREA LOCATIONS**

February 6 (Tuesday)

New Charles River Basin Citizens
Advisory Committee. *Wilmer
Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr,
St. Clair Room, 31st Floor, 60
State St, Boston.* 4:00 PM

February 7 (Wednesday)

MassHighway Public Hearing:
Houghton Street Bridge
Replacement (over the Assabet
River). *Hudson Town Hall, Town
Hall Auditorium, Second Floor, 78
Main Street, Hudson.* 7:00 PM

March 8 (Thursday)

MassHighway Public Hearing:
Proposed Improvements at Liberty
Street, in Danvers. *Danvers Town
Hall, Hearing Room, 1 Sylvan
Street, Danvers.* 7:00 PM

Note to Readers

See the box on page 1 for details
on MPO-sponsored seminars,
workshops, and the Open House.

Are You Eligible for This Massachusetts Income Tax Break?

According to a 2004 law
enacted by the state legisla-
ture this year, certain com-
muter expenses may be
deducted from Massachu-
setts personal income taxes



for tax years beginning on or
after January 1, 2006.
Individuals may deduct the
amount they spent on tolls
paid through their FAST
LANE account and on week-
ly or monthly MBTA passes
for rapid transit, buses, com-
muter rail, and commuter
boats.

The costs of monthly MBTA
passes, including those pur-
chased as CharlieCards and
CharlieTickets, as well as
MBTA 12-ride commuter
rail tickets and 10-ride com-

muter boat tickets, are eligi-
ble for the deduction. Stored
value on a CharlieCard or
CharlieTicket, however, is not
eligible.

A single or married person
filing a separate return, or
filing as head of household,
is eligible for the tax break
on the amount they spent on
their transit pass that
exceeds \$150 for the tax
year, provided it is not other-
wise deducted. The total
amount deducted for the tax
year may not exceed \$750.

As in previous years, begin-
ning February 1, FAST
LANE members can access
a database of their payments
for the previous calendar
year on the Massachusetts
Turnpike Authority's Web
site, www.masspike.com, by
logging on to Your Account.

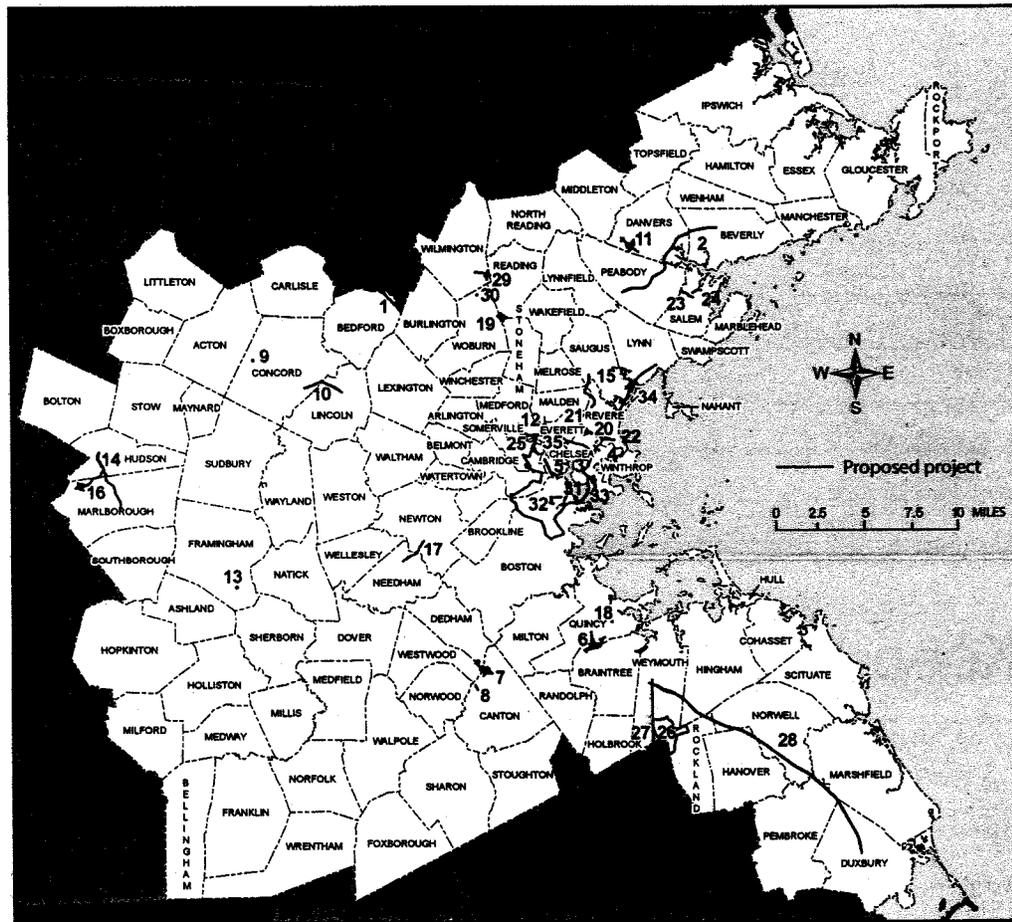
For more information about
the deduction, call the
Massachusetts Department
of Revenue at (800) 392-
6089 or visit their Web site,
www.mass.gov.

JOURNEY TO 2030

The Transportation Planning and Programming Committee of the Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization has proposed the following set of projects and programs for inclusion in JOURNEY TO 2030, the long-range transportation plan for the region.

The proposal is the result of a 14-month program of consultation and coordination involving members of the public, local and regional officials, and a broad range of interest groups and state agencies. In addition, the Committee considered data from transportation studies conducted in the region, including the the MPO's Congestion Management System report and the MBTAs Program for Mass Transportation. The proposal also reflects consideration of anticipated funding and the cost of maintaining and operating the proposed network, which includes the existing system and the proposed projects.

PROPOSED PROJECTS FOR JOURNEY TO 2030 TRANSPORTATION PLAN



HIGHWAY PROJECTS

- 1 Bedford, Billerica & Burlington: Middlesex Turnpike Improvements
- 2 Beverly to Peabody: Route 128 Capacity Improvements
- 3 Boston: East Boston Haul Road/Chelsea Truck Route
- 4 Boston: Route 1A/Boardman Street Grade Separation
- 5 Boston: Rutherford Avenue
- 6 Braintree: Braintree Split
- 7 Canton: Interstate 95/Interstate 93 Interchange
- 8 Canton: I-95 Northbound/Dedham Street Ramp and Bridge
- 9 Concord: Concord Rotary/Route 2
- 10 Concord & Lincoln: Route 2/Crosby's Corner Grade Separation
- 11 Danvers & Peabody: Route 1/Route 114 Corridor Improvements
- 12 Everett & Medford: Route 16 (Revere Beach Parkway)
- 13 Framingham: Route 126/135 Grade Separation

- 14 Hudson: Route 85 Improvements
- 15 Malden, Revere, & Saugus: Route 1 Improvements
- 16 Marlborough & Hudson: I-495/I-290/Route 85 Connector Interchange
- 17 Needham & Newton: Needham Street/Highland Avenue
- 18 Quincy: Quincy Center Concourse, Phase 2
- 19 Reading & Woburn: I-93/I-95 Interchange
- 20 Revere: Mahoney Circle Grade Separation
- 21 Revere: Route 1/Route 16 Interchange
- 22 Revere: Route 1A/Route 16 Connection
- 23 Salem: Boston Street
- 24 Salem: Bridge Street
- 25 Somerville: I-93/Mystic Avenue Interchange
- 26 Weymouth, Abington, Hingham, & Rockland: South Weymouth Naval Air Station Access Improvements
- 27 Weymouth: Route 18 Capacity Improvements Project

- 28 Weymouth to Duxbury: Route 3 South Additional Lanes
- 29 Wilmington & Reading: I-93/Route 129 Interchange Improvement Project
- 30 Woburn: New Boston Street Bridge

TRANSIT PROJECTS

- 31 Boston: Ferry Expansion: Russia Wharf/South Station
 - 32 Boston: Silver Line Phase III: South Station-Boylston Connector
 - 33 Compact Communities: Urban Ring 2
 - 34 Revere to Lynn: North Shore Transit Improvements
 - 35 Somerville: Construct Orange Line Station at Assembly Square
- Regionwide: Purchase 100 New Buses
MPO Region: SIP Commitments

What Do You Think?

Do you agree with the MPO's proposed set of projects for addressing the long-range transportation needs of the Boston region? What suggestions do you have for improving the region's transportation system?

What are your suggestions for improving the MPO's public-involvement program?

Keep Up-to-Date

- YES! I would like to receive additional information about events, documents, and meetings related to the Transportation Plan and other MPO activities.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

(Please provide your e-mail address if you would prefer to receive information electronically.)

E-mail address _____

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New MPO Regional Bicycle Plan Available

The final touches are being put on the recently approved Regional Bicycle Plan, which was prepared by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) on behalf of the MPO. Grounded in MPO and MAPC policies that support bicycle and pedestrian transportation, the plan offers practical strategies for increasing the number of bicyclists in the region and making bicycling safer and easier.

The document includes an assessment of the region's current bicycle transporta-

tion network, which is composed of roads, shared-use paths, transit connections, and bicycle parking facilities.



Bicycle parking rack opposite Malden City Hall

It also provides a report on the region's progress in implementing the recommendations of MAPC's 1997

Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan and the 1998 Statewide Bicycle Transportation Plan.

In addition, the new plan includes recommendations for high-priority infrastructure projects, programs, and policies to improve bicycle transportation in the region.

The plan's recommendation for improved bicycle parking is already in the implementation stage.

The MPO, the Executive Office of Transportation, and the Federal Highway Administration will provide

100 percent reimbursement to communities for the cost of bicycle parking equipment. The program, which was launched last November, is administered by MAPC. For more information, visit www.mapc.org/transportation/bike_parking_program/intro.html.

To request a copy of the plan, contact MAPC at (617) 451-2770 or swalker@mapc.org. The report is also available on MAPC's Web site, www.mapc.org/transportation/transportation_alternatives.html.

Boston Region MPO Activities

BOSTON REGION MPO ACTION ITEMS

In addition to developing a set of recommended projects for inclusion in JOURNEY TO 2030 (see the special insert inside this issue), the MPO's Transportation Planning and Programming Committee gave the go-ahead for MPO staff to begin two work programs this month: the MBTA Program for Mass Transportation (PMT) and the Fitchburg Commuter Rail Line Corridor Alternatives Analysis.

The PMT defines a long-range vision for the MBTA with respect to infrastructure investments. It is a critical input into the MBTA's Capital Investment Program and the MPO's Regional Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Program. The work program, which includes a public outreach component, is expected to be completed in 2008.

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATE

At its January meeting, the Advisory Council discussed the key transportation issues currently affecting the region and Council recommendations for JOURNEY TO 2030 (see the article on page 1 and the special insert in this issue).

For their February meeting, the Advisory Council is tentatively scheduled to receive briefings on Harvard University's Allston Initiative

and the I-95 Corridor Coalition (see the meeting calendar on page 1 for details). For more information about the Advisory Council, contact Bill Moore at (617) 973-7144 or bill.moore@ctps.org, or visit the Advisory Council's Web page, located on the MPO Web site, www.bostonmpo.org.

ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE MBTA (AACT) UPDATE

In January MBTA Federal Program Manager Charles A. Passanisi Jr. gave a presenta-

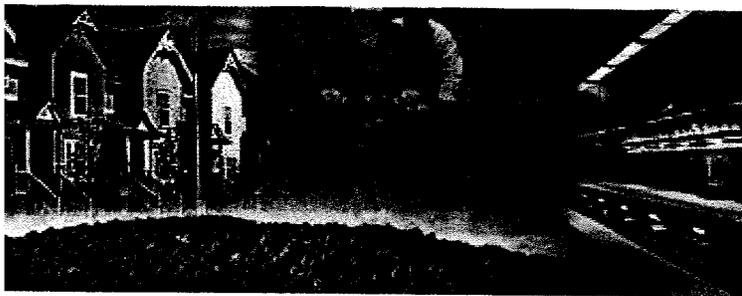
tion on the the draft 2008-2012 MBTA Capital Investment Program, a document that outlines a proposed program of \$379.7 million in planned capital expenditures to increase system accessibility and reliability.

Staff from the MBTA's Office for Transportation Access reported that 49 of the 50 new paratransit vans manufactured by Shephard Brothers/Coach and Equipment have been received and began going into service on January 8.

On the fixed-route front, the MBTA has begun the purchasing process for nearly 40 new diesel-electric locomotives and 75 bilevel coaches for use on the commuter rail system.

Nominations for the AACT executive board are being accepted. The election will be held on May 23. For more information on this or other AACT issues, contact Janie Guion at (617) 973-7100 (voice), (617) 973-7089 (TTY), or guion@ctps.org.

Free Smart-Growth Assistance Available



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has founded its annual call for applications to its Smart Growth Implementation Assistance (SGIA) program. The program was established in 2005 with three goals in mind:

- To aid communities interested in implementing "smart growth" policies
- To bring about regional examples of smart growth that can catalyze similar projects in the area
- To identify common obstacles to and opportunities for smart growth development and create new tools that other communities can use

State, local, regional, and nonprofit organizations that have partnered with a gov-

ernmental entity are eligible to participate. Selected communities will receive direct technical assistance from a team of national experts in one of two areas: policy analysis (e.g., reviewing state and local codes, school-siting guidelines, transportation policies, etc.) or public-participation processes (e.g., visioning, design workshops, alternatives analysis, build-out analysis, etc.). The assistance is tailored to each community's unique circumstances and objectives. EPA provides the assistance not through a grant but through a contractor team.

Through a multiple-day site visit and a detailed final report, the multidisciplinary teams ascertain how best to help the community achieve

• Plan Outreach *cont. from p. 1*

The draft document is subject to a 30-day review period following its release by the MPO. It will be available after February 15 on CD-ROM, in print, and in accessible formats. Contact the Boston Region MPO at (617) 973-7100 or at publicinformation@bostonmpo.org. The Plan may also be downloaded from the MPO's Web site, www.bostonmpo.org.

Comments on the document may be sent to the Boston Region MPO Chairman, c/o CTPS, 10 Park Plaza, Suite 2150, Boston, MA 02116, or e-mailed to publicinformation@bostonmpo.org.

its goal of encouraging growth that fosters economic progress and environmental protection.

Applications for this year's program are due on *March 7*. For more information about the application process, visit the EPA Web site, www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/sgia.htm.

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