



GREENHOUSE GAS POLICY
Page 2

FREIGHT PLAN
Page 2

CNG TAX CREDIT
Page 2

NORTH END PARKS
Page 3

MPO ACTIVITIES
Page 3

MAVERICK STREET GATE TO LOGAN
Page 4

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

December 6 (Thursday)

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

Immediately followed by:

Boston Region MPO. Conference Room 4.

December 10 (Monday)

Boston Region MPO Open House. MPO Conference Room, Suite 2150. 12:00-2:00 PM and 5:30-7:00 PM

December 12 (Wednesday)

Massachusetts Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board. EOTPW Conference Room 1. 1:00-3:00 PM

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

Calendar continued on p. 2

Regional Pedestrian Plan Kicks Off

PUBLIC INVITED TO TAKE SURVEY

With funding from the Boston Region MPO, the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) is in the process of updating the Regional Pedestrian Plan, which will identify and recommend policies and practices to facilitate and encourage walking as a convenient, safe, and practical form of transportation throughout the 101 municipalities in the eastern Massachusetts region.

To kick off this work, MAPC is conducting a survey to identify the most important issues facing pedestrians in the region. Please take the survey at www.mapc.org/pedplan. The survey is anonymous, and takes about 5 to 10 minutes to complete.

For more information, write to pedplan@mapc.org.



THE BOSTON REGION METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION INVITES YOU TO A TRANSPORTATION OPEN HOUSE

DATE	Monday, December 10
MIDDAY SESSION	12:00 PM-2:00 PM
EVENING SESSION	5:30 PM-7:00 PM
PLACE	MPO Conference Room, Suite 2150 State Transportation Building 10 Park Plaza, Boston

PRESENTATION SCHEDULE

12:00 PM and 5:30 PM	Welcome and Introduction
12:15 PM and 5:45 PM	I-495 Transit Study <i>Cathy Buckley Lewis, CTPS</i>
12:30 PM and 5:55 PM	I-93/Rte. 24 Interchange Study <i>Seth Asante, CTPS</i>
12:45 PM and 6:05 PM	Program for Mass Transportation <i>Elizabeth Moore, CTPS</i>
1:00 PM and 6:15 PM	Transportation Improvement Program <i>Hayes Morrison, CTPS</i>
1:15 PM and 6:25 PM	Suburban Mobility Program <i>Jonathan Belcher, CTPS, and Barbara Lucas, MAPC</i>
1:30 PM and 6:35 PM	Transportation Demand Management Program <i>Jonathan Belcher, CTPS, and Barbara Lucas, MAPC</i>
1:45 PM and 6:45 PM	Closing Comments and Questions

MPO to Amend TIP

On December 6, the Boston Region MPO's Transportation Planning and Programming Committee is scheduled to vote on a proposed amendment to the federal fiscal year (FFY) 2008 element of the FFYs 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program and Air Quality

Conformity Determination (TIP), the four-year capital spending program for the region's transportation system. (See the calendar for the meeting location.) Prior to this vote, the MPO held a 30-day public comment period that ended on December 4.

The members of the Boston Region MPO: Executive Office of Transportation, 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

New Greenhouse Gas Policy for Transportation Projects

STATE TO REVIEW GHG EMISSIONS IN MEPA PROCESS

The greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that would result from the construction of certain types of transportation projects will be considered among the factors that constitute “damage to the environment” as projects undergo the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) review. The MEPA review is the Commonwealth’s process for evaluating the potential environmental effects of projects and for developing measures to minimize damage.

Under the new Greenhouse Gas Emissions Policy instituted by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA), projects that will

add traffic to the state’s roadways, expand the transit or rail system, or add significant amounts of new parking would be subject to a GHG emissions review.

The policy pertains to projects that require an environmental impact report (EIR) and for which at least one of the following applies:

- the project proponent is the Commonwealth or a state agency;
- the Commonwealth or a state agency is financing the project;
- the project is privately
- *GHG Policy cont. on p. 4*



State Plans for Freight

The Executive Office of Transportation and Public Works (EOTPW) is planning to develop a State Freight and Rail Plan, which will guide policymakers as they make decisions about investing in the commonwealth’s freight transport infrastructure.

The development of the plan will involve an evaluation of the current freight infrastructure and operations in the state, encompassing all modes of freight traffic—rail, shipping, trucking, and air. Current and future needs and challenges of the freight transportation system will be

- *Freight cont. on p. 4*

CNG Bus Fleet Fuels Savings for MBTA

In 2003, the MBTA began replacing many of its diesel-powered buses, which had been in service since the 1980s, with buses fueled by compressed natural gas (CNG), a cleaner-burning fuel than diesel. Today, the MBTA’s fleet of 360 CNG buses is helping the region’s largest public transportation authority to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions.

In addition, the fleet is helping the MBTA’s bottom line.

The Internal Revenue Service has given the MBTA a \$1.8 million tax credit for using the cleaner-burning fuel in its vehicles. The MBTA is expecting to receive a total of \$7.4 million in tax credits over three years.



One of the MBTA’s compressed natural gas (CNG)–powered buses

Calendar cont. from p. 1

December 17 (Monday)

MBTA Rider Oversight Committee. Conference Rooms 1, 2, and 3. 5:00-7:00 PM

December 19 (Wednesday)

Access Advisory Committee to the MBTA. Conference Rooms 2 and 3. 1:00-3:30 PM

December 20 (Thursday)

Boston Region MPO Transportation Planning and Programming Committee. Conference Rooms 2 and 3. 10:00 AM

January 3 (Thursday)

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

AT OTHER BOSTON AREA LOCATIONS

December 3 (Monday)

Executive Office of Transportation and Public Works: Green Line Extension Project Advisory Group. Visiting Nurse Association, 259 Lowell Street, Somerville. 4:00-6:00 PM

MBTA Public Meeting: FYs 2009-2013 Capital Investment Program. Framingham Town Hall, Ablondie Room, 150 Concord Street, Framingham. 6:00-7:30 PM

December 4 (Tuesday)

MBTA Public Meeting: FYs 2009-2013 Capital Investment Program. Chelsea Library, 569 Broadway, Chelsea. 6:00-7:30 PM

December 6 (Thursday)

MBTA Public Meeting: FYs 2009-2013 Capital Investment Program. Dudley Square Branch Library, 65 Warren Street, Roxbury. 6:00-7:30 PM

December 11 (Tuesday)

MBTA Public Meeting: FYs 2009-2013 Capital Investment Program. Quincy City Hall, City Council Chambers, 1305 Hancock Street, Quincy. 6:00-7:30 PM

December 13 (Thursday)

MBTA Public Meeting: FYs 2009-2013 Capital Investment Program. Mildred Avenue Community Center, Classroom 1, 5 Mildred Avenue, Mattapan. 6:00-7:30 PM

North End Greenway Parks Dedicated

Before the Central Artery/Tunnel project put the I-93 traffic underground in downtown Boston, the only green between the North End and Quincy Market was the paint on the steel girders of the elevated highway. Now, with the old Artery structure gone, that space, once gloomy and uninviting to pedestrians, has been transformed into a public parkland complete with fountains, grass, and flowers.

The northernmost of the parks that comprise the mile-long Rose Kennedy Greenway were formally

dedicated in early November at a ceremony officiated by Governor Deval Patrick. The North End Parks include three acres of parkland that significantly improve the pedestrian connection

between the North End neighborhood and the Quincy Market and Haymarket areas.

“The Rose Kennedy Greenway will transform the heart and character of Boston in

so many ways,” said Governor Patrick at the ceremony. “Today’s dedication of the North End Parks is a significant step forward in the overall development of this Greenway.”



Before and after: Remnants of the elevated Artery near the Aquarium in 2004 (left) and the North End Parks today (right)

Boston Region MPO Activities

BOSTON REGION MPO ACTION ITEMS

The MPO’s Transportation Planning and Programming Committee released Amendment #1 of the federal fiscal year (FFY) 2008 element of the FFYs 2008–2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for public review (see page 1 for details). The MPO also approved two work programs that will be carried out by the Central Transportation Planning Staff (CTPS), the staff to the MPO. Under the work program for the 2008–2009 MBTA Passenger Survey, CTPS will conduct a passenger survey for the entire MBTA system over the next two years. Also, MPO staff will be investigating whether the transportation system in the Alewife area could be made more efficient; this work will be done under the work program for Alewife Station: Improvements to Feeder Bus Routes, Bus Access and Egress, and Route 2/Route 16 Intersection.

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATE

Mike Leone, Director of the Port of Boston for Massport, detailed Boston’s participation in trade from eastern Asia, northern Europe, and the Canadian Maritimes, and spoke to increased throughput at Conley Terminal in South Boston. Mr. Leone also addressed the port’s challenges, including limited multimodal access to the port, competitive services of mid-Atlantic ports, and distance from Midwest markets.

Kate Fichter, Deputy Project Manager for the Green Line Extension project at EOTPW, updated the Advisory Council on route alternatives, financing plans, and public involvement opportunities. The light-rail extension will reach to Somerville or Medford, with a spur to Union Square in Somerville. Federal New Starts Program funds or a bond bill will pay for the project. EOTPW will hold nearly 90 public meetings in the next 18 months and will post updates on the project’s website, www.greenlineextension.org.

ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE MBTA (AACT) UPDATE

AACT members discussed various transit safety issues with the Deputy Director of Community Relations for the MBTA Transit Police, Shenandoah Titus. There were a wide variety of questions, ranging from enforcement of parking prohibitions at bus stops, to elevator signage, to the working relationship between the MBTA and Homeland Security. The Deputy Director will provide periodic safety updates.

In addition to providing the regular MBTA Office for

Transportation Access (OTA) staff reports on fixed-route services and paratransit operations, OTA staff reported that the consultant evaluation of these two types of services has been completed and is available on the MBTA website, www.mbta.com.

Members voted to ask the MBTA to provide information in its online guide to THE RIDE explaining paratransit service reciprocity between the MBTA and adjoining regional transit authorities.

Massport Installing Maverick St. Gate

The Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) has begun construction of an electronic gate between Maverick Street and Logan International Airport. The installation of a gate at the perimeter of Logan's southwest service area is a component of Massport's Airport Edge, a program for keeping airport-related traffic off of local streets and providing landscaped amenities for the

neighborhoods adjacent to Logan.

Once the gate project is completed, only East Boston residents will be able to access the airport and the Ted Williams Tunnel via Maverick Street. East Boston residents will be provided with electronic key cards that will grant access for noncommercial vehicles at all times.

When the system has been

fully installed, Massport's Office of Government and Community Affairs will begin to educate residents about the program and issue key cards.

East Boston residents with questions or comments may contact Anthony Guerriero of Massport at (617) 568-3771.

• GHG Policy *cont. from p. 2*

funded, but requires an Air Quality Permit from the Department of Environmental Protection; or

- the project is privately funded, but requires a Vehicular Access Permit from MassHighway.

Project proponents will be required to quantify the potential annual GHG emissions (mainly carbon dioxide) of their projects, report the results in the EIR, compare alternatives, and outline measures that could reduce those emissions.

The emissions analyses must take into account both direct emissions (such as emissions from on-site fuel-burning facilities or sources) and indirect emissions (such as those from vehicles or from off-site plants that provide energy to the facility).

For more information, visit www.mass.gov/envir/mepa/secondlevelpages/currentissue.htm#newprojects.

• Freight *cont. from p. 2*

identified through this process.

Municipalities that host freight operations will be an integral part of the planning process.

Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization
State Transportation Building
10 Park Plaza, Suite 2150
Boston, MA 02116

TRANSREPORT

PUBLISHED BY THE BOSTON
REGION METROPOLITAN
PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Bernard Cohen, MPO Chairman

David J. Mohler, Chair
Barbara G. Lucas, Vice Chair
Transportation Planning and
Programming Committee

EDITORS

Maureen Kelly
Mary Ellen Sullivan

CONTRIBUTORS

Janie Guion
John Hersey
Barbara Lucas, MAPC
Pam Wolfe

DESIGNER

Maciej Citowicki

PHOTOGRAPHY

Carol Gautreau Bent
MBTA
Massachusetts Turnpike Authority
NASA

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.

First Class Mail
U.S. Postage Paid
Boston, MA
Permit No. 52233