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**From:** Public Information [publicinformation@ctps.org]  
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Dear *TRANSREPORT* Subscriber:

The January 2010 issue of *TRANSREPORT* is available on the Boston Region MPO's Website at [http://www.bostonmpo.org/bostonmpo/4\\_resources/2\\_transreport/tr\\_current.html#s3](http://www.bostonmpo.org/bostonmpo/4_resources/2_transreport/tr_current.html#s3) It includes the following articles:

- MPO Set to Launch Clean Air and Mobility Program
- Transportation Open House
- MetroWest Transit Study Results
- Proposed TIP Amendment
- Wonderland Station Parking Garage
- JARC and New Freedom Grant Awards
- Meeting Calendar
- MPO Activities Update

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Thank you for your interest,  
The *TRANSREPORT* Staff



# TRANS REPORT

JANUARY 2010

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](http://www.bostonmpo.org) or call (617) 973-7119. A photo ID is required to access most meeting sites.

### AT THE STATE TRANSPORTATION BUILDING, 10 PARK PLAZA, BOSTON

January 7 (Thursday)

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

This meeting may be followed by an MPO meeting.

January 13 (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

January 21 (Thursday)

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

Boston Region MPO Unified Planning Work Program

Calendar continued on p. 2

## MPO Set to Launch Clean Air and Mobility Program

**NEW PROGRAM EXPANDS SCOPE OF SUBURBAN MOBILITY, TRANSPORTATION-DEMAND-MANAGEMENT, AND REGIONAL BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PROGRAMS**

The Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is planning to use federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funding to advance a broader spectrum of transportation projects and programs that improve air quality, mobility, and access to transit, and to encourage the use of non-automotive travel modes. The MPO's new Clean Air and Mobility Program, which represents an expansion of three existing MPO programs, will provide a more flexible approach for allocating CMAQ funding in the region. The program will make available up to \$2 million per year through the MPO's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to projects that will be chosen through a competitive process.

Examples of projects that will be eligible under this expanded program include those that:

- Relieve congestion

- Improve access to transit facilities
- Promote or facilitate non-motor-vehicle commuting
- Improve bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure
- Establish new transit service
- Upgrade vehicle fleets to cleaner fuels
- Implement travel-demand strategies

The MPO will accept proposals from municipalities, regional transit authorities, transportation management associations, chambers of commerce, and nonprofit transportation advocacy groups in the Boston region, an area which encompasses 101-municipalities in eastern Massachusetts.

- Clean Air *cont. on p. 3*



### BOSTON REGION METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

## TRANSPORTATION OPEN HOUSE

DATE: Wednesday, January 21

MIDDAY SESSION: Noon to 2:00 PM

EVENING SESSION: 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM\*

LOCATION: MPO Conference Room Suite 2150

State Transportation Building 10 Park Plaza, Boston

### PRESENTATION TOPICS

Clean Air and Mobility Program

Statewide Household Travel Survey

Route 60 Mobility Study: Malden and Medford

Early Results of the MPO's New Community Transportation Technical Assistance Program

Schedule for the development of the FFYs 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program, the FFY 2011 Unified Planning Work Program, and the next Regional Transportation Plan

\*Attendees must present a photo ID to enter the State Transportation Building after 5:00 PM.

The members of the Boston Region MPO: Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) Office of Planning and Programming, cities of Boston, Braintree, Newton, and Somerville, Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority Advisory Board, MassDOT Highway Division, Massachusetts Port Authority, Metropolitan Area Planning Council, Regional Transportation Advisory Council, towns of Bedford, Framingham, and Hopkinton

# MPO Completes Evaluation of MetroWest RTA Fixed-Route Network; Study Results and Recommendations Available

The Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) has recently completed a study of the fixed-route services provided by the MetroWest Regional Transit Authority (MWRTA). Its purpose was to identify potential improvements to current routes and schedules and to assess the desirability of adding new routes. The study was limited to those improvements and new routes that could be implemented without increasing the net operating cost of the system. Of particular interest were improvements that could increase ridership for both the MWRTA and MBTA as a result of

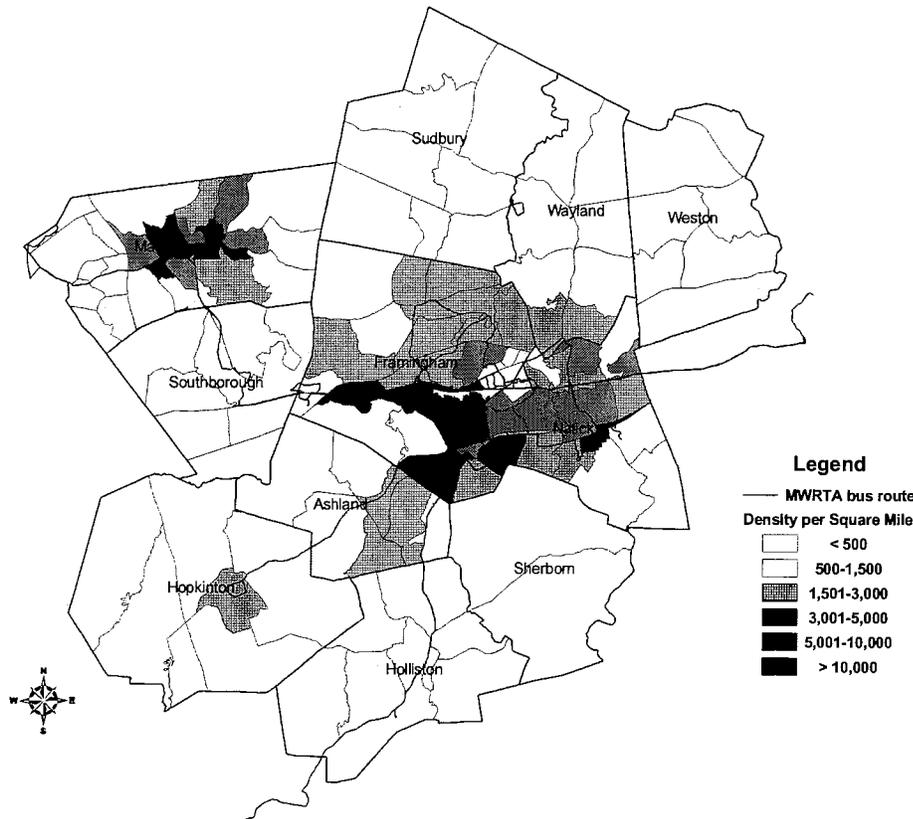
enhanced service coordination between the two providers.

In addition, the study provided technical assistance to the MWRTA in its analysis of whether to establish a new transportation hub in the Shoppers World/Natick Collection commercial area.

The study includes demographic and work-trip characteristics for 2010, such as those presented in the graphic below, and discusses the services offered by other providers in the MWRTA service area as well as the recommendations of other studies conducted in recent years. It

also provides tables presenting data, such as ridership by route, and a comparison to other Massachusetts RTAs' fixed-route services.

The study was funded by Federal Transit Administration monies with matching funds from the MBTA and the MetroWest RTA. A memorandum describing the results of the study will be available in the near future, by clicking on the MPO/CTPS Reports button at [www.bostonmpo.org](http://www.bostonmpo.org). To request a copy in the meantime, contact the project manager, Jonathan Belcher, at [jbelcher@ctps.org](mailto:jbelcher@ctps.org) or at (617) 973-7100.



2010 population density by transportation analysis zone in the MetroWest Regional Transit Authority service area

*Calendar cont. from p. 1*

Subcommittee. MPO Conference Room, Suite 2150. 1:00 PM

**January 25 (Monday)**

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

**January 27 (Wednesday)**

Access Advisory Committee to the MBTA. Conference Room 4. 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM

Boston Region MPO TIP "How-To" Seminar. For information about the time and location, go to [www.bostonmpo.org](http://www.bostonmpo.org) and click on the Calendar button.

**February 4 (Thursday)**

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

## AT OTHER BOSTON AREA LOCATIONS

**January 12 (Tuesday)**

MBTA 30% Design Meeting: Assembly Square Orange Line Station. Capuano Early Childhood Center Cafeteria, 150 Glen Street, Somerville. 7:00 PM

**January 14 (Thursday)**

MassDOT Highway Division Design Hearing: Proposed South Bay Harbor Trail project in Boston. 11 East Newton Street, Boston. 7:00 PM

## BOSTON REGION MPO "HOW-TO" SEMINARS

The MPO will host four "How-To" seminars on the federal fiscal years 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program and the MPO's Clean Air and Mobility Program. They will be held on the dates listed below. For information about the times and locations of the seminars, go to [www.bostonmpo.org](http://www.bostonmpo.org) and click on the Calendar button.

**January 27 (Wednesday)**

**February 17 (Wednesday)**

**February 23 (Tuesday)**

**February 24 (Wednesday)**

*Meetings sponsored by the Boston Region MPO are conducted in accessible locations, and materials can be provided in accessible formats and in languages other than English. If you would like accessibility or language accommodation, please contact the MPO at (617) 973-7100 (voice), (617) 973-8855 (fax), (617) 973-7089 (TTY), or [publicinformation@bostonmpo.org](mailto:publicinformation@bostonmpo.org).*

# MPO Calls for Project Proposals for Clean Air and Mobility Program

• Clean Air *cont. from p. 1*

Proposed projects must meet the eligibility requirements prescribed under the federal CMAQ program and meet the criteria established by the statewide CMAQ committee. For a complete overview of the types of projects that are eligible, visit the MPO's website, [www.bostonmpo.org](http://www.bostonmpo.org), and click on the Clean Air and Mobility button on the left.

The MPO will provide information sessions at its Open House on January 20 and at TIP "How-To" Seminars in February for those who wish to learn more about the pro-

gram and its application and review process. See the Meeting Calendar on page 2 for details.

Proposals for projects vying for funding in federal fiscal year 2010 are due on *April 1*.

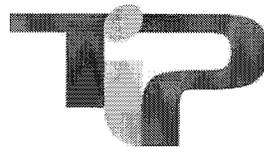
For more information about the Clean Air and Mobility Program, contact Hayes Morrison at [hayesm@bostonmpo.org](mailto:hayesm@bostonmpo.org) or (617) 973-7129, or Eric Bourassa at [ebourassa@mapc.org](mailto:ebourassa@mapc.org) or (617) 451-2770 extension 2043. For questions related to transit proposals, please contact Jonathan Belcher at [jbelcher@bostonmpo.org](mailto:jbelcher@bostonmpo.org) or (617) 973-7253.

# MPO Considers Second TIP Amendment

The Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) has circulated, for a 15-day comment period, a second amendment to its federal fiscal years 2010–2013

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The proposed amendment would change the projects funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act by removing the construction of a pedestrian bridge over Route 1 in Foxborough and adding the implementation of Route 1-95 intersection improvements at Walnut Street,

Salem Street, and Audubon Road in Lynnfield. It would also add federal transit funding for the construction of the Wonderland Garage in Revere (see page 4 for details).



The amendment is available at [www.bostonmpo.org](http://www.bostonmpo.org) under the What's New button. The MPO is expected to vote on the amendment at its meeting on January 7 (see the Meeting Calendar on page 1 for details).

## Boston Region MPO Activities

### BOSTON REGION MPO ACTION ITEMS

The Transportation Planning and Programming Committee voted this month to:

- Establish the Clean Air and Mobility Program (see related article on page 1)
- Approve the MPO-funded memorandum "Evaluation of MetroWest Regional Transit Authority Fixed-Route Network" (see related article on page 2)
- Circulate an amendment to the FFYs 2011–2013 Transportation Improvement Program (see related article, above)
- Approve a work program for MPO staff to conduct a study of MBTA core efficiencies

### REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATE

The Advisory Council did not hold a formal meeting



Advisory Council member enjoying a site visit

in December. However, members remained active through a field trip to the Fore River Railroad yard in Quincy. More than 20 members and associates of the Advisory Council traveled to Quincy on December 2 to learn about the operations of the railroad, which is owned by the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) and operated by the Fore River Transporta-

tion Corporation. The railroad operates a 2.7-mile line between Quincy Point and the rail interchange with CSX Transportation in Braintree. The MWRA utilizes the railroad to transport its Bay State Fertilizer product from their plant in Quincy. Twin Rivers Technologies also utilizes the railroad to ship its products from its Quincy plant to its customers. The railroad shipped more than 2,400 rail cars in 2008, taking approximately 10,000 trucks off the region's high-

way system, by the railroad's estimation.

Upcoming meetings of the Advisory Council and the Council's Freight Committee are listed in the Meeting Calendar, on page 1.

### ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE MBTA (AACT) UPDATE

The AACT did not meet in December. The next meeting will be on January 27 (see the Meeting Calendar on page 2 for details).

## New Parking Garage at Wonderland Station

The construction of a new nine-story parking garage near the MBTA's Wonderland Station in Revere is scheduled to begin this year. When complete, it will have 1,900 parking spaces, most of which will be available to commuters who travel on the Blue Line. The garage is being advanced as an economic stimulus project that will immediately create about 500 construction jobs and support a new mixed-use development that has the potential to generate hundreds of permanent jobs in Revere.

As one of a number of transportation improvement projects expected to help jump-start job growth in Massachusetts, state officials—with the support of the Boston Region MPO—approved spending \$22.7 million of federal economic stimulus funds, received through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), to finance the \$47 million project.

The garage will be a component of Waterfront Square, a new smart-growth, transit-oriented development planned for the area around the Blue Line station. Plans for this mixed-use development include 902 residential units, 145,500 square feet of office space, 28,000 square feet of retail space, and a 100-room hotel. The completed development is expected to create an estimated 700 permanent jobs.

In addition to the \$22.7 million of ARRA monies, funding for the garage project will come from \$11.3 million of MBTA bond revenue, \$10 million from a Massachusetts Opportunity Relocation and Expansion (MORE) grant that the Commonwealth awarded to the City of Revere, and \$3 million of federal earmarks. Once the garage is operational, parking fees will provide a new stream of revenue for the MBTA.

## MassDOT Awards JARC and New Freedom Grants

At the recommendation of the Boston Region MPO, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) awarded \$622,220 to fund eight proposals under the Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) and the New Freedom programs. JARC provides grants to support the development and maintenance of projects designed to get welfare recipients and eligible low-income individuals to and from jobs and activities related to employment. New Freedom provides grants for new public transportation services and public transportation alternatives that improve access for individuals with disabilities in ways that go beyond the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. For a listing of the awards, go to [www.bostonmpo.org](http://www.bostonmpo.org).

### TRANSREPORT

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