



**MBTA T-TRACKER**  
Page 2

**WATERTOWN  
MULTIUSE PATH**  
Page 2

**SMART-GROWTH FUNDING**  
Page 2

**GREEN TIPS**  
Page 2

**MPO TRANSPORTATION  
PLAN DEVELOPMENT**  
Page 3

**TIP AMENDMENT 3**  
Page 3

**MPO ACTIVITIES**  
Page 3

## 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**

**March 10 (Wednesday)**

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

Regional Transportation Advisory Council. *Conference Room 1.*  
3:00 PM

**March 18 (Thursday)**

Boston Region MPO Transportation Planning and Programming Committee. *Conference Room 1.*  
10:00 AM

MPO Clean Air and Mobility Program Pre-Proposal Conference. *Conference Room 1.*  
2:00 PM

*Calendar continued on p. 2*

## MPO Begins Development of Next Long-Range Transportation Plan

The Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) gave the go-ahead last month for staff to begin the development of a new long-range transportation plan for the region. Although the MPO adopted an amendment to its last plan (JOURNEY TO 2030) in November 2009, the last full Transportation Plan was

approved in June 2007. The new Transportation Plan will establish a vision for the region through the year 2035, and will lay out policies and multimodal strategies the MPO can use to help make the vision a reality. This framework will address the regional priorities of: system preservation,

• **New Plan** *cont. on p. 3*

## Input Sought on Proposed Changes in MPO Public Process

The Boston Region MPO is considering an amendment to its Public Participation Program. This amendment would permit a shortened public comment period (15 days rather than the normal 30 days) on proposed MPO actions that are warranted by extraordinary circumstances. It would also allow the MPO to waive the public comment period in an emergency situation.

The 45-day public comment period for the proposed amendment ends *Thursday, March 25, at 5:00 PM.*

Written comments will be accepted at 10 Park Plaza, Suite 2150, Boston, MA 02116-3968, or at [publicinformation@ctps.org](mailto:publicinformation@ctps.org). Public comments will also be accepted at the MPO's meeting on Thursday, April 1, at 10:00 AM, when the MPO is expected to take action on the proposed amendment.

To download the MPO's Public Participation Program and the proposed amendment, go to [www.bostonmpo.org](http://www.bostonmpo.org).

### BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN FORUM

SPONSORED BY THE REGIONAL  
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Advisory Council of the Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) invites you to attend a forum to be held at their March meeting. Planners from the Metropolitan Area Planning Council and the Boston Region MPO, advocates from WalkBoston and MassBike, and municipal officials from Boston and Cambridge will discuss recent accomplishments and ongoing work to improve conditions in the region for bicyclists and pedestrians.

**Wednesday, March 10**

**3:00-4:30 PM**

**State Transportation Building  
10 Park Plaza, Conference Room 4  
Boston, Massachusetts**



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

# T-Tracker Launched on Key MBTA Bus Routes

MBTA customers have a trial tool available for getting up-to-the-minute information for trip-making on five key bus routes. T-Tracker, the MBTA's pilot Web-based tool, uses GPS technology to provide real-time information on locations and predicted arrival times for bus Routes 39 (which serves Jamaica Plain, the Longwood Medical Area, and the Back Bay); and 111, 114, 116, and 117 (which together serve Haymarket Station, East Boston, Chelsea, and Revere).

● **T-Tracker** *cont. on p. 4*



MBTA T-Tracker bus Route 111 on Washington Avenue in Revere

# Watertown Multiuse Path Ready to Advance

Construction is set to begin this spring on the Charles River/Alewife Connector in Watertown. The Connector will be a multiuse path in Watertown along an abandoned railroad corridor, from School Street to the intersection of Arlington Street at Nichols Avenue, Coolidge Hill Road, and

● **Multiuse Path** *cont. on p. 4*

# Federal Assistance Available for Implementing Smart-Growth Projects

## LETTERS OF INTEREST DUE APRIL 9

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in coordination with the Partnership for Sustainable Communities, is calling for letters of interest from communities that would like to incorporate smart growth into their development plans.

A team of experts from EPA, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the U.S. Department of Transportation will conduct multiday site visits to three or four selected communities over a 12-month period.

Entities eligible to submit an application are: tribal, local, regional, and state governments, and non-profit organizations that have a demonstrated partnership with a governmental entity.

A few examples of areas in which communities may benefit from this program are:

- Addressing climate change
- Removing local barriers to implementing "green" design projects
- Developing transportation solutions for rural communities and places without transit service

Additional examples of possible proposal topics are listed at [http://epa.gov/smartgrowth/2010\\_0128\\_rfli.html](http://epa.gov/smartgrowth/2010_0128_rfli.html). Other topics are encouraged, provided they demonstrate cutting-edge challenges and the possibility of replicable solutions.

● **Smart Growth** *cont. on p. 4*



Recently completed smart-growth project at Woodland Station in Newton

# Green Tips for Spring

*Warmer weather and more hours of sunlight call to us to spend more time outdoors. Why wait until the weekend to enjoy it? Build walking into your daily commute. If it is too far for you to walk to work, consider getting off the bus or train at an earlier stop or parking further away from your destination.*

*Walking a mile (about 20 minutes) produces no emissions; driving a mile in a car that gets 21.5 mpg creates 1.1 pounds of carbon emissions, not to mention other particulates.*

*Calendar cont. from p. 1*

## March 24 (Wednesday)

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

## March 29 (Monday)

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

## April 1 (Thursday)

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

## AT OTHER BOSTON AREA LOCATIONS

### March 9 (Tuesday)

MassDOT Design Public Hearing: Proposed Winchester Bikeway. *Winchester Town Hall Auditorium, 71 Mount Vernon Street, Winchester. 7:00 PM*

MassDOT Public Information Meeting: Fairmount Corridor Update on Four Corners Commuter Rail Station. *Dorchester Technology Building, 450 Washington Street, Dorchester. 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM*

### March 10 (Wednesday)

MBTA Senior/Transportation Access Pass Meeting. *Watertown Council on Aging, 31 Marshall Street, Watertown. 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM*

MassDOT Public Information Meeting: Emergency Repairs to Park Street Bridge over the MBTA Commuter Rail. *E-5 Police Station Community Room, 1708 Centre Street, West Roxbury. 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM*

### March 11 (Thursday)

WalkBoston Annual Meeting and 20th Birthday Party. *WilmerHale, 60 State Street, 26th Floor. 5:30 PM. RSVP to (617) 367-9255 or [rsvp@walkboston.org](mailto:rsvp@walkboston.org).*

### March 24 (Wednesday)

MBTA Senior/Transportation Access Pass Meeting. *83 Pickering Street, Needham. 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM*

*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 to Provide New Media for Public Input on Transportation Plan

• **New Plan** *cont. from p. 1*

mobility, safety, security, environmental justice, climate change, livability, healthy-transportation initiatives, and operations and management.

The Plan is the underpinning of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), or expressed another way, the TIP implements the Plan. Like the TIP, the Plan is financially constrained to available and projected sources of revenue. It complies with all applicable environmental requirements for air quality conformity and greenhouse gases.

The MPO will invite participation from many agencies, organizations, interest

groups, and members of the public at large.

There will be a variety of opportunities for public



involvement. In addition to utilizing its previous outreach mechanisms for getting input from the public during document develop-

ment, (such as *TRANSREPORT*, public workshops, the MPO's website and listserve), the MPO will be also begin using social media such as Twitter, both for keeping the public informed as the document is developed and for getting input from members of the public as the Plan is being developed.

Stay tuned to *TRANSREPORT* and [www.bostonmpo.org](http://www.bostonmpo.org) for more details on Plan-related activities. The MPO expects to adopt the 2011–2035 long-range transportation plan in April 2011.

# MPO Adopts Third TIP Amendment



In February, the MPO approved a final

amendment related to programming funds provided under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in its federal fiscal years 2010–2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Amendment 3 adds three projects:

- Floating slab work from Harvard to Alewife on the MBTA's Red Line for \$4.3 million
- **TIP Amendment** *cont. on p. 4*

## Boston Region MPO Activities

### BOSTON REGION MPO ACTION ITEMS

The Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) approved the recommendation of its Transportation Planning and Programming Committee to adopt Amendment 3 of the federal fiscal years (FFYs) 2010–2013 Transportation Improvement Program on February 4 (see article above). Also in February, the Committee voted to circulate a proposed amendment to the Boston Region MPO's Public Participation Program (see article on page 1) and approved four work programs that implement projects included in the FFY 2010 Unified Planning Work Program:

- Development of the Boston Region MPO Congestion Management Program
- Development of the Long-Range Transportation Plan of the Boston Region MPO
- Emergency Evacuation and Hazard Mitigation Mapping
- MBTA Bus Service Data Collection VII

### REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATE

The Advisory Council's February meeting was canceled because of inclement weather. The March meeting, will feature a forum about bicycle and pedestrian planning in the Boston metropolitan region. The Advisory Council's Freight Committee is also scheduled to meet on

March 10. On its agenda are a presentation about the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's SmartWay Transport Partnership and a discussion about the development of the next regional transportation plan. See the box on page 1 for information about the forum. Also see the calendar on page 1 for meeting details.

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

AACT members opened their February meeting with a moment of silence for Daniel MacInnis, retired founder and chief executive officer of Veterans Transportation Services. Mr. MacInnis worked



Former MBTA paratransit service provider Daniel R. MacInnis Sr.

with the MBTA's Office for Transportation Access for more than 20 years, delivering RIDE service to MBTA paratransit customers.

Expressions of sympathy may be made in Mr. MacInnis's memory to the Newton Boys and Girls Club, 675 Watertown Street, Newton, MA 02460.

# New Path to Expand Non Motorized-Vehicle Options for Commuters

## ● TIP Amendment *cont. from p. 3*

- Resurfacing and related work on Route 114 in Peabody and Danvers for \$3.3 million
- Accessibility enhancements at Wedgemere commuter rail station in Medford for \$2.0 million

The amendment also deleted the previously programmed Blossom Street Ferry Terminal in Lynn.

For a complete list of projects included in the FFY 2013–2013 TIP and the amendments to date, go to [www.bostonmpo.org](http://www.bostonmpo.org) and click on the TIP button.

## ● Smart Growth *cont. from p. 2*

Letters of interest must be submitted Kevin Nelson, at [nelson.kevin@epa.gov](mailto:nelson.kevin@epa.gov), by Friday, April 9, at 3:00 PM.

For questions about the program, contact Mr. Nelson via e-mail or at (202) 566-2835.

For more information and application materials, visit [http://epa.gov/smartgrowth/2010\\_0128\\_rfli.html](http://epa.gov/smartgrowth/2010_0128_rfli.html).

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

## ● Multiuse Path *cont. from p. 2*

Crawford Street. It also includes a spur that will connect the new path to Arsenal Street across from the Watertown Mall parking lot. The project will further integrate the bicycle/pedestrian network in the Boston area. The \$847,000 project will include the removal of existing railroad ties, followed by construction of a 10-foot-



*Abandoned Watertown Branch right-of-way*

## ● T-Tracker *cont. from p. 2*

At the end of the pilot program, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation and the MBTA will look at ways to make real-

time information available for more of its bus routes.

To use T-Tracker, go to [www.mbta.com](http://www.mbta.com) and click on T-Tracker.

Additional improvements are planned in the area near the project. The Massachusetts Department of Transportation recently announced the approval of a \$1.4 million project near the eastern limit of the new path. This project calls for resurfacing the intersections of Spring and Summer streets, and Mount Auburn and Summer streets, and installing traffic sensing devices and disability - accessible sidewalks.

## TRANSREPORT

PUBLISHED BY THE BOSTON  
REGION METROPOLITAN  
PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Jeffrey B. Mullan,  
MPO Chairman

David J. Mohler, Chair  
Marc Draisen, Vice Chair  
Transportation Planning and  
Programming Committee

### EDITORS

Mary Ellen Sullivan  
Maureen Kelly

### CONTRIBUTORS

Cathy Buckley  
Michael Callahan  
Janie Guion  
WalkBoston, Rosa Carson

### GRAPHICS

Arborpoint Apartments  
Andrew Lynch  
MassDOT  
Kim Noonan

*The MPO does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, English proficiency, income, religious creed, ancestry, disability, age, gender, sexual orientation, or military service. Any person who believes herself/himself or any specific class of persons to have been subjected to discrimination may file a written complaint with the MPO. A complaint must be filed no later than 30 calendar days after the date on which the person believes the discrimination occurred.*

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