



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) 973-7100. A photo ID is required to access most meeting sites.

AT THE STATE TRANSPORTATION BUILDING, 10 PARK PLAZA, BOSTON

November 1 (Thursday)

Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization. Conference Rooms 2 and 3. 10:00 AM

November 7 (Wednesday)

MassDOT and MBTA Board of Directors. Suite 3860. 1:00 PM

November 14 (Wednesday)

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

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

Regional Transportation Advisory Council. Conference Rooms 2 and 3. 3:00 PM

November 15 (Thursday)

Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization. Conference Rooms 2 and 3. 10:00 AM

November 26 (Monday)

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

November 29 (Thursday)

MassDOT: Your Vision, Our Future: A Conversation. Conference Rooms 1, 2, and 3. 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

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Transportation Planning for Climate Change

The role of the region's transportation and land use planning agencies in mitigating and adapting to the effects of climate change was the subject of an October meeting of the Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), where a panel of representatives from the staff of the MPO, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT), and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council

(MAPC) outlined each organization's work on the topic.

Reducing the number of vehicle-miles and vehicle-hours travelled (VMT and VHT) and encouraging people to use transit, walk, or bike is a priority for each agency as they aim to decrease the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that enter the atmosphere due to transportation activity. Carbon dioxide is the largest component

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Technical Assistance Available to Municipalities

The Boston Region MPO and the MAPC will soon begin the fourth year of the MPO's Community Transportation Technical Assistance program. This program is designed to provide municipal officials with quick-response technical advice on local transportation concerns such as those relating to traffic operations and safety, bicycle and pedestrian access and

safety, livability, parking, and bus stop locations.

Typically, a team of transportation engineers and planners from the MPO and the MAPC meet with municipal officials on site to observe and discuss issues of concern. Afterwards, they document the identified issues, perform any needed analysis, and offer recommendations for addressing the municipality's concerns.

The members of the Boston Region MPO: Massachusetts Department of Transportation, cities of Beverly, Boston, Everett, Newton, Somerville, and Woburn, Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority Advisory Board, Massachusetts Port Authority, Metropolitan Area Planning Council, Regional Transportation Advisory Council, towns of Arlington, Bedford, Braintree, Framingham, Lexington, Medway, and Norwood

NOTICE TO READERS

In support of the Commonwealth's GreenDOT policy, the MPO is reducing the use of paper. In January 2013, subscribers for whom we have e-mail addresses will automatically be sent an e-version of TRANSREPORT.

Please contact the MPO if you would like to have your e-mail address added to or updated on our subscription list, or if you would like to receive a print version of the newsletter. (See contact information below.)

US Mail: TRANSREPORT Editor, Boston Region MPO, State Transportation Building, 10 Park Plaza, Suite 2150, Boston, MA 02116. **Phone:** (617) 973-7100 (voice) or (617) 973-7089 (TTY). **E-mail:** publicinformation@bostonmpo.org.

The program is open to all of the 101 municipalities in the MPO region. When evaluating requests for technical assistance, the MPO and the MAPC staff consider whether they can provide useful feedback on the particular issues

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NEW LEADERS AT MASSDOT AND MBTA

The MassDOT Board of Directors has appointed Beverly A. Scott as General Manager of the MBTA and MassDOT Rail & Transit Division Administrator. Ms. Scott currently serves as Chief Executive Officer and General Manager for the Metropolitan Atlanta Transit Authority (MARTA) in Atlanta, Georgia. She will join the MBTA in early 2013.



Governor Deval Patrick expanded the MassDOT Board of Directors in September to include Alan G. Macdonald and Joseph C. Bonfiglio as new members. John R. Jenkins (Chair), Ferdinand Alvaro, Janice Loux, and Andrew Whittle have been reappointed. MassDOT Secretary Richard A. Davey will serve as an ex-officio member.

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of total GHG emissions from all sectors and it is the largest share of GHGs emitted by passenger vehicles.

MassDOT recently announced its goal to triple the mode share for walking, bicycling, and transit as a means to meet its target for GHG reductions required under the Commonwealth's Global Warming Solutions Act.

To achieve these aims MassDOT is designing "complete streets" projects that accommodate walking and bicycling; making investments in "smart growth" transit-oriented development; and embedding its GreenDOT sustainability tenets in each MassDOT division.

The MPO role complements MassDOT's

efforts by focusing on making investments of federal dollars in transportation projects that help move toward a future where GHG emissions from the transportation system will be reduced and where the system is resilient to the effects of climate change, which may produce increased storm activity and flooding.

The MPO takes a two-fold approach to understand the GHG effects from implementing projects. During the development of the Long-Range Transportation Plan, modeling is used to estimate the emissions that would result from the implementation of a specific network of transportation projects. The GHG impact of individual projects to be constructed in each four-year period of the

"Your Vision, Our Future": A Conversation

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is holding a series of public meetings to engage residents in a discussion about the future of transportation in the commonwealth.

The five upcoming meetings in the Boston region are listed in *TRANSREPORT*'s calendar section. For more information, visit www.mass.gov/massdot/yourvisionourfuture. MassDOT will also be accepting written comments at this address: yourvisionourfuture@dot.state.ma.us.

MPO's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) are calculated during the development of the TIP.

Since investments in the transportation system can affect development that generates more trip making, land use planning is an integral part of transportation planning. MAPC, the regional planning agency for the Boston region, has developed tools to help municipalities grow in smart and sustainable ways. These work in concert with MAPC's Metro-Future plan for concentrated land use. MetroFuture focuses two-thirds of new growth near existing transit

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December 3 (Monday)

Judge Patrick King's Update on the MBTA/BCIL Settlement Agreement.
Conference Rooms 2 and 3.
1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

December 5 (Wednesday)

MassDOT and MBTA Board of Directors. *Suite 3860.*
1:00 PM

AT OTHER BOSTON AREA LOCATIONS

November 8 (Thursday)

MassDOT: Your Vision, Our Future: A Conversation.
Quincy High School Auditorium, 100 Coddington Street, Quincy.
6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

November 14 (Wednesday)

MassDOT: Your Vision, Our Future: A Conversation.
Memorial Building, Nevins Hall, 150 Concord Street, Framingham. 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

November 15 (Thursday)

MassDOT: Your Vision, Our Future: A Conversation.
Mattapan Branch Library, Community Room, 1350 Blue Hill Avenue, Mattapan. 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM

November 27 (Tuesday)

MassDOT: Your Vision, Our Future: A Conversation.
McGlynn Middle School Auditorium, 3002 Mystic Valley Parkway, Medford. 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

December 6 (Thursday)

Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization. (*Location to be determined*), Norwood. 10:00 AM

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), or (617) 973-7089 (TTY), or email publicinfor@bostonmpo.org.

BOSTON REGION MPO ACTIVITIES

STUDIES COMPLETED AND RELEASED

The Boston Region MPO released two new reports, which may be found on the MPO's website, www.bostonmpo.org. The **Safety and Operations Analyses at Selected Intersections – FFY 2012 Study** is the latest in a series of studies that identified multi-modal solutions for intersections with safety and mobility problems. This particular study examined locations in Quincy, Southborough, and Wilmington. The **CharlieCard Trip Paths Pilot Study** examined the feasibility of using data from the MBTA's Automated Fare Collection (AFC) system for transportation planning work. The study results show that the use of AFC data in place of traditional survey data could result in future cost savings for the MPO and the MBTA.

NEWLY APPROVED WORK PROGRAMS

The MPO gave its staff approval to begin work on the following new work programs:

Priority Corridors for LRTP Needs Assessment – FFY 2013: A study of select locations on transportation corridors identified in the MPO's Needs Assessment for the Long-Range Transportation Plan as in need of safety and operational improvements.

Safety and Operations Analyses at Selected Intersections – FFY 2013: A continuation of work that the MPO staff has been conducting to identify multi-modal solutions for intersections with safety and mobility problems.

Completion of Green Line Extension New Starts Analysis: Planning support to the MBTA and its consultant team as they develop the formal submission for federal New Starts funding for the Green Line Extension project.

Bicycle Network Evaluation: A study to identify gaps in the regional bicycle network.

MPO Freight Study, Phase 2: A study to inform the MPO's approach to freight planning.

I-93 North and Southeast Expressway HOV Lane Monitoring: October 1 – December 31, 2012: Federally-required monitoring of travel times on the Interstate 93 North and Southeast Expressway HOV lanes and the general purpose lanes parallel to them.

MBTA Service Standards and Service Delivery Policy Update: An evaluation the MBTA's service standards and service planning processes to identify opportunities to achieve efficiencies.

SWAP Regional Public Transit Feasibility Study: An exploration of the potential for improving transit services in the South West Advisory Planning Committee subregion.

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATE

MPO Staff members Sanjay Kaul and Robert Sievert discussed the recently completed Statewide Travel Demand Survey at the October Council meeting. The survey studied the detailed travel characteristics of 15,000 households. Statewide,

320,000 households were initially contacted to participate in the study; 25,000 agreed to participate. A brief discussion of the preliminary findings of the survey followed the presentation.

The Advisory Council reviewed and approved a comment letter drafted by a special committee formed to consider input on scoping for the High Speed Rail Environmen-

tal Impact Statement (EIS) being considered by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA). The Advisory Council presented these comments to the MPO in October.

ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE MBTA (AACT)

This October AACT celebrated 35 years of service to seniors and persons with disabilities, as

well as a longstanding good working relationship with the MBTA.

Founded in 1975 as the Special Needs Advisory Committee, this committee grew to be a voice on all matters relating to transit accessibility for more than 61,000 registered users of paratransit and many users of fixed-route services in the MBTA service area.

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facilities, slows the growth of VMT, and reduces the auto mode share.

Considering both emission reduction and land use goals, when evaluating projects, the MPO takes into account whether the projects provide access to alternative transportation modes (bicycle, pedestrian, and transit), improve traffic flows (to reduce VHT), rehabilitate weight-restricted bridges (to reduce VMT for trucks), and improve

transportation facilities to better withstand the effects of climate change and to provide redundancy in flood-prone areas.

The MPO and MassDOT are in the process of establishing systems for performance-based planning. These will be used to measure their progress toward meeting climate change goals and to prepare for compliance with the new federal transportation legislation (MAP-21).

More information about the plans of each organ-

ization is available on these weblinks:

GreenDOT Plan
www.massdot.state.ma.us/GreenDOT.aspx

Boston Region MPO White Paper: "Carbon Dioxide, Climate Change, and the Boston Region MPO: 2012 Update"
www.ctps.org/bostonmpo/4_resources/1_reports/1_studies/4_bicycle/climate_change_2012.html

MetroFuture
www.mapc.org

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and do so in the context of a financially modest, quick-response approach.

In federal fiscal years 2009 through 2012, the MPO and the MAPC staff conducted studies in the following municipalities: Arlington, Danvers, Marshfield, Milton, Revere, Rockport, Sudbury, Swampscott, Walpole, Weston, Winchester, and Wrentham.

Recommendations from those studies focused on safety and operational improvements for pedestrian circulation, accommodation of bicyclists, traffic calming, livability improvements, intersection redesign for effective and safe traffic channeling, traffic-signal evaluations, and access management.

Municipal officials interested in having a similar assessment conducted

for a location in their community are invited to contact Efi Pagitsas, Manager of Traffic Analysis and Design, Central Transportation Planning Staff (the staff to the MPO), at 617-973-7106 or epagitsas@ctps.org, or Eric Bourassa, Transportation Manager, MAPC, at 617-451-2770 or ebourassa@mapc.org.

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