



MBTA TO RELEASE 25-YEAR PLAN

Page 2

ADVISORY BOARD COUNSELS DEBT RELIEF FOR MBTA FINANCE WOES

Page 2

RUSH HOUR BUS SERVICE BEGINS ON ROUTE 9 WITH MPO SUPPORT

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 or call (617) 973-7119. A photo ID is required to access most meeting sites.

AT THE STATE TRANSPORTATION BUILDING, 10 PARK PLAZA, BOSTON

May 7 (Thursday)

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

May 13 (Wednesday)

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

May 18 (Monday)

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

May 21 (Thursday)

Boston Region MPO Transportation Planning and Programming Committee: Municipal Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Input Day. Conference Room 4. 9:00 AM

May 27 (Wednesday)

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

Calendar continued on p. 2

Energy Conservation Program Underway at Transportation Facilities

Governor Patrick's 2007 executive order known as Leading by Example requires state-owned and -leased buildings to reduce overall energy consumption by 20 percent by fiscal year 2012, but transportation agencies are taking the initiative to surpass those expectations through large and small conservation steps.

The State Transportation Building, a pioneer of green design and the headquarters of the Executive Office of Transportation and Public Works, Massachusetts Highway Department, Massachusetts Turnpike Authority, and

Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, consumes one-third less energy per square foot than comparable buildings more than 25 years after its completion. The building's managers have recently implemented small-scale steps such as cleaning during the day (rather than during the evening) and shutting down escalators earlier in the evening to further cut energy use.

The Massachusetts Port Authority, a 2008 Leading by Example award recipient, has made great strides in

• Energy *cont. on p. 4*

'Municipal TIP Input Days' Scheduled in May

The Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) has scheduled its annual Municipal TIP Input Days for May 21 and 28. (See calendar for meeting times and locations.)

These meetings provide an opportunity for municipal leaders to inform the MPO of funding needs for their priority transportation projects. The MPO takes this

input into consideration when programming federal funding in the Transportation Improvement Program, a planning tool for the implementation of projects over the coming four years.

For more information, contact Hayes Morrison, TIP Manager, at hayesm@ctps.org or (617) 973-7129.



The Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) will hold its annual election in early June to fill two municipal seats on its Transportation Planning and Programming Committee, the body which programs federal funds for transportation projects and studies in the region.

Municipalities in the following subregions (see map on page 4) are eligible to run this year: Minuteman Advisory Group on Interlocal Coordination, North Shore Task Force, North Suburban Planning Council, South Shore Coalition, and Three Rivers Interlocal Council.

The elections are administered by two of the MPO's member agencies, the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) and MBTA Advisory Board. For more information contact Jim Gallagher at (617) 451-2770 or jgallagher@mapc.org, or Paul Regan at (617) 426-6054 or pregan@mbtaadvisoryboard.org.

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

MBTA to Release 25-Year Plan

The MBTA will soon be releasing its Program for Mass Transportation (PMT) for public review and holding several meetings at which members of the public can talk with MBTA and MPO staff about the MBTA's long-range plans. The PMT defines the MBTA's vision for improving the transit system over the next 25 years. The planning document is updated every five years.

The PMT outlines the MBTA's requirements for maintaining the transit system in a state of good repair, identifies transit projects that could be implemented

● PMT cont. on p. 3

Advisory Board Counsels Debt Relief for MBTA Finance Woes

REPORT CALLS ATTENTION TO MBTA'S FISCAL CRISIS

The MBTA is sinking under an unusually high debt load in comparison to other major transit systems in the nation, and the Commonwealth should relieve that burden in order to free financial resources for operating and maintaining the transit system, according to a report issued by the MBTA Advisory Board in April.

Without a new source of revenue, the MBTA will be faced with making large-scale service cuts and increasing fares.

The report, *Born Broke*, details the troubling fiscal

state of the MBTA, which has been shouldering \$3.3 billion of the Commonwealth's debt since the Forward Funding legislation went into effect in 2000. About half of that debt is from the Central Artery/Tunnel project.

The report's findings show that the MBTA's debt service payments – projected at 26 percent of the MBTA's state fiscal year 2010 operating costs – greatly exceed those of its peer agencies. While all the other large public transit systems surveyed are also projecting deficits for FY 2010, "the MBTA is unique among its peers in that it lacks a dedicated revenue

source for debt service or capital maintenance," the report states.

With declining sales tax revenue contributing to the MBTA's dire fiscal straits, the transit authority is now facing a \$160.4 million deficit in FY 2010 and a \$2.7 billion maintenance backlog.

The MBTA Advisory Board provides public oversight of the MBTA on behalf of the 175 communities in the MBTA's service area.

To read the full report, visit the MBTA Advisory Board's website, www.mbtaadvisoryboard.org.



Ben Haynes, Chairman of the Access Advisory Committee to the MBTA (AACT), spoke at an April 7 press conference announcing the enactment of the Bus Stop Access Law, which increases the fine for private or commercial vehicles parked at MBTA bus stops to \$100. The new law is expected to help improve access to buses for people with disabilities and the elderly.

Calendar cont. from p. 1

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

May 28 (Thursday)

Boston Region MPO Transportation Planning and Programming Committee: Municipal Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Input Day. MPO Conference Room, Suite 2150. 9:00 AM

June 4 (Thursday)

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

AT OTHER BOSTON AREA LOCATIONS

May 12 (Tuesday)*

MBTA Meeting: Program for Mass Transportation. Quincy City Hall, 1305 Hancock Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room, Quincy. 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

May 13 (Wednesday)*

MBTA Meeting: Program for Mass Transportation. Waltham Government Center, 119 School Street, Public Meeting Room, Waltham. 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

May 18 (Monday)*

MBTA Meeting: Program for Mass Transportation. Salem City Hall Annex, 120 Washington Street, 3rd Floor Conference Room, Salem. 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

May 28 (Thursday)*

MBTA Public Hearing: Program for Mass Transportation. Boston Public Library, 700 Boylston Street, Mezzanine Conference Room, Boston. 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

*The times and locations for the PMT meetings are subject to change. For updates please check the MPO's website at www.bostonmpo.org.

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 e-mail us at publicinformation@bostonmpo.org.

Meetings on PMT to Be Held

• PMT *cont. from p. 2*

through the MBTA's and MPO's planning processes, and discusses strategies for improving mobility in the region.

See the calendar on page 2 for a schedule of the MBTA's public meetings. Please note that the meeting times and locations are subject to change. Check the MPO's website, www.bostonmpo.org, for the most up-to-date information.

Rush Hour Bus Service Begins on Route 9 with MPO Support

The MetroWest Regional Transit Authority (MWRTA) has launched a new bus route that provides rush hour service from Woodland Station on the MBTA's Green Line to employment locations along Route 9 in Framingham and Natick. The new route – Route 1 – adds to the 11 other shuttle routes that the MWRTA is operating.

The Route 1 service is funded by the Boston Region MPO's Suburban Mobility Program. Buses for the service were acquired with a

grant from the Federal Transit Administration's Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) Program. The MPO administers the selection process for the JARC proposals in the Boston region.

The route originates at the MWRTA hub at 160 Waverley Street, Framingham, and makes stops at Staples Drive, Flutie Pass Park-and-Ride, Mathworks, Overbrook, Cedar Street, the Office Park on Walnut Street, Newton-Wellesley Hospital, Woodland Station, 9/27 Plaza, the Natick Collection,

and California Drive.

A round-trip from Woodland Station costs \$3, and a one-way trip costs \$1.50. The MWRTA offers discount passes for 10 rides that can be purchased for \$11 for adults, \$9 for students, and \$7 for seniors or people with disabilities. The blind may ride for free.

For more information about the MWRTA's services, visit www.mwrta.com or call (508) 935-2222.

Boston Region MPO Activities

BOSTON REGION MPO ACTION ITEMS

In March, the Transportation Planning and Programming Committee approved an administrative adjustment to the federal fiscal year (FFY) 2009 element of the FFYs 2007–2010 Transportation Improvement Program in order to specify the items and projects for which the MetroWest RTA will use its share of the federal economic stimulus monies that it received through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. At its March and April meetings, the Committee also approved several work programs to be conducted by the Central Transportation Planning Staff:

- Route 126 Corridor Transportation Improvement Study, Bellingham to Framingham
- Operational Improvements at Selected Congested and High-Crash Intersections
- Potential MBTA Fare Increase Impact Analysis
- Congestion Management Process (CMP) – FFY 2009
- Greenbush Impact Study

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATE

David Loutzenheiser of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council updated members on the status of the MPO's Regional Bike Rack Program at the April 8 Advisory Council meeting. The program has already funded the purchase of racks providing 2,600 bicycle parking spots and has the ability to fund racks accommodating a total of 15,000 bicycles. One-third of the municipalities in the region have subscribed to the program thus far. Approximately \$700,000 in

funding from the Boston Region MPO is still available. For more information about the program, visit www.mapc.org/transportation/bike_parking_program or contact Mr. Loutzenheiser at (617) 251-2770, extension 2061.

The Advisory Council elected Laura Wiener, Senior Planner for the Town of Arlington, as Vice Chair. Ms. Wiener will replace former Vice Chair Sue McQuaid of the Neponset Valley Chamber of Commerce, who recently resigned from the post. In addition, the Council accepted the Towns of Medfield and Acton as members at the March meeting. Tony Centore and Lauren Rosenzweig will represent Medfield and

Acton, respectively.

ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE MBTA (AACT) UPDATE

The MBTA Board of Directors awarded FFY 2010–2014 service contracts for THE RIDE to Greater Lynn Senior Services (in the North service area), Veterans Transportation Services (in the Northwest service area), and First Transit, Inc. (in the newly formed South service area). The contracts will go into effect on July 1, 2009, and run through June 30, 2014. Reservations for July 1, 2009, trips will be accepted by the three contractors starting June 17. All three will provide service to Boston.

THE RIDE customers will be receiving pertinent information about the services in May.

Regarding paratransit service in the Framingham and Natick communities: MBTA staff have been working with the MetroWest Regional Transit Authority to ensure the smooth transition of paratransit service from THE RIDE to the MWRTA's paratransit service, which will commence July 1, 2009.

Frank Oglesby, Deputy Director of Customer Services for the MBTA, is serving as the Interim Manager of THE RIDE.

James A. Aloisi, Jr.,
MPO Chairman

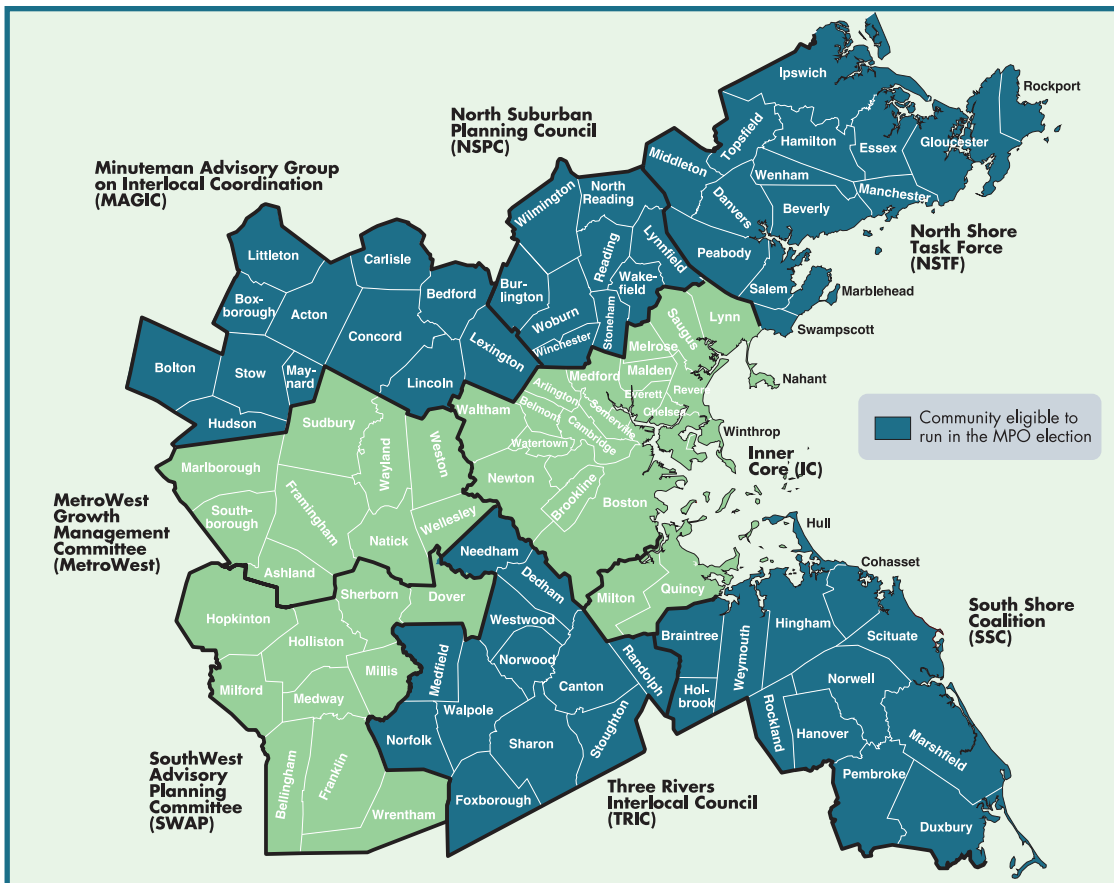
David J. Mohler, Chair
Marc Draisen, Vice Chair
Transportation Planning and
Programming Committee

EDITORS
Maureen Kelly
Mary Ellen Sullivan

CONTRIBUTORS
Janie Guion
Sean Pfalzer

GRAPHICS and PHOTOS
Kenneth A. Dumas
Kim Noonan
Sean Pfalzer

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.



Municipalities in the blue-shaded regions are eligible to run for a seat on the MPO this year. (See article on page 1.)

Energy Savings at Transportation Facilities

• Energy cont. from p. 1
energy conservation. It opened the first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)-certified airport terminal, developed a wind turbine pilot program at the Logan Office Center,

and continues to operate an energy audit system to effectively monitor all facilities and ensure that buildings achieve the best energy performance.

For more information about the Leading by Example

program, visit the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs website at www.mass.gov/?pageID=eoeeahomepage&L=1&L0=Home&sid=Eoeea.

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

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