



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

August 6 (Thursday)

Boston Region MPO Transportation Planning and Programming Committee. *Conference Room 4. 10:00 AM* (immediately followed by an MPO meeting)

August 12 (Wednesday)

Regional Transportation Advisory Council Freight Committee. *Conference Room 4. 1:00 PM*

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

August 13 (Thursday)

Boston Region MPO Transportation Planning and Programming Committee. *MPO Conference Room, Suite 2150. 10:00 AM* (immediately followed by an MPO meeting)

August 20 (Thursday)

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

August 26 (Wednesday)

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

August 27 (Thursday) Tentative

Boston Region MPO Transportation Planning and Programming Committee. *MPO Conference Room, Suite 2150. 10:00 AM*

September 3 (Thursday)

Boston Region MPO Transportation Planning and Programming Committee. *MPO Conference Room 4. 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 e-mail us at publicinformation@bostonmpo.org.

MPO Moves to Amend Long-Range Transportation Plan and Prepare New Four-Year Funding Program

The Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is at work this summer preparing two major transportation planning documents for its 101-community region in eastern Massachusetts: an amendment to the current long-range Regional Transportation Plan, *JOURNEY TO 2030*, and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) spanning federal fiscal years (FFYs) 2010–2013. As always, the MPO has been inviting public input as it develops these documents and grapples with decisions about project funding in a particularly constrained financial environment.

JOURNEY TO 2030 outlines the MPO's vision for the region's transportation system over the next 20 years and the principles and policies that it will follow to reach that vision. The plan indicates the financing allocated to regionally significant highway and transit projects that add capacity to the transportation system and to projects that cost in excess of \$10 million. Projects that the MPO intends to fund over

the next four years are also included in the MPO's plan for project implementation, the TIP.

first four years of the 20-year plan. The TIP must also include the air quality analysis being conducted for *JOURNEY TO 2030*.

Since public involvement is a key part of the development of both of these documents, the MPO hosted an Open House on July 22 at the State Transportation Building to give members of the public an opportunity to speak one-on-one with the MPO staff about *JOURNEY TO 2030*, the TIP, and upgrades to the MPO's travel demand model, which is used to determine if the network of projects selected for the 20-year plan conform to air quality standards. The Open House also included presentations on the MPO's Unified Planning Work Program—which describes proposed transportation planning studies—and the MetroFuture plan, which was developed by an MPO member agency, the Metropolitan Area Planning Council.

At the MPO's working meetings, members of the public, municipal planners, and state legislators have voiced their views to the MPO

• *MPO Plans cont. on p. 2*



In July, the MPO focused its work on amending *JOURNEY TO 2030* to meet an October 1, 2009, federal deadline. The amendment will reflect updated financial information provided by the Executive Office of Transportation and Public Works, the addition of projects that the Commonwealth is legally committed to construct or design as mitigation for the Central Artery/Tunnel project, and updated land use assumptions resulting from the adoption of MetroFuture, the regional smart-growth plan for the Boston metropolitan region.

Concurrently, the MPO began to formulate the FFYs 2010–2013 TIP. The TIP and *JOURNEY TO 2030* are tightly coordinated because projects selected for inclusion in the TIP will constitute the

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

Boston Region MPO Activities

BOSTON REGION MPO ACTION ITEMS

In June and July, the Transportation Planning and Programming Committee released two draft documents for public review: the FFY 2010 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), and Amendment 4 of the FFY 2009 element of the FFYs 2007-2010 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The Committee also approved and released a report, *Assessment of Dudley South Corridor Bus Service and Potential Improvements*, which can be found on the MPO's website, www.bostonmpo.org. Additionally, the Committee approved two work programs: (1) a continuation of the MPO staff's annual collection of data on transit ridership; and (2) a study exploring possibilities for suburban transit inside the Route 128 corridor. The MPO also recommended specific grant proposals for funding from the federal Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom programs, to the Executive Office of Transportation and Public Works (EOT), which manages the grant process for applications in the Boston Urbanized Area.

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATE

The Advisory Council meeting on July 8 included briefings on the draft FFY 2010 UPWP, development of the FFYs 2010-2013 TIP, and the MPO's project solicitation for the JARC and New Freedom programs.

Mary Ellen Sullivan, of the MPO staff, briefed the Council on the new studies proposed in the draft UPWP. Of particular inter-

est to Council members was the proposed "Statewide Freight/Rail Study, Phase 2", which the Council promoted. The proposed study will advance the MPO-related recommendations that come out of the EOT's statewide freight and rail plan studies, upon their expected completion later this year.

ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE MBTA (AACT) UPDATE

At the July meeting, Paul Regan, Executive Director of the MBTA Advisory Board,

gave AACT members a detailed overview of the MBTA's financial structure, providing context for better understanding the fiscal crisis that the MBTA is now facing. To address budget shortfalls, the MBTA is considering increasing fares and/or reducing transit service across all transit modes.

The MBTA has scheduled public meetings in August regarding these potential changes. More information is available at www.mbtacom.

JOURNEY TO 2030 and the TIP, and to conduct additional public outreach. A notice will be posted on the MPO's website, www.bostonmpo.org, and in the *Boston Globe* and other local newspapers.

Members of the public may submit their comments to

the MPO at any time through the "Comment" link on the MPO's website; by e-mailing publicinformation@bostonmpo.org; by writing to MPO staff at 10 Park Plaza, Suite 2150, Boston, MA 02116; or by calling (617) 973-7119 (voice) or (617) 973-7089 (TTY).

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

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

Michael Callahan
Janie Guion
Anne McGahan

GRAPHICS

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