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

AT THE STATE TRANSPORTATION BUILDING, 10 PARK PLAZA, BOSTON

September 3 (Thursday)

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

September 9 (Wednesday)

Regional Transportation Advisory Council Freight Committee. **Conference Rooms 2 and 3.** 1:00 PM

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

September 17 (Thursday)

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

September 23 (Wednesday)

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

Calendar continued on p. 2

MPO Seeks Input on Draft Planning Documents, Finalizes UPWP

The Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization has released two major draft planning documents for public comment. The first document is a proposed amendment to JOURNEY TO 2030, the long-range transportation plan for the region. The second is the draft federal fiscal years (FFYs) 2010–2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which sets forth a four-year capital spending program for improvements to the region's transportation system.

The MPO also adopted the FFY 2010 Unified Planning Work Program, following the close of a 30-day public review period. This document spells out the planning studies and activities that will be conducted in the upcoming year.

CHANGES TO THE LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The amendment to JOURNEY TO 2030 is focused on four key areas: demographic assumptions, Central Artery/Tunnel mitigation projects, financial constraint, and illustrative projects.

DEMOGRAPHIC ASSUMPTIONS

When the Plan was adopted in April of 2007, MPO members agreed that the demographic projections used to develop the Plan would be revised to be consistent with MetroFuture, the regional smart-growth plan that was expected to be adopted by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council. These projections (for the region's population, employment, and number of households) were recently approved and have been incorporated into the MPO's travel-demand model, which was used to conduct the analyses of the benefits and impacts of the set of projects included in the Plan Amendment.

CENTRAL ARTERY/TUNNEL MITIGATION PROJECTS

Another significant change that has occurred since JOURNEY TO 2030 was adopted is the approval of a revised set of projects that the Commonwealth is legally committed to designing and/or constructing as mitigation for the Central Artery/Tunnel project. The

● MPO Documents *cont. on p. 2*

MPO WORKSHOPS 5:00 PM-7:00 PM

MPO staff will be on hand at the workshops listed below to discuss the draft amendment to JOURNEY TO 2030 and the draft FFYs 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Drop by to hear about these important documents and to let us know what you think. All three workshops will be held from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

NORFOLK

Date: September 14
Place: Norfolk Public Library
139 Main Street

Accessible by the MBTA's Franklin commuter rail line

WOBURN

Date: September 15
Place: Woburn City Hall
Mayor's Conference Room
10 Common Street

Accessible by MBTA bus Route 134

BOSTON

Date: September 16
Place: Boston Public Library
Central Library
700 Boylston Street
Orientation Room

Accessible by the MBTA's Green Line and by bus Routes 9, 10, 39, 55, 170, 192, and 193

For information on how to request accessibility or language accommodation, please see the bottom of the Meeting Calendar on page 2.



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

EOT Seeking Stimulus Funds for 28X, an Enhanced MBTA Bus Service

The Executive Office of Transportation and Public Works (EOT) began an extensive public outreach process in July for an approximately \$115 million initiative that responds to requests from the riding public for better bus service. The Route 28X project is a plan for significant improvements to the current MBTA bus Route 28, which operates between Mattapan Square and Ruggles Station.

The project would radically transform existing bus service along Blue Hill Avenue and Warren Street by providing dedicated bus lanes, stations, and traffic-control features that are designed to speed up service and improve reliability.

Transforming the entire Route 28 to Route 28X would allow riders to easily

and quickly connect to more than a dozen bus routes at Dudley and Ruggles stations, as well as to the Orange, Red, and Silver lines.

The project would spur economic development and provide greater regional equity in environmental-justice neighborhoods. It could also become a national model for upgrading bus service in

densely developed urban neighborhoods.

EOT is planning to submit an application to fund the project under a federal grant program known as the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Program.

The submittal is due on September 15, and awards

- [Route 28X cont. on p. 4](#)



Route 28X station rendering, courtesy of Von Grossmann & Company; T. Rourke, designer; rendering by D. Reed

MPO Draft Plan Amendment and Draft TIP Released

- [MPO Documents cont. from p. 1](#)

proposed draft Plan Amendment reflects these changes:

- The completion of a final design for a Red Line–Blue Line Connector from Government Center Station to Charles/MGH Station
- The construction of four new stations on the MBTA's Fairmount commuter rail line
- An extension of the Green Line from Lechmere Station to Medford Hillside with a spur to Union Square in Somerville
- The construction of 1,000 additional parking spaces at MBTA park-and-ride

lots in Boston Region MPO municipalities

- The removal of the Arborway Reconstruction project

The draft Plan Amendment also reflects guidance issued jointly by the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration related to financial constraint. To conform to this guidance, the MPO has been forced to propose the elimination of a number of worthy projects that were included in JOURNEY TO 2030 but for which funding is not expected to be available.

FINANCIAL CONSTRAINT AND ILLUSTRATIVE PROJECTS

While the proposed amendment allocates available funding in a way that produces maximum benefit, there is not enough funding to include all of the projects that would fully achieve the MPO's visions and goals for the region.

To address this issue and to help establish transportation priorities in the current difficult fiscal climate, the draft amendment includes 10 "illustrative" projects. These projects, which include highway and transit expansion projects as well as maintenance projects, met the criteria for project selection but were not included due to the lack of resources to fund them.

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September 24 (Thursday)

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

October 1 (Thursday)

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

AT OTHER BOSTON AREA LOCATIONS

September 9 (Wednesday)

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) Public Meeting: Progress Report on State Implementation Plan Projects. *MassDEP, Washington Street Conference Center, Rooms A, B, and C, Second Floor, One Winter Street, Boston.* 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM

September 29 (Tuesday)

MassHighway Public Hearing: Proposed Route 53/Winter Street Roundabout in Duxbury. *Town Hall, Mural Room, 878 Tremont Street, Duxbury.* 7:00 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), or (617) 973-7089 (TTY), or e-mail us at publicinformation@bostonmpo.org.

MPO DRAFT FFYS 2010-2013 TIP

The MPO's Transportation Planning and Programming Committee also approved the release of a draft FFYS 2010–2013 TIP. This document is integrally related to the draft JOURNEY TO 2030 Plan Amendment in that the major infrastructure and expansion projects programmed in the draft TIP are the same as those identified in the first four years of the Plan Amendment.

In developing the TIP, the Committee evaluated the proposed projects using its TIP criteria: existing condi-

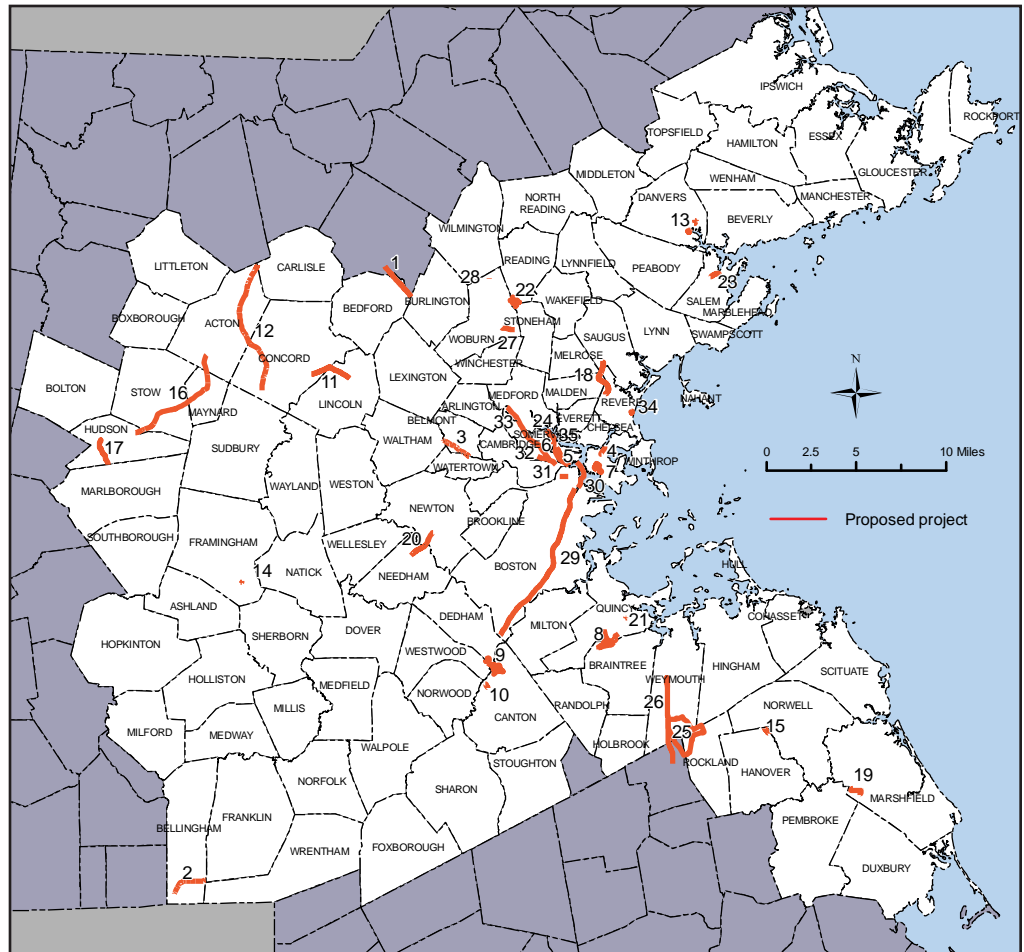
- [MPO Documents cont. on p. 3](#)

JOURNEY TO 2030 AMENDMENT

The Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization has proposed the following set of projects and programs for inclusion in an amendment to JOURNEY TO 2030, the long-range transportation plan for the region.

The proposal reflects guidance regarding financial constraint issued by the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration after JOURNEY TO 2030 was adopted in April 2007. It incorporates demographic projections that were recently adopted by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council and includes four new transit projects that are part of the revised State Implementation Plan, which was approved by the Environmental Protection Agency in July 2008. The other projects proposed in the plan amendment were selected for their ability to improve safety, mobility, and sustainability.

PROPOSED PROJECTS FOR THE JOURNEY TO 2030 TRANSPORTATION PLAN AMENDMENT



HIGHWAY PROJECTS

- 1 Bedford, Billerica, and Burlington: Middlesex Turnpike Phase 3
- 2 Bellingham: Pulaski Boulevard
- 3 Belmont: Trapelo Road
- 4 Boston: East Boston Haul Road/Chelsea Truck Route
- 5 Boston: Rutherford Avenue
- 6 Boston: Sullivan Square
- 7 Boston: Logan Airport Consolidated Rental Car Facility
- 8 Braintree: I-93/Route 3 Interchange (Braintree Split)
- 9 Canton: Interstate 95/Interstate 93 Interchange
- 10 Canton/Westwood : I-95 Northbound/Dedham Street Ramp and Corridor Improvements
- 11 Concord and Lincoln: Route 2/Crosby's Corner Grade Separation
- 12 Concord to Westford: Bruce Freeman Rail Trail
- 13 Danvers: Route 128/Route 35 and Route 62

- 14 Framingham: Route 126/Route 135 Grade Separation
- 15 Hanover: Route 53 Final Phase
- 16 Hudson to Acton: Assabet River Rail Trail

- 17 Hudson: Washington Street (Route 85) Widening
- 18 Malden, Revere, and Saugus: Route 1 Improvements
- 19 Marshfield: Route 139 Widening
- 20 Needham & Newton: Needham Street/Highland Avenue
- 21 Quincy: Quincy Center Concourse Phase 2
- 22 Reading and Woburn: I-93/I-95 Interchange
- 23 Salem: Bridge Street
- 24 Somerville: Assembly Square Roadways
- 25 Weymouth, Abington, Hingham, and Rockland: South Weymouth Naval Air Station Access Improvements
- 26 Weymouth: Route 18 Capacity Improvements Project

- 27 Woburn: Montvale Avenue
- 28 Woburn: New Boston Street Bridge

TRANSIT PROJECTS

- 29 Boston: Fairmount Line Improvements
 - 30 Boston: Ferry Expansion: Russia Wharf/South Station
 - 31 Boston: Red Line-Blue Line Connector (Design Only)
 - 32 Cambridge, Somerville, and Medford: Green Line Extension (Phase 1: Lechmere Station to College Avenue)
 - 33 Cambridge, Somerville, and Medford: Green Line Extension (Phase 2: College Avenue to Mystic Valley Parkway/Route 16)
 - 34 Revere: Wonderland South Parking Garage
 - 35 Somerville: Construct Orange Line Station at Assembly Square
- * Regionwide: Provide 1,000 Additional Park-and-Ride Spaces (*not shown on map*)

Funding Committed to Forward Assembly Square, Somerville Project

Assembly on the Mystic moved another step closer to reality in July when the Patrick Administration and the U.S. congressional delegation for Somerville committed more than \$65 million in state bond and federal stimulus funding for the public infrastructure improvements needed to accelerate this project.

Assembly on the Mystic is a large, multiphase project that will provide 1.75 million square feet in office space and 1.15 million square feet in retail space. It will include a new hotel, 2,100 housing units (both rental and con-

dominium), and a new MBTA Orange Line stop. The project is expected to expand the state and city's tax base and will also provide public amenities such as new waterfront parks, open spaces, and bike and pedestrian paths that will link existing neighborhoods with the new development.

The infrastructure improvements for the project will receive \$15 million in funding provided under the federal American Reinvestment and Recovery Act and \$50 million through the state's Infrastructure, Investment,

• *Assembly Square cont. on p. 4*

• *MPO Documents cont. from p. 2*

tions, safety, mobility, community, environment, economic development, and land use. Project cost and readiness were also important factors. As in the development of the Plan

Amendment, limited funding made for a difficult decision-making process.

CONCURRENT PUBLIC COMMENT PERIODS

The comment period for both the draft Plan Amendment and draft TIP will close on *September 22 at 5:00 PM*. The draft documents are posted on the MPO's website, www.bostonmpo.org. Compact discs (CDs) con-

taining the documents are available, and copies in accessible format or in print may be requested by contacting MPO staff by mail at 10 Park Plaza, Suite 2150, Boston, MA 02116; by voice

at (617) 973-7100; by TTY at (617) 973-7089; or by e-mail at publicinformation@bostonmpo.org.

See page 1 for the schedule of MPO workshops where the documents will be discussed.

The final FFY 2010 UPWP, which was adopted on August 13, is also posted on the MPO's website.



Boston Region MPO Activities

The Transportation Planning and Programming Committee took four actions related to its certification documents and approved one work program in August. First the Committee approved Amendment Four to the FFY 2009 element of the FFYs 2007–2010 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which is the current TIP. Next it approved the FFY 2010 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), which describes studies that the MPO plans to conduct during the upcoming federal fiscal year. Later in the month, the Committee released two documents for a 30-day public review period: an amendment to the long-range transportation plan (JOURNEY TO 2030), and the draft FFYs 2010–2013 TIP. The staff of the MPO also received approval to begin work on the Foxborough Commuter Rail Station Feasibility Study. This study will examine the feasibility of using the commuter rail stop in Foxborough full-time. The stop is currently used only when sporting events and other special events occur at Gillette Stadium.

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATE

A highlight of the August meeting of the Advisory Council was a presentation by Thomas Donald, Director of Program Development for the Commonwealth's Accelerated Bridge Program. Mr. Donald talked about the innovative techniques, such as maximizing the use of precast and pre-fabricated elements, that the Commonwealth is using to improve its bridges. The \$3 billion program will improve approximately 160 Mass-

Highway bridges and several Department of Conservation and Recreation bridges, such as the Longfellow Bridge, which connects Cambridge and Boston.

Following a briefing from MPO staff, Council members discussed the draft Regional Transportation Plan Amendment and the draft FFYs 2010–2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The Advisory Council will continue to develop its comments on these important draft documents at its meeting in September.

Also scheduled for the September meeting is a talk by the Massachusetts Secretary of Transportation, James A. Aloisi Jr., and the Council's annual election of officers.

ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE MBTA (AACT) UPDATE

This summer, newly elected and reelected officers of the Access Advisory Committee to the MBTA assumed their duties for the 2009–2011 term. AACT members reelected Ben Haynes as chairman. Mr. Haynes, who is entering his second two-year term, will be ineligible to run for a third

term, according to the AACT bylaws. John Kane was elected vice chairman, and Paul Barresi, Ellen Frith, and April Maselli were elected to the Executive Board.

Also this summer, Paul Regan, Executive Director of the Advisory Board to the MBTA and member of the state's Transportation Finance Commission, provided an overview of the MBTA's financial structure, and discussed the MBTA's current fiscal crisis. He encouraged AACT members to contact their representatives and urge them to seek avenues for addressing this critical issue.

Comment Period for State TIP

The Executive Office of Transportation and Public Works (EOT) announced the availability of the draft project listings for the proposed State Transportation Improvement Program for federal fiscal years 2010 to 2013. These draft listings are a compilation of roadway, bridge, intermodal, and transit projects developed by the commonwealth's 10 Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and the three regional planning agencies that are not MPOs. They are available for review at www.mass.gov/eot, and during regular business hours at the office of the Boston Region MPO, 10 Park Plaza, Suite 2150, Boston, Massachusetts. The comment period will end on September 30.

Comments may be sent to the STIP Coordinator: by e-mail at STIP@eot.state.ma.us; by fax at (617) 973-8035; or by phone at (617) 973-7335. Comments received by September 30 will be included in the final document.

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

Meeting Announced for Update on Transit Projects

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) will hold a meeting on September 9 (see the Calendar on page 2 for details) to provide an opportunity for the public to comment on the annual update and status report for the transit projects included in the Massachusetts State Implementation Plan (SIP). The SIP is a document that describes how the Commonwealth will attain and maintain compliance with federal air quality regulations.

The Executive Office of Transportation and Public Works (EOT) submitted its

● Assembly Square *cont. from p. 3*

Incentive (I-Cubed) Program. I-Cubed is an innovative bond-funded program designed to generate private investment and economic growth by creating a partnership between a developer, a host community, and the state to help fund street, sidewalk, and other infrastructure projects. An additional \$2 million will be provided through a state Growth District award.

annual update and status report for SIP transit projects to MassDEP in July. Copies are available for inspection during regular business hours at MassDEP, 1 Winter Street, Boston, Massachusetts. The report is also available on EOT's website, www.eot.state.ma.us.

Comments may be presented orally or in writing at the meeting. Written comments will also be accepted until September 15. They may be sent to: Kate Fichter, Executive Office of Transportation Planning and Public Works, Room 4150, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116.

● Route 28X *cont. from p. 2*

are expected to be announced by mid-January or sooner. If funding for the project is approved, construction contracts will be awarded by September 30, 2010.

For more information about the project, including a map of potential stations, conceptual plans, and project overviews in English, Spanish, and Creole, go to www.mass.gov/eot/28x.

TRANSREPORT

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James A. Aloisi Jr.,
MPO Chairman

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

EDITORS

Mary Ellen Sullivan
Maureen Kelly

CONTRIBUTORS

Michael Callahan
Janie Guion

GRAPHICS and PHOTOS

Kathy Jacob
Kim Noonan
Kate Parker-O'Toole

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