



MBTA TO BUY NEW LOCOMOTIVES
Page 2

REAL-TIME TRAFFIC CAMERA IMAGES GO ONLINE
Page 3

MPO ACTIVITIES
Page 3

NOVEMBER FORUM ON SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM
Page 4

MBTA IMPROVES BUS ROUTE SERVICE
Page 4

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

October 14 (Wednesday)

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

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

October 15 (Thursday)

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

October 28 (Wednesday)

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

October 26 (Monday)

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

November 5 (Thursday)

Boston Region MPO Transportation Planning and Programming

Calendar cont. on p. 2

Transportation Planning Update

The Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) adopted two important documents on September 24: an amendment to JOURNEY TO 2030, the long-range transportation plan for the region; and the federal fiscal years 2010–2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), a plan for implementing projects over the next several years.



Both documents are being finalized and will soon be available on the MPO's website, www.bostonmpo.org. Copies on compact discs will also be available upon request. To request a copy, contact the MPO by writing to publicinformation@bostonmpo.org or 10 Park Plaza, Suite 2150, Boston, MA 02116, or by calling (617) 973-7100 (voice) or (617) 973-7089 (TTY).

Belmont, Lexington, Waltham Subarea Study Report Released

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION FOCUS ON SMART GROWTH

The Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) released a study in September that was designed to help the towns of Belmont, Lexington, and Waltham plan for future growth and development and related transportation impacts in the Trapelo Road area.

The study, which involved using travel-forecasting techniques to predict future growth, resulted in recommendations that encourage land uses that adhere to the principles of smart growth, and accommodate and create connectivity between various

transportation modes: walking, bicycling, transit, and motor vehicles.

The study was conducted as a joint project of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) and Boston Region MPO staff. It focused on an area bounded by Route 128 in the west, the Waverly MBTA station in the east, Route 2 in the north, and Totten Pond Road and Beaver Street in the south, with Trapelo Road traversing the area.

At the outset of the study, MAPC and MPO staff met with planners, transportation officials, and other interested parties in each of the three municipalities to discuss options and opportunities for addressing their concerns, most of which related

to existing and future traffic, the amount of future development under consideration, transit, and a need to mitigate the impacts of projects.

An advisory committee, with representatives from the three municipalities, provided guidance and defined the study objectives. The key objectives included identifying the total amount of future development planned for the area and associated impacts; estimating future demand for travel in the corridor; and recommending ways to manage that demand by coordinating land use with transportation.

An analysis of existing conditions, based on current zoning and other land use regulations, informed the devel-

● *Study cont. on p. 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

Trapelo Road Traffic Growth Studied

● Study cont. from p. 1

opment of four Alternative Future Scenarios, one forecasting to the year 2010 and three to the year 2030. In all scenarios, the overall rate of traffic was forecast to increase, and traffic conditions to deteriorate. To address these forecasted conditions, the study produced recommendations for improvements that could help manage the rate of traffic growth in the three towns.

The study recommends that new development adhere to principles of smart growth—well-planned, mixed-use development that protects open space and provides

transportation choices. New development should also accommodate various modes of transportation—motor vehicles, transit, walking, and bicycling. The study also recommends that Belmont, Lexington, and Waltham coordinate mitigation requests for future developments, and coordinate land use policies, bus and shuttle service enhancements, and roadway improvements, such as upgrades to signal timing

and pavement markings and geometric changes at intersections.

The *Belmont, Lexington, and Waltham Subarea Study* is available online at www.bostonmpo.org and at www.mapc.org.

Top Ten Employment Destinations for Belmont, Lexington, and Waltham Residents									
Rank	Belmont Residents			Lexington Residents			Waltham Residents		
	Destination	Workers	% Total	Destination	Workers	% Total	Destination	Workers	% Total
1	Boston	3,141	25%	Lexington	3,459	24%	Waltham	11,134	34%
2	Cambridge	2,217	18%	Boston	2,209	15%	Boston	4,567	14%
3	Belmont	1,925	15%	Cambridge	1,761	12%	Newton	1,897	6%
4	Waltham	667	5%	Waltham	818	6%	Cambridge	1,882	6%
5	Watertown	489	4%	Burlington	546	4%	Watertown	1,275	4%
6	Newton	282	2%	Bedford	498	3%	Burlington	731	2%
7	Somerville	260	2%	Newton	302	2%	Frammingham	682	2%
8	Lexington	258	2%	Woburn	246	2%	Lexington	656	2%
9	Burlington	198	2%	Concord	244	2%	Wellesley	501	2%
10	Brookline	197	2%	Billerica	232	2%	Woburn	427	1%
Total		12,612	76%		10,315	71%		32,752	73%

Source: 2000 U.S. Census

Census employment data provide insights into the commuting patterns of residents of Belmont, Lexington, and Waltham. The top four commuting destinations are Boston, Waltham, Lexington, and Cambridge.

MBTA to Buy New Locomotives

MPO PROGRAMS \$17 MILLION FOR COMMUTER RAIL PROJECT

Seeking a major upgrade to the region's commuter rail fleet, the MBTA announced its intention in September to purchase as many as 40 new diesel-electric-powered locomotives to replace the oldest vehicles in its fleet, some of which are 29 years old.

The newer diesel-electric technology, which produces fewer emissions than the older diesel technology, is expected to bring air quality and public health benefits to

commuter rail corridors in the region. The new locomotives are also expected to increase service reliability.

The MBTA released a request for proposals in early September seeking bids from locomotive manufacturers for the project. The purchase will be funded primarily with federal dollars programmed by the Boston Region MPO.



Calendar cont. from p. 1

Committee. Conference Room 4. 10:00 AM

AT OTHER BOSTON AREA LOCATIONS

October 6 (Tuesday)

MBTA Initial Design Meeting: Salem Intermodal Center Parking Project. *Carlton School (cafetorium), 10 Skerry Street, Salem.* 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

October 7 (Wednesday)

MassHighway Public Hearing: Proposed Morton Street Bridge Replacement Project in Boston. *Mildred Avenue Community Center, 5 Mildred Avenue, Mattapan.* 6:30 PM

October 8 (Thursday)

MassHighway Public Hearing: Proposed River Street Bridge Replacement Project in Boston. *Mildred Avenue Community Center, 5 Mildred Avenue, Mattapan.* 6:30 PM

October 26 (Monday)

EOT Project General Information Meeting: Red Line—Blue Line Connector. *Shriner's Auditorium, 51 Blossom Street, Boston.* 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM. For more information, call (617) 357-5772 extension 14.

October 27 (Tuesday)

MassHighway Public Hearing: Proposed Cedar Street Bridge Replacement Project in Wellesley. *Town Hall, 525 Washington Street, Great Hall, Wellesley.* 7:00 PM

November 5 (Thursday)

Massachusetts Safe Routes to School Forum. *Newton Marriott Hotel, 2345 Commonwealth Avenue, Newton.* 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM. RSVP by October 21 to courtney.croteau@eot.state.ma.us or (617) 892-6083.

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.

Live Traffic Camera Images Go On-line

511 SERVICE ENHANCED TO SHOW TRAFFIC CONDITIONS

Since 2007 travelers on the highways of eastern Massachusetts have been able to call 511 to get real-time information on traffic conditions. To enhance that service, the Massachusetts Highway Department and Massachusetts Turnpike Authority have made the video images that are produced from the system of traffic cameras on state highways available for public viewing on the Web. Live images of over 100 highway locations in eastern Massachusetts can be seen at www.mass.gov/511/cameras.

“This website is part of our ongoing efforts to provide drivers with up-to-date and accurate information that they can use to inform their travel plans,” said Mass-Highway Commissioner Luisa Paiewonsky.

Last spring, MassPike unveiled images from traffic cameras trained on locations along Interstate 90: near Route 1A in East Boston, Ted Williams Tunnel westbound entrance, South Boston, I-90/I-93 interchange, exit to I-93 northbound from I-90 westbound, Allston-Brighton tolls, Route 128 tolls, Weston State Police barracks, Exit 11A at I-495, and east of Exit 9 at I-84 in Charlton. There are other

MassPike cameras on the Central Artery portion of I-93: near Bunker Hill Community College, Boston Sand & Gravel, Zakim Bridge, East Berkeley Street, Massachusetts Ave-nue, and the South Bay Mall.

This September, Mass-Highway made public its even larger system of traffic cameras, along I-93, I-95,

Route 3, and part of Route 6. Those cameras cover I-93 from Somerville to Canton, I-95 from Westwood to Wakefield, Route 3 from Burlington to the New Hampshire border, and the mainland side of the Sagamore Bridge in Bourne.

The traffic images may be viewed at www.mass.gov/511/cameras.



A live traffic camera image of Interstate 93 at Furnace Brook Parkway

Boston Region MPO Activities

BOSTON REGION MPO ACTION ITEMS

The Transportation Planning and Programming Committee closed federal fiscal year (FFY) 2009 in September by adopting Amendment Six of the FFY 2009 element of the FFYs 2007–2010 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to adjust the cost of several projects, and then by adopting for the next TIP cycle the FFYs 2010–2013 TIP, and amending JOURNEY TO 2030, the long-range transportation plan for the region. Additionally, the Committee approved the MPO's *Belmont, Lexington, and Waltham Subarea Study* (see article on page 1) and directed MPO staff to begin the work program for 2009–2010 HOV Monitoring on I-93 North and the Southeast Expressway, which is conducted annually to collect travel time and vehicle-occupancy data for HOV lanes. The Committee also voted to give the MPO's endorsement to the Commonwealth's 28X project; the Commonwealth is applying for a federal Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant for this project.

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATE

Secretary of Transportation James A. Aloisi Jr. spoke to the Advisory Council at its September meeting. He briefed members on the reorganization of state transportation agencies into MassDOT, and several other topics the Advisory Council had expressed interest in, such as transportation finance, freight rail, and public transportation.

The Secretary described the challenges associated with merging several state transportation agencies into MassDOT by November 1.

Despite the challenges, the the Commonwealth will benefit from the merger because one policy imperative will flow seamlessly through the entire organization without the barriers that currently exist between agencies, the Secretary said.

Additionally, the Secretary spoke about the importance of identifying sustainable means of funding the maintenance and expansion of the transportation system, relying less on borrowing. He encouraged strong participation from the Advisory Council and other members of the public.

The Advisory Council also held its annual election.

Laura Wiener, of Arlington, was elected Chair, and Schuyler Larrabee, representing the Boston Society of Architects, was elected Vice Chair. Two new members joined the Advisory Council: the Seaport Advisory Council and the Eastern Massachusetts Freight Rail Coalition.

ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE MBTA (AACT) UPDATE

Michael Festa, Senior Accessibility Specialist and Project Manager for the MBTA, gave AACT members an update at the September meeting on the design and construction of two Fairmount Line stations. Members learned about the

accessibility components included in the plans for the new Talbot Avenue and Newmarket stations.

Members also received updates from paratransit and fixed-route transit service providers. Kathy Cox, of the MBTA, showed members one of the rescue chairs the agency is attempting to purchase with a Homeland Security Department grant. The MBTA expects to purchase approximately 500 rescue chairs to be used in the event of an emergency in the subway system or in an MBTA building.

Safe Routes to School Forum Scheduled for November

LEARN HOW A SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM CAN WORK IN YOUR COMMUNITY

More elementary and middle school students in the Commonwealth are getting encouragement to walk or bicycle to school through the Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS), a national program implemented in Massachusetts by the Executive Office of Transportation and Public Works.

The SRTS program promotes walking and bicycling as healthier and more environmentally friendly alternatives for traveling to and from school, and a means for reducing traffic congestion and air pollution, which

increase near schools when parents drop off or pick up their children in private vehicles.

Participating schools receive technical assistance from MassRIDES, including education about pedestrian and bicycle safety, evaluation of routes, and enforcement and engineering strategies for improving safety and reducing traffic near schools.

You can learn more about how SRTS can help in your community by attending the Massachusetts Safe Routes to School Forum on November 5 at the Marriott Hotel in Newton (see the calendar for details).

The event is free. Attendees

should RSVP by October 21 to Courtney Croteau at courtney.croteau@eot.state.ma.us or (617) 892-6083.

For more information about SRTS, visit the MassRIDES website, www.commute.com.



"Walking School Buses" are one way that SRTS communities are organizing to help children walk safely to school.

MBTA Improves Bus Route Service

The MBTA has implemented service changes on a number of bus routes to improve bus performance and schedule reliability, and to better meet customer demand. The changes affect Routes 47, 62, 76, 104, 112,

225, 411, and 424W, and include adjustments such as the addition of trips during times of high ridership, changes in schedule times, and increases in service frequency. The MBTA also increased the frequency of

its Green Line E Branch trolley service.

For details on changes to specific routes, call (617) 222-3200 or (617) 222-5146 (TTY). New schedules are available on the MBTA's website, www.mbta.com.

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
Alison Felix, MAPC
Janie Guion
Alicia Wilson

GRAPHICS and PHOTOS

MassHighway
MassRIDES
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