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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](http://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

December 4 (Thursday)

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

December 10 (Wednesday)

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

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

December 15 (Monday)

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

December 17 (Wednesday)

Access Advisory Committee to the MBTA. *Conference Room 4.* 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM

January 8 (Thursday)

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

Calendar continued on p. 2

## December 4 Deadline Approaches for Next Round of Suburban Transportation Program Awards

The Boston Region MPO has sounded a call for letters of interest from municipalities, regional planning agencies (RPAs), regional transit authorities (RTAs), and transportation management associations (TMAs) as a first

step in applying for funding under the MPO's Suburban Mobility Program.

The goals of the program, which the MPO began in 2006 to further its commitment to increasing public

transportation options in suburban communities, are to:

- Reduce the use of single-occupancy vehicles
- Provide transportation to transit stations
- Increase access to employment locations

Funding for the program comes through the federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ)

Improvement Program, which provides federal matching funds for projects that reduce transportation-related emissions.

Letters of interest from eligible entities (municipalities, regional planning agencies, regional transit authorities, and transportation management associations) are due on December 4. They should be sent to: Barbara Lucas, Chair, Suburban Mobility Subcommittee, Boston Region MPO, Room 2150, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116.

For more information on the Suburban Mobility Program, please visit the MPO's website, [www.bostonmpo.org](http://www.bostonmpo.org), or contact Barbara Lucas at [blucas@mapc.org](mailto:blucas@mapc.org) or (617) 451-2770, ext. 2043; or Jonathan Belcher at [jbelcher@bostonmpo.org](mailto:jbelcher@bostonmpo.org) or (617) 973-7253.



- Support local transportation projects that improve mobility in suburban areas

## New MPO Study Identifies Improvements for Selected Intersections

Boston Region MPO staff recently completed a study whose recommendations, when implemented, will lead to improved safety and mobility at 15 intersections in the region.

The study builds upon findings from the Boston Region MPO's 2004 Mobility Management System report. The intersections examined were selected based primarily on high crash rates, including crashes involving

pedestrians and bicyclists.

Another factor in selecting these intersections was their geographic distribution—they are spread around the entire MPO region. Each of the eight subregions of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council contains at least one of the study intersections, which are located in the following municipalities:

- MPO Study *cont. on p. 3*

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

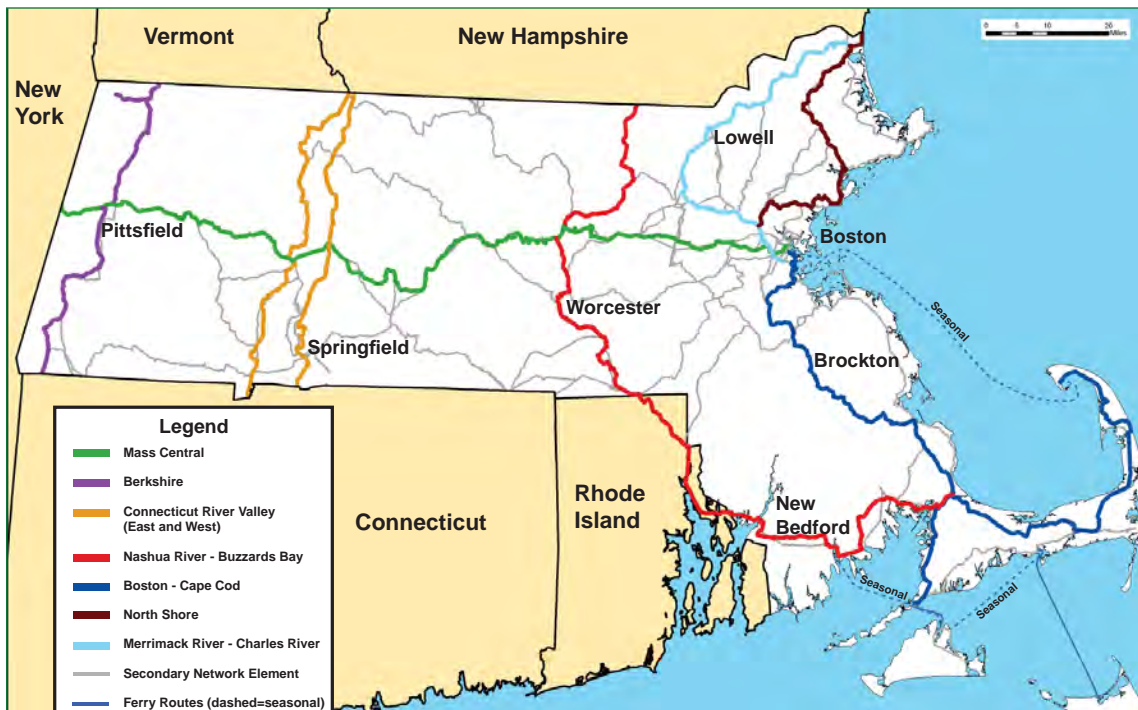
# Massachusetts Bicycle Plan Proposes Statewide Network of Facilities

The Executive Office of Transportation and Public Works recently completed the Massachusetts Bicycle Transportation Plan, which identifies priorities for creating a statewide bicycling network. This network would improve multimodal transportation and promote recreation, tourism, and economic vitality.

Highlights of the plan include:

- A comprehensive inventory that identifies existing on-road and off-road facilities, projects that are currently in the pipeline, and long-term proposals for additional facilities
- Recommendations for a 740-mile, seven-corridor Bay State Greenway (BSG) network consisting of on-road and off-road facilities (much of which is already already designed or constructed)
- An implementation strategy aimed at launching the BSG, initially as mostly an on-road system that is geared to both utilitarian and recreational travel, and complemented by a long-term investment strategy

The plan, which also includes recommendations for other enhancements and interagency initiatives, may be downloaded from [www.eot.state.ma.us](http://www.eot.state.ma.us).



Proposed Bay State bicycle network

## Framingham/Worcester Commuter Rail Service Expanded



To better serve residents of Central Massachusetts, the MBTA recently implemented weekday service adjustments on the Framingham/Worcester commuter rail line. As of October 27, two early-morning trips began departing from Worcester at 4:45 AM and 6:05 PM,

respectively. Additional adjustments were made to minimize gaps between trips, including a 2:40 PM outbound trip from Boston to Worcester and a 4:30 PM inbound trip from Worcester to Boston, along with other minor adjustments to existing train times.

*Calendar cont. from p. 1*

### AT OTHER BOSTON AREA LOCATIONS

December 2 (Tuesday)

MetroFuture at the MAPC Council Meeting. *Hyatt Regency Hotel, One Avenue de Lafayette, Boston.* 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM

*Registration and a complimentary breakfast will be available at 7:30 AM. To register online, go to [www.metrofuture.org/content/metrofuture-mapc-council](http://www.metrofuture.org/content/metrofuture-mapc-council).*

December 10 (Wednesday)

Mass. Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) Public Hearing: Amendment to the Mass. Low Emission Vehicle Program. *MassDEP Main Office, One Winter Street, Conference Rooms A, B, and C, 2nd Floor, Boston.* 1:00 PM

MBTA FYs 2010-214 Capital Investment Program Public Meetings

6:00 PM to 7:30 PM

December 11 (Thursday)

Northeastern University Egan Auditorium, 716 Columbus Avenue, Boston.

December 15 (Monday)

Tip O'Neill Federal Building Auditorium, 10 Causeway Street, Boston

December 16 (Tuesday)

Roxbury Community College - Dance Studio, 1234 Columbus Avenue, Roxbury MA 02120

December 17 (Wednesday)

Mattapan Mildred Community Center, 5 Mildred Avenue, Mattapan

*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), (617) 973-7089 (TTY), or e-mail [publicinformation@bostonmpo.org](mailto:publicinformation@bostonmpo.org).*

The adjustments benefit both early-morning and afternoon customers. MBTA General Manager Daniel A. Grabauskas noted, "The addition of the 4:45 AM departure from Worcester opens the doors to a brand new ridership base—the early

● *Expanded Service cont. on p. 4*

● MPO Study *cont. from p. 1*

Beverly, Boston, Braintree, Holliston, Lexington, Littleton, Marlborough, Medfield, Peabody, Quincy, Randolph, Revere, Stoneham, Wayland, and Weymouth.

The results of this study, and the analytical methods that were used, are summarized in the technical memorandum “Safety and Operational Improvements at Selected Intersections (SOISI) Study: Analysis and Recommendations,” which can be downloaded from the MPO website, [www.bostonmpo.org](http://www.bostonmpo.org). To request a copy of the report, contact Robert Sievert at (617) 973-7138 or [robsiev@bostonmpo.org](mailto:robsiev@bostonmpo.org).

## Types of Recommended Improvements: Safety and Operational Improvements at Selected Intersections (SOISI) Study

Bicycles	Pedestrians	Signals
Addition of striped bicycle lanes	Addition of sidewalks	Changing pretimed signals to actuated signals
<b>Driveways</b>	Addition of ramps	New signals at unsignalized intersections
Relocation due to poor sight distance	Addition of signs stating “STATE LAW: STOP for pedestrians in crosswalk”	New LED signal heads
Relocation due to proximity to intersection	Restriping of crosswalks	Optimizing current signal phasing
<b>Lanes</b>	Upgrading of pedestrian buttons at signals	Phasing changes such as lead-lag, exclusive pedestrian, and split phases
Addition of exclusive turning lanes	<b>Roundabouts</b>	Replacing old signal posts with new posts or mast arms
Reallocation of existing travel lanes	Addition of roundabouts at unsignalized intersections	<b>Traffic Calming</b>
Widening of existing lanes	<b>Signage/Markings</b>	Addition of bulbouts, islands, medians
<b>Lighting</b>	Addition of safety-oriented signs (YIELD, Medical Area, Pedestrian Crossing)	<b>Traffic Flow Changes</b>
Enhancement of street lighting at intersection	Addition of light-emitting diode (LED) “Red Signal Ahead” signs	Peak-period restrictions
<b>Parking</b>	Restriping of lane markings	Signage directing drivers
Prohibition of on-street parking		Speed limit reductions

# Boston Region MPO Activities

## BOSTON REGION MPO ACTION ITEMS

The Transportation Planning and Programming Committee approved the following at its October and November meetings:

- 1) Amendment One of the Federal Fiscal Years (FFYs) 2007–2010 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- 2) “Safety and Operational Improvements at Selected Intersections (SOISI) Study: Analysis and Recommendations” (see related article on page 1)
- 3) A work program for conducting safety evaluations of TIP projects
- 4) A work program that provides for monitoring the usage of the Southeast Expressway high-occupancy-vehicle lane

## REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATE

At the November Advisory Council meeting, Efi Pagitsas, of the Boston Region MPO staff, presented the recently approved “Safety and Operational Improvements at Selected Intersections (SOISI) Study: Analysis and Recommendations.” (See page 1 for related article.)

Hayes Morrison, the MPO’s manager of the Transportation Improvement Program, provided an update on the recently approved Amend-

ment One of the FFYs 2007–2010 TIP.

Lastly, the Advisory Council reviewed its list of several committees and membership on those committees. Standing committees review MPO certification documents and send comments about these documents to the Advisory Council, review annual membership records, and nominate executive candidates. Ad hoc committees work on freight issues and other topics. Members are strongly encouraged to participate at both the full Council and committee levels.

## ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE MBTA (AACT) UPDATE

AACT members continued to forge ahead with their accessibility agenda after celebrating their 30th anniversary at the Holiday Inn in Brookline on October 16.

At the October meeting, AACT members discussed with Gillian Wood, Chief of Customer Service, how the Massachusetts Bay Commuter Railroad Company (MBCR) handles complaints. MBCR is the current operator of MBTA commuter rail service.

Members also heard about the customer courtesy campaign that the MBTA has recently launched, which, among other things, is geared to encouraging people to give up their seat to people who are elderly or who have a disability.

The MBTA reported that September 2008 ridership for THE RIDE service was 21.4 percent greater than for the same period last year. The MBTA and its service providers were able to maintain a zero not-available rate for RIDE requests despite the increase in ridership.

# Vehicle Emissions Labeling Proposed for Massachusetts

The Patrick Administration is seeking to encourage the purchase of low-emission vehicles (LEVs) to help combat global warming, by amending the regulation governing the Massachusetts Low Emission Vehicle Program (310 CMR 7.40). Under the proposed amendment, Massachusetts would adopt the California Smog Index Vehicle Emissions Label in 2009. It would require all automobile manufacturers to display updated smog scores and a new global warming rating in the window of passenger cars, light-duty trucks, and medium-duty passenger vehicles assembled on or after

October 1, 2008.

The proposed label (shown below) provides the global warming index, which is a measure of the carbon emissions produced by the vehicle, and the smog index. The indices are based on a scale of 1–10, with higher values representing cleaner vehicles. Automobiles that produce smog and carbon emissions above the baseline average of 5 would consequently receive lower scores.

Lower-emission vehicles have the potential to reduce the estimated 72,000 tons of global warming gases emitted daily on the roads of Massachusetts, while improv-

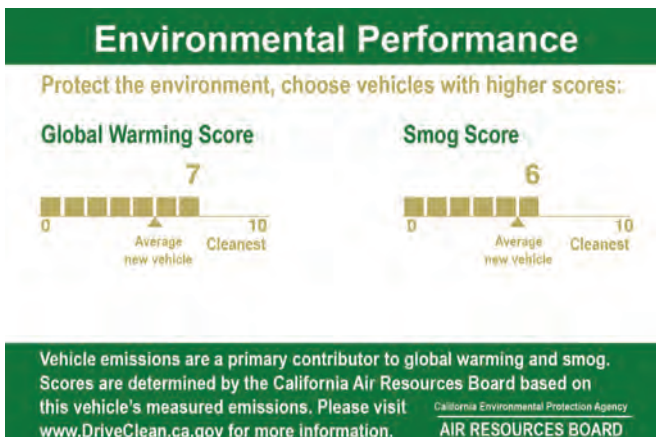
ing air quality and public health.

The Department of Environmental Protection will solicit public comments before the labeling requirement is finalized. A public hearing will be held December 10 (see the calendar on page 2 for details).

Written testimony will be accepted until 5:00 PM on December 22. Written testimony may be submitted via e-mail to: [ngoc.hoang.tran@state.ma.us](mailto:ngoc.hoang.tran@state.ma.us). For more information on the LEV program and the emission performance label, go to [www.mass.gov/dep/public/publicche.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dep/public/publicche.htm).

● Expanded Service *cont. from p. 2*  
shift. We have heard over the years from nurses and others in the medical field who need to get to Boston area hospitals by 7:00 A.M. This trip brings folks into South Station with sufficient time for them to continue on to their destination.”

The new schedule may be downloaded from [www.mbta.com](http://www.mbta.com).



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## TRANSREPORT

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