



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BOSTON REGION METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

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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

February 2 (Tuesday)

MassDOT: youMove Massachusetts Civic Engagement Initiative Forum. *MBTA Board Room, Suite 3910. 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM*

February 3 (Wednesday)

MassDOT Board of Directors. *MBTA Board Room, Suite 3910. 1:00 PM*

February 4 (Thursday)

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

This meeting may be followed by an MPO meeting.

February 10 (Wednesday)

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

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

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MassDOT Solicits Proposals for Job Access/Reverse Commute and New Freedom Programs

On behalf of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT), the Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) has issued a request for proposals for projects seeking funding from the federal Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom programs.

The federal SAFETEA-LU act of 2005 authorized JARC (49 USC Section 5316) and New Freedom (49 USC Section 5317) funding grants in each federal fiscal year (FFY) from FFY 2006 through FFY 2009.

MassDOT is the eligible recipient for the Boston

urbanized area, which consists of the Boston Region MPO and four other MPOs in Massachusetts.

JARC provides grants to transport welfare recipients and eligible low-income individuals to and from jobs and activities related to employment. New Freedom provides grants for new public transportation services that go beyond the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 in assisting individuals with disabilities.

MassDOT uses a competitive selection process to determine which proposals recommended to them by each MPO will be funded.

MassDOT funded nine Boston Region MPO proposals in FFY 2008 and eight in FFY 2009. MassDOT is now initiating a third solicitation for proposals. This solicitation seeks to award \$3.2 million for the JARC Program and \$2.26 million for the New Freedom Program.

The Boston Region MPO's solicitation period for proposals runs from January 25 to March 5, 2010. A pre-proposal applicant workshop is scheduled for February 11 at the State Transportation Building. (See calendar for details.)

MPO's Project Database Now Online

A searchable database containing information that the Boston Region MPO uses to evaluate and select transportation projects for federal funding is now accessible to the public on the MPO's website. It includes projects in the Boston region that the MPO may fund through its Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and those that have already received

federal funding through the TIP.

The information provided in the database includes project descriptions, estimated costs, design status, and permitting requirements, as well as information pertaining to safety, mobility, environmental justice com-

munities, environmental protection, land use, and economic development.

To view the database, visit www.bostonmpo.org. Click on the TIP icon, and then on the Interactive Database link on the TIP page.



The members of the Boston Region MPO: Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) Office of Planning and Programming, cities of Boston, Braintree, Newton, and Somerville, Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority Advisory Board, MassDOT Highway Division, Massachusetts Port Authority, Metropolitan Area Planning Council, Regional Transportation Advisory Council, towns of Bedford, Framingham, and Hopkinton

Tobin Bridge Turns 60; Ownership Transferred to MassDOT

Sixty years ago this month, the Maurice J. Tobin Memorial Bridge first opened to traffic. Carrying U.S. Route 1 over the Mystic River, the two-mile long, double-deck, cantilever truss bridge connects the city of Chelsea and the Boston neighborhood of Charlestown and provides what has come to be a key link to North Shore communities in the Boston region's highway system.

For the past half century, the Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) has operated and maintained the Tobin Bridge. As a result of the transportation reform legislation passed in the Commonwealth last year, ownership of the bridge was transferred to the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) on January 1, 2010. The tolls

generated from the Tobin Bridge will provide a new source of revenue for the recently reorganized state transportation system for investing in repair and maintenance projects.

Drivers who pay tolls in cash or by using Fast Lane or E-ZPass transponders will not experience any changes when they travel over the Tobin Bridge.

"Our team is already hard at work continuing the high level of service drivers came to expect when the bridge was managed by Massport," said MassDOT Secretary and CEO Jeffrey Mullan.

Current traffic conditions on the Tobin Bridge may be viewed at MassDOT's "traffic cameras" website, www.mass.gov/511/cameras.



Maurice J. Tobin Memorial Bridge



The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is conducting an ongoing series of community forums related to the youMove Massachusetts Civic Engagement Initiative, a statewide planning effort aimed at developing transportation solutions to the mobility gaps and challenges that people face. The next forum will be held on Tuesday, February 2, at the State Transportation Building. (See the calendar on page 1 for details.) Starting in March, forums will be held on the first and third Tuesdays of each month.

For more information, please contact John Romano, MassDOT Municipal Affairs Liaison, at (617) 248-2822 or (617) 438-4301. For more MassDOT news and updates, visit the MassDOT website, www.mass.gov/massdot; blog at www.mass.gov/blog/transportation; or follow MassDOT on twitter at www.twitter.com/massdot.

Health Compact Launched

The first meeting for the Healthy Transportation Compact took place at the State Transportation Building on January 20.

The Compact, a requirement of the transportation reform legislation of 2009, is designed to promote cooperation between the Commonwealth's transportation, health, and environmental agencies, the private sector, advocacy groups, and other

● Compact cont. on p. 4

Calendar cont. from p. 1

February 11 (Thursday)

Boston Region MPO: JARC and New Freedom Pre-proposal Meeting. *MPO Conference Room, Suite 2150. 10:00 AM*

February 18 (Thursday)

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

February 22 (Monday)

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

February 24 (Wednesday)

Access Advisory Committee to the MBTA. *Conference Rooms 2 and 3. 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM*

AT OTHER BOSTON AREA LOCATIONS

February 11 (Thursday)

MassDOT Public Hearing: Proposed Superstructure Replacement of the Danforth Street Bridge over the Sudbury River: *Framingham Town Hall, Selectmen's Meeting Room, 150 Concord Street, Framingham. 7:00 PM*

February 12 (Friday)

MBTA Senior and Transportation Access Pass CharlieCards: *Swampscott Council on Aging, 200 Essex Street (rear), Swampscott. 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM*

February 16 (Tuesday)

MBTA Senior and Transportation Access Pass CharlieCards: *Randolph Senior Center, 16 Fencourt Avenue, Randolph. 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM*

February 17 (Wednesday)

MPO How-To Seminar for Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Clean Air and Mobility Program: *Lynn City Hall, 3 City Hall Square, Lynn. 9:00 AM*

February 23 (Tuesday)

MPO How-To Seminar for TIP and Clean Air and Mobility Program: *Marlborough City Hall, Memorial Hall, 140 Main Street, Marlborough. 9:00 AM*

February 24 (Wednesday)

MPO How-To Seminar for TIP and Clean Air and Mobility Program: *Weymouth Town Hall, Council Chambers, 75 Middle Street, Weymouth. 9:00 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), (617) 973-7089 (TTY), or public information@bostonmpo.org.

Trail Count Data on MPO Website

The Boston Region MPO has been collecting data on non-motor-vehicle traffic since the mid-1970s. This rich resource is now available as part of an online interactive database. It contains information spanning four decades about the usage of trails, roadways, and other locations by non-motor-vehicle users such as bicyclists, walkers, skaters, joggers, and wheelchair users.

The graphics at the right show average weekend usage by mode on the three bicycle trails that have been counted the most consistently in the Boston region: the Minute-man Bikeway, Dr. Paul

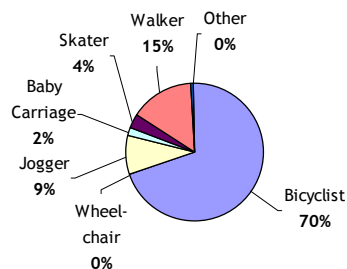
Dudley White Bike Path, and Upper Charles Trail.

To view the full database, visit the Database section of the Bicycle and Pedestrian

page of the MPO's website, www.bostonmpo.org.

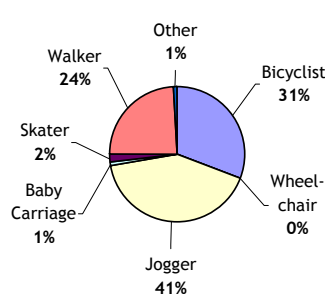
For more information, please contact MPO staff members Cathy Buckley ([\[bostonmpo.org\]\(mailto:bostonmpo.org\)\) or Sean Pfalzer \(\[spfalzer@bostonmpo.org\]\(mailto:spfalzer@bostonmpo.org\)\) or call \(617\) 973-7000.](mailto:cathy@</p>
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Minuteman Bikeway



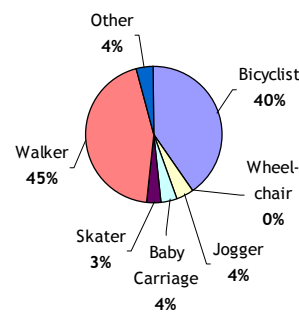
Peak-hour volume: 408
Count locations: Arlington, Bedford, Cambridge, and Lexington

Dr. Paul Dudley White Bike Path



Peak-hour volume: 520
Count locations: Boston and Cambridge

Upper Charles Trail



Peak-hour volume: 408
Count location: Milford

Boston Region MPO Activities

BOSTON REGION MPO ACTION ITEMS

The Transportation Planning and Programming Committee adopted the second amendment to the federal fiscal year (FFY) 2010 element of the FFYs 2010–2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to address programming for projects that will receive economic stimulus funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Subsequently, the Committee approved an administrative modification to the TIP, and released a third amendment for expedited public review. The Committee also approved three work programs:

- State Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011 Massport Technical Assistance: This program enables MPO staff to continue data collection, data analysis, and traffic-modeling work, and to provide other technical assistance to support Massport's initiatives to improve ground access to Logan Airport.
- Strategic Visioning for MBTA Bus Service: This study will examine the feasibility of employing traffic signal priority strategies to improve the travel time of buses on several key MBTA bus routes.
- Green Line Extension FEIR/New Starts Analysis: MPO staff will provide modeling assistance to MassDOT for the preparation of a final environmental impact report for the Green Line Extension project.

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATE

Advisory Council members learned about the MPO's new Clean Air and Mobility Program at their January meeting. Hayes Morrison, of the Boston Region MPO staff, explained the new program, which builds on three previously existing MPO programs: the Suburban Mobility, Transportation Demand Management, and Regional Bike Parking programs. The Clean Air and

Mobility Program broadens the scope of projects that will be funded through the federal CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality) Improvement program.

The Advisory Council also learned more about a new member, the Seaport Advisory Council, which supports economic development in Massachusetts by developing the state's commercial maritime resources. It has expended approximately \$95 million on nearly 300 projects since its creation in 1994. Among the five ports that receive most of the Seaport

Advisory Council's investment, three are within the Boston Region MPO area: Boston, Gloucester, and Salem.

MassDOT Secretary and CEO Jeffrey Mullan is scheduled to address the Advisory Council at this month's meeting. (See the calendar on page one for details.)

ACCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE MBTA (AACT) UPDATE

John C. Lewis, Acting Chief Operating Officer for the MBTA, had been invited to

the January meeting, as of press time, to discuss how the reorganization of the state transportation agencies will affect accessibility, paratransit services, and communication between AACT members and MassDOT leadership. An update will be provided in the next issue of *TRANSREPORT*.



Green Tips for Winter

In our December issue, we provided some ideas for ways to be more environmentally friendly by incorporating some transportation-related strategies into our lives. Did you or your company make a New Year's resolution to try to be more "green"? Here are a couple of tips to keep in mind during the cold months:

Keep your vehicle's tires properly inflated.

The air pressure in your tires can fluctuate when the thermometer drops. Keeping proper pressure in your tires during winter not only improves gas mileage, it also makes for better traction when driving on snow and ice.

Avoid idling your vehicle.

Prolonged idling uses more fuel than stopping and restarting your vehicle. While it may be tempting in winter to warm up your vehicle's engine by letting it run, the best way to warm up a vehicle is to drive it.

Healthy Transportation Compact Formed

• *Compact cont. from p. 2*

stakeholders interested in advancing healthy-transportation policies.

Moving forward, members of the Compact will be working to develop ways to increase

access to transportation alternatives that promote good health — like walking and bicycling — and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve access to transportation for people with limited mobility, balance the needs of

all users, and support strong communities.

For more information, visit the MassDOT website, www.massdot.state.ma.us, and click on the Healthy Transportation Compact link.

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