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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**

**June 2 (Wednesday)**

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

MassDOT Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Consultation Meeting. Conference Room 4150. 1:30 PM

**June 3 (Thursday)**

Boston Region MPO Administration and Finance Subcommittee. MPO Conference Room, Suite 2150. 9:30 AM

Boston Region MPO Transportation Planning and Programming Committee. Conference Room 4. 10:30 AM

Boston Region MPO Unified Planning Work Program Subcommittee. MPO Conference Room, Suite 2150. 1:00 PM

MassDOT Safe Routes to School Advisory Task Force. Conference Room 4150. 1:30 PM

**June 9 (Wednesday)**

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

Regional Transportation Advisory Council Transportation Improvement Program Committee. MPO Conference Room, Suite 2150. 2:00 PM

*Calendar continued on p. 2*

## MPO Asks for Public’s Help to Identify Intersections in Need of Upgrades and Safety Improvements

The Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) needs your input to identify intersections in the region that need to be evaluated for safety and mobility improvements. Please take a minute to go to the MPO’s website at [www.bostonmpo.org](http://www.bostonmpo.org), click on the Mobility Monitoring page, and tell us what intersections you think need attention.

You will be contributing to the MPO’s Congestion Management Process (CMP), a system the MPO uses to

monitor the performance of transportation facilities in the region, and helping to reduce congestion and improve safety on the region’s roadways.

Most of the crashes and delays along roads are at intersections, where various traffic



movements, including those of buses, bicyclists and pedestrians, seek to share the road. The MPO sees maintaining and upgrading intersections as an important way to reduce these problems, to modernize existing infrastructure and make the roadway system more efficient, and to improve safety and mobility for all roadway users.

The MPO staff has compiled a list of intersections in the CMP that are candidates for improvements based on data from the Registry of Motor Vehicles that is used to identify top crash locations within the region. You may suggest additional intersections that are of concern to you, if they are not already in the compiled list.

• **Intersections cont. on p. 4**

## Try the MPO’s New Online Feedback Tool

The website of the Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) has a new feature that makes it easy for people to submit feedback about draft work for the MPO’s next long-range transportation plan, *Paths to a Sustainable Future*.

Visit the MPO’s webpage, [www.bostonmpo.org/2035input](http://www.bostonmpo.org/2035input), to view draft documents and submit your

feedback. Below posted draft documents will be a “Provide Feedback” link that allows people to conveniently share their thoughts and ideas with the MPO.

The most recent document posted contains the MPO’s proposed visions and policies, which will guide investment decisions for the transportation system of the Boston region over the next two decades.

### Attention Municipal Chief Elected Officials

**Remember to cast your vote at the MPO election on June 2 at the MAPC Annual Meeting.**

**See the calendar for meeting details.**

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

# Agreement Reached on Site for Green Line Maintenance Facility

## UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETINGS TO FOCUS ON STATION DESIGN AND LAND USE

After months of public debate, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) announced that a new location in Somerville has been selected as the preferred site for a maintenance and vehicle storage facility that will support the operation of extended Green Line service to the College Avenue area of Medford and to Union Square in Somerville.

A parcel known as “Option L” in the Inner Belt industrial area of Somerville adjacent to the MBTA’s commuter rail maintenance facility, the Boston Engine Terminal, is the proposed site of the facility that will be required to store and maintain 80 Green Line vehicles when the new line is operational. It is one of

three sites that were studied as possible locations for the facility.

MassDOT is advancing on the design of the Green Line Extension project, which the Commonwealth is legally required to construct as mitigation for air quality impacts associated with the construction of the Central Artery/Tunnel.

The agency is continuing to hold public meetings on the project. The next meeting on

June 12 will focus on land use planning for areas around the new station locations at Lechmere, Brickbottom, Gilman Square, Lowell Street, Ball Square, College Avenue, and Union Square. (See the calendar for meeting details.) A new series of meetings will begin this fall focusing on the design of the stations.

For more information, visit <http://mass.gov/greenlineextension>.



# Bicyclists and Motorists Share the Roads and the Rules of the Road

## HEALTHY TRANSPORTATION COMPACT LAUNCHES “SAME ROADS, SAME RULES” CAMPAIGN

During this year’s annual Bay State Bike Week, which featured a series of events promoting bicycling during the week of May 17 through 21, 3,740 people in Massachusetts pledged to ride their bicycles (a collective 222,146

miles) on their way to work, to run errands, to meet friends, and to just have fun.

As more people took to the roads on two wheels, the event promoters, along with state agencies participating in the Healthy Transportation Compact, launched the “Same Roads, Same Rules” campaign to educate both bicyclists and motorists about how to share the roads safely

and respectfully.

The campaign’s website, at [www.SameRoadsSameRules.org](http://www.SameRoadsSameRules.org), provides information about rules of the road for bicyclists, offers safety tips, and clears up some common misconceptions about how bicyclists and motorists should behave on the roadways.

● “SameRoads, Same Rules”  
*cont. on p. 4*

*Calendar cont. from p. 1*

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

**June 14 (Monday)**

MassDOT Research Symposium. *Conference Room 2.* 10:00 AM

**June 16 (Wednesday)**

Massachusetts Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board. *MassDOT Conference Room, Suite 3170.* 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

**June 21 (Monday)**

Judge Patrick King hosts meeting on settlement agreement between the MBTA and Boston Center for Independent Living. *Conference Rooms 2 and 3.* 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

**June 23 (Wednesday)**

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

**June 24 (Thursday)**

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

MassDOT Transportation Enhancements Steering Committee. *Conference Room 4150.* 10:30 AM

**June 28 (Monday)**

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

## AT OTHER BOSTON AREA LOCATIONS

**June 2 (Wednesday)**

Boston Region MPO Annual Election (held during the MAPC Annual Meeting). *Boston Marriott Cambridge Hotel, 50 Broadway, Kendall Square, Cambridge.* 8:15 AM to 9:45 AM

MassDOT Highway Division Public Hearing: Proposed Safe Routes to School project in Peabody. *West Memorial Elementary School, 15 Bow Street, Peabody.* 7:00 PM

**June 12 (Saturday)**

MassDOT: Green Line Extension Land Use Planning Workshop. *Argenziano School, 85 Elm Street, Somerville.* 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

**June 21 (Monday)**

Boston Region MPO Walkable Community Workshop. *North Reading Library, Community Room, 147 Park Street, North Reading.* (Meeting time to be determined.)

*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@bostonmipo.org](mailto:publicinformation@bostonmipo.org).*

# MassDOT Releases Draft Highway Investment Plan

## AGENCY SEEKS FEED-BACK FROM PUBLIC

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) has released for public review a draft of its Capital Investment Plan for the MassDOT Highway Division. The plan details the five-year spending plan for highway infrastructure projects in the Commonwealth.

The production of this plan is required under the state's transportation reform legislation, which passed in 2009 and restructured the Commonwealth's transportation agencies into MassDOT.

The draft *Federal Fiscal Years 2011 – 2015 Highway Capital Investment Plan* may be found on MassDOT's website, at [www.massdot.state.ma.us/planning/documents/2011-](http://www.massdot.state.ma.us/planning/documents/2011-)

[2015HwyCapInvestmentPlan.pdf](#).

Comments may be submitted to the MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning, State Transportation Building, 10 Park Plaza, Suite 4150, Boston, MA 02116, or by calling (617) 973-7313 (phone) or (617) 973-7089 (TDD).

MassDOT held the first of

four public hearings about plan in May.



## Boston Region MPO Activities

### BOSTON REGION MPO ACTION ITEMS

The Transportation Planning and Programming Committee held its annual Municipal Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Days on May 5 and 6. During the two-day event, representatives from 52 municipalities in the region presented information about their priority transportation projects for which they are seeking MPO support. The Committee will be considering those projects as potential recipients of federal funding during the development of the Federal Fiscal Years 2011 – 2014 TIP.

Also in May, the Committee released a technical memorandum, titled "Safety Analysis of Transportation Improvement Program Projects," that describes a pilot project the MPO undertook to evaluate a methodology that relies on crash reduction factors to predict whether proposed transportation projects would, when implemented, reduce the number of accidents in the projects' locations. The study showed that the MPO's current safety evaluation process produces these results more efficiently.

The MPO staff received approval to proceed on two work programs. The work program for "HOV Lane and I-93 Access Improvements in the South Bay/Savin Hill Area" will examine the possibility of increasing capacity on Interstate 93 by connecting the HOV zipper lane with the Central Artery HOV lane, and restoring a southbound on-ramp (at its original location or elsewhere) that existed temporarily during the construction of the Central Artery. Through the "Wellesley Transit Study," the MPO staff will provide planning assistance to the Town of Wellesley as it develops its intra-town transit plan.

### REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATE

The Advisory Council hosted Paul Nelson, of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation's Office of Transportation Planning, at the May 12 meeting for a presentation on the draft State Freight and Rail Plan. The plan's goals are to preserve and improve existing freight infrastructure, enhance existing operations, facilitate freight system improvements that will support economic development, and identify freight system

improvements that will preserve and enhance the state's environment and quality of life. The goals would be achieved through a mix of investments that would enhance all modes. More information on the draft plan can be found at [www.massfreightandrailplan.com](http://www.massfreightandrailplan.com).

Also at the May meeting, members discussed the Boston Region MPO's Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2011 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), which is currently under development. The UPWP contains information about all transportation planning studies

conducted in the Boston Region MPO area with federal funds.

The agenda for the next meeting of the Advisory Council, on June 9, includes a further discussion of the UPWP, as well as the MPO's FFY 2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Program, and the next long-range transportation plan, *Paths to a Sustainable Future*.

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

AACT member Kathryn Piccard, of the Boston Self Help Center, Inc., spoke at

the May 26 meeting on the topic of Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS). Ms. Piccard discussed how this condition affects persons who travel on public transit, the policies the MBTA has implemented to make THE RIDE more accessible for people with MCS, and other steps the agency could take to address this concern.

Michael Muehe, the City of Cambridge Commissioner on Disabilities, will be the guest speaker at the June 23 AACT meeting.



## GREEN TIPS

*Summer is here and its time for vacationing and slowing down. Try taking that attitude on the road and driving slower. Driving at a reduced speed within the posted speed limit can save gas on your trip, reduce the chance of accidents, and help to make an environment that is more comfortable for bicyclists and pedestrians.*

*The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reports that gas mileage usually decreases rapidly at speeds above 60 miles per hour. On the highway, using cruise control or overdrive gears will also help save gas.*



# Public Asked for Input to Congestion Management Process

### • Intersections *cont. from p. 1*

To evaluate intersections, the MPO staff collects information on vehicle turning movements, bicycle and pedestrian usage, traffic signal timings, level-of-service, delays, and crash rates, and recommendations for potential improvements.

You can see the results of the MPO's evaluations on the MPO's website. Again, click on Mobility Monitoring, then

Intersections and Interactive Database.

Please feel free to contact Eric Howard at [eric.j.howard@ctps.org](mailto:eric.j.howard@ctps.org) if you have any questions or comments. Your feedback is greatly appreciated.

## Campaign Educates on Bicycle Safety

### • "Same Roads, Same Rules" *cont. from p. 2*

The sponsors of the campaign are the Massachusetts Bicycle Coalition (MassBike), the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, the Department of Conservation and Recreation, and the Department of Public Health.

The campaign is an initiative of the Healthy Transportation Compact, which has state transportation and public health agencies working together to advance policies that create opportunities for people to use transportation options, such as bicycling and walking, that promote wellness.

## TRANSREPORT

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