

**Draft Summary of Comments Received on the Draft FFY 2010 Unified Planning Work Program with MPO Responses**

Dated	Community/ Organization	Name and Title	Comment	MPO Response
8/04/09	495/MetroWest Partnership	Paul Matthews, Executive Director; Jessica Strunkin, Manager of Public Policy and Public Affairs	<p>The letter provides background on the organization and the transportation challenges it faces.</p> <p>Supports the Low-Cost Improvements to Bottleneck Locations study. Encourages the MPO to consider studying the portion of the Massachusetts Turnpike within the Boston MPO territory, particularly the intersection of I-495 and I-90.</p> <p>Strongly supports the Safety and Operations Analyses at Selected Intersections study. Would like the study to consider intersections in MetroWest because many communities lack resources to devote to design.</p> <p>Supports the Community Transportation Technical Assistance Program. Suggests that its success relies upon how well and to whom it is publicized. Recommends using groups such as 495/MetroWest Partnership to coordinate key stakeholders.</p> <p>Strongly supports the Integrating Land Use in Regional Transportation Models study. A regional development database would be an excellent resource for prospective investors in the Commonwealth.</p> <p>Supports the MBTA Core Services Evaluation study. Suggests that the study is important for two specific reasons: the rise in fuel prices, and migration of business from the Metro Boston area to the 128 and I-495 corridors. Appreciates the attention to both reverse commuters to various employment centers on the commuter rail lines, and non-core markets where mobility options and alternatives are needed.</p> <p>Very supportive of the MBTA Fitchburg Line Small Starts Application Support project. The study complements other projects, such as the ARRA-funded double tracking project.</p> <p>Supports the Safety Assessments Coordination study and would like to participate in meetings with MAPC, CTPS, and municipal officials for locations within the 495/MetroWest region. The website portion of the program is especially promising and will help them track developments and stay informed of project accomplishments.</p>	<p>The MPO appreciates the support on these issues. We will consider the suggestions during work scope development.</p> <p>Thank you for the suggestion on the Community Transportation Technical Assistance Program. MAPC has begun promoting this proposed project to its subregions.</p>

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			<p>Has participated in workshops and public forums for EOT's Statewide Freight and Rail Studies. Recognizes the trend of freight yards moving from east to west. Would like the Statewide Freight/Rail Study, Phase 2 to consider this trend and its effects on truck traffic and rail scheduling in the region.</p>	<p>The MPO notes your support and will consider the suggestion during work scope development, which will include furthering the recommendations of the Statewide Freight/Rail Study. Additionally, the study name has been changed to "MPO Freight/Rail Study."</p>
			<p>Eagerly awaiting the commencement of the regional household travel survey as part of the Regional Model Enhancement project. The 495/MetroWest region has changed significantly since the last update in 1991. Hopes the regional household travel survey moves forward in FFY 2010.</p>	<p>The MPO appreciates your support on this study. Pre-survey work is underway and the MPO staff expects to begin and continue the survey through federal fiscal year 2010.</p>
			<p>Encouraged by the effort to include further analysis and review of MBTA projects through the Assistance to MBTA Development project. Especially supports the following projects: Fitchburg Commuter Rail Line Station Consolidation, Foxborough Commuter Rail Full-time Service Analysis, Commuter Rail Ridership Growth Strategy, MBTA Systemwide Travel-Time-Improvements Action Plan, Post 2009 Fare Increase Impact Analysis, Comprehensive Automatic-Fare-Collection Non Interaction Study.</p>	<p>The MPO will convey your support for these projects to the MBTA. The MBTA expects to adopt a new PMT before the end of the year.</p>
			<p>Supports the MBTA Program for Mass Transportation and trusts that the public involvement process in which key system preservation and service enhancement ideas will be solicited will be open and completed in a timely manner. Hopes that consideration is given to acute needs on the Fitchburg and Worcester/Framingham commuter rail lines. The MBTA should consider not only speed and reliability improvements, but also expansion of reverse commute along the Fitchburg line. Urges the MBTA to be cognizant of sensitive issues surrounding expansion on the Framingham/Worcester line. Among the issues are traffic congestion at grade crossings in Framingham (Route 126/135) and Ashland. Also should study the impact on communities such as Southborough, Westborough, and Shrewsbury to identify necessary mitigation.</p>	<p>The MPO's Transportation Planning and Programming Committee voted to include Route 126/Route 135 Grade Separation project in the draft Plan amendment on July 23.</p> <p>The MPO will relay your comments to the MBTA.</p>
			<p>Supports the MBTA Systemwide Onboard Passenger Survey. States that travel patterns have changed much since the last onboard passenger surveys 12 years ago. The survey is critical for</p>	<p>The MPO will relay your comments to the MBTA. It is anticipated that this project will be completed in FFY 2010.</p>

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			<p>understanding the needs and limitations for commuting options in the 495/MetroWest region. Wants MBTA to use the data to identify the need for reverse commutes on the Fitchburg and Framingham/Worcester lines. Hopes to see the final reports completed in FFY 2010.</p> <p>Supports the Operational Improvements at Congested &amp; High-Crash Locations project. Looks forward to learning which intersections have been examined and hope the 495/MetroWest region is not overlooked. Will closely monitor implementation of study recommendations through the TIP and RTP.</p> <p>Fully supports the Route 126 Corridor study and thanks the Boston Region MPO for its inclusion in the draft 2010 UPWP. Encouraged that the study includes an analysis of multimodal transportation alternatives. In the process of asking to formally participate on the Task Force to offer a regional perspective.</p> <p>Supports the Corridors/Subarea Planning Studies: Land Use Reviews project. Pleased that the study will provide information and preliminary analyses for the development of transportation design concepts and mobility strategies to address current and future development in the vicinity of Route 9. Interested in providing a regional perspective as the second phase of the study moves forward, and offering support through informational and interactive forums with their Transportation Committee. Information could be used for a comprehensive corridor study in the 495/MetroWest region from Littleton to Foxborough.</p> <p>Supports the MAPC Alternative-Mode Planning and Coordination study. Pleased that work on a regional pedestrian plan and bike plan will continue. Pleased that transportation demand management activities will receive additional emphasis in FFY 2010 and supports the development of the Toolkit for Sustainable Mobility. Also supports efforts being made to identify projects eligible for Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ)</p>	<p>The intersection of Route 20 and Landham Road in Sudbury was included in the Operational Improvements at Congested and High Crash Locations study in FFY 2009. Several other intersections in the region have been studied in recent years, including Commonwealth Road and Main Street in Wayland, Bolton Street and Union Street in Marlborough, Main Street and North Meadow Road in Medfield, Washington Street and Hollis Street in Holliston, and Great Road and King Street in Littleton. More locations in the MetroWest region will be considered for future studies.</p> <p>The 495/MetroWest Partnership will be considered for membership on the Task Force.</p> <p>The MPO appreciates the support and suggestions on these projects. MAPC intends to actively engage stakeholders as these studies proceed.</p>

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			<p>program and the regional Transportation Enhancement program.</p> <p>Thanked the Boston Region MPO for including MWRTA planning funds in the UPWP. Evaluating and improving existing services, and identifying cost effective new routes is essential to providing mass transit options in MetroWest.</p> <p>The Partnership is eager to participate in the aforementioned studies and any other projects in the 495/MetroWest region. Extend their appreciation to the Boston Region MPO for their attention to suburban transportation needs.</p>	<p>The Partnership’s interest in participating in the aforementioned studies and projects is noted.</p>
8/4/09		Kurt Marden	<p>Concerned about the lack of a specific task for regional non-road transportation corridor development, other than sub-items in some of the listed activities and the Bicycle/Pedestrian Support Activities project.</p> <p>Suggests a long-range plan for an interconnected transit system on existing rail right-of-way should be initiated and funded as part of the UPWP.</p> <p>Concerned about the use of rail right-of-way for rail trails. Suggests that rail trails are in conflict with several MPO policies.</p> <p>Light rail on existing right-of-way between Lowell and Walpole would greatly enhance mobility in areas served by Route 27 and I-495.</p>	<p>The MPO notes your comments and will forward them to the Executive Office of Transportation and Public Works (EOT) and the MBTA. They will also be included in the universe of ideas for consideration in the development of the draft federal fiscal year 2011 UPWP.</p>
8/10/09	Commonwealth of Massachusetts House of Representatives Representative	Representative Kate Hogan	<p>Suggests including in the FFY 2010 UPWP a feasibility study for creating a multi use “Rail &amp; Trail Corridor” on the presently inactive Central Mass Commuter Rail Line. This project would improve access to public transit for residents of Sudbury, Stow, Maynard, Bolton, and Berlin.</p> <p>This project would respond to calls from the Representative’s constituency to improve public transportation in the district. The rail element would bring public transit directly to these communities, which presently lack access to any form of public transit.</p>	<p>Thank you for your suggestion.</p> <p>The Boston Region MPO staff conducted a pair of studies on this subject. The Central Mass Rail Feasibility Study was completed in December 1996 and the Central Mass Rail Trail Feasibility Study was completed in April 1997.</p>

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			The trail element would enhance local transportation networks by providing non-motorized local connections that are often preferable to on-road bike lanes on congested and dangerous roadways.	
8/04/09	North Shore Task Force	Brian Watson, Chair	<p>Supports proposals listed in the draft 2010 UPWP, particularly the carry over and completion of the North Shore Transportation Study from the 2008 UPWP.</p> <p>Notes and supports the following increased funding and new programs listed for FFY 2010 in the draft UPWP: Increased funding for Subregional Support Activities, Low Cost Improvements to Bottleneck Locations, Coordinated Technical Assistance to Communities, Integrating Land Use in Regional Transportation Models, and Safety Assessments Coordination.</p> <p>Notes that the intersection of Routes 35 and 97 is particularly dangerous and straddles the municipal boundaries of Topsfield, Danvers, and Wenham.</p> <p>Continues to support the following ideas for future UPWP studies: Route 35 corridor study; joint corridor study with MVPC of the Route 97 corridor from Haverhill south to Cummings Center in Beverly; joint corridor study with MVPC of Route 133 and Routes 1 and 97 congested areas, especially downtown Georgetown; Routes 114/1A and 127 corridor study from Swampscott to Rockport to analyze strategies for improving bike facilities and bike to rail connections in the region; and a study of the feasibility of a new park and ride lot from Route 1 North for commuting into Beverly and Salem.</p>	<p>The MPO appreciates the support on these issues.</p> <p>The corridors will be considered for corridor studies in the development of the FFY 2011 UPWP. It will be useful to the MPO if the North Shore Task Force prioritizes these corridors.</p> <p>The MPO will consider these ideas in the development of the FFY 2011 UPWP. Please inform the Boston Region MPO if you have discussions with the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission on coordinating with the Boston Region MPO.</p>
8/3/09	Regional Transportation Advisory Council	Malek Al-Khatib, Chair	<p>Supports the new studies included in the draft 2010 UPWP</p> <p>Pleased by the inclusion of the Statewide Freight/Rail Study, Phase 2. Concerned about the title and think it should be changed to reflect the regional focus of this study.</p> <p>Wants the Boston Region MPO to consider the incorporation of freight movements into the travel model as part of the “Integrating Land Use into Regional Transportation Models” study or future model upgrades.</p>	<p>The MPO appreciates the support on these studies.</p> <p>The title of the freight study has been changed to “MPO Freight/Rail Study.”</p> <p>The nature of this study is exploratory and will help the MPO decide if it wants to proceed with an upgrade to its travel model. It is not expected that this study will consider freight movements.</p>

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			<p>Disappointed that a regional HOV study was not included in the draft FFY 2010 UPWP. Requests that a regional HOV lane study be included in the FFY 2011 UPWP.</p> <p>Would like a bike network evaluation study to be included in a future UPWP.</p> <p>Supports the I-93 Access and HOV Improvements (Savin Hill/South Bay) study due to potential economic benefits and benefits for the South Coast rail project.</p>	<p>The regional HOV lane study and bike network evaluation study will be considered in the development of the FFY 2011 UPWP.</p>
8/4/09	South West Advisory Planning Committee	8/4/09	<p>Pleased with the range of studies and work elements proposed by the Boston Region MPO.</p> <p>Strongly endorses the following studies and programs: Community Transportation Technical Assistance Program; Land Use Allocation Model Development, Phase 1; Subregional Support Activities (particularly the increase in funding for this program); Bicycle and Pedestrian Support Activities; Congestion Management Program; Corridor/Subarea Planning Studies: Land Use Reviews; Regional Vision Implementation: MetroFuture; Route 126 Corridor Study; Safety and Operations Analysis at Selected Intersections; Alternative Mode Planning and Coordination; Emergency Evacuation and Hazard Mitigation Mapping; Safety Assessments Coordination.</p> <p>Suggests the following locations should be considered for the safety and mobility studies under the Community Transportation Technical Assistance and Safety and Operations Analysis at Selected Intersections programs: intersection of West Main and School Streets in Hopkinton; Wrentham Common including the intersection of Routes 1A &amp; 140, David Brown's Way, Common Street, Bank Street, and the end of Taunton Street; Route 109 at the intersections of Main and Highland, and Highland and Milford Streets in Medway.</p> <p>Suggests that at least one Walkable Communities Workshop be held in the SWAP area. Both Medway and Hopkinton have expressed interest in hosting a workshop.</p>	<p>The MPO appreciates the support on these issues.</p> <p>The MPO has noted these suggestions and will considered them during work scope development.</p> <p>The manager of the Walkable Communities Workshop program has been informed of this request and contacted both municipalities on August 5.</p>