

Memorandum

To: Transportation Planning and Programming Committee

September 17, 2009

From: Mike Callahan, MPO Staff

Re: Summary of Public Workshops

The MPO recently conducted three public workshops in the region to discuss and gather comments on the draft Plan Amendment and the draft FFYs 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program. They were in Norfolk on September 14, Woburn on September 15, and Boston on September 16. Following is a summary of comments made at the meetings.

September 14 – Norfolk

In attendance were: Bill Bauser, Town of Wrentham; Tony Centore, Town of Medfield; Don DiMartino, Town of Bellingham; Donna Jones, Resident of Norfolk; Timothy Kochan, MassHighway – District 5; Jack McFeeley, Town of Wrentham; Irving Priest, Town of Wrentham.

Attendees made the following comments on the draft documents:

- The \$29 million allocated to the design of the Red Line-Blue Line Connector in the draft Plan Amendment should be allocated to other construction projects in the region.
- Each project in the Plan and the Plan's Universe of Projects should be given a total score based on the criteria ratings. The scores should be the basis for MPO decision-making. Scores should be published in the Plan for both selected projects and those not selected.
- More information about the current state of the region's transportation infrastructure should be included in the Plan.
- It's difficult for the general public to read and comprehend the Plan and TIP.

Attendees expressed the following concerns:

- Representation on the MPO has been insufficient for communities in the southwestern portion of the MPO area.

September 15- Woburn

In attendance were: Cameron Bain, Town of Stoneham; Pat Brown, citizen; Tom McLaughlin, Mayor of the City of Woburn; John Moberger, City of Lynn; Ben Tafoya, Chair of the Board of Selectmen, Town of Reading; Ed Tarallo, City of Woburn

Attendees made the following comments on the draft documents:

- North Suburban Planning Council communities are underrepresented among the projects selected for the draft FFYs 2010-2013 TIP.

- The New Boston Street Bridge in Woburn should be added to the FFYs 2010-2013 TIP.
- Remaining HPP funds should be programmed in the FFYs 2010-2013 TIP for the Magazine Hill Park and Ride Lot in Woburn.
- Thank you for including the Montvale Avenue project in the draft Plan Amendment and the Woburn Loop Bikeway project in the Universe of Projects for the TIP.
- The West Street reconstruction project should be included in the FFYs 2010-2013 TIP. This project is more cost effective than some of the larger projects in the TIP.
- The Red Line-Blue Line Connector should not be designed without dedicating funds to construction.

Attendees expressed the following concerns:

- It takes too long to complete bike projects.
- The reorganization of state transportation agencies into MassDOT may change the MPO's structure.

September 16 – Boston

In attendance were: Dan Boynton, Town of Lincoln; Joe Beggan, Harvard University; Rev. Ellen M. Frith, AACT; Tom Kadzis, City of Boston; Chris Knoper, Southwest Boston CDC; Romin Koebel, Fenway CDC; Ellin Reisner, Somerville Transportation Equity Partnership (STEP); Alba Salvarrey, Boston resident; Wig Zamore, STEP and Mystic View Task Force.

Attendees made the following comments on the draft documents:

- Crosby's Corner should remain on the final FFYs 2010-2013 TIP adopted at the end of the public comment period.
- The Green Line Extension Project should appear on the draft FFYs 2010-2013 TIP.

Attendees expressed the following concerns:

- Considerations should be made for improving the bus connections between the Green Line Extension Project and the other rapid transit lines, such as the Red Line at Davis Square and the Orange Line at Assembly Square.
- Construction on Somerville Avenue in Somerville hinders accessibility for handicapped individuals.
- There is poor accessibility for handicapped individuals at the Hynes Convention Center stop on the Green Line.