

Draft – September 1, 2011

Summary of Recommendations and Commendations and Proposed MPO Responses and Draft Status

Final Report – July 2011

Federal Transportation Planning Certification Review of the Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization

Recommendation Topic	Recommendation/Commendation	Suggested MPO Response	Suggested Action/Status
Election of Municipal MPO Representatives			
	Consider encouraging municipalities to seek election; conduct outreach; add subregional representation; increase numbers of municipal members	MPO revised its MOU to implement these suggestions	Addressed and Action Complete – This suggestion was included in the MOU
	Consider including officials of public agencies operating major modes (CATA and MWRTA)	MPO considered this action and found the current method of coordination adequate.	Addressed and Action Complete – This suggestion was not included in the MOU
Regional Transportation Plan			
	Direct, in-person consultation should be conducted with environmental agencies	MPO staff conducted the requested consultation for the development of <i>Paths to a Sustainable Future</i> and will continue, on an ongoing basis	Addressed, Action Complete, and Ongoing Activity – Staff conducted this consultation (July 2011) and will continue consultations on an ongoing basis
Climate Change			
	Include new strategies for reducing GHG emissions and VMT in the LRTP	MPO has adopted visions and policies that support continued study, planning and implementation of actions that address VMT, climate change, GHGs; MPO is working with MassDOT to implement GreenDOT	Addressed and an Ongoing Activity – The MPO planning will seek to identify and support GHG and VMT reduction.

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Livability			
	Make the LRTP Livability information consistent with the six federal livability principles	MPO has included them in LRTP and has used them to guide the visions and policies and the development of the Livable Community Workshop program; will continue with the LCW program and related planning and education activities	Addressed, Action complete, and an Ongoing activity
Financial Planning			
	Address maintenance of the highway system, including for municipal-owned roadways, in the LRTP	MPO included information on maintenance of the highway system in the LRTP Finance Chapter beginning on page 7-4; MPO is conducting a study of a pavement management system and will consider the results and recommendations in the future	Addressed and Action complete
Air Quality Conformity/State Implementation Plan			
	Provide enough time for public input on the proposed interim emission offsets	MassDOT (for the Commonwealth) is responsible for this scheduling; MPO staff is currently participating by conducting the modeling	Not addressed; MassDOT action required to fully respond to this
	Continue the monthly SIP progress reports	MPO will continue to schedule the SIP reports	Addressed and an Ongoing activity
Congestion Management Process			
	Identify ways to monitor projects during and after implementation; document impacts of operations improvements; conduct before and after analyses	MPO is beginning this work with its 2012 UPWP study on TIP Project Impacts Before and After Study; New CMP work program will include this monitoring of operations improvements	Addressed, Not yet implemented

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	Evaluate Adaptive Signal Control Strategies within traffic operation studies; consult recommended guide	New CMP work program will include evaluation of Adaptive Signal Control Strategies; staff will consult guide	Addressed, Not yet implemented
Safety and the Planning Process			
	<i>Commendation for interactive map on intersections and projects; great visualization</i>		
	<i>Also commends MPO for considering safety in planning and funding important safety projects</i>		
Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Agreements			
	The MPO, MassDOT and the transit operators shall have an MOU determining their responsibilities in the 3C process; the memorandum should be in place for the FFY 2012 – 15 TIP development process	MPO will work with MassDOT and the RTAs to develop an MOU	Not addressed; MassDOT action required to address this
Coordination with Transit Authorities			
	Observation by FHWA/FTA: MassDOT is enhancing its oversight of RTAs and will work with RTAs to identify needs and funding	MassDOT will continue to work with RTAs	No MPO action needed
Transportation			

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Improvement Program			
	<i>Commendation for developing the MPO Project Information Form and the Interactive Map; great information and visualization</i>		
	Advance construction project listings should tell the number of the year in the AC sequence	The MPO currently shows this information in its TIP tables and project descriptions	Addressed; No MPO action needed
	MassDOT should provide target as early in the year as possible	This is a federal and MassDOT responsibility	No MPO action needed
	Clarify the year of expenditure in the TIP; all projects should be in YOE dollars; address in FFYs 2012-2015 TIP	The MPO currently shows costs in YOE dollars	No MPO action needed
	Use an evaluation process for earmark projects; possibly similar to the current target project process	MPO will consider this request	Not addressed
	Maintain close communication with municipalities with TIP projects, particularly those in year one	MPO currently keeps close communication with municipalities on TIP projects	Addressed; No MPO action needed
	Track implementation of projects in original TIP; note those advertised and those not; for those not advanced, inform the MPO of the reason(s); consider including this list in the next TIP	MPO will consider this request	Not addressed
	Work closely with Environmental Services to ensure that environmental documents prepared are for project that the MPO has endorsed	This is a MassDOT responsibility	Not addressed; MassDOT action required to address this

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	Post the annual listing of obligated projects within 90 days of new fiscal year	MPO has posted this list this year and will continue to do so each year	Addressed and Ongoing activity
	Discuss the evaluation of projects in Appendix A, since not all projects are evaluated; explain that bridge projects are not fiscally constrained and are not advanced at this time	MPO will continue to focus its evaluations on projects using target funds; MassDOT and MBTA conduct evaluations for other projects recommended for programming by MPO	Not addressed
Public Participation Process			
	Review the Public Participation Program effectiveness from time to time	MPO recently evaluated its Public Participation Program; will do so in the near future as an ongoing activity	Addressed and Ongoing activity
Title VI, Environmental Justice, and Limited English Proficiency			
	Review the effectiveness of these procedures from time to time	MPO has evaluated the effectiveness of its EJ and LEP outreach program within the last two years; MPO will continue this practice	Addressed and Ongoing activity
	Consider renaming the MPO complaint process	MPO will rename the MPO complaint process	Not addressed
	Consider extending the submission time frame; USDOT's is 180 days	MPO currently has a 180 day complaint submission time frame	Addressed and Response complete
	Name the current MPO Chair or the Title VI Coordinator in the policy for submission of complaints	MPO currently shows by name the MPO Chair as the recipient of complaints	Addressed and Response complete
	The policy should provide two appeal options: 1) MassDOT Director of Civil Rights, 2) US DOT Office of Civil Rights	MPO will provide two appeal options as recommended	Addressed, Not yet implemented

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	Indicate that investigations and resolution are forwarded to MassDOT	MPO will add forwarding information as recommended	Addressed, Not yet implemented
	Work collaboratively with MassDOT Civil Rights Director to review Title VI Nondiscrimination Notice and Procedures	MPO will consult with MassDOT Civil Rights Director; US DOT OCR Director will review annually	Addressed, Not yet implemented
	Develop and present a more complete demographic profile; discuss how this information is used to provide access, equity, and appropriate outreach	MPO will comply with this recommendation; will be consistent with MassDOT approach; will use this information to inform all outreach, including for Transportation Equity program; will continue to use it for evaluations	Addressed, Not yet implemented
	Work to establish a separate listing of Title VI/EJ agencies and organizations serving protected groups	MPO maintains a list of Title VI and EJ agencies and will work to keep it updated	Addressed and Ongoing activity
	Have appropriate language in all public notices to apprise disabled and LEP persons how to request reasonable accommodations; work with MassDOT Office of Civil Rights on language	MPO includes this language in all public notices; will review it with MassDOT Office of Civil Rights on possible updates	Addressed, Review not yet implemented
	Submit demographic information on RTAC and committees;	MPO will develop a voluntary survey of members of these groups	Addressed, Not yet implemented
	Discuss work to make these representative of Title VI/EJ populations; state what RTAC has done to provide for adequate representation in each category of protected populations	MPO will suggest that RTAC expand its membership outreach to include these populations	Addressed, Not yet implemented

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	Have more discussion on how language groups are identified and how notified; describe interpretation/translation services; tell how the MPO decides which informational materials and documents to translate	MPO will consider response to this recommendation	Not addressed
Freight Planning			
	The MPO's work meets the intent of SAFETEA-LU		No action needed
Self-certification			
	Develop documentation to support self-certification; the FHWA/FTA will assist	MPO will work with FHWA/FTA to develop documentation	Addressed, Not yet implemented

The MPO will prepare updates on its response to the federal agency recommendations.