
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) contains information about surface-transportation planning projects that will be conducted in the Boston metropolitan region during the period of October 1, 2011, through September 30, 2012 (federal fiscal year 2012). The UPWP is an essential transportation-planning tool for the region and often a first step in determining whether or not a project will be constructed. It is integrally related to other planning initiatives conducted by the Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), as well as by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation and the Massachusetts Port Authority.

The projects in this UPWP will be funded from federal, state, and local sources. It has been prepared in accordance with final regulations governing the implementation of the federal Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) and with Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration grant application requirements and planning emphasis areas. This UPWP contains 85 projects, of which 68 will be carried out by the Central Transportation Planning Staff (CTPS) and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) on behalf of the MPO, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT), and the Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport). The remaining 23 projects will be carried out by individual transportation agencies, municipalities, and academic institutions.

The majority of the FFY 2011 UPWP projects have been ongoing since FFY 2011. However, there are several new projects. Those to be undertaken on behalf of the MPO are:

- Analysis of JARC and New Freedom Projects (page 7-5)
- Freight Survey (page 7-10)
- MBTA Systemwide Passenger Survey: Comparison of Results (page 7-32)
- Pavement Management System Development (page 7-37)
- Priority Corridors for LRTP Needs Assessment (page 6-16)
- Regional Transit Service Planning Technical Support (page 7-38)
- Safe Access to Transit for Pedestrians and Bicyclists (page 7-41)
- TIP Project Impacts Before and After Evaluation (page 7-42)

CTPS will also continue to support projects that are being conducted by MassDOT and the MBTA. Examples of these are:

- Green Line Extension Environmental Review Support (page 6-9)
- MBTA Green Line SIP Mitigation Strategies (page 6-10)
- South Coast Commuter Rail Extension (page 6-20)

The UPWP is intended to serve two purposes. The first is to provide information to government officials, local communities, and the general public about all surface-transportation planning projects expected to be undertaken in the Boston region. The second is to provide complete

budget information to federal and state officials about the expenditure of federal funds for those projects being carried out by the Boston Region MPO.

The document is structured as follows. Chapter 1 provides general information about the Boston Region MPO, the transportation-planning process, and the sources of funding for UPWP projects. In addition, it explains the MPO's role in programming these funds and the criteria the MPO used to evaluate the projects it was responsible for programming in this UPWP. Chapter 1 also contains a graphic that shows the UPWP's relationship to other MPO planning documents and current feasibility studies, and other visioning processes.

Chapter 2 provides a status report on the FFY 2011 UPWP projects that were conducted by CTPS and MAPC. It also includes a list of products for those projects and information on how to obtain copies of reports and certification documents.

Chapter 3 is an index of the FFY 2012 projects. They are organized by the name of the agency responsible for conducting them.

Chapters 4 through 7 contain project descriptions and detailed budget information for all work being conducted by CTPS and MAPC on behalf of the MPO, and for transportation projects being conducted by CTPS on behalf of the individual transportation-planning entities mentioned on page ES-1.

Chapter 8 gives budget summaries of the projects included in Chapters 4 through 7 and other information about the status of federal funding in this UPWP. It is intended to provide federal and state officials with information necessary for funding approval and contract administration.

Appendix A presents brief summaries of project information for other, non-MPO transportation-planning projects that will be conducted in the Boston region. These projects have separate review and approval processes and are outside the purview of the MPO. They are included in the UPWP to provide a more comprehensive picture of what is being planned for the region and to ensure that MPO planning efforts within the region are coordinated with other ongoing work.

Appendix B will be completed following the close of the 30-day public review period and before the final document is presented to the MPO for adoption. It will describe the public participation process used for the development of the draft UPWP and the public workshops that were held during its public review period. It will also present a summary of the written comments on the document that were received during its review period and the MPO's responses to them.

Appendix C contains the worksheets developed by staff to evaluate potential UPWP projects and used by the UPWP Subcommittee as a guide in selecting new projects.

Appendix D is a glossary of acronyms, abbreviations, and transportation terms. An effort has been made to define such terms not only in the glossary but also the first time they appear in a chapter.