

BOSTON REGION METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

State Transportation Building
Ten Park Plaza, Suite 2150
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www.bostonmpo.org

Richard A. Davey
MassDOT Secretary and CEO
and MPO Chairman

Karl H. Quackenbush
Acting Director, MPO Staff

The Boston Region MPO,
the federally designated
entity responsible for
transportation decision-
making for the 101 cities
and towns in the MPO
region, is composed of:

MassDOT Office of Planning and
Programming

City of Boston

City of Newton

City of Somerville

Town of Bedford

Town of Braintree

Town of Framingham

Town of Hopkinton

Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Massachusetts Bay Transportation
Authority Advisory Board

Massachusetts Bay Transportation
Authority

MassDOT Highway Division

Massachusetts Port Authority

Regional Transportation Advisory
Council (nonvoting)

Federal Highway Administration
(nonvoting)

Federal Transit Administration
(nonvoting)

October 10, 2011

Mr. Steven H. Olanoff, Chair
Regional Transportation Advisory Council
State Transportation Building
10 Park Plaza, Suite 2150
Boston, MA 02116-3968

Dear Mr. Olanoff:

Congratulations on your recent election as Chair of the Regional Transportation Advisory Council. This letter is in response to the Council's comments on the draft FFY 2012 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). As you know, the MPO endorsed the final UPWP at its August 18 meeting and submitted it to the federal transportation agencies in September.

The MPO appreciates the Council's support for the FFY 2012 UPWP, especially the Regional HOV-Lane System Planning Study, the Freight Survey, and the Safe Access to Transit for Pedestrians and Bicyclists project.

The MPO understands your concern that several FFY 2011 UPWP studies that advance the Council's priorities of planning for a regional HOV system, developing an efficient freight distribution system, and creating a shared-use bicycle path network are either not complete or not yet underway. The MPO approved a work scope for the Regional HOV study on August 18 and it is expected to be completed sometime next fall. Work on the MPO Freight Study, Phase I, is nearly complete and a work scope for Phase II is being developed. Completion of this work, like all other MPO work, is dependent upon the availability of staff resources.

The MPO values The Council's ongoing participation in UPWP development as a member of the MPO's UPWP Subcommittee.

The final FFY 2012 UPWP is now available. An easy-to-navigate, pdf version of the document with links to projects and budget tables is posted online at www.bostonmpo.org. If you would like to request a copy (either in print, on CD, or on tape), or if you have other requests or questions, please contact me by telephone at (617) 973-7100 or by email at mesullivan@bostonmpo.org.

The MPO values the Council's ongoing participation on the UPWP Subcommittee and looks forward to its continued involvement.

On behalf of the Boston Region MPO,

David J. Mohler
Chairman, Boston Region MPO Transportation
Planning and Programming Committee



BOSTON REGION METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

December 1, 2011

Ms. Laura Wiener
Chair, Regional Transportation Advisory Council
Ms. Monica Tibbits
Chair, Advisory Council TIP Committee
State Transportation Building
10 Park Plaza, Suite 2150
Boston, MA 02116

Dear Ms. Wiener and Ms. Tibbits:

Thank you for your letter expressing the Advisory Council's support for restoring funding for the Clean Air and Mobility Program, addressing the region's freight distribution needs, and setting annual greenhouse gas emission targets in the federal fiscal years (FFYs) 2012–15 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The MPO did include approximately \$3.2 million for the Clean Air and Mobility Program in the TIP; however, the targeted amount of \$2 million annually was reduced due to funding limitations. The members have also taken your comments on freight and greenhouse gas emission targets under advisement for additional consideration in the future relative to all MPO certification documents.

The MPO values your comments, views, and participation in the entire MPO program. Thank you for your hard work and informed input.

I appreciate your participation in the metropolitan transportation planning process for the Boston region. If you have additional questions or comments, please contact me at (617) 973-7844. Sean Pfalzer, Boston Region MPO Interim TIP Manager, can be reached at (617) 973-7107.

Sincerely,

David J. Mohler, Chair
Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization

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City of Somerville
City of Woburn
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Town of Bedford
Town of Braintree
Town of Framingham
Town of Lexington
Town of Medway
Town of Norwood
Federal Highway Administration (nonvoting)
Federal Transit Administration (nonvoting)



BOSTON REGION METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

January 10, 2012

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Steve Olanoff
Regional Transportation Advisory Council
10 Park Plaza
Room 2150
Boston, MA 02116

Re: Response to Comment: Paths to a Sustainable Region, the Long-Range Transportation Plan of the Boston Region MPO

Dear Mr. Olanoff:

The Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) thanks you for your interest in the development of the *Paths to a Sustainable Region* the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) of the Boston Region MPO and appreciates your participation in its public review.

We considered your comments before adoption of the LRTP and offer the following responses:

In discussing the projects to be funded in the LRTP, the MPO sought to fund projects across transportation modes in order to support a transportation system that expands travel options. The particular mix of projects that has been selected allows the MPO to continue prior commitments and to advance a modal split among roadway, strategic transit, and bicycle and pedestrian projects. The MPO acknowledges the need for increased transit in the future; however, it also recognizes the significant backlog of maintenance and state-of-good-repair work for the existing transit system. The MPO chose to allocate all of the MBTA's future transit and capital funding to system infrastructure maintenance, accessibility improvements, and system enhancements, to ensure that the existing system can continue to function into the future and continue to serve its existing ridership. The Commonwealth made the commitment to fund the State Implementation Plan transit expansion projects. The MPO felt that it was important to further extend the Green Line from Medford Hillside (College Avenue) to Route 16/Mystic Valley Parkway as a second phase of the Green Line Extension project, and "flexed" \$185 million of federal funding dedicated to highway projects to do so.

The MPO recognizes that there are a tremendous number of maintenance and capacity issues vying for scarce transportation funds. It also recognizes that there are many mobility and capacity issues now and projected for the future. The MPO chose not to include an Illustrative Projects chapter in this LRTP, listing projects that it would fund if new funding were to become available, because there is a significant backlog of maintenance and state-of-good-repair work to be done on the highway and transit systems. The LRTP must be updated at least every four

years. As new financial information becomes available, the MPO will update its list of recommended projects in future LRTPs.

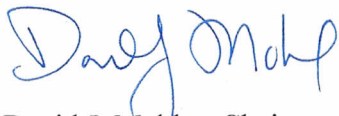
This LRTP does not include separate chapters on each mode but is designed to address the different vision topic areas and discusses each mode, including freight in each of the chapters. The Conley Terminal Bypass Road is included in the LRTP and the Track 61 rehabilitation, improvements to the Framingham line, additional truck stops, and a regional HOV system will remain part of the LRTP's Universe of projects and programs.

The MPO has committed to develop performance measures as part of the next phase in the LRTP process. Examples of performance measures that will be examined are included at the end of Chapter 4 (Transportation System Operations and Management), Chapter 5 (Livability and Environment), and Chapter 6 (Transportation Equity).

The MPO adopted the LRTP at its September 22th meeting and the Federal Highway and Federal Transit Administrations approved the LRTP on November 30, 2011. You may wish to view the entire LRTP online at www.bostonmpo.org. If you would like a copy of the document (either in CD or taped format) or have other requests or questions, please contact us at publicinformation@ctps.org or by mail at CTPS, Suite 2150, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116; telephone at 617.973.7100; fax at 617.973.8855; or TTY at 617.973.7089.

We have also made sure that you are on the mailing list for *TRANSREPORT*, the MPO's monthly transportation newsletter. Please send your e-mail address to publicinformation@ctps.org to receive *TRANSREPORT* electronically or to be included in the MPO's one-way listserve, MPOINFO, for important notices. We look forward to your continued involvement in the regional transportation-planning process.

Sincerely,



David J. Mohler, Chair
Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization