

**Public Comments on Draft Amendment to the Public Participation Program
(March 25, 2010)**

| Date | Affiliation/Name | Comment | MPO Action |
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| 3/3/2010 | Wendy Landman, Executive Director, WalkBoston | Requests that emergency be defined. | |
| 3/3/2010 | State Representative Alice Wolf | Requests that the MPO not make notifications or announcements, release amendments on certification documents, or hold public meetings or forums, between December 15 and January 2. Requests that emergency be clearly defined. Suggests that the MPO adopt language that defines emergency as a natural disaster, such as a hurricane or ice storm, which results in major damage or poses an immediate threat to public safety. Requests that the MPO consider the public interest over expediency when shortening or waiving the public comment period. Suggests that the MPO adopt language that only allows the MPO to waive or shorten the public comment period when it's not contrary to the public interest. | |
| 3/3/2010 | Michael Chong, Planning and Environment Program Manager, Federal Highway Administration | Suggests that the Public Participation Program better define the focus of the existing text on amendments and administrative modifications. Suggests that the Public Participation Program state that an additional opportunity for public comment should be provided if the proposed amendments differ significantly from the version that was made available for public comment, and raises new material issues which the public could not have foreseen. Suggests that the MPO describe the circumstances surrounding the waiving of the public comment period in emergencies. | |
| 3/25/2010 | Michael Chong, Planning and Environment Program Manager, Federal Highway Administration | Followed up initial comment with a suggestion that the emergency provision in the MPO's Public Participation Program is not necessary because the Federal Highway Administration has Emergency Relief funds that allow work to begin immediately in the event of a natural disaster or catastrophic failure. | |
| 3/5/2010 | Dennis E. Harrington, Planning Director, City of Quincy | Supports the proposed amendment to the Public Participation Program. | |
| 3/25/2010 | Laura Wiener, Chair, Regional Transportation Advisory Council | Requests that extraordinary circumstance and emergency be defined. Suggests that language be added stating that all relevant materials will be available during the entire comment period. Suggests adding that each time the MPO abbreviates or waives the public comment period, it will explain its reason for doing so in the public notice. | |
| 3/25/2010 | Conservation Law Foundation | Requests that extraordinary circumstance and emergency be specifically and narrowly defined. Requests that application of a shortened public comment period be limited to circumstances in which an extraordinary funding opportunity with an application deadline of less than 30 days exists. Requests that a waived public comment period be limited to an emergency circumstance, such as a terrorist attack or natural disaster that demands an immediate response. | |
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