



COMMITTEE REPORTS

April 14 – May 12, 2010

Regional Transportation Advisory Council Committees

Freight - Walter Bonin & Frank DeMasi

The next Freight Committee meeting is scheduled for 1 PM on May 12 in Conference Rooms 2 & 3 of the State Transportation Building. Last month the Committee discussed the draft Statewide Freight and Rail Plan, which was presented at four meetings across the state in March and early April. The Committee will continue its discussions in May with the intent of producing a letter that will be introduced to the full Regional Transportation Advisory Council for consideration.

Plan – Kristina Johnson

The Plan Committee held its first meeting to discuss the next Long-Range Transportation Plan, “Paths to a Sustainable Future.” Members in attendance were Malek Al-Khatib, Richard Canale, Frank DeMasi, Louis Elisa, Kristina Johnson, John McQueen, Steve Olanoff, Lauren Rosenzweig, and Laura Wiener.

Anne McGahan, the manager of the LRTP for the Boston Region MPO, gave members a brief description of the document. The Plan establishes the vision for the region’s future transportation system, and sets policies to achieve the vision. Additionally, the Plan must include projects that add capacity to the system and those that cost more than \$10 million, whether they add capacity or not. The Plan relates to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) by setting policies that translate into TIP criteria for project selection, and regionally significant projects must eventually be programmed in the TIP.

Paths to a Sustainable Region will focus more heavily than JOURNEY TO 2030 (the current LRTP) on three topics – climate change, livability, and management and operations. Paths to a Sustainable Region will also be based on a needs assessment of the entire region within several radial and circumferential travel corridors. After the assessment, programs and projects will be identified to address the needs, which will then be compared to the available resources to determine what can be funded, and what gaps might remain. The MPO will consider a set of projects and programs once the needs assessment is complete.

Members made the following comments:

- The rapidly aging population of the region should be considered in the needs assessment.
- Plans and needs outside of the region are important to consider because they affect transportation within the Boston region.

- Freight must be considered in the needs assessment.
- Cost-benefit analyses of projects would be a good way to prioritize them.
- Maritime's ability to move people and goods off roads should be considered as a strategy.

Membership – Schuyler Larrabee

The Membership Committee will meet soon to consider the membership application of the Route 128 Business Council.

The following committees did not meet and have not scheduled future meetings:

Executive – Laura Wiener

Nominating – TBD

Programs – Richard Canale

TIP – Laura Wiener

UPWP – Steve Olanoff

Transportation Planning and Programming Committee Subcommittees

Clean Air and Mobility – The Clean Air and Mobility Subcommittee met on Thursday, April 22. Members discussed the applications received and planned for the project proponent input day scheduled for Thursday, May 13.

Unified Planning Work Program - The Unified Planning Work Program Subcommittee met on Thursday, April 15, and Thursday, April 29, to begin their review of possible studies for federal fiscal year 2011. The Subcommittee will finish its review of the possible studies at meetings later in May and in June.