

## Memorandum

From: Metropolitan Area Planning Council and MBTA Advisory Board  
To: Boston Region MPO  
Date: January 20, 2011

As the public entities responsible for administering the municipal election process for the Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) and the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority Advisory Board (Advisory Board) have received numerous requests to move the municipal elections from the MAPC Annual Meeting in May to the MAPC fall meeting in October.

Many communities have noted that the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) development process begins in January, allowing MPO members the opportunity to become educated on the TIP process and specific transportation projects. The MPO makes critical decisions regarding the TIP, and sometimes the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), in June and July of each year. The timing of the municipal elections to occur immediately before these important votes and then have potential new MPO members make decisions on transportation projects that they are not familiar with, is unsound.

Therefore, MAPC and the Advisory Board recommend moving the municipal elections from MAPC's Annual Meeting in May to MAPC's fall Council Meeting in October. The current city and town seats on the MPO held by Newton and Hopkinton are up for election in 2011. Moving the MPO municipal election to October would mean that these two municipalities would serve for an additional five months.

If the MPO approves this recommendation, MAPC and the Advisory Board will notify the 101 cities and towns in the region of the change in the timing of the MPO municipal elections, and will send the election materials out to each municipality in August 2011.