

Summary of Written Comments on the Draft FFY 2012 Unified Planning Work Program, with MPO Responses

Dated	Community/ Organization	Name and Title	Comment	MPO Response
5/31/11	Town of Bedford	Walter J. St. Onge III, Chair Selectmen of Bedford	<p>Selectmen of the Town of Bedford recommend that the MPO include a study of the Route 4/225 Corridor in Lexington and Bedford as part of the FFY 2012 UPWP.</p> <p>The corridor meets the criteria used by the LRTP Needs Assessment process in identifying bottleneck locations. The Town of Lexington has approved an area-wide transportation plan which calls for a number of traffic modernization improvements to occur on the Route 4/225 corridor. Two particular improvements called out are for two-lane roundabouts on Routes 4/225 intersections at Hartwell Avenue and also at the northern interchange with Route 195/128. Lexington officials expect to begin a 25% design effort in the near future.</p> <p>The Town of Bedford has specific concerns on how installation of the two-lane roundabouts in Lexington will affect traffic for those leaving Bedford during the AM peak travel periods and for those returning to Bedford in the PM peak travel periods.</p>	<p>The proposed Priority Corridors for Long Range Transportation Plan Needs Assessment project has advanced as a new project in the FFY 2012 UPWP. The Route 4/225 study area will be considered as a possible candidate for one of the locations to be studied.</p> <p>So noted.</p>
6/9/11	Town of Lexington	Hank Manz, Chairman Selectmen of Lexington	<p>Selectmen of the Town of Lexington recommend that the MPO include a study of the Route 4/225 Corridor in Lexington and Bedford as part of the FFY 2012 UPWP.</p> <p>The corridor meets the criteria used by the LRTP Needs Assessment process in identifying bottleneck locations. The Town of Lexington has approved an area-wide transportation plan which calls for a number of traffic modernization improvements to occur on the Route 4/225 corridor. Two particular improvements called out are for two-lane roundabouts on Routes 4/225 intersections at Hartwell Avenue and also at the northern interchange with Route 195/128. The town expects to begin a 25% design effort in the near future.</p> <p>The Town of Bedford has made some infrastructure improvement to the Routes 4/225 corridor, but a potential system corridor plan would help identify additional modernizations that would alleviate congestion all along Routes 4/225 to the point at which the two routes split past Bedford center. Lexington officials understand that Bedford also has specific concerns on how installation of the two-lane roundabouts in Lexington will affect traffic for those entering and leaving Bedford during peak travel periods.</p>	<p>The proposed "Priority Corridors for Long Range Transportation Plan Needs Assessment" project has advanced as a new project in the FFY 2012 UPWP. The Route 4/225 study area will be considered as a possible candidate for one of the locations to be studied.</p> <p>So noted.</p>

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6/14/11	Minuteman Advisory Group on Interlocal Coordination (MAGIC)	Michelle Ciccolo, Chair	<p>The letter provides background on the organization and the transportation challenges it faces. MAGIC recognizes the severe fiscal constraints currently facing the commonwealth and the need to prioritize scarce resources. The MAGIC towns have invested significant financial resources and decades to design to projects listed in the letter. Strongly urge the MPO to give priority to MAGIC projects already in the pipeline. In addition to comments on the LRTP and TIP projects documented elsewhere, MAGIC supports the following UPWP-related projects :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Route 4/225 in UPWP: MAGIC supports a corridor planning study for this route in Bedford and Lexington, which provides direct highway access to Route 128 and is one of the most congested in the region. Lexington recently rezoned this area, and the job creation and economic growth that could result should factor into this corridor study. • Coordinated public transportation studies in UPWP: MAGIC supports studies that look at innovative ways to integrate existing transit services (school buses, Council on Aging vans, locally funded shuttles, private business shuttles, etc.) into a more coherent and coordinated public transportation system. 	<p>The MPO recognizes that community support is essential to the success of any study, and staff for the study will continue to work closely with municipalities in the development of its plans and programs.</p> <p>The MPO notes the support for this project. The project will be considered as a possible candidate for one of the locations to be studied under the "Priority Corridors for Long Range Transportation Plan Needs Assessment Study, which is included in the FFY 2012 UPWP.</p> <p>The MPO has conducted several Suburban Transit Opportunities Studies and has funded programs to promote services and programs such as described in your comment. The MPO will continue to explore ways to promote the suburban transit opportunities and to maximize efficiencies in this area wherever feasible.</p>
7/13/11	Bike-to-the-Sea	Stephen Winslow	<p>Supports the bicycle and pedestrian components of the "Wellington Circle Improvements: Medford" proposed project from the FFY 2012 UPWP Universe of Proposed New Projects and asks that the study of the Route 16/Wellington Corridor by the Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Mystic Valley Development Commission be reviewed and that bicycle accommodations be more fully addressed.</p>	<p>While the Wellington Circle Improvements: Medford Study was evaluated for inclusion in the FFY 2012 UPWP's it was not included for funding this year, However, the Safe Access to Transit for Pedestrians and Bicyclists Study will explore pedestrian and bicycle access at 6 to 8 stations in the MBTA system. Wellington Circle will be considered as a possible candidate for one of the locations to be studied. If selected, the recommendations of the previous study by DCR will be considered by MPO staff.</p>
8/2/11	495/MetroWest Partnership	Paul F. Matthews, Executive Director; Jessica Strunkin, Deputy Director of Public Policy and Public Affairs	<p>The letter provides background on the organization and the transportation challenges it faces. The MetroWest region has experienced significant growth recently, causing transportation challenges that include increasing traffic congestion, an increase in vehicle miles traveled, highway capacity issues, gaps in public transit, and aging transportation infrastructure. The Partnership is eager to participate in the studies and any projects in the 495 MetroWest region where their assistance would be helpful.</p>	

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			<p>Urges the MPO to include communities in the Partnership as candidate locations for the Priority Corridors for LRTP Needs Assessment study.</p> <p><u>Supports the following:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Model Enhancement: Has long advocated for mechanisms for coordination of land use and transportation planning which has led to the ongoing "495/MetroWest Development Compact" Considers the state-of-the-practice regional travel-demand model set and the Statewide Household Travel Survey important to transportation planning and investment. • Congestion Management Process: Eager to see the outcome and potential benefits to refocusing the Congestion Management Process. Urge the inclusion of some Partnership congestion problems in the monitoring, needs assessment and strategy recommendations of the project. • Corridors/Subarea Planning Studies–Land Use Reviews: Pleased that the Route 9 Phase II Study Implementation is included as a task. Supports the Framingham Technology Park Sustainable Transportation Plan as it relates to transportation demand management solutions; internal roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian improvements; and other ideas for improving economic growth and mobility in this area. • Safety and Operations Analyses at Selected Intersections: Many intersections in the area with congestion and safety problems fail to proceed due to lack of design funding. • MAPC Alternative-Mode Planning and Coordination: Pleased that transportation demand management activities will receive additional emphasis in FFY 2012. Supports work on pedestrian and bike planning. Urges MPO to consider gaps in transit to this area. Continue to offer insight into transit service gaps in Littleton and Boxborough. 	<p>Corridors of with mobility problems identified in the CMP and the LRTP as part of the needs assessment process will be considered as a possible candidates for inclusion in this study. All the corridors in the MPO region, including the 495 MetroWest region will be included during the selection process.</p> <p>The FFY 2012 UPWP includes funding for the Massachusetts Statewide Household Travel Survey, which will be used to update the data used to represent the MetroWest area in the MPO’s regional model.</p> <p>So noted.</p> <p>So noted.</p> <p>The MPO appreciates your support and notes that the “Safety and Analysis at Selected Intersections” study will identify a list of problem locations in the region. MPO staff will then seek municipal cooperation and commitment to further study three selected locations; and perform data collection, analysis and documentation only at locations that have commitment from the municipality to implement study recommendations..</p> <p>So noted.</p>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Transportation Technical Assistance Program: Suggests that the success of the program depends on how well and to whom it is publicized. Asks the MPO to consider utilizing the Partnership to publicize the program. 	The MPO notes your support for this project. The program is publicized through MPO's extensive outreach process, which includes press releases, promotion through the MPO's listserv and newsletter, as well as letters to the chief elected officials of the MPO's 101 municipalities.
			<p><u>Additional Projects and Comments</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MBTA Systemwide Passenger Survey–Comparison of Results: Recent trends in fuel prices, the economy, and the business environment have contributed to increase demands on the MBTA including increasing reverse commute patterns. Urges more frequent data collection for this purpose. • Pavement Management System Development: Strongly supports the need to identify the cost of maintaining our existing infrastructure to highlight the need for more transportation revenue in the Commonwealth. • RTA Service Planning Technical Support: The work is essential for providing transit options to MetroWest residents and workers. • Safety and Operations Analyses at Selected Intersections: Many intersections in the area with congestion and safety problems fail to proceed due to lack of design funding. 	So noted.
			<p><u>Appendix A – Other Regional Transportation Projects</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Downtown Framingham Traffic Impact Analysis: Solutions to the grade-crossing problem would support MassDOT's new GreenDOT initiative by mitigating air quality impacts. • Fitchburg Small Starts Planning/Design/Engineering: Extremely supportive of improving the Fitchburg Line Improvement Project and the ARRA double-tracking and station improvements will lead to increase in ridership to the area, including revers-commuters. • I-495/Route 9 Interchange Study: Pleased that the study includes the I-495/I-90 interchange. Emphasize the relationship between the study intersection and the I-495/Route 9 interchange. • Massachusetts Turnpike Corridor Plan (Boston Extension): Supports the state of good repair and approves the MassDOT corridor review with an emphasis on bottleneck alleviation, improved tolling technologies and improving air quality. • Massachusetts Turnpike - Boston Ramps Study: Supports the study as it would improve commuting for many Partnership 	So noted. So noted. So noted.
				The MPO notes the Partnership's comments on projects included in Appendix A and will coordinate with the appropriate entity conducting each project where feasible.

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			residents and workers. New connections on the Turnpike would help address the traffic congestion caused by the economic growth in the Back Bay, Longwood Medical Area (LMA), Fenway, and Seaport District neighborhoods in the city of Boston.	
8/9/11	City of Waltham	Honorable Jeannette A. McCarthy, Mayor	<p>Supports the Corridors/Subarea Planning Studies: Land Use Reviews study. Recommends that the outlined planning task Route 128 Corridor Plan include a preliminary evaluation of interchange alternatives between Routes 20, 117, and 128 that they may be used to improve congestion, air quality, and circulation for existing traffic, accommodate multi-modal users seeking to access a potential transit station, and encourage economic development in the area.</p> <p><u>Corridor Studies</u> Main St. (Route 117) between the Weston town line and Bank Square (Route 20) should be one of the priority corridors under CTPS "Priority Corridors for LRTP Needs Assessment" study.</p> <p>Route 128 Corridor Plan: Route 117 bridge widening over Route 128; potential roadway connection between Route 117 and Route 20 and along Green Street; and other critical intersection improvements.</p> <p>Asks that the MPO staff review traffic data and analysis available from other recent economic developments projects.</p>	<p>The MPO appreciates the support from the City of Waltham for the projects as noted in the FFY 2012 UPWP, including the MAPC's Route 128 Corridor Plan.</p> <p>The proposed "Priority Corridors for Long Range Transportation Plan Needs Assessment" project has advanced as a new project in the FFY 2012 UPWP. These corridors will be considered as a possible candidates for one of the locations to be studied.</p> <p>Previous studies, where applicable, are considered by MPO staff as part of the project analysis and study process.</p>

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8/11/11	Regional Transportation Advisory Council	Laura Wiener, Chair	<p>Supports the draft FFY 2012 Unified Planning Work Scope. Appreciates that the draft FFY 2012 UPWP addresses many of the greatest concerns of the Council. In particular, the Council supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freight Survey project • Safe Access to Transit for Pedestrians and Bicyclists • Regional HOV-Lane System Planning Study <p>Asks that the MPO prioritize its freight, HOV and bicycle planning work since it is very important to the region's future. Expressed interest in seeing the completion of the several studies in the FFY 2011 UPWP that cover these areas.</p> <p>Appreciates the importance of the public outreach process conducted by the MPO Staff. Suggests that public outreach is one of the critical MPO functions funded through the UPWP.</p>	<p>The MPO appreciates the Council's support for the FFY 2012 UPWP and values its participation as a member of the MPO's UPWP Subcommittee.</p> <p>The MPO notes your support for freight planning in the region. The freight survey will expand knowledge about freight movement in the region.</p> <p>The MPO continues to engage in planning projects that promote bicycle and pedestrian access and safety</p> <p>The MPO appreciates the Council's support of this project.</p> <p>The MPO recognizes that community support is essential to the success of any project, and staff for the studies funded through the UPWP will work closely with municipalities throughout the course of the study.</p>
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