



TRANSPORTATION TODAY

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LANE DEPARTURE CRASH WORKSHOP

This workshop was held at the MRPC on Nov. 30, 2006 at 10:00 AM and MassHighway and the lane departure discussion.

A critical area for MassHighway to consider under the new Massachusetts Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) is the reduction of fatalities and incapacitating injuries that lane departure crashes often produce. Lane departure crashes are defined as non-intersection crashes where a single vehicle leaves the road without striking another vehicle; a vehicle departs the driving lane and hits a parked car; or a vehicle departs the lane and has a head on crash with another vehicle.

In Massachusetts, lane departure crashes account for a high percentage of fatalities and incapacitating injuries. As a result, Massachusetts was selected as a Lead State for the implementation of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) SHSP. The AASHTO initiative calls for a reduction of the United States fatality rate to 1.0 fatalities per one-hundred million Vehicle Miles Traveled.

Two of the goals of the Massachusetts Lead State initiative are to better understand the nature of lane departure crashes and to develop strategies to reduce them. The purpose of this meeting in the MRPC region was to identify some of the ,hot spot,, crash locations that need safety improvements.

The twenty-three people that attended the meeting included state and community officials involved in road safety. The ,hot spot,,

crash locations that have been submitted as possible safety study locations are: Gardner with 2 locations - Route 68 from Route 2A to the Hubbardston Town Line and Route 140 from the Westminister Town Line to the Winchendon Town Line; Leominster - Mechanic Street between Whitney Street Viscoloid Ave; Lancaster - Sterling Road (Route 62) from Chase Hill Road / Deershorn Road to Sterling Manufacturing Company; and Fitchburg with 2 locations- John Fitch Highway between Lunenburg Road and Summer Street and Airport Road between Bemis Road and the Leominster City Line.

If you have any questions, please contact George Snow at 978-345-7376 ext 2267 or by e-mail at gsnow@mrpc.org.



REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN MOVES FORWARD

As the MRPC continues to update its Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), two workshops were held to seek public input. These workshops were held in Templeton on November 30th, and in Devens on December 7th.

These workshops reviewed updates that were made regarding the Goals, Policies, and Strategies section, a review of the Bridge chapter, and also examined the preliminary project listing for

each community.

Those who attended the workshops were able to better understand the RTP planning process as well as the process of project implementation. This information was made available by a Power-Point presentation as well as a brochure that is currently available to download at our RTP website, (www.montachusett-transportationplan.org/)

For more info contact the MRPC at mrpc@mrpc.org or by phone at (978) 345-7376.

FITCHBURG / LEOMINSTER FLOOD HAZARD PLANNING

This plan was developed as part of the MRPC's 2005-2006 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The objective of this task was to provide information and assistance to the Local Emergency Planning Committee for the communities of Fitchburg & Leominster with various aspects related to their local emergency planning.

As part of this plan, issues related to critical need infrastructure, transportation and evacuation routes were identified. Critical need facilities identified included: Evacuation routes along the floodplain, waterways flooding along critical need facilities.

Specifically, Fitchburg and Leominster were provided with maps and a Geographic Information System (GIS) viewer that identified roadways, bridges, dams, critical need facilities and the population that lies within the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) floodplain. The



viewer can be used in an emergency situation to locate where evacuations may need to take place if breaches occurred at any of the dams identified in the two cities.

Complete studies were provided to the Fitchburg and Leominster Emergency Management Directors.

TRAIL INVENTORY

The 2006 Trail Inventory Project, for the towns of Harvard and Shirley, is just about complete. The MRPC has been collecting data on existing formal and informal trails in the two communities as well as potential trails that the town would like to see developed in the future.

As a result, in Shirley, 7 trail networks were identified totaling 24 miles of trail. In Harvard, 30 trail networks were identified totaling 48 miles of trail. The total trail distance for both communities was 72 miles.

The Trail Inventory Project continues to be such a success that we will be conducting our inventory efforts again in the spring of 2007 for the communities of Groton, Lancaster, Sterling & Townsend.

For more information regarding the MRPC Trail Inventory Project please contact Sheri Dufour at (978)-345-7376 x2208 or at sdufour@mrpc.org

TRAFFIC COUNTS

The 2007 Traffic Count season will begin this spring. As a reminder to all communities located within the Montachusett Region; traffic counts can be conducted free of charge as long as a written request, signed by the community's highest ranking official, is submitted to our office before August 2007.

This request must give a detailed location at which the traffic counter will be placed. The name of the street where the count will be conducted must be given, along with a possible route number where applicable. A second street of reference must also be given to ensure proper location. (For example: Main Street (Rt. 12) East of Elm Street.) The type of traffic count must also be included in the written request letter. The types of traffic counts that can be requested include vehicle volume, classification, and speed.

If your community is interested in

a traffic count request, or to simply gather traffic data for a particular street or location that has been done in the past, please contact Sheri Dufour at 978-345-7376 x2208 or sdufour@mrpc.org

****UPDATE****

MPO PROJECT LISTING

The Montachusett MPO is required by SAFETEA-LU regulations to provide an annual listing of federally funded highway and transit projects for public review. To view this listing please visit the MRPC website at www.mrpc.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

MRPC Meetings

7:00 pm in the MART Conference Room:

- December 19th**
- January 30th**
- February 27th**
- March 27th**



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!

MJTC Meetings

7:00 pm in the MART Conference Room:

3rd Wednesday of every month