



TRANSPORTATION TODAY

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TIP AMENDMENT DUE TO CHANGES IN FEDERAL AID TARGET FIGURES

At the Montachusett Metropolitan Planning Organization (MMPO) meeting held on February 15, 2006, an Amendment to the FFY 2006 & 2007 Elements of the FFY 2006-2010 Montachusett Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) was developed for release for public comment. Original targets provided in Spring 2005 to develop the TIP were based upon Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) best estimates possible at that time due to the lack of a Federal Transportation Bill. Subsequent passage of SAFETEA-LU provided actual authorization figures for the Commonwealth. Unfortunately, these actual federal funding amounts were less than the previous estimated amounts used to develop the original target figures.

As a result, FHWA directed that revised FFY2006 & 2007 regional targets be used to develop draft amendments to the TIP that are financially constrained. At the February MPO meeting several scenarios were reviewed that addressed these funding reductions and a draft listing was approved for public release.

A 30-day comment period on this Amendment will run from February 22nd to March 23rd.

Amendment can be found on our website at www.mrpc.org or by contacting MRPC offices.

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN

As a continuation of the RTP section in the previous newsletter (December 05') the MRPC would like to welcome Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc. (FHI) as the appointed consultant that was hired to assist in the public outreach component of the RTP. FHI was selected from respondents to our request for response.

As stated in their application "Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc is a full-service planning consulting firm, providing services to public and private sectors clients since 1987... Staff specialists include planners, engineers, environmental scientists, and cultural resource specialists with expertise in transportation, natural resources, historic resources, community planning, public involvement, GIS, and other support fields. Strong knowledge of the planning process, value-added GIS, innovated presentation techniques, and strong quality assurance augment the high quality of our products as shown by our strong track record of repeat clients both as prime and as team member..."

Examples of some of the projects that FHI has done include

the: Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments- Update to the Fiscally Constrained Long Range Transportation Plan; Connecticut Department of Transportation Public Involvement Manual Update; Ulster (NY) County Long Range Transportation Plan Update Outreach Program; and Hartford (CT) Neighborhood Traffic Calming Outreach Program.

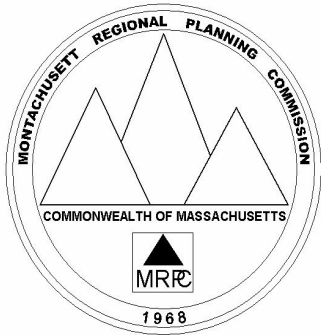
For more information on Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc. you can visit their website at www.fhiplan.com

TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES FOR CITIZEN PLANNERS

The Citizen Planner Training Collaborative (CPTC), a program of UMass Extension, will be holding its annual conference, "Advanced Tools and Techniques for Planning and Zoning," March 18th, 2006, from 9-3pm, at Holy Cross College, Worcester, MA.

Robert Durand, former Secretary of Environmental Affairs, will open the event, which includes 18 workshops on Sustainability, Smart Growth, Zoning Enforcement, Housing, Transportation, and Land Use Planning.

For more information on this conference you can visit CPTC's website at www.umass.edu/masscptc or call Diana Krauth (413) 545-0100.



TRAIL INVENTORY PROJECT

Since the Trail Inventory project for the communities of Ashburnham, Hubbardston, Templeton & Winchendon was such a success, the MRPC has decided to continue in its trail inventory efforts.

The communities of Harvard & Shirley have been chosen to be included in the Trail Inventory process for this year. It is expected that a Trail Inventory "Kick-off" meeting will be held within the upcoming months. If you have any questions or comments on this project, please contact Sheri Dufour at (978) 665-2208.

ALL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

The Montachusett Regional Planning Commission (MRPC) will be developing a regional, multi-jurisdictional all hazard mitigation plan for its 17 member communities located within the Central Region Homeland Security Council

jurisdiction. This plan will include the preparation of local all hazard mitigation plans in order for communities to be eligible for FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation 'project' funds.

The communities comprising the study area for this proposal that are within the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission region are: Ashburnham, Athol, Clinton, Fitchburg, Gardner, Harvard, Hubbardston, Lancaster, Leominster, Lunenburg, Petersham, Phillipston, Royalston, Sterling, Templeton, Westminster & Winchendon.

GIS DEPARTMENT NEWS

- MRPC GIS department recently completed the GIS parcel layer update for the town of Townsend working in collaboration with the Assessors Department. As the town requested, the old layers (ArcInfo coverages) were exported to parcel dimensions and acreage. MRPC also designed a tem-

plate for each tax map to be printed by the town itself .

- The GIS department is also working on updating the existing GIS parcel layers in the Town of Ayer in collaboration with their Economic Development and Assessors Department.
- MRPC GIS department recently completed the new zoning map for the Town of Shirley in collaboration with their Planning Department.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

MRPC Meetings

7:00 pm in the
 MART Conference Room:

- March 28th**
- April 25th**
- May 30th**
- June 27th**

MJTC Meetings

7:00 pm in the
 MART Conference Room:

3rd Wednesday of every month
 Call MRPC to confirm meeting.