



TRANSPORTATION TODAY

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MONTACHUSETT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN MOVES FORWARD

As part of the development of a new Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) for the Montachusett Region, the MRPC, with the assistance of the firm Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc., has held a series of public input meetings throughout August and September. Meetings were held in each of the Montachusett Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) identified subregions as well as a single meeting for the region's three cities, Fitchburg, Gardner and Leominster.

At the meetings, staff reviewed the need for and the development process of the RTP as well as the current status of projects identified in the 2003 Plan in each community. The remainder of the meeting was a general discussion in which participants provided a wide range of ideas and issues to the MRPC that highlighted the many challenges and problems faced by each particular community. Common themes included the need for more funds to construct projects as well as for assistance for smaller communities

in the design and development phases.

The following RTP meetings were held as follows:

August 17th at Lancaster Library, MPO Subregion 7 – Clinton, Lancaster and Sterling.

August 24th at Winchendon Town Hall, MPO Subregion 6 – Athol, Hubbardston, Petersham, Phillipston, Royalston, and Templeton

August 31st at Ayer Town Hall, MPO Subregion 4 - Ayer, Harvard, Lunenburg and Shirley.

September 14th at Townsend Town Hall, MPO Subregion 5 – Ashburnham, Ashby, Groton, Townsend and Westminster.

September 21st at Gardner City Hall, Tri-City Subregion 1, 2 and 3 – Fitchburg, Gardner and Leominster.

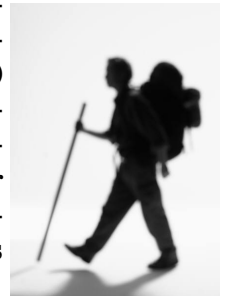
The MRPC would like to thank everyone who came out to these meetings for their support and input. Although these meetings have been held, it is not the end of the public involvement aspect of the RTP. We continue to urge interested citizens to contact us with their ideas, concerns, and issues as the plan progresses. One way to do this is through our website dedicated to the RTP at www.montachusett-transportationplan.org.

At this site, visitors can find out more about the Plan, re-

view the previous RTP, get information on upcoming events and provide feedback to the MRPC. In addition, a transportation survey is posted on the site for people to complete.

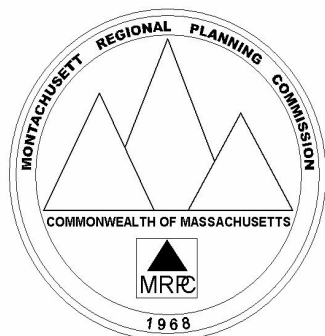
RECREATIONAL TRAILS GRANT AVAILABLE!

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is currently accepting applications for their 2007 Recreational Trails Grants.



This program provides funding for a variety of trail protection, construction, and stewardship projects throughout Massachusetts. Funds are available to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail related facilities for both non-motorized and motorized recreational trail uses. The program is funded through the Federal Highway Trust and administered in Massachusetts on a reimbursement basis by DCR, in partnership with the Massachusetts Recreational Trails Advisory Board, and the Massachusetts Highway Department.

To find out more information or to see if your project is eligible please contact Paul Jahnige (Director of Greenways and Trails) at 413-586-8706 x.20 or e-mail: paul.jahnige@state.ma.us



TIP UPDATE

The Montachusett Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) recently endorsed the FFY 2007-2010 Montachusett Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) at a meeting on August 16, 2006 at the MRPC offices. The TIP is a prioritized listing of federal aid highway and transit projects scheduled for implementation over the next four federal fiscal years. Within each fiscal year, projects are identified and programmed based upon their status, their scoring through the Transportation Evaluation Criteria (TEC), local and regional support and the available federal funds for that particular year. Through this sometimes difficult process, a funding program of approximately \$6 million per year was developed.

Some of the more notable projects included in FFY 2007 include:

- Route 12 Phase I & II in Fitchburg and Leominster
- Townsend Road resurfacing from Route 225 to the

Townsend Town Line in Shirley

For more information on the TIP or to download a complete copy, please visit the "Downloads" page of the MRPC website at www.mrpc.org.

TRAFFIC COUNTS

The 2006 traffic count season is coming to an end. The MRPC conducted traffic counts at approximately 140 different locations throughout the Montachusett region. Once the traffic count season is completed the count database will be put up on the MRPC website.

If your community is interested in traffic data for a particular street or location please contact Sheri Dufour at 978-345-7376 x2208 or sdufour@mrpc.

MRPC ANNUAL DINNER

The MRPC will hold its Annual Dinner on September 28, 2006 at the Athol Town Hall. For more information please call (978) 345-7376.

FREE GIS ASSISTANCE

Each calendar year the MRPC offers each community with eight free hours of GIS assistance. This assistance can be used for Pictometry, GIS training, parcel editing, zoning & open space maps, custom map production.

Interested? Want to find out if your community has used their eight free hours this year? Please contact Jason Stanton or Nathalie Orhac at 978-345-7376 x2266, x2225 respectively.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

MRPC Meetings

7:00 pm in the
MART Conference Room:

September 28th (Annual Dinner)
October 31st
November 28th
December 26th

MJTC Meetings

7:00 pm in the
MART Conference Room:

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