



TRANSPORTATION TODAY

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MONTACHUSETT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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Intersection of Route 2 & 12, Leominster,
The most dangerous interchange in the region.

REGIONAL CRASH DATABASE (UPDATE)

The Transportation Department has nearly completed the region wide safety analysis of the most dangerous intersections within the MRPC region. This analysis is a result of compiling MassHighway crash data for all the municipalities in the region from 2002 – 2005 to create a crash database. The database contains nearly 21,600 crash records that are presently divided into two locational categories; intersection crashes with a crash total of nearly 10,700 and non-intersection crashes with a crash total of nearly 10,900.

The crash records are also divided into three crash severity categories which are used to determine dangerous intersections. The most severe crash include at least one fatality, the second most severe crash include at least one injury, and the least severe crash include property damage only.

To date, our analysis has found that there are 112 dangerous intersections. The completed safety analysis will be released in the near future. For more information on this analysis please contact George Snow at gsnow@mrpc.org or Brian Doherty at bdoherty@mrpc.org.

AERIAL IMAGERY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Executive Office of Transportation and Public Works (EOTPW) has officially approved the selection of Greenman Pedersen Incorporated (GPI) as Massachusetts' oblique imagery vendor. MultivisionUSA, a subsidiary of GPI, will be providing the image capture, processing, and delivery, as well as the training and technical support. With this Spring's weather not conducive to image capture, they will be working with Multivision to schedule an image capture plan starting late Fall and ending next Spring. At this point, they are finalizing plans to state fund the capture of nine-inch resolution 4-way imagery (all four directions) covering the entire state. In addition, a nine-inch resolution nadir (similar to an ortho, but not as accurate) image will also be provided.

These new images will be owned by Massachusetts with no distribution restrictions. A software package developed by Multivision will be included for viewing and measuring and will only be licensed for Massachusetts agencies. Multivision will work with MassGIS to deploy a web-based oblique viewer program that will provide unrestricted access to the new imagery, including measuring capabilities. The same web-based application is available to those who wish to set-up an intraway within their office to view and measure the images rather than loading the viewer software on each PC. Delivery of the software and nine-inch resolution imagery is being targeted for January/ February 2008.

They will also be looking into having Multivision provide 4-inch resolution 4-way imagery for next Spring, but will need to work with all interested agencies to determine total funding amounts available for next Spring. If your municipalities wish to start budgeting for next Spring's four-inch flight, the unit cost per square mile is roughly between \$300 to \$350/ square mile. The four-inch resolution imagery will be a cooperative funded effort from all those interested, including the homeland security regions, municipalities, other state agencies, etc.

As a side note, the current imagery and software provided by Pictometry has a perpetual license, so you may continue to use it for as long as you wish.

For more information on this upcoming aerial imagery please contact Jason Stanton of our GIS Department at jstanton@mrpc.org or (978) 345-7376 x313.

COORDINATED TRANSPORTATION PLAN

With the Passage of SAFETEA LU, several new and revised programs are available to fund transportation services in the area. Programs such as Jobs Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom require regional planning agencies to develop a locally coordinated plan. The MRPC and MART are working together to develop a Coordinated Transportation Plan so that these funds will be available to our area. For more information please contact Brad Harris at bharris@mrpc.org.



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

The Montachusett Regional Planning Commission (MRPC) is working on a Safe Routes to School Plan/Program (SRS) for one or more of its communities. Our intent is to identify and assist a municipality in developing and starting a Safe Routes to School program. Currently three communities within the MRPC region are already involved in the SRS program; Ashby, Ayer and Fitchburg.

The SRS is a Federal-Aid program of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) with funding from the Federal Transportation Authorization Act SAFETEA-LU (Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users Act). The SRS program promotes walking and bicycling to school, improves safety of streets from a child's perspective, and reduces fuel consumption and air pollution.

The Massachusetts SRS program educates parents and students on the value of walking and bicycling for travel to and from school. The program collaborates with schools, superintendents, public officials, principals, teachers, parent-teacher organizations, and neighbors to en

Courage safe, healthy trip options.

MRPC recently sent out a brief survey to its member communities seeking information regarding interest in the SRS program. If you did not receive a survey and would like to fill one out, please contact Sheri Dufour at sdufour@mrpc.org.

TRAIL INVENTORY

The MRPC has completed the 2007 Trail Inventory Report for the communities of Groton, Lancaster, Sterling & Townsend. The MRPC has been collecting trail data for existing and potential trails within these communities.

As a result, Groton identified 22 trails areas totaling 54 miles of trail; in Lancaster 6 trails were identified totaling 27 miles of trail, Sterling had 11 trails identified totaling 12 miles of trail; and Townsend had 9 trails identified totaling 57 miles of trail.

We hope to continue across the region until all 22 communities are covered so that we can create a region-wide Trail Inventory database.

Next year we will continuing our efforts in the communities of Ayer, Clinton and Leominster.

TRAFFIC COUNTS

The 2008 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 2008.

For more information please contact Sheri Dufour at (978) 345-7376 x315 or sdufour@mrpc.org.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

MRPC Meetings

7:00 pm in the
MART Conference Room:

December 18

January 29

February 26

March 25



MJTC Meetings

7:00 pm in the
MART Conference Room:
3rd Wednesday of every month



Call MRPC to confirm meetings