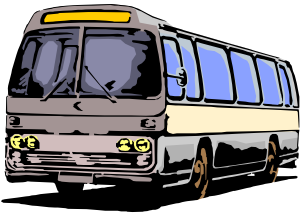




TRANSPORTATION TODAY

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COORDINATED PLAN

The Montachusett Regional Planning Commission recently completed the Montachusett Coordinated Public Transit - Human Services Transportation Plan. This Coordinated Plan is required under regulation after the passage of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act - A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). The law requires that Metropolitan Planning Organizations develop a plan in order to secure certain funding for their communities' transportation services and programs.

Our region's Coordinated Plan will seek to help local communities and transportation providers improve existing transportation services, develop new services to meet public need, and to expand its outreach in the region. It provides a framework by which to guide the investment of existing transportation resources and the acquisition of future funds.

Projects under the Coordinated Plan will be developed with the goal of improving services for three target populations: individuals with disabilities, low-income community members, and the elderly. There are multiple programs offered under the Federal Transit Administration that the Coordinated Plan addresses. They include Section 5310 Elderly Individuals and Individuals with Disabilities Mobility Assistance Programs (MAP), Section 5316 Job Access Reverse Commute Program (JARC), and

Section 5317 New Freedoms Program.

The MPO approved the Coordinated Plan on June 10, 2008. More information can be found on our website (www.mrpc.org), or by contacting Brad Harris or George Kahale at (978) 345-7376 ext. 311 or 307, respectively, or via e-mail at bharris@mrpc.org or gkahale@mrpc.org.



AERIAL IMAGERY

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Transportation (EOT) has announced that it expects to take delivery of new aerial imagery and software in July or August at the latest. It is expected that the MRPC will take delivery of the software and imagery for its' region soon after and is available to all communities for **FREE**.

The imagery was captured in April and May of 2008 and is available in color at 8" pixel resolution covering all four directional views (at oblique angles) as well as a nadir (straight down) perspective.

The Pictometry EFS software and extensions will allow users in a variety of departments, from 9-1-1 dispatchers and first responders, to emergency management, planning, building, assessors, and public works, in order to "see everywhere, measure anything, and

Plan everything". The software also allows for integration of Geographic Information System (GIS) data as well as the interoperability within ESRI (GIS) software. Training will be available in a variety of formats from IT, End-user, GIS and Web-Based tutorials.

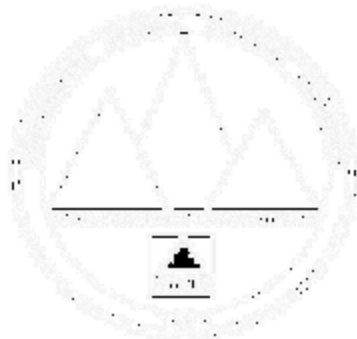
The MRPC will be contacting its' member communities upon delivery of the software and imagery. Additional services such as installation and community or region-specific training will be offered. For more information regarding the aerial imagery please contact Jason Stanton at 978.345.7376 x 313 or jstanton@mrpc.org

OPEN SPACE & RECREATION PLAN MAPPING

The MRPC has been working with several communities to perform mapping related to Open Space & Recreation Plan Updates. According to the Massachusetts Open Space Planners Workbook there are six required maps: Zoning, Soils & Geologic Features; Unique Features & Scenic Resources; Water Resources; Conservation; Open Space and Recreation Land and; 5-Year Action Plan Map.

There are also several optional maps that many communities find useful to enhance their plan including, but not limited to, Land Use, Vegetation, Fisheries & Wildlife and Environmental Challenges.

In 2001 it was estimated that Massachusetts loses 44 acres of
(Cont.)



open space a day or 16,000 acres annually. Open space serves a wide range of purposes that support our local economies and ensuring a high quality of life. Protecting this open space is an essential component in protecting the quality of life for the residents. Updating your communities Open Space & Recreation Plan will help the community and residents collectively identify and plan for open space priorities in their city or town. For more information regarding Open Space & Recreation Plan mapping please contact Jason Stanton at 978.345.7376 x 313 or jstanton@mrpc.org.

RT. 2 SAFETY ANALYSIS

Upon the completion of this analysis the safety and operational characteristics of the 21 interchanges and 6 intersections along the Route 2 corridor in the Montachusett Region will be identified and assessed. Route 2 is the most important roadway in the region with major economic and emergency impacts for all communities. The safety problems of these access points are an important and often repeated issue. Most of the access points were identified as having significant safety

problems in the **Phase I Report: Roadway Safety Conditions in the Montachusett Region** released April 2007. Of the interchanges, 20 are listed in *Table 2 (The Most Dangerous Interchanges and Intersections in the Region)* of the report while 2 of the intersections are listed in the table as well. The top 5 locations for years 2002-2005 are

1. Rt. 2 & Rt. 12 (Leominster)
2. Rt. 2 & Rt. 13 (Leominster)
3. Rt. 2 & Rt. 70 (Lancaster)
4. Rt. 2 & Rt. 110/111 (Harvard)
5. Rt. 2 & I-190 (Leominster)

GIS is being utilized to graphically analyze and illustrate the safety conditions of all locations in the analysis. An example of this is at Exit 19 located in Phillipston. The figure shows the 4 "crash zones" that serve to provide a locational basis for crashes that occur within the interchange area and the black dots depict crash locations. Of the crashes that could be located at this interchange from 2004-2006, most occurred on Route 2 near the ON/OFF ramps (22 of 25 crashes) while the remaining crashes (3 of 25 crashes) occurred at the Route 2 eastbound ON and OFF ramp intersections with Route 202/2A. No crashes occurred on the ramps,

the roadway between the Route 202/2A eastbound and westbound ramps, and the Route 2 westbound ON and OFF ramp intersections with Route 202/2A.



Rt. 2 Exit 19 (Phillipston)

A draft report will be released in September. For questions please contact George Snow at 978-345-7376 ext 312 or by email at gsnow@mrpc.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

MRPC Meetings

7:00 pm in the
MART Conference Room:

July 8 - MPO (2:00)

July 29

August 20 - MPO (2:00)


August 26

September 30

MJTC Meetings

7:00 pm in the
MART Conference
Room

3rd Wednesday of every month

 Call MRPC to confirm meetings

