



TRANSPORTATION TODAY

A PUBLICATION OF THE
MONTACHUSETT REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

March 2008

Issue 14



Route 62 in Hubbardston, MA

PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The MRPC is reviving its Pavement Management System (PMS) program, which was last implemented in 1998. The purpose of this program is to develop a process to inventory and evaluate on a regular basis the roads identified as Federal Aid eligible (approximately 600 miles) in the Montachusett region.

National Highway System roadways will be surveyed by MassHighway while Surface Transportation Program (STP) roadways will be surveyed by the MRPC. A report on this year's program will likely be completed in the fall of 2008. Information collected through this program along with other data will contribute to the transportation evaluation criteria which is used to develop the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Technical assistance to both MassHighway pertaining to state PMS programs as well as to interested cities and towns in the region pertaining to their pavement programs will be available as the Montachusett PMS program progresses. For more information about the Pavement Management Program contact Brian Doherty at 978-345-7376 x.316 or bdoherty@mrpc.org.



Lancaster Street Map

GIS STREET MAPPING

Street mapping has been a common theme for several communities in the past few months. The need for accurate street information is shared by almost every municipal department, not to mention residents and visitors alike. Emergency responders rely on this information on a daily basis. In these cases the ability to know how to get from one place to the other can literally be the difference between life and death.

Input from the community as well as residents are vital to the process. Multiple draft maps and revisions are completed before a final map is complete. Several hurdles need to be overcome in order to develop accurate street maps for the MRPC Communities. Elimination of "paper streets" and the classification of discontinued roads ensure that only drivable streets are included on the map. Labeling the proper street names and adding missing streets, typically due to recent subdivisions, allows everyone to know exactly where all of the streets in a community are.

For more information regarding street mapping contact Jason Stanton at 978.345.7376 x313 or jstanton@mrpc.org

TRAIL INVENTORY

The MRPC is gearing up for the 2008 Trail Inventory project in the communities of Ayer, Clinton and Leominster. Kick-Off meetings have been scheduled in each community throughout the months of March and April. The meeting dates and locations are as follows:

- * Leominster - March 26, 2008 at 7:00pm at the Doyle Conservation Center located at 464 Abbott Avenue in Leominster, MA
- * Ayer - April 17th at 7:00pm at the Ayer Town Hall located at 1 Main Street in Ayer, MA
- * Clinton - April 24th at 7:00pm at the Clinton Town Hall located at 242 Church Street in Clinton, MA

At these meetings we will discuss what trails currently exist in each community and the possibility for future trail development. Attendees will be able to brainstorm their ideas and/or concerns with trail development in their town. The MRPC hopes to create a trail database in our Geographic Information System (GIS) that can be helpful for both the MRPC and the participating community.

If you have any questions regarding the Trail Inventory Project please contact Sheri Dufour at 978-345-7376 x315 or sdufour@mrpc.org.



SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

MRPC is happy to announce that Davida Eisenberg from MassRides will be joining us at our upcoming MRPC meeting being held on March 25, 2008 at 7:00pm. Davida will be giving a presentation on the Safe Routes to School Program and how it can benefit each community.

The MRPC is currently working with MassRides to further assist each community that signs up for the Safe Routes to School program. Currently the MRPC has been talking with the communities of Ashburnham, Ayer, Gardner and Westminster regarding this opportunity.

Please join us on March 25th to see how your community can benefit from the Safe Routes to School program. If you have any questions or would like more information please contact Sheri Dufour at 978-345-7376 x315 or sdufour@mrpc.org.



Route 13 in Leominster, MA

ROAD SAFETY CONDITIONS

Transportation staff has completed the draft phase 1 report of the roadway safety conditions in our region. The data source is the regional crash database developed by staff that holds nearly 21,650 crash records based on MassHighway crash data for all the municipalities of the region from 2002-2005. Some important facts presented in the report are:

- * Based on crash severity, the Route 2 at Route 12 interchange (exit 31) is currently the most dangerous location in the region
- * Fatal Injury Crashes: of the 66 that occurred in the region, Leominster & Gardner combined account for 22 (33% of) of them
- * Division of roadway crash locations; 50% were intersection and interchange crashes, 39% were non-intersection crashes, and 12% of the crash location was unknown (cont.)

- * Of the total number of crashes: 60% occurred in Urban communities , 35% occurred in communities that are urban & rural, and 5% occurred in rural communities
- * Based on crash severity, the Main Street (Rt.13) at Prospect/Hamilton/River Street intersections in Leominster combine to create the most dangerous series of intersections in the region

The draft safety report will be released shortly. Please contact George Snow at gsnow@mrpc.org or Brian Doherty at bdoherthy@mrpc.org for more info.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

MRPC Meetings


7:00 pm in the MART Conference Room:

- March 25**
- April 29**
- May 27**
- June 24**



MJTC Meetings

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

 Call MRPC to confirm meetings