



TRANSPORTATION TODAY

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ROUTE 140 TASKFORCE

The goal of this Task Force is to make recommendations to MassHighway on what roadway improvements should be undertaken on the 10 miles of Route 140 as it travels through the towns of Sterling, Princeton, and Westminster. Possible funding for potential improvements on this road was announced in July of this year when Representative Lew Evangelidis and Senator Harriette L. Chandler included \$14 million for the reconstruction of Route 140 as part of the State Transportation Bond Bill. The Task Force members are comprised of representatives from the towns and planning staff from MassHighway, the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC), and the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission (MRPC). The road is a major north-south route for commuters, provides access to the Wachusett Mountain Ski Area, and is used by many bicyclists. Traffic volumes have increased considerably over the past 30 years and safety has become a major issue while very few improvements have been undertaken.

The Task Force had its first public meeting on September 5, 2008 at 7:00 PM. Besides the members of the Task Force, approximately 20 concerned citizens attended the meeting. After the introduction, a presentation that provided information on the existing conditions of the road was made. The discussion included issues such as the roadway lacking shoulders, the many trees next to the road, safety conditions, and the lack of

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funds the Towns possess to make the necessary improvements. Dennis Rindone, the Princeton Town Administrator, then addressed citizen involvement which will be a key task of this project. There will be extensive public outreach that will seek public input throughout the process. Representative Lew Evangelidis then discussed the possible funding source from the Transportation Bond Bill which was followed by Brad Harris, the MRPC Transportation Director, who presented facts about another possible funding source – the federal Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). The final topic was conducted by Richard Rydant of the CMRPC who described the need to conduct a corridor study of Route 140. It is hoped that the information from this study will be used to develop the best and most cost effective improvements for the roadway.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 16th, 2008 at 7:00 PM at the Princeton Town Hall Annex. If you have questions about this topic please contact Brad Harris at 978-345-7376 ext 311 or by email at bharris@mrpc.org.

MASSACHUSETTS RAIL & FREIGHT PLAN

As part of the development of the Massachusetts Rail & Freight Plan, a series of regional outreach meetings are being held to solicit input. The Central Mass meeting will be held Wednesday, November 3 from 1:00-3:00PM at the Union Hall conference room at Union Station in Worcester, MA. Please contact MRPC for more information.



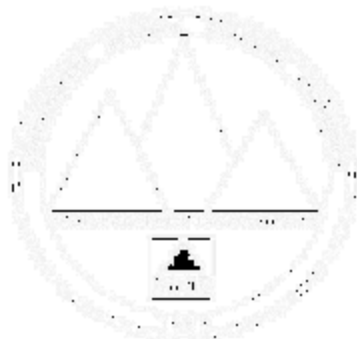
TITLE VI NOTICE OF PUBLIC PROTECTION

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A description of the procedures that the public should follow in order to file a complaint against the MPO can be found in the Montachusett MPO Complaint Procedure. Obligations and complaint procedures can be translated upon the request of the MRPC.

Montachusett Metropolitan Planning Organization meetings are conducted in accessible locations and materials can be provided in accessible formats and in languages other than English. If you would like accessibility or language accommodation, please contact the MMPO at (978) 345-7376 (voice), (978) 348-2490 (fax) or bharris@mrpc.org (email).

For a copy of the Complaint Procedure, please contact the MRPC or visit the MRPC website at www.mrpc.org.



YOU MOVE
MASSACHUSETTS

The Montachusett Regional Planning Commission (MRPC) strongly supports and encourages you to attend one of the civic outreach workshops the Executive Office of Transportation (EOT) has planned for this fall.

The purpose of the effort is to “talk to Massachusetts residents about their experiences using the transportation system” of the State. The primary questions that the EOT seeks your input on address the major problems that users encounter and how you get to work, school and play. The EOT wants to know what you observe every day as you travel around the State.

Come to one of the public workshops listed below and help to make the transportation system better for everyone. Please check www.youmovemassachusetts.org for updates and information on how to participate in this exciting effort.

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

City/Town	Day	Date	Time	Location
Boston	Wednesday	09/17/08	3:00 PM	Boston Public Library Main Branch
Natick	Monday	09/22/08	6:00 PM	Morse Institute Library
Barnstable	Tuesday	09/23/08	6:00 PM	Hyannis Intermodal Center
Lawrence	Wednesday	09/24/08	6:00 PM	National Heritage Center
North Adams	Thursday	10/02/08	6:00 PM	North Adams City Hall
Taunton	Monday	10/06/08	6:00 PM	Taunton Public Library
Braintree	Tuesday	10/07/08	6:00 PM	Thayer Public Library
Worcester	Tuesday	10/14/08	6:30 PM	Union Station
Malden	Wednesday	10/15/08	6:00 PM	Malden Public Library
Chicopee	Monday	10/20/08	6:00 PM	Chicopee Public Library

BUS ROUTE MAPPING

The MRPC has been working with the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority (MART) to update their bus route data and maps. Data for the Gardner & Fitchburg/Leominster Fixed Service Systems are being updated. Updated Bus Route and Bus Stop data will be displayed over color Orthophotos, with detailed insets for specific areas of interest. Maps will be created for inclusion into MART’s System Map & Schedule brochures and will allow readers to have a better understanding of each bus route system. For more information please contact Jason Station at istanton@mrpc.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

MRPC Meetings


7:00 pm in the
 MART Conference Room:

September 30
October 28
November 25
December 30

MJTC Meetings

7:00 pm in the
 MART Conference
 Room

3rd Wednesday of every month

 Call MRPC to confirm meetings

