



# MONTACHUSETT

## REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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TO: Interested Parties  
FROM: Glenn Eaton, Executive Director  
RE: Draft Montachusett Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Public Participation Plan  
DATE: December 11, 2009

Federal regulations require metropolitan planning areas to have a Continuing, Comprehensive, and Coordinated ("3C") transportation planning process that results in plans and programs that consider all transportation modes, supports metropolitan community development and social goals and that establish a "proactive public involvement process the provides complete information, timely public notice, full public access to key decisions, and supports early and continuing involvement." Based upon these requirements, a Public Participation Plan (PPP) was developed for and endorsed by the Montachusett Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) in June 2007. This PPP outlines the process for public involvement in the development of Regional Transportation Plans (RTP), Transportation Improvement Programs (TIP), Unified Planning Work Programs (UPWP) and long range plans.

Provisions within the PPP establish a thirty (30) day public comment period for draft documents or amendments requiring MPO endorsement. As a result of recent time specific actions, the Montachusett MPO seeks to amend the current PPP to allow for a reduced public comment period. This Amendment will add the following provision to the Procedures of Public Participation Process within the PPP:

- 10) At their discretion, the Montachusett MPO may vote to abbreviate the public comment period for a period of not less than ten (10) days under what the MPO considers to be extraordinary circumstances. Any abbreviated comment period will follow the procedures and provisions outlined in the PPP.

In accordance with federal regulations, this memo serves as notice of the commencement of a 45 day public review and comment period for an Amendment to the Montachusett MPO Public Participation Plan. The 45 day public review and comment period will commence on Wednesday December 16, 2009 and close at the end of business on Friday January 29, 2010. Copies of the full PPP and the Draft Amendment can be obtained at the offices of the MRPC located at the MART Garage & Maintenance Facility, 1427R Water Street, Fitchburg, MA 01420 between the hours of 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM Monday to Friday. Copies are also available online at the MRPC website, [www.mrpc.org](http://www.mrpc.org), in Adobe Acrobat format.

Any interested party should review the draft document and make any comments that they deem appropriate. Written or verbal comments will be accepted until Friday January 29, 2010 and should be addressed: PPP Amendment Comments, MRPC, 1427R Water Street, Fitchburg, MA 01420. Comments can also be sent via email to: [mrpc@mrpc.org](mailto:mrpc@mrpc.org). Please specify PPP Amendment in the subject line.

Comments may also be made at the regularly scheduled meetings of the Montachusett Joint Transportation Committee (MJTC) on Wednesday January 20, 2010 at 7:00 PM or the full Commission on Tuesday, December 29, 2009 or January 26, 2010 at 7:00 PM. All meetings are open to the public and are held at the MRPC Offices. These meetings will serve as the public meetings for the review of this document.

Comments received will be reviewed and incorporated into a Final Amendment to the PPP and will be forwarded for endorsement to the MPO at a meeting to be scheduled.