



MONTACHUSETT

REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

R1427 Water Street Fitchburg, Massachusetts 01420
(978) 345-7376 FAX (978) 348-2490 Email: mrpc@mrpc.org

Memo

To: Interested Parties
From: Brad Harris, Transportation Director
Re: Montachusett UPWP Amendment - Task 4.21
Date: April 29, 2008

Background:

The Montachusett Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) on April 29, 2008 formally endorsed an amendment to the previously endorsed Montachusett MPO October 1, 2007 - September 30, 2008 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Based upon discussions with the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority (MART) the former Task 4.21 *RTA Marketing Plan Development* has been amended to a new Task 4.21 entitled *Fixed Route Service Review*. No change has been made to the original budget amount of \$15,000. The new Task 4.21 seeks to address changes and possible expansion to the fixed route bus system in Fitchburg, Leominster and Gardner as well as in the G-Link service area. Recent commercial and residential development, especially in Leominster along Route 117, as well as increased demands on the commuter rail system in the Region have raised issues related to changes in the current system through expanded routes or commuter rail connections.

The following is the new UPWP task description and budget as endorsed by the MPO on April 29, 2008:

UPWP TASK NO. 4.21

TASK TITLE: FIXED ROUTE SERVICE REVIEW

OBJECTIVE:

The objective of this task will be to review current Mount Wachusett Community College bus routes in the Fitchburg/Leominster/Gardner area in terms of service effectiveness and expansion including possible integration/coordination with the commuter rail service to Boston from the Fitchburg and North Leominster Commuter Rail Stations and to review the current G-Link bus routes between Orange/Athol/Gardner and Winchendon/Gardner. Cost benefit analyses and recommendations to improve rideship will be reviewed and developed.

PREVIOUS WORK:

G-Link TDP, 2005
TDP Update for Fitchburg/Leominster Area Transit Service - 2003

METHODOLOGY:

Review current fixed route services.
Review development patterns in communities.
Examine possible route expansions and connection/coordination to other existing transit options.

PRODUCTS:

Expanded Fixed Route Services.

SCHEDULE:

To be carried out throughout the program year.

Task 4.21

Funding	FHWA/MHD	FTA-5303	LOCAL	TOTAL
Participation	PL			
MRPC		\$12,000	\$3,000	\$15,000
LOCAL				
GOVERNMENTS				
TOTAL		\$12,000	\$3,000	\$15,000