

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Glenn Eaton, Executive Director
RE: Draft Amendment #3 to the FFY 2017-2021 Montachusett Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Amendment #1 to the Montachusett Public Participation Plan (PPP)
DATE: January 26, 2017

Based upon the Montachusett Metropolitan Planning Organization Public Participation Program (PPP) established by the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission that attempts to establish a proactive public involvement process as required under the Metropolitan Planning Regulations, this memo serves as notice of a public review and comment period for Draft Amendment #3 to the MPO Endorsed FFY 2017-2021 Montachusett Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Amendment #1 to the MPO Endorsed PPP and the availability of the draft documents developed by the Montachusett MPO. The public involvement process with the time established for review of the TIP and its Amendments will satisfy the Program of Projects (POP) requirements for transit projects. A 30 day public review and comment period for the FFY 2017 Highway Element TIP Amendment #3 will commence on Monday January 30, 2017 and close at the end of business on Tuesday February 28, 2017. An abbreviated 15 day public review and comment period for the FFY 2017 Transit Element Amendment #3 will commence on Monday January 30, 2017 and close at the end of business on Monday February 13, 2017. The 45 day public review and comment period for PPP Amendment #1 will commence on Monday January 30, 2017 and close at the end of business on Wednesday March 15, 2017.

Amendment #3 reflects changes to the projects listed in the FFY 2017 Highway and Transit Elements of the TIP while PPP Amendment #1 seeks to reduce public comment periods for documents from 30 days to 21 days. At a meeting held on January 25, 2017, the Montachusett MPO reviewed the proposed Amendments and voted that they be released for public review and comment.

Summaries of the proposed amendments are available for review. Copies can be obtained online at the MRPC website, www.mrpc.org or 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 can be mailed on request by contacting the MRPC at (978) 345-7376.

We ask that any interested party review draft TIP Amendment #3 and PPP Amendment #1 and make any comments that they deem appropriate. Written or verbal comments will be accepted up till the close of business for each comment period and should be addressed: TIP Amendment Comments or PPP Comments, MRPC, 1427R Water Street, Fitchburg, MA 01420. Comments can also be sent via email to: mrpc@mrpc.org. Please specify TIP or PPP Amendment Comments in the subject line.

Comments received will be reviewed and incorporated into final TIP Amendment #3 Highway and Transit Elements and a final PPP Amendment #1. If no significant objections are made during the public review period, the final documents will be forwarded for endorsement at MPO meetings to be held at the MRPC Offices at 1:00 PM on Wednesday February 15, 2017 and Wednesday March 15, 2017. Please refer to the MRPC website Calendar for confirmation of meeting dates.

If there are questions on the draft Amendments or the review and comment period, please contact the MRPC.