

Draft Summary of Public Comments
 FFYs 2019-23 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Public Comment Period

PROJECT(S) / ISSUE(S)	REQUEST/ SUPPORT/ OPPOSE	COMMENTER(S)	COMMENT
Regional Transportation Advisory Council			
Funding Allocation	Support	Organization: RTAC	Supports the MPO's direction to redirect funding from major investments to Complete Streets, intersection improvements, bicycle/pedestrian, and community transportation. Note that major investments comprise 52% of overall TIP allocation, short of the 44% target.
Public Comment Period	Support	Organization: RTAC	Supports the 30 day public comment period for the TIP, which allows sufficient time for input from citizens groups that may meet once a month or less.
Community Transportation Program	Request	Organization: RTAC	Acknowledging that it is still being developed, requests that a consistent dollar amount for the Community Transportation program be set aside annually to provide stability and predictability for the program, once it is fully operational.
Universe of Projects Development	Request	Organization: RTAC	Requests that the MPO consider whether there may be equity issues associated with the process for how the universe of projects is selected. Smaller or less wealthy communities may not have the resources to perform the initial design, engineering, and permitting work needed to advance projects. Requests that MPO consider setting aside resources in addition to the existing technical assistance provided by MAPC and CTPS if this is a barrier to developing beneficial projects.

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Adherence to Complete Streets Principles	Request	Organization: RTAC	<p>Noting that most projects in the TIP adhere to Complete Streets principles, states that several projects that may need clarified descriptions in the TIP Interactive Database or the project design revisited to ensure multimodal accommodations are fully provided:</p> <p>Signal and Intersection Improvements on Route 135 (Hopkinton): No bicycle accommodations are described.</p> <p>Reconstruction of Ferry Street (Everett): No bicycle accommodations are described.</p> <p>Reconstruction of Melnea Cass Boulevard (Boston): The project description references on-road existing and proposed bike lanes. Asks if an off-road street path is still planned.</p> <p>Improvements on Boylston Street (Boston): Asks if a separated bike lane could be considered, as opposed to the proposed on-street bike lanes.</p>
Regionally-Focused Organizations			
Interchange Improvements at I-95/I-93/University Ave/I-95 Widening (Canton, Dedham, Norwood, and Westwood)	Support	Organization: Neponset Valley TMA	Requests inclusion of the Interchange Improvements at I-95/I-93 in the FFYS 2019-23 TIP. The project is critical to achieve the full economic envisioned with the University Station project in Westwood. Proposed improvements will reduce congestion and address safety issues at the interchange.
Reconstruction of Route 1A (Walpole)	Support	Organization: Neponset Valley TMA	Supports inclusion of the Reconstruction of Route 1A in the FFYs 2019-23 TIP. The project will reduce congestion and create improved multimodal infrastructure. Improved intersections and pedestrian facilities will enhance cyclist and pedestrian safety; this is particularly important due to several MBTA bus stops within the project area.

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Pedestrian Improvements along Bussey Street (Dedham)	Support	Organization: Neponset Valley TMA	Supports inclusion of the Pedestrian Improvements along Bussey Street in the FFYs 2019-23 TIP. Improvements to sidewalk accessibility, bike lanes, and enhancements to the intersections will improve connectivity and safer access in the area. The project will align with the Town of Dedham's revitalization project and will improve economic vitality for the Town.
Project Selection in the 495/MetroWest Region	Support	Organization: 495/MetroWest Partnership	<p>Supports inclusion of 22 projects within the 495/MetroWest Region in the FFYs 2019-23 TIP. Expresses particular support for the slip ramp construction and associated intersection improvements at I-495 and Route 1A (Wrentham) and MWRTA funding, both of which address 495/MetroWest Partnership-defined "transportation nightmares."</p> <p>Appreciates the inclusion of a variety of new projects that traverse several subregions, including projects in Bellingham, Littleton, Sudbury, and Wrentham that have lingered on the Universe of Unprogrammed Projects.</p> <p>Requests that the MPO consider 23 projects within the 495/MetroWest region for TIP funding; eight of these projects have been designated as "transportation nightmares" by the 495/MetroWest Partnership. States that a lack of sound financial footing for transportation infrastructure results in major projects that would have significant regional impact remaining idle in the TIP Universe of Unprogrammed Projects.</p>
Appendix E	Support	Organization: 495/MetroWest Partnership	Expresses appreciation of the transparency offered in Appendix E of the TIP.
Bridge Replacement, B18-002, Route 111 over I-495 (Boxborough)	Support	Organization: 495/MetroWest Partnership	<p>Asks why the Route 111 over I-495 Bridge Replacement is not included in the FFYs 2019-23 TIP.</p> <p>Supports the request by Adam Duchesneau, Boxborough Town Planner, to include new sidewalks on the project.</p>
Geographic Distribution of Funding	Request	Organization: 495/MetroWest Partnership	Requests that the MAGIC, MetroWest, SWAP, and TRIC subregions require more than 26% of target funding, given that they represent 42% of federal-aid roadway miles. The Inner Core has greater resources and staffing, as well as greater access to transit options. Many residents in the 495/MetroWest region use the highway and transit systems to travel to jobs in the Inner Core.

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Economic Impact of Project Delays	Request	Organization: 495/MetroWest Partnership	Requests that the MPO recognize the economic impact of project delays in the 495/MetroWest region. Projects like the Improvements at I-495 & Route 9 (Southborough & Westborough) and the Reconstruction of I-90/I-495 Interchange (Hopkinton & Westborough) must be addressed to successfully confront congestion, safety, air quality, and sustainable development issues in the region.
Geographic Distribution of Funding	Other	Organization: 495/MetroWest Partnership	Notes that several of communities with projects in the Universe of Unprogrammed Projects are not scheduled to receive funding in FFYs 2018-22 TIP and have not received any TIP funding as far back as 2008, and possibly longer. Communities include Holliston, Medfield, and Millis. Adds that other communities in the 495/MetroWest region have received no TIP funding from 2008-22 and have no projects ready for consideration. This speaks to the challenge for municipalities to fund project designs, only to have the designs be outdated by the time they would be considered for the TIP. The 495/MetroWest Partnership recommends consideration of state design funding in exchange for partial municipal funding for projects.
Project Selection	Support	Organization: CrossTown Connect TMA	Supports inclusion of 11 projects in the FFYs 2019-23 TIP, stating they will improve infrastructure and access to the region. Expresses disappointment that the Resurfacing and Related Work on Route 2A in Concord, Lexington, and Lincoln has been moved to FFY 2023.
Bridge Replacement, B18-002, Route 111 over I-495 (Boxborough)	Oppose	Organization: CrossTown Connect TMA	Expresses disappointment that the Route 111 over I-495 Bridge Replacement has been removed from the FFYs 2019-23 TIP.
Project Selection	Support	Organization: A Better City	Supports six highway and four transit projects in the FFYs 2019-23 TIP.

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Project Evaluation	Request	Organization: A Better City	<p>Asks why the Replacement of Allston I-90 Elevated Viaduct was not evaluated, noting that it is scheduled to begin construction in FFY 2022. States that the project should move forward as soon as funds become available, and requests that the evaluation be completed.</p> <p>Adds that the following projects should be evaluated and considered for the TIP, in either the FFYs 2019-23 document or in future amendments:</p> <p>Improvements along Commonwealth Avenue (Boston) McGrath Boulevard Project (Somerville) Mountfort Street and Commonwealth Ave Connection (Boston)</p>
Universe of Unprogrammed Projects	Request	Organization: A Better City	Requests that Bus Rapid Transit projects, as they develop, and the South Station Expansion Project be added to the Universe of Unprogrammed Projects and considered for future TIP funding.
MBTA Funding	Support	Organization: MBTA Rider Oversight Committee, Capital Investment & Finance Subcommittee	Supports inclusion of the Bridge & Tunnel Program, the Stations & Facilities Program, the Signals/System Upgrade Program, and the Bus Program in the FFYs 2019-23 TIP.
Performance-Based Planning and Programming	Support	Organization: MBTA Rider Oversight Committee, Capital Investment & Finance Subcommittee	Supports activities for advancing Performance-Based Planning and Programming as described in Chapter Four of the TIP.
TIP Appendices	Support	Organization: MBTA Rider Oversight Committee, Capital Investment & Finance Subcommittee	Expresses appreciation of the ability to review the Universe of Unprogrammed Projects provided in Appendix A and the public comments provided in Appendix C.
Community Transportation Program	Request	Organization: MBTA Rider Oversight Committee, Capital Investment & Finance Subcommittee	Requests that future TIPs will increase the funding for the Community Transportation Program from the 0.8% in the current cycle to the 2% recommended by the LRTP.

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Bruce Freeman Rail Trail, Phases 2B and 2D			
Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (Phase 2B & 2D)	Support	<p>Municipal: Len Simon, Vice Chair, Sudbury Board of Selectmen</p> <p>Organizations: CrossTown Connect TMA, 495/MetroWest Partnership</p> <p>Acton residents: Emily McDowell, Lauren Pollak, Ray Andrews, Maria Kuffner, Nancy Kerr, Franny Osman, Anne Anderson, Greg Antonioli, Kathy Peebles, Judith A. Aronstein, Martin Burke, Barbara Dowds, Joseph Holmes, Bill Smith, Dot Keyworth, Carol Doblewski, Geraldine Abrams, Irwin Abrams</p> <p>Concord residents: Charles Jennings, Barbara Pike, Diane Kerr, Judy Perrin, Dean Sullender, Suzanne Knight, David Clarke, Stuart Johnstone, Caroline Partridge, Elizabeth Seabury, Steve Sutter, Pat Goldstein, Roy Westerberg</p>	Supports inclusion of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (Phases 2B & 2D) in the FFYs 2019-23 TIP. The completed project will provide a safe transportation option for cyclists and pedestrians from Sudbury to Lowell, encouraging mode shift and reducing CO2 emissions. The trail will provide recreational opportunities, increased use of local businesses along the trail, and health benefits. Completed portions of the trail have already benefitted the surrounding communities.
Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (Phase 2B & 2D)	Support	<p>Sudbury residents: Vincent Lamenzo, Chris Menge, Lucia Ballantine, Margo Creelman, Jason Viehland, Fred Taylor, Clyde Newton, Chad Trexler, Jan Hardenbergh, Alex Glover, Richard Williamson, Anne McCarthy, Terry McCarthy, John C. Drobinski, Sandy Lasky, Thomas Mead</p> <p>Westford residents: Wendy Wolfberg, Emily Teller, David Martin, William Harman, Chris Barrett, Carol S. Engel, Elizabth Galya, Donald Galya, Dawn-Marie Sutton, Molly (no surname given)</p>	Supports inclusion of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (Phases 2B & 2D) in the FFYs 2019-23 TIP. The completed project will provide a safe transportation option for cyclists and pedestrians from Sudbury to Lowell, encouraging mode shift and reducing CO2 emissions. The trail will provide recreational opportunities, increased use of local businesses along the trail, and health benefits. Completed portions of the trail have already benefitted the surrounding communities.

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 FFYs 2019-23 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Public Comment Period

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Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (Phase 2B & 2D)	Support	<p>Arlington residents: Russ Cohen, Tom Michelman, Sharon Green Billerica residents: Paula LeClerc, Lynn Barstow, Ricky Hull Boxborough resident: Barry Harsip Carlisle residents: Bob Macauley, Robin Hillyard, Martha Supnik, Bob Stegmaier Chelmsford residents: Kaari Mai Tari, Andrew Barber Charlestown resident: Mary Christine Corr Hudson resident: Nancy Powers Lowell residents: Julia Huestis, Sheila Anderson Kirschbaum Medford resident: John Sieber Weston resident: David Hutcheson Jaffrey, NH resident: Timothy A. Coll Pelham, NH resident: Linda Irish-Simpsons</p>	Supports inclusion of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (Phases 2B & 2D) in the FFYs 2019-23 TIP. The completed project will provide a safe transportation option for cyclists and pedestrians from Sudbury to Lowell, encouraging mode shift and reducing CO2 emissions. The trail will provide recreational opportunities, increased use of local businesses along the trail, and health benefits. Completed portions of the trail have already benefitted the surrounding communities.
Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (Phase 2B)	Support	<p>Acton resident: Jim Snyder Grant Concord residents: Bob Armstrong, Sue Armstrong</p>	Supports inclusion of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (Phase 2B) in the FFYs 2019-23 TIP. Traveling across Route 2 poses safety risks for cyclists and pedestrians. The project will provide a safe transportation option and provide key connections for local travel and commuting.
Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (Phase 2D)	Support	<p>Acton resident: Jim Salem</p>	Supports inclusion of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (Phase 2D) in the FFYs 2019-23 TIP.

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Intersection and Signal Improvements at Kelley's Corner			
Intersection and Signal Improvements at Kelley's Corner, Route 111, and Route 27 (Acton)	Support	<p>Municipal: Acton Board of Selectmen</p> <p>Organizations: 495/MetroWest Partnership, CrossTown Connect TMA</p> <p>Acton residents: Franny Osman, Jim Salem</p>	<p>Supports inclusion of the Intersection and Signal Improvements at Kelley's Corner in the FFY 2022 element of the TIP. The Town of Acton fell three votes short of the required two-thirds majority to bond additional funds for supplemental engineering and appraisal costs needed to advance the project. The Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to continue supporting the project and request that MassDOT move forward with the 25% design public hearing. The Board unanimously agreed to bring a request to either a Special Town Meeting or the Annual Town Meeting in April 2019 for funding needed to reach 100% design and conduct appraisals, and will also bring forward a warrant article authorizing acquisitions and takings subsequent to the appraisals. The Board feels confident that this work will be completed in time for construction in FFY 2022.</p>
Intersection and Signal Improvements at Kelley's Corner, Route 111, and Route 27 (Acton)	Oppose	<p>Organization: Green Acton</p> <p>Acton residents: Terra Friedrichs, Danny Factor, Dennis G. Caristi, Karen Boulet, Michaela Moran, Eleanor Mathews, Greg Bishop, Claudia Bishop, Joann Witek, Matthew Liebman, Kathryn Acerbo-Bachmann, Todd Bachmann</p>	<p>Opposes the design of the Intersection Improvements at Kelley's Corner (FFY 2022). The current 25% design will destroy a significant number of large growth trees, as well as increase curb-to-curb distance for pedestrians, particularly where left turn lanes are planned. The project will also negatively impact local businesses by removing a significant portion of an already minimal parking area.</p> <p>Green Acton proposes a number of solutions to these issues. Acton residents request that the 25% design public hearing be delayed until the plan minimizes the destruction of trees, removes the planned left turn lane and additional turning lane, and decrease speed limits to 20-25 miles per hour for all approaches to the intersection.</p>
Intersection and Signal Improvements at Kelley's Corner, Route 111, and Route 27 (Acton)	Oppose	<p>Acton resident: Dave Lunger</p>	<p>Opposes inclusion of the Intersection and Signal Improvements at Kelley's Corner in the FFYs 2019-23 TIP. States that the needed easements will destroy a viable business (not sure what they're referring to here), and roadway widening will cut down old-growth trees that are vital to shade and town character. Additionally, increased vehicular will create a more dangerous condition for pedestrians. Notes that Acton residents voted down a funding request at the Acton Town Meeting, and intentions to restructure the funding to require a majority re-vote has increased local opposition to the project.</p>

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Other projects (currently programmed)			
Reconstruction on Route 126 (Pond Street) (Ashland)	Support	Organization: 495/MetroWest Partnership Municipal: Yolanda Greaves, Ashland Board of Selectmen	Supports inclusion of the Reconstruction on Route 126 in the FFYs 2019-23 TIP. States the project will drive economic development and improve safety conditions.
Minuteman Bikeway Extension (Bedford)	Support	Organization: CrossTown Connect TMA Acton resident: Franny Osman	Supports inclusion of the Minuteman Bikeway Extension in the FFYs 2019-23 TIP. States the project will promote health and provide new commuting possibilities.
Reconstruction of Melnea Cass Boulevard (Boston)	Oppose	Organization: Friends of Melnea Cass Boulevard	<p>Opposes the project design for the Reconstruction of Melnea Cass Boulevard (FFY 2019), noting a lack of adequate safety for pedestrians at the Tremont Street intersection. The proposed intersections are overly complex and are unlikely to provide convenience or safety improvements. Snow clearance will require plowing snow into the bike path, and pedestrians will face puddles and snow when crossing the street. Additionally, sixty mature trees will be removed.</p> <p>States that the Boston Transportation Department's public outreach has been insufficient. BTM has not addressed public comments made at the 25% design public hearing. Representative Rushing requested that the creation of a task force to develop a more workable plan for the Tremont Street intersection. This task force was not created, and the alternative designs developed by project consultants did not reflect community feedback. A collaborative approach is needed to reach mutually acceptable design decisions.</p>
Community Transportation Program	Support	Organizations: CrossTown Connect TMA; MBTA Rider Oversight Committee, Capital Investment & Finance Subcommittee	Supports inclusion of the Community Transportation Program in the FFYs 2019-23 TIP. The program will be a valuable source of seed funding for suburban and rural mobility initiatives, as well as for creating a better transportation network for some of the most vulnerable populations.

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FFYs 2019-23 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Public Comment Period

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Green Line Extension	Support	<p>Organization: MBTA Rider Oversight Committee, Capital Investment & Finance Subcommittee; A Better City</p> <p>Acton resident: Franny Osman</p> <p>Medford resident: Ken Krause</p>	Supports inclusion of the Green Line Extension in the FFYs 2019-23 TIP.
Reconstruction on Route 129 (Lynnfield Street), from Great Woods Road to Wyoma Square (Lynn)	Support	<p>Legislative: Senator Brendan P. Crighton</p> <p>Municipal: Mayor Thomas M. McGee</p>	Requests reprogramming the Reconstruction on Route 129 (FFY 2020) to the FFY 2019 TIP element. Lynnfield Street is a main artery for commuters and commercial vehicles, and daily traffic will see substantial further deterioration of the roadway before FFY 2020, causing safety issues before work can begin as currently programmed.
Bridge Replacement, Route 107 over the Saugus River (a.k.a. Belden G. Bly Bridge) (Lynn & Saugus)	Support	<p>Legislative: Senator Brendan P. Crighton</p> <p>Municipal: Mayor Thomas M. McGee</p>	Requests that the Route 107 over the Saugus River bridge replacement remain programmed in FFY 2019 and not be moved out further. The project will address critical public safety and access concerns both on the roadway and the waterway. Detours and the construction of the temporary bridge have impacted local roads since 2009, and the project was originally scheduled for completion in 2014.

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Exchange Street Downtown Improvement Project (Malden)	Support	<p>Municipal: Malden Advisory Committee on Walkability</p> <p>Organizations: Preotle, Lane & Associates; Jefferson Apartment Group; Exchange Street Bistro; Combined Properties; Boda Borg Boston; Berkeley Investments; 126-150 Pleasant Street Associates; Myer Dana and Sons; Kendall Capital; Bike to the Sea</p>	<p>Supports inclusion of the Exchange Street Downtown Improvement Project in the FFYs 2019-23 TIP. Malden Center is in a period of revitalization; numerous development projects have been undertaken, and more are planned in the near future. Exchange Street is a major route through the area, and its deficiencies could hinder revitalization efforts and further investments. Inadequate lighting, deficient sidewalks and crossings, and a lack of bicycle accommodations pose significant safety risks to cyclists and pedestrians; these risks are compounded by a roadway configuration which encourages high vehicular speeds. The proposed improvements will enhance connections for all modes of travel and bolster current and future economic development.</p>
Intersection Improvements to Pleasant Street at Village, Vine, and Cross Streets (Marblehead)	Support	<p>Legislative: Senator Brendan P. Crighton, Representative Lori A. Ehrlich</p>	<p>Supports inclusion of the Intersection Improvements to Pleasant Street at Village, Vine, and Cross Streets in the FFYs 2019-23 TIP. The project will improve public safety and ease traffic congestion. Many students use the intersection to access two nearby middle schools, and a student was killed in the intersection in 2009.</p> <p>Senator Crighton Requests that the MPO work to advance the project on or ahead of schedule, and that any changes to the timeline of the project be proactively communicated to the Town of Marblehead.</p>
Improvements at Brooks Elementary School (Safe Routes to Schools) (Medford)	Support	<p>Medford resident: Ken Krause</p>	<p>Supports inclusion of the Improvements at Brooks Elementary School in the FFYs 2019-23 TIP. The project will improve mobility, safety, and air quality in a heavily populated, congested, and polluted region.</p>

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 FFYs 2019-23 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Public Comment Period

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<p>Intersection Improvements at Route 1A & Upland Rd / Washington St and Prospect St / Fulton St (Norwood)</p>	Support	<p>Municipal: Tony Mazzucco, Norwood General Manager Organization: Neponset Valley TMA</p>	<p>Supports inclusion of the Intersection Improvements at Route 1A & Upland Road in the FFYs 2019-23 TIP. Improvements to sidewalk accessibility, bike lanes, and enhancements to the intersections will improve connectivity and safer access in the area. The project will align with the Town of Dedham's revitalization project and will improve economic vitality for the Town. The Town has leveraged \$450,000 from nearby developments to fund the design, and will submit 75% design documents in June. The project is the top priority on the TIP for the Town of Norwood.</p>
<p>Intersection Improvements at Route 1A and University Avenue / Everett Street (Norwood)</p>	Support	<p>Municipal: Tony Mazzucco, Norwood General Manager Organization: Neponset Valley TMA</p>	<p>Supports inclusion of the Intersection Improvements at Route 1A and University Avenue. The project will improve capacity and reduce congestion, particularly during peak hours, address the high crash rate, and improve pedestrian facilities. The project is currently at 25% design and a Design Public Hearing date is anticipated soon. The project is the Town of Norwood's second priority on the TIP.</p>
<p>Intersection and Signal Improvements at Route 1A (Paradise Road) at Swampscott Mall (Swampscott)</p>	Support	<p>Legislative: Senator Brendan P. Crighton, Representative Lori A. Ehrlich</p>	<p>Supports inclusion of the Intersection and Signal Improvements at Route 1A at Swampscott Mall in the FFYs 2019-23 TIP. The project will have a significant impact on vehicular and pedestrian safety.</p> <p>Senator Crighton requests that the MPO work to advance the project on or ahead of schedule, and that any changes to the timeline of the project be proactively communicated to the Town of Swampscott.</p> <p>Representative Ehrlich requests that some funding be allocated to improve crosswalk safety at 990 Paradise Road, attaching a petition with over 100 signatures requesting installation of a pedestrian signal.</p>

Draft Summary of Public Comments
 FFYs 2019-23 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Public Comment Period

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Rehabilitation of Mount Auburn Street (Watertown)	Support	Municipal: Matthew Shuman, Town Engineer	Supports inclusion of the Rehabilitation of Mount Auburn Street in the FFYs 2019-23 TIP. The project area has several safety issues, including a lack of bicycle accommodations and substandard sidewalks. The Coolidge Square segment of the corridor has been identified as a High Crash Location. The proposed improvements will transform the corridor from a four-lane arterial into a cyclist and pedestrian-friendly street. Lane reduction, where feasible, will allow for bicycle lanes and wider sidewalks. Curb extensions at crosswalks will reduce crosswalk lengths and increase visibility.
TIP Process and Documentation			
Equitable Project Selection	Support	Acton resident: Franny Osman	Supports the MPOs efforts to study and improve equity in project selection.