

Summary of Comments Received on the Draft FFY 2011 Unified Planning Work Program, with MPO Responses

	Community/ Organization	Name Dated and Title	Comment	MPO Response
8/2/10	495/MetroWest Partnership	Paul F. Matthews, Executive Director; Jessica Strunkin, Deputy Director of Public Policy and Public Affairs	<p>The letter provides background on the organization and the transportation challenges it faces. The MetroWest region has experienced significant growth recently, causing transportation challenges that include increasing traffic congestion, an increase in vehicle miles traveled, highway capacity issues, a lack of public transportation options, and failing, aged infrastructure. The Partnership is eager to participate in the studies and any projects in the 495 MetroWest region where their assistance would be helpful.</p> <p>Urges the MPO to include the “Interstate 495/Route 9 Interchange Study” in Appendix A. The study includes Southborough and Hopkinton. It is in the Central Massachusetts MPO’s UPWP.</p> <p>Supports the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAPC’s Corridors/Subarea Planning Studies: Land Use Reviews. Offers support in the way of information and interactive forums with the Transportation Committee in support of the Route 9, Phase 2 study. Asks that the 495/MetroWest Development Compact be mentioned by name in the description of this study. • Downtown Framingham Traffic Impact Analysis study. Solutions to the grade crossing problem would support MassDOT’s new GreenDOT initiative by mitigating air quality impacts. • MBTA’s Foxborough Commuter Rail Feasibility study. There is potential for economic and job growth in the area around Gillette Station. The pro-active nature of the study may provide much needed transit options for the area as it fulfills its development and job creation potential. • MBTA Fitchburg Line Small Starts Application Support. Improvements to the line will increase ridership and provide reverse commute opportunities for people who work in MetroWest. • MassDOT’s Massachusetts Turnpike Corridor Plan. Users of the Turnpike should be able to expect full incorporation of the roadway into future TIP and UPWP projects and studies. 	<p>The Interstate 495/Route 9 Interchange Study, which is being conducted by MassDOT’s Office of Transportation Planning, will be included in Appendix A of the final Boston Region MPO’s UPWP.</p> <p>In the final UPWP, the 495/MetroWest Development Compact will be mentioned by name in the description of this study</p> <p>So noted.</p> <p>" "</p> <p>" "</p> <p>" "</p>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low-Cost Improvements to Bottleneck Locations. Urges the MPO to select one of the many bottlenecks in the MetroWest region during the second phase. • Safety and Operations Analyses at Selected Intersections. MetroWest communities that have a backlog of projects, but few resources to devote to design, could utilize the program. • Community Transportation Technical Assistance Program. Suggests that the success of the program depends on how well and to whom it is publicized. Asks the MPO to consider utilizing the Partnership to publicize the program. • Integrating Land Use in Regional Transportation Models. Suggests a regional development database would be an excellent resource for not only transportation agencies, but also for prospective investors in the Commonwealth. • MBTA Core Services Evaluation. Recommends that new service standards take into account the CSX deal on the Framingham/Worcester Line and the Fitchburg Line improvements. Should take into account the demand for reverse commuting on commuter rail lines out of Boston. • MPO Freight Study, Phases I and II. Supports advancement of the recommendations of the state's long-awaited plan. Recognizes the future importance of the Westborough and Framingham rail yards and encourages the studies to consider their effect on truck traffic and rail scheduling in the region. Recommends that Phase II be coordinated with the Foxborough Commuter Rail Feasibility study and the Downtown Framingham Traffic Analysis study. • Maintenance Costs of Municipally Controlled Roadways. Feels strongly about the need to identify the cost of maintaining the existing infrastructure to highlight the need for more transportation revenue in the Commonwealth. • Regional Model Enhancement. MetroWest has changed significantly since the last regional household travel study in 1991. 	<p>Bottlenecks in the MetroWest region that have been identified through the MPO's Congestion Management Process will be among the locations considered for inclusion in the second phase of the Low-Cost Solutions to Bottleneck Locations study.</p> <p>So noted.</p> <p>" "</p> <p>The focus of the MBTA Core Services Evaluation, which began in FFY 2010, is primarily on bus service in the urban core and does not include commuter rail.</p> <p>The MPO notes your support for freight planning in the region. Phase I and Phase II of the MPO Freight Study will be consistent with the recommendations of MassDOT's Statewide Freight and Rail Plan. The MPO expects Phase I to analyze the movements of large trucks in the Boston region. Your suggestions will be considered during work scope development for Phase II</p> <p>So noted.</p> <p>The FFY 2011 UPWP includes funding for the Massachusetts Statewide Household Travel Survey which will be used to update the data used to represent the MetroWest area in the MPO's regional model.</p>

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MAPC Alternative Mode Planning and Coordination. Pleased that transportation demand management activities will receive additional emphasis in FFY 2011. Support work to identify project eligible for the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality program and work on transit and freight planning. Welcomes better coordination of municipal shuttle service with existing regional transit service. Would like to offer insight into transit service gaps in Littleton and Boxborough. RTA Service Planning Assistance. The work is essential to providing transit options to MetroWest residents and workers. 	<p>The MPO and MAPC appreciate the support of the Partnership for this project and suggest that the Partnership work with municipal officials from Littleton and Boxborough in preparing a proposal for the MPO's FFY 2011 Clean Air and Mobility Program. Information regarding applications for the next round of award is expected to be available in the late fall or early winter.</p> <p>So noted.</p>
8/2/10	Dorchester Bay Economic Development Corp.	Jeanne DuBois, Executive Director	<p>Requests that the MPO conduct a traffic study of the Quincy Street Corridor as part of its FFY 2011 UPWP.</p> <p>The Corridor is in the Fairmount Commuter Rail project area, which is one of five projects chosen nationally by the HUD-DOT-EPA Partnership for Sustainable Communities. Several development projects are planned in the corridor representing more than \$60 million in investments. The Corridor is near the future Four Corners station on the rail line.</p> <p>The projects will create many dynamic changes to the Corridor. A thorough traffic study is of the greatest importance to this community challenge.</p>	<p>The request for a traffic study of the Quincy Street corridor will be considered for the FFY 2012 UPWP. In the meantime, preliminary exploration of a scope for a potential study will be conducted for this consideration. Staff will also work to identify the needs to be addressed in such a study through the MPO's ongoing Congestion Management Process.</p>
8/4/10	Regional Transportation Advisory Council	Laura Wiener, Chair	<p>Supports the draft federal fiscal year 2011 Unified Planning Work Program.</p> <p>Appreciates that the draft FFY 2011 UPWP addresses many of the Advisory Council's comments on the draft FFY 2010 UPWP. For instance, the draft FFY 2011 UPWP includes the Bicycle Network Evaluation study and the Regional HOV Systems Planning study that were requested by the Advisory Council last year.</p> <p>Asks that the MPO coordinate work on the Bicycle Network Evaluation with the municipalities to ensure any recommendations have community support.</p> <p>Supports the MPO Freight Study, Phase II. Asks that the study address all modes of freight and recommend strategies to maintain freight rail in the region.</p>	<p>The MPO appreciates the Council's support for the FFY 2011 UPWP and values its participation as a member of the MPO's UPWP Subcommittee.</p> <p>The MPO recognizes that community support is essential to the success of any study and staff for the study will work closely with municipalities through the course of the Evaluation.</p> <p>The MPO notes your support for freight planning in the region. Phase I and Phase II of the MPO Freight Study will be consistent with the recommendations of MassDOT's Statewide Freight and</p>

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			<p>Supports the MPO's focus on programs such as the Livable Communities Workshops and the Community Transportation Technical Assistance Program. Recommendations from these programs have a better likelihood of implementation because the communities are reaching out to the MPO.</p> <p>Suggests that the MPO consider the needs assessment for Paths to a Sustainable Future as it looks to replenish its universe of ideas for the next UPWP.</p>	<p>Rail Plan. The MPO expects Phase I to analyze the movements of large trucks in the Boston region. Your suggestions will be considered during work scope development for Phase II</p> <p>Establishing relationships with MPO municipalities through programs such as these leads to a better understanding of needs, priorities, and constraints both from the MPO's perspective and the communities'.</p> <p>So noted.</p>
8/10/10	Representative Mary E. Grant	Representative Mary E. Grant	<p>Supports the following MAPC projects: Corridor/Subarea Planning Studies: Land Use Reviews and Regional Vision Implementation: MetroFuture.</p> <p>The corridor study of Brimbal Avenue at Exit 19 fits well with economic development plans for the area.</p> <p>It is increasingly important to plan regionally and look at how we can work together to enhance quality of life in all communities.</p>	<p>The MPO and MAPC appreciate the support for these projects and looks forward to continued partnership with the legislature in creating healthier and more livable and sustainable communities throughout the region.</p>