



**Meeting
Notes**

Attendees: Attached

Date/Time: August 26, 2008 10AM-12PM

Project No.: 10640.00

Place: CMRPC

Re: Worcester Regional Mobility Study -
Technical Committee Meeting 2

Notes taken by: JTW

AGENDA

- Introductions
- Review notes from August 12th TC Meeting
- Public Participation Plan, Advisory Group Membership and meeting date
- Open Forum
 - Study Area Refinement (Identify candidate project areas)
 - Goals, Objectives, Evaluation Criteria
- Next Steps

INTRODUCTIONS

D. Cooke (VHB) opened the meeting, reviewed the agenda and noted that the focus of this meeting was to have the Technical Committee review comments on the study framework (scope, schedule, goals, objectives, evaluation criteria, public participation plan) and the recommended makeup of the Advisory Group. The meeting will also revisit the study area bounds and the candidate project areas within the study area.

REVIEW NOTES FROM AUGUST 12TH TC MEETING

Notes from the August 12th TC Meeting were distributed to the group. Comments should be emailed to D. Cooke or provided at the next TC meeting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN AND ADVISORY GROUP MEMBERSHIP

D. Cooke and J. Mullin (Mullin Associates) reviewed the Public Participation Plan. The study website, hosted on VHB's server, is operating and available for public viewing and has a link to the CMRPC website (www.vhb.com/worcestermobilty_draft/). Meeting notes and slides will be posted to the website shortly. Revisions to the study area, goals, and objectives will be reflected on the website.

D. Cooke outlined the revised makeup of the Advisory Group, which included comments received from the TC. At this point, the general makeup of the Advisory Group was established and potential invitees were discussed at length with specific names. VHB will send out a draft list shortly after discussions with CMRPC. The following points were made (in addition to the specific names of invitees):

- Add representation from Sutton;
- Need to include FHWA membership;
- Initiate outreach for elected officials as soon as possible, schedule advance briefings prior to public meetings;
- Add Regional Employment Board representation;
- Ensure representation from developers, real estate community, institutions, and major employers (Saint Gobain, Polar Beverages, MBI), rather than EMC or Massachusetts Biotech Council;
- Include key individuals on the CMMPO Advisory Committee;
- Include Greyhound/Peter Pan representation;
- Include Worcester Business Development Corporation

OPEN FORUM

J. Wanat (VHB) discussed proposed changes to the Study Area from the last TC meeting and noted the justification for the boundary was set from the combination of the extent of the projects and the approximate urban area bounds. The Study Area started as a 6.5 mile radius circle centered on Lincoln Square in Worcester and included Worcester, Auburn, Leicester, West Boylston, Boylston, Millbury, Paxton, Holden, Shrewsbury, and Grafton. From the last meeting, the additional change included Route 56 in the vicinity of I-90 (intersections with Route 9 and Stafford Street should be studied).

After discussing the study area bounds and how it was initially determined, it was agreed that VHB and CMRPC would further refine the area after looking at the major roads to be included and population density. This revised boundary would replace the area formed by the 6.5 mile radius circle and would be presented at the next TC meeting.

J. Wanat led a discussion of the candidate project areas within the study area. These project areas will be the focus of data collection efforts. The following key points were made:

- Develop a graphic that shows all of the project areas on one map;
- Is there a need to include the I-290/ Auburn Street interchange; this location is included to capture cut through traffic;
- Recent traffic data should be available from the Lowe's project along Southbridge Street in Auburn (VHB will follow-up with MHD);
- The "Northern East-West Route" which includes Highland Street should also include Lincoln Square where I-290 WB exits to get to Route 9;
- No additional data or detailed analysis is needed along Route 146 for the frontage roads project (Sutton/Millbury) since this is a recently approved project (approved about 6 months ago)

D. Cooke led a discussion of the overarching goal of the study and provided two options:

- Improve overall multi-modal transportation mobility while enhancing economic opportunities, improving efficiency, maintaining safety, and minimizing impacts to neighborhoods and communities within and through the urban core of the Central Massachusetts region; and
- Improve overall multi-modal transportation mobility throughout the Central Massachusetts region to facilitate the safe, efficient, and environmentally-responsible movement of people and goods.

It was agreed that both proposed goal statements were too lengthy and would not be universally understood. VHB will work with CMRPC to revise the overall goal statement. Suggestions included:

- Improve east-west movement – to which CMRPC staff noted that it is not just the east-west movement but the movement through the entire urban core of the Central Massachusetts region
- Enhancing the movement of people and goods;
- Mention urban core, not entire Central Massachusetts area;
- At some point the CMRPC's land use model and how it works must be articulated to the TC and future 2030 assumptions need to be vetted;

D. Cooke asked the TC to review the marked-up changes to the goals, objectives, and evaluation criteria and email comments or bring them to the next TC meeting for discussion.

FUTURE MEETING DATES

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM. The next TC Meeting was set for September 16th from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM at CMRPC. The first Advisory Group meeting is anticipated for late September or early October. September 30th from 2:00 to 4:00 PM was discussed as a possible date/time for the first Advisory Group meeting.

CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
Meeting Sign In Form



DATE: 08/26/08		MEETING: WIRMS Technical Committee - Meeting 2	
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