



**Meeting
Notes**

Attendees: Attached

Date/Time: December 16, 2008 2-4PM

Project No.: 10640.00

Place: CMRPC

Re: Worcester Regional Mobility Study -
Technical Committee Meeting 6

Notes taken by: VHB

AGENDA

- Review Meeting Notes/Public Informational Meeting back brief
- Existing Conditions
- Alternatives Development/Screening
- Next Steps

REVIEW MEETING NOTES

D. Cooke (VHB) opened the meeting, reviewed the agenda and noted that the focus of this meeting was to provide feedback on the first Public Informational Meeting and to begin to discuss alternatives.

Notes from the TC Meeting 5 and the first Public Informational Meeting were distributed to the group. Comments should be emailed to D. Cooke (VHB) or J. Wanat. The notes will be posted to the study website as well. The slides from these meetings will be posted to the website also, under "Study Documents".

D. Cooke summarized the feedback from the breakout stations at the Public Informational Meeting:

- STATION 1 - Community Considerations/Walking and Bicycling
 - Enhance Bike Connections/Network
 - Education on Walkable Communities
 - Accessibility (ADA)
 - Improve Walkability to Activity Nodes
 - Sidewalk and Crosswalk Issues
- STATION 2 – Public Transportation (Bus, Commuter Rail, Air, Taxi)
 - Commuter Rail / Light Rail
 - Bus-Commuter Rail Links
 - Strengthen Transit Connections

- Improved Airport Access
- Bus Service Enhancement
- Needs of Disabled

- STATION 3 – Automobile and Truck Travel
 - East-West Mobility
 - Key Problem Areas:
 - I-290
 - Route 9/Park Avenue/Highland Street
 - Route 9/Belmont Street at I-290 ramps and UMASS Memorial Hospital
 - Route 9/ Belmont Street at Shrewsbury Street and Lake Avenue Area
 - Worcester’s Squares (Kelley, Webster, Tatnuck, Lincoln)
 - Neighborhood Cut-Through Traffic
 - Airport Access
 - Speeding
 - Signage/Wayfinding
 - Signal Enhancements
 - Auto Dependency
 - Parking
 - Consider New Connections:
 - I-290/Plantation Street
 - 146 Northbound to 290 Westbound
 - I-290 Eastbound to Route 140 Southbound
 - Route 146 to I-90
 - Interstate to Interstate direct connections are lacking at I-395/I-90
 - full interchange at Hope Avenue

- STATION 4 – Economic Development Considerations/Freight Transportation (Truck, Rail, Air)
 - Improve Connections to Economic Development Areas
 - Improve Rail Access
 - Better Link Development and Land Use Planning
 - Region needs a viable Airport
 - Balance Freight and Commuter Rail

EXISTING CONDITIONS

J. Wanat (VHB) provided an update on the existing conditions analysis, showing intersection operations, safety data, bridge ratings, and updated environmental resource maps. Trip characteristics on I-290 were reviewed, including through trips that do not stop within the study area:

- AM Peak Hour -6 percent Eastbound and 13 percent westbound; and
- PM Peak Hour- 10 percent eastbound and 21 percent westbound.

Level of service ratings (LOS A to F) were reviewed for the study area intersections under AM and PM peak hour traffic demands. Bridge ratings were reviewed for functional obsolescence (FO) and structurally deficient (SD) locations. There were 54 bridges in the study area that are classified as SD or FO. The top 6 critical crash corridors were reviewed, including:

1. Route 9 (Worcester)

2. Route 122 (Worcester)
3. Main Street (Worcester)
4. Route 9 (Shrewsbury)
5. Route 70 (Worcester)
6. Route 12/Route 20 (Auburn)

ALTERNATIVES DEVELOPMENT/SCREENING

For the remainder of the meeting, short, mid, and long-term alternatives were discussed, with an initial focus on long-term options for improved east-west access. The North-Central-South EOT corridors were presented as improvements to existing streets for east-west mobility. Additional options since the Public Informational Meeting were discussed, including a citizens draft proposal.

A level 1 screening matrix was presented that will be refined and used to rate the options based on: constructability; community support; right-of-way; demands; travel time savings; mobility gains; environmental impacts; and costs.

Other infrastructure projects (long, medium, and short term) included:

- I-290 Corridor Review and Bypass Roads
- I-290 /Plantation Street
- 146 Northbound to 290 Westbound (overburden of Cambridge Street/Southbridge Street)
- I-290 Eastbound to Route 140 Southbound
- Route 146 to I-90 (Route 20 connector)
- Interstate to Interstate direct connections are lacking at I-395/I-90 (need to take Southbridge Street/Route 12)
- Full interchange at Hope Avenue
- Missing connections (downtown bike lanes, extend Blackstone Valley Bike Path, streets that warrant sidewalks)
- Commuter Rail (extension West, connection to Airport)
- Bus Service Enhancements (transit signal priority). A follow on meeting is scheduled to discuss TSP in more detail.
- Pedestrian Enhancements (accommodations at signals)

NEXT STEPS

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM. The next steps include:

- Prepare Draft of Existing Conditions Report
- 2030 Future Conditions Analysis
- Continued Alternatives Development/Screening
- Upcoming Meetings: East-West Access Charette; Technical Committee Meeting #7; Scenario Planning Session #1; Advisory Group Meeting #2; Public Informational Meeting #2.

