



MAGIC November Meeting

Thursday, November 5, 2015; 2:30 – 4:30 pm

141 Keyes Road, Concord, MA

MINUTES

Welcome

Keith Bergman, Littleton Town Administrator, MAGIC Chairman

Update on the Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) completed Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and on the upcoming TIP and UPWP development

Eric Bourassa, Director of Transportation Division, MAPC

Sean Pfalzer, Transportation Improvement Program Manager, Central Transportation Planning Staff (CTPS), Boston Region MPO

- Eric: The long range plan is taking a step away from only big auto-oriented transportation projects and towards including more multi-modal opportunities and considering transportation network planning.
- Sean:
 - The LRTP sets the framework for the MPO's planning work through the UPWP and in the MPO's investment decision through the TIP process.
 - The new LRTP is part of a shift to performance based planning (data driven, results oriented, utilizing measures that will be established over the next couple of years)
 - LRTP set goals for the MPO's other work and also identified big investments for the next 20 years
 - Safety and Operations analysis is an on-going program conducted by the MPO – helps identify locations that might become future TIP projects
 - The MPO's various investment programs (intersection improvements, complete streets, bicycle and pedestrian networks, etc.) are detailed in the [handout](#) Sean brought – can help subregions identify projects to bring forward.
 - Each of these programs has a pot of money associated with it.
 - Schedule for MPO's project development cycle:
 - TIP project requests by end of January.
 - In March MPO is notified of how much funding is available.



- MPO will begin mulling potential projects in March.
- In April will create draft documents for UPWP and TIP.
- By June would like to have final document approved.
- Currently the MPO is compiling a universe of requests for UPWP ideas.
- **MPO ongoing technical assistance programs:**
 - **Subregional priority corridors**
 - Try to bring complete street concepts to these corridors. May include road diets (reducing traveling lanes and adding bike/ped improvements with space freed up).
 - Contact CTPS if you have such a corridor you would like to bring forward.
 - **Safety and Operations at selected intersections**
 - Improving signal timings.
 - Improve bike/ped accommodations at these intersections.
 - Provide short term and long term recommendations.
 - **Livable communities workshops**
 - Bicycle and pedestrian issues – struggling to get candidate communities involved.
 - **Transportation Technical Assistance**
 - Trying to solve immediate short term issues – making short term, low cost improvements.
 - **Regional Transit Service Program**
 - Looking at local transit issues – looking at RTAs.
 - Helping with route planning.
- CTPS are looking for requests from communities for projects under all of the above programs.
- In addition to these programs, they do other bicycle pedestrian planning projects.
- **Contact Sean Pfalzer, TIP Manager, with questions regarding the upcoming TIP and UPWP development process: spfalzer@ctps.org, 857.702.3684**
- Eric: The MBTA does their own long range planning process (called **Focus40** this year)



- MBTA Representative: Focus 40 has a horizon year of 2040
 - 25 year capital plan and is done every 5 years
 - The annual Capital Investment Program (CIP) implements the plan's priorities each year
 - Focus40 has 3 types of inputs:
 1. Existing conditions
 2. Trends
 3. Additional inputs
 - Cities and towns should give input to the MBTA during this planning process

Review of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the Boston region
Amanda Chisholm, Regional Planner, MAPC

- [Presentation](#) by Amanda on the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the Boston region
- [Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Summary](#)
- Q&A
 - Les: Is there planning support available through MAPC for local economic development planning
 - Amanda: Yes, and there is now a good webpage on MAPC.org with info. We work at various scales on economic dev planning. We have also been working on market analysis.
 - Keith: Littleton's community compact had 3 best practices one of which was economic development related. This resulted in funding for the town to participate in the EDSAT program
 - EDSAT gives you a baseline on your town's attractiveness to developers and institutions (it's a self assessment tool managed by Barry Bluestone)
 - Aaron Henry: We need to build affordable housing to be able to support the workforce of the future. There's a strong link between housing development and economic development.
 - Amanda: Housing development is definitely an economic development strategy in MA because of our higher housing costs
 - Alison: Question on an Act relative to parking....
 - Amanda: The act is on how to better utilize parking revenue.



Climate Resilience Plan Update and Discussion

Tanya Paglia, MAGIC Subregional Coordinator and Regional Planner, MAPC

Tanya discussed the Forum to be held on Thursday, November 19th at Acton Town Hall and asked meeting attendees to spread the word and to come to the Forum themselves.

Discussion of potential North South Rail Link event (5 minutes)

Franny Osman, Acton Selectman, MAGIC Second Vice Chair

Franny shared information about a potential event which MAGIC could assist by serving as a co-sponsor. Meeting attendees were interested in having MAGIC participate and await more information as the event is planned.

Community Exchange

MAGIC Representatives

Acton

- Acton's fixed route bus Called the CAT (Cross Acton Transit)
 - Had a soft start yesterday!
 - It's hard to staff the particular hours they need for shuttle service
 - It is the culmination of a year's long initiative to provide local transit
 - MinuteVan is the dial a ride and the commuter rail shuttle

Bedford

- Monday night was the fall town meeting
- Town meeting accepted a Complete Streets policy
- Middlesex 3 Coalition is having their annual event next week on a Friday morning

Boxborough

- In the process of finalizing its Master Plan revision
- Land has been acquired for a large 40B project – 244 units – all rental will put the town significantly over the 10% threshold.



Concord

- Last Tuesday evening Comprehensive Kickoff plan meeting
- Last comprehensive plan was in 2005 and next one just getting started
- Not doing the standard Comprehensive plan – will be doing APA’s sustaining places format – based on 8 different principles. Organized incredibly differently from traditional Master Plans with less silos.
- Information provided by Elizabeth Hughes on “Sustaining Places through the Comprehensive Plan”
 - APA’s webpage on Sustaining Places through the Comprehensive Plan:
<https://www.planning.org/sustainingplaces/compplanstandards/>
 - Webinar
<http://media2.planning.org/media/stream/sptcp.htm>
 - Report in the APA bookstore
https://www.planning.org/store/product/?ProductCode=BOOK_P578

Lexington

- Long range plan is overdue so putting in a request for funding
- The planning board may be taking on residential FAR and will likely be controversial. This is partially to address the issue of tear downs in the community.

Littleton

- Submitted their Green Communities certification

Maynard

- The mill renovation project is coming along well (Now called “Mill and Main”, was “Clock Tower Place”)
 - Submitted a Master Plan or the project
 - It will be 1.1 million sf
 - Putting up new stuff and tearing down some old stuff
 - Have kept 50 tenants during the transition to new ownership
 - Stratus technologies is coming in



Stow

- Continue their revitalization of the downtown
- Applied for MassWorks funds
- Have a public private partnership for water supply
- A 40B development down the street from the downtown was appealed by an abutter to housing appeals court and they overruled the developer

495 MetroWest Partnership

- Holding annual meeting in Bolton on December 15

OARS

- Submitted an inquiry to see if they could get some funding to implement recommendations from the climate resilience plan

CrossTown Connect

- Worked with Acton on the fixed route
- Scott participating in a roundtable event next week convening 40 to 50 business community members and stakeholder to discuss employer TDM measures

Rep from Congressman Capuano's

- House has passed a 6 year transportation bill

Meeting Adjourn

Upcoming Events:

- MAGIC Climate Resilience Plan Kick-off Forum: Thursday, November 19, 2015, 6:30 – 8:45 pm in Acton
- MAGIC Town Managers/Administrators Roundtable: Thursday, December 3, 2015
- Next MAGIC Meeting: Thursday, January 7, 2016, 2:30 – 4:30 pm in Concord