

Inner Core Committee

A subregion of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council including 20 cities and towns:

Arlington • Belmont • Boston • Brookline • Cambridge • Chelsea • Everett • Lynn • Malden • Medford • Melrose • Milton • Newton • Quincy • Revere • Saugus • Somerville • Waltham • Watertown • Winthrop

June 13, 2012

David Mohler, Chairman
Transportation Planning and Programming Committee, Boston MPO
c/o Central Transportation Planning Staff
10 Park Plaza, Suite 2150
Boston, MA 02116

Dear Mr. Mohler:

The Inner Core Committee (ICC) of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) is MAPC's most populous subregion, consisting of the following twenty cities and towns: Arlington, Belmont, Boston, Brookline, Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Lynn, Malden, Medford, Melrose, Milton, Newton, Quincy, Revere, Saugus, Somerville, Waltham, Watertown, and Winthrop.

At our June 6, 2012 Inner Core Committee meeting, ICC members reviewed the draft Unified Planning Work Program Federal Fiscal Year 2013. This discussion was facilitated by representatives from the Central Transportation Planning Staff (CTPS), MAPC, and ICC leadership. We note that the review period ended on May 31 but due to scheduling difficulties, the ICC was unable to review and discuss the draft at its May meeting. We note that the UPWP will not be voted on until June 28 and respectfully request that you take our comments into consideration.

We note that the UPWP includes many on-going projects and support to transportation planning processes, many of which directly or indirectly impact the communities of the Inner Core Committee. We have focused our review on a few projects that we hope we can influence to more directly address priorities and concerns of the Inner Core communities.

Addressing Safety, Mobility, & Access on Subregional Roadway Priorities (ID #: 13259)

This project allocates \$120,000 to CTPS to address areas identified by the subregions as being unsafe or areas that are bottlenecks to traffic flow. The funding will allow CTPS to develop recommendations for low-cost improvements. It further notes that the specific tasks and work products associated with this project will be presented to the MPO in a work scope for approval to proceed.

The Inner Core Committee supports the inclusion of this task in the UPWP and looks forward to responding with specific locations when CTPS begins its solicitation of projects.

Corridor/Subarea Planning Studies & Land Use Reviews (ID #: MAPC 4)

We are pleased to see three significant projects that will benefit Inner Core communities. These are:

- The Sullivan Square/Rutherford Avenue Land Use Visioning.
- Opportunities and Impediments to Creating Transit-Oriented Development.
- The Needham Street/Highland Avenue Corridor in Newton and Needham.

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Green Line Extension Study FEIR

The Inner Core Committee supports the study of the potential environmental impacts of this project which will impact Cambridge, Somerville and Medford.

Priority Corridors for LRTP Needs Assessment (ID #: 13257)

This line item in the UPWP allocates \$105,000 for analyses of corridors identified in the Congestion Management Process and the Long-Range Transportation Plan. The plan lists 15 potential corridors, 7 of which are within the Inner Core. The plan states that “specific tasks and work products associated with this project will be presented to the MPO in a work scope for approval to proceed”.

The Inner Core Committee supports the inclusion of this task in the UPWP and looks forward to participating in discussions about which corridors are of highest priority for the Inner Core communities as the scoping for this project moves forward.

Community Transportation Technical Assistance Program (ID #:13150 & MAPC 9)

This project provides technical assistance by CTPS and MAPC to provide technical advice on transportation issues of concern such as parking, traffic calming or bus stops. Request for technical assistance will be solicited in early FFY 2012. We support the inclusion of this project in the UPWP.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the UPWP.

Sincerely,



Laura Wiener, Chair
Inner Core Committee