

## Montachusett Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Subregion Selection

### What is the MPO?

A Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is a federally-mandated and federally-funded transportation policy-making body made up of representatives from local government and transportation agencies with authority and responsibility in metropolitan planning areas. Federal legislation in the 1960's required the formation of an MPO for any urbanized area (UA) with a population greater than 50,000. MPOs were created in order to ensure that existing and future expenditures for transportation projects and programs were based on a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive (3C) planning process. Federal funding for transportation projects and programs is channeled through the MPO.

There are five core functions of an MPO:

1. Establish and manage a fair and impartial setting for effective regional decision making.
2. Use data and planning methods to generate and evaluate transportation improvement options and alternatives.
3. Develop and update a fiscally-constrained Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) for the metropolitan area covering a planning horizon of at least twenty years.
4. Develop a fiscally-constrained Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) of improvements to achieve area goals.
5. Involve the general public and all significantly affected sub-groups in the four essential functions listed above.

In creating the requirements for MPOs, Congress identified several key reasons why MPOs are essential:

1. Transportation investment means allocating scarce federal and other transportation funding resources appropriately;
2. Planning needs to reflect the region's shared vision for its future;
3. Adequate transportation planning requires a comprehensive examination of the region's future and investment alternatives; and
4. An MPO is needed to facilitate collaboration of governments, interested parties, and residents in the planning process.
- 5.

MPO staff assists the MPO board by preparing documents, fostering interagency coordination, facilitating public input and feedback, and managing the planning process. The MPO staff may also provide committees with technical assessments and evaluations of proposed transportation initiatives. For the Montachusett MPO, the MRPC serves as staff.

A technical advisory committee may also provide recommendations to the board on specific strategies or projects. An advisory committee may also provide technical analysis, specialized knowledge, and citizen input on specific issues. For the Montachusett MPO, the Montachusett Joint Transportation Committee (MJTC) serves in this capacity.

### What are the Major Documents Required of the MPO?

The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP): The UPWP is a budget and planning tool that lists the transportation tasks to be performed by the MPO staff. The UPWP reflects local issues and strategic priorities. The UPWP covers a one year period and is updated annually.

The Long-Range (or Regional) Transportation Plan (LRTP or RTP): The RTP is a statement of the ways the region plans to invest in the transportation system. Per federal regulations, the plan shall "include both long-range and short-range program strategies/actions that lead to the development of an integrated intermodal transportation system that facilitates the efficient movement of people and goods." The RTP is developed/updated every 4 years.

The plan addresses:

- Policies, strategies, and projects for the future;
- A systems level approach by considering roadways, transit, nonmotorized transportation, and intermodal connections;
- Projected demand for transportation services over 20 years;
- Regional land use, development, housing, and employment goals and plans;
- Cost estimates and reasonably available financial sources for operation, maintenance, and capital investments. The RTP must be fiscally constrained; and
- Ways to preserve existing roads and facilities and make efficient use of the existing system.

**MONTACHUSETT METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**  
Committee of Signatories

Updated

Community/Organization Represented	Position	Name	Designee
MassDOT -Secretary & CEO*	Representative	Jamey L. Tesler	David Mohler Steve Woelfel
MassDOT Highway Division*	Representative	Jonathan Gulliver	Arthur Frost Sarah Bradbury
Fitchburg	Representative	Mayor Stephen DiNatale	Tom Skwierawski Nicholas Bosonetto
Gardner	Representative	Mayor Michael J. Nicholson	Trevor Beauregard Chris Coughlin
Leominster**	Representative	Mayor Dean Mazzarella	Gordon Robertson Mark Piermarini
MRPC Chairman	Representative	Guy Corbosiero - Winchendon	Glenn Eaton
MART Chairman**	Representative	Mayor Dean Mazzarella	George Kahale Bonnie Mahoney

\* Only One Signature Allowed on MPO Action Forms for MassDOT Secretary & Highway Division

\*\* Only One Signature Allowed on MPO Action Forms for MART Chairman/Mayor

**MPO Subregion Representatives**

Subregion	Communities Represented	Position	Name	Community	Designee
1	Athol, Hubbardston, Petersham, Phillipston, Royalston, Templeton, Winchendon	Representative	Barbara Anderson	Winchendon	Tracy Murphy
		Alternate	Julie Richard	Templeton	
2	Ashburnham, Ashby, Groton, Townsend, Westminster	Representative	Rosemarie Meissner	Ashburnham	Brian Doheny
		Alternate	Heather Billings	Westminster	Stephanie Lahtinen
3	Ayer, Harvard, Lunenburg, Shirley	Representative	Michael-Ray Jeffreys	Lunenburg	Tom Alonzo
		Alternate	Kara McGuire Minar	Harvard	Tim Kilhart
4	Clinton, Lancaster, Sterling	Representative	Jason Allison 7/28/2021	Lancaster	Michael Antonellis
		Alternate		Clinton	Phil Duffy

Updated as of 1/18/2022