

# REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL



August 11, 2011

David Mohler, Chair  
Transportation Planning and Programming Committee  
Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization  
10 Park Plaza, Suite 4150  
Boston, MA 02116

RE: Draft federal fiscal year (FFY) 2012 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Dear Mr. Mohler,

The Regional Transportation Advisory Council (Advisory Council) is an independent group of citizen and regional advocacy groups, municipal officials, and agencies charged by the Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) with providing public input on transportation planning and programming.

The Advisory Council strongly supports the draft FFY 2012 UPWP because it addresses many of the greatest concerns of the Advisory Council. Among the concerns addressed in the draft UPWP are that the MPO plan for a regional HOV system, develop an efficient freight distribution system that utilizes all modes, and develop a shared-use path network that closes critical gaps. Therefore, we particularly support the Freight Survey project, the Safe Access to Transit for Pedestrians and Bicyclists study, and the Regional HOV-Lane System Planning Study.

However, we are concerned that several studies in the 2011 UPWP that address these issues are not complete or underway. We would like the MPO to prioritize its freight, HOV, and bicycle planning work since it is very important to the region's future.

Advisory Council members are also pleased with the public outreach process that staff conducted to generate the draft FFY 2012 UPWP and all of its plans and studies. Public outreach is one of the critical MPO functions funded through the UPWP and we appreciate your continued attention to it. Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

Laura Wiener, Chair