



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Transportation

Ten Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116-3969

Mitt Romney
Governor

Kerry Healey
Lieutenant Governor

John Cogliano
Secretary of Transportation

Draft 20-Year Statewide Transportation Plan Unveiled

On March 10th, Governor Mitt Romney and Lieutenant Governor Kerry Healey unveiled *A Framework for Thinking—A Plan for Action*, a comprehensive statewide transportation blueprint for the investment of nearly \$31 billion over the next two decades in the roads, bridges, and transit network of the Commonwealth. The document, which is currently in draft form, can be viewed at www.mass.gov/eot. It is currently anticipated that a final document will be completed by December 2005.

The draft Plan places particular emphasis on the importance of system preservation, objective decision-making, and multi-modal mobility. With funds available for transportation projects never sufficient to meet demand, *A Framework for Thinking* starts the conversation by which the transportation agencies will identify and invest in those projects that will best promote a healthy, sustainable, and prosperous future for the Commonwealth's citizens and communities. During the month of June, Secretary John Cogliano of the Executive Office of Transportation presented the draft Plan to members of the Metropolitan Planning Organizations and Regional Competitiveness Councils at four regional meetings held across the Commonwealth.

The draft Plan directs at least 75 percent of all new capital spending toward maintaining and improving the Commonwealth's existing transportation network. Consistent with the Romney administration's *Fix-It-First* policy, the majority of funds will be dedicated to bridge repair, highway reconstruction, de-bottlenecking, intersection and interchange modernization, and ensuring that the regional transit authorities of the Commonwealth are able to achieve and maintain a state of good repair.

The draft Plan also emphasizes the use of corridor studies to better harmonize land use policies with potential future development patterns prior to the initiation of major transportation expansion projects. This type of coordinated planning will help to discourage sprawl and encourage transit-oriented development, while also providing better transportation opportunities for the residents of the Commonwealth. Increased commercial activity, new jobs, and new residential development are critical to maintaining Massachusetts as a vibrant place in which to live and do business, but that growth needs to occur in ways that do not degrade our communities or the environment.

The next step in the development of the draft Plan is to gather feedback from a diverse array of organizations and individuals around the Commonwealth. As part of that process, the Executive Office of Transportation has organized a series of events to provide information and solicit public input on the draft Plan. To facilitate outreach to the public, each event will include both an afternoon and an evening session, each with an open house for discussion with EOT staff followed by a formal presentation and question-and-answer session. The events are currently scheduled for:

- Tuesday, September 13, 2005
3:00pm and 6:00pm (each time-slot includes both an open house and a formal meeting)
Brockton Public Library: 304 Main Street, Brockton – 508-580-7890
www.brocktonpubliclibrary.org/about/directions.html

- Thursday, September 15, 2005
3:00pm and 6:00pm (each time-slot includes both an open house and a formal meeting)
Jones Library: 43 Amity Street, Amherst – 413-256-4090
www.joneslibrary.org/directions/index.html

- Tuesday, September 20, 2005
3:00pm and 6:00pm (each time-slot includes both an open house and a formal meeting)
Worcester Public Library: 3 Salem Square, Worcester – 508-799-1655
www.worcpublib.org/about/main.html

- Thursday, September 22, 2005
3:00pm and 6:00pm (each time-slot includes both an open house and a formal meeting)
Dennis Council on Aging: 1045 Route 134, South Dennis – 508-385-5288
www.town.dennis.ma.us/dept/coa.htm

- Tuesday, September 27, 2005
3:00pm and 6:00pm (each time-slot includes both an open house and a formal meeting)
Boston Public Library: Copley Square, Boston – 617-536-5400
www.bpl.org/general/directions.htm

- Thursday, September 29, 2005
3:00pm and 6:00pm (each time-slot includes both an open house and a formal meeting)
Burlington Public Library: 22 Sears Street, Burlington – 781-270-1690
www.burlingtonpubliclibrary.org

Please contact longrangeplan.eot@state.ma.us for any additional information on how to participate and contribute to the refinement of *A Framework for Thinking—A Plan for Action*.