

Urban Ring EOE/DEP Semi-Annual Progress Report #3
October 1, 2007 through March 31, 2008

**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF TRANSPORTATION
10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA**

CONTRACT NO.: 7720 URBANRNG
CONTRACT DESCRIPTION: Urban Ring Phase 2 RDEIR/DEIS
COMPLETION DATE: 12/31/2008
DATES OF SERVICE: From: 10/01/07 through 03/31/08

Task 1 – Project Management and Control

Continued to implement the project management plan and report on progress through meetings and regular communication and coordination with the EOT project manager.

Task 2 – Public and Agency Participation

2.1 Continued to update the project mailing list as needed.

2.2 Planned, presented and provided follow-up for these CAC and CAC Subcommittee meetings:

- October 9, 2007 CAC Alternatives and Variants Subcommittee meeting
- October 11, 2007 CAC Funding and Finance Subcommittee meeting
- October 15, 2007 CAC meeting #15
- November 8, 2007 Noise/Vibration/EMF working group meeting
- December 10, 2007 CAC Meeting #16
- December 12, 2007 CAC Tech Coord. Session – Charles River crossing and BU/Mountfort
- December 20, 2007 CAC Tech Coord. Session – Follow up from Dec12, plus Allston
- January 11, 2008 Met with ABC to review schedule and materials for meetings
- January 16, 2008 Pre-meeting with MASCO regarding LMA issues
- January 17, 2008 CAC Tech Coord. Session - River Crossing and BU area
- January 23, 2008 CAC Tech Coord. Session - LMA from Yawkey to Ruggles
- January 24, 2008 CAC Tech Coord. Session - Cambridgeport Kendall to River
- February 7, 2008 CAC Tech Subcommittee
- March 10, 2008 CAC meeting #17
- March 31, 2008 CAC Financing Subcommittee meeting

Organized and staffed outreach for neighborhood, community, and business meetings. Prepared materials and powerpoint presentations, maintained calendar, responded to inquiries, attended and wrote summary notes of meetings per requests. Updated master list of groups, followed up with calls to set up briefings. Updated calendars for meeting and outreach tracking. Meetings included:

- October 2, 2007 Technical coordination session with BU and its consultants
- October 4, 2007 Technical coordination meeting with MASCO and its consultants
- October 4, 2007 Technical coordination meeting with Northeastern University
- October 31, 2007 project briefing with Mayor and staff City of Somerville
- November 2, 2007 technical briefing with Brookline planning and engineering staff
- November 8, 2007 project briefing with Mayor and staff City of Medford
- November 15, 2007 project briefing to UMass Boston/Columbia Point Association
- November 16, 2007 technical coordination meeting with BRA and BTB
- December 3, 2007 briefing to Kenmore Neighborhood Association and Councilor Ross
- January 10, 2008 – provided materials in support of Fenway Alliance meeting

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- January 16, 2008 – Pre-meeting with members of Roxbury Strategic Master Plan Oversight
 - January 17, 2008 – presentation and Q&A session at meeting in Dudley Square held by Roxbury Strategic Master Plan Oversight Committee
 - February 21, 2008 Parcel 7 coordination meeting
 - February 21, 2008 Children's Hospital coordination meeting
 - March 13, 2008 MASCO coordination meeting on surface routing
- 2.3 Followed through on action items from municipal briefings and meetings held in prior month and prepared for meetings scheduled for following month. Provided briefing to:
- December 19, 2007 briefing on BU/Mountfort Street to Town of Brookline/City of Boston
 - January 11, 2008 – Coordination meeting with BRA on Roxbury presentation
 - February 14, 2008 – BTD/LMA coordination meeting
 - February 21, 2008 – MBTA operations group coordination meeting
 - March 19, 2008 – BTD meeting coordination on Fenway area improvement projects
 - March 20, 2008 – DCR briefing on project status and coordination on resource areas
- 2.4 Followed through on updating and staying current with project web site. Continued to upload relevant project materials and interface tools, and worked with vendor and EOT to address issues. Loaded project materials as they became available, including CAC meeting notes, presentations, and handouts. Responded to various requests for modifications and improvements.

Task 3 – Boston Region MPO CTPS Coordination

- 3.1 Continued to coordinate as necessary with CTPS regarding 2030 land use to be used in RTP and Urban Ring travel forecasting.
- 3.2 No further activity this period
- 3.3 Provided ongoing input and coordination with CTPS regarding the speed tables, alignment diagrams, and service plans for the Baseline Alternative and the Hybrid Build Alternatives for coding the regional model. Provided information to support CTPS coordination with MAPC as they worked toward resolution of the 2030 land use projections.

Task 4 – Purpose and Need / Existing and Future Baseline Conditions

No further activity this period

Task 5 – Goals Objectives and Evaluation Criteria

No further activity this period

Task 6 – Definition of Alternatives

- 6.0 Continued to update and improve the Hybrid Alternative details as a result of coordination meetings with stakeholders. The major areas of analysis during the month were in the Longwood Medical Area (LMA), Ruggles Street, Mountfort Street, the Charles River crossing, the Allston routing, and the Inner Belt routing.
- 6.1 Minor revisions and editing
- 6.2 Continued with preparation of the conceptual engineering for the 4 build alternatives using the updated basemapping and input from various agency and stakeholder meetings. Continued with preparation of the alignment sheets showing the 4 build alternatives, including several alignment options. Continued with preparation of the typical cross sections, including update

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of the surface cross sections and preparation of new cross sections to address the tunnel alignments.

Continued to update and revise the 1"=50' scale plans of selected areas showing the hybrid alternatives in greater detail for various stakeholder meetings and briefings. Areas covered included the GJRR bridge modifications, Inner Belt, Cambridgeport, the River Crossing and BU Mountfort Street area, the Longwood Medical Area, and Ruggles Street. Revision to conceptual horizontal alignments were performed to address comments and incorporate new alignments. Further revision to conceptual horizontal alignments for a variety of tunnel options, including the location and function of underground turnouts to accommodate future extensions of the tunnel.

Revision to conceptual horizontal alignments were performed to address comments and incorporate new alignments. Issued draft technical reports to the CAC, which describe and depict the build alternatives in detail and respond to prior technical review comments of stakeholders, particularly Harvard, MIT, BU, and MASCO. The following technical reports were distributed on December 7, 2007:

- Tunnel memo
- LMA surface routing and travel time memo
- Cambridge surface routing and travel time memo

Coordination process with MBTA operations group continued. Continued updating and expanding the right-of-way parcel and ownership tables beyond the DEIR LPA to include the Hybrid Alternatives. Continued to develop the conceptual engineering for the six new or improved commuter rail stations contained in one or more of the build alternatives.

Continued to develop and evaluate the maintenance facility requirements, regional systems interface, and safety and security requirements and tradeoffs of the various alternatives and options.

Task 7 – Transportation Impacts

- 7.1 Work in this task continued as part of preparation for the January technical coordination sessions and the CAC subcommittee meetings scheduled for early February, and the CAC meeting in March.
- 7.2 Continued to evaluate the potential impacts on the hybrid alternatives and preliminary LPA on regional travel and the various elements of the regional transit system. Working with CTPS to obtain the systemwide operating statistics needed to complete this analysis.
- 7.3 Continued to incorporate the needs of Urban Ring Phase 3 into the Phase 2 alternatives and options wherever feasible and practicable, particularly the Phase 2 tunnel and underground station concepts.
- 7.4 Continued with analysis of the traffic LOS impacts of the 2030 build alternatives, including consideration of pedestrian and bicycle operations, and the impact of the build alternatives on parking supply along the corridor that may be displaced by proposed busways and buslanes. Travel time analysis of LMA surface alternatives continued at a detailed level intersection specific level and in response to comments by MASCO and its stakeholders.

Technical memos described in Task 6 were developed, which also provided detailed analysis of intersection delay and travel time for each of the build alternatives.

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7.5 Through 7.7 continued to evaluate impacts of the build alternatives on freight, waterways, and bikes and peds.

Task 8 – Environmental Impacts

Mapping of key potential environmental impact areas continued, including the organization of corridor data at the Segment and Sector level. Work progressed in some of the eighteen subtask areas associated with the environmental impact Task, as summarized below.

Continued to summarize and analyze the new land use projections and their implications in the Corridor. Continued to develop and revise the alternatives to avoid or minimize impacts to parklands, particularly DCR parkland and DCR pleasure vehicle only parkways. Coordination with Muddy River restoration continued with analysis of draft design plans from the Army Corps of Engineers and coordination with the alignment plan and profile to avoid/mitigate potential conflicts with that project. GIS based environmental impact mapping continued for use in the environmental report. Developing additional details on two key areas of coordination with DCR regarding the Malden River crossing and the Charles River crossing.

Continued to evaluate construction phase impacts, particularly for the tunnel alternatives at the portal and station locations at east and west ends of Alternative H2T. Construction phase logistic requirements identified in Task 6, especially for the tunnel segments, indicate potential magnitude of construction phase impacts.

Task 9 – Cost Estimating

Continued to update capital cost estimates for the Hybrid Alternatives and developed a draft capital cost estimate for the preliminary LPA. O&M costing is awaiting unit cost information requested from the MBTA and operating statistics from the regional model.

Task 10 – Evaluate Alternatives

Continued to evaluate and compare the build alternatives using results of the technical coordination meetings held during January, as well as relevant materials from the sessions held in late 2007.

Task 11 – Financial Analysis

Coordinated with the Financing Subcommittee of the CAC by providing information on implementation scenarios at a meeting March 31, 2008.

Task 12 – RDEIR/DEIS Document

Continued to update the alternatives and environmental impact chapters based on the most current data available. Continued to draft the chapter on Locally Preferred Alternative based on the results of the technical coordination sessions.

Task 13 – Public Hearing

No work performed during this period. This task is expected to commence shortly before the public hearing date currently scheduled for late 2007.

Task 14 – FTA Grant Application

Preliminary cost per user benefit calculations were performed in February using the early SUMMIT results and other data available at that time.