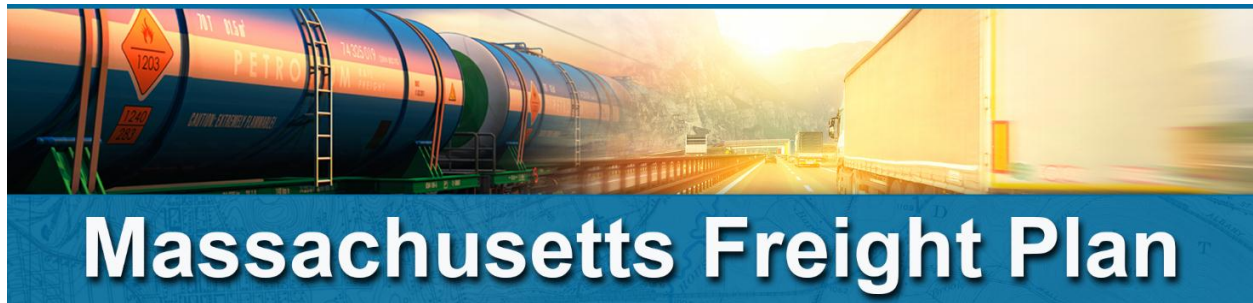


Massachusetts Statewide Freight Plan

Open House 3 – Meeting Summary

presented by

Massachusetts Department
of Transportation



Massachusetts Freight Plan

Open House #3: Meeting Summary

Date: April 24, 2017, 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM

Location: Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC), 60 Congress Street, Springfield

Present

Project Staff:

Gabe Sherman, Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) Office of Transportation Planning (OTP); Nathan Higgins and John Kaliski, Cambridge Systematics (CS); Regan Checchio and Sarah Paritsky, Regina Villa Associates (RVA).

Public Attendees:

Chris Atwood, Unistress Corp.*
Patrick Beaudry, PVPC
Paul Dunphy, Office of State Representative Steve Kulik
Stephen Gazillo, AECOM
CJ Hoss, City of Pittsfield
Clete Kus, Berkshire Regional Planning Council (BRPC)
Zane Lumelsky, Trains in the Valley.org
Paul Nicolai, Western Massachusetts Economic Development Council (EDC)
David Pederson, Pinsky Railroad Company
Cara Radzins, Capitol Region Council of Governments
Gary Roux, PVPC/Massachusetts Association of Regional Planning Agencies (MARPA)*
Rick Sullivan, Western Massachusetts EDC

*Member of the Freight Advisory Committee

Purpose

The third Open House was held to introduce the Massachusetts Freight Plan to the Western Massachusetts region, share the work completed to date, and gather input from the public.

Format

The meeting was arranged in an open house format with boards at stations set up around the room. Four informational boards were set up on one side of the room and staff were available to answer questions:

1. Map
2. Background

3. Industries
4. How Freight Moves

Four additional boards with questions were set up on the other side of the room (see: Open House Activity Results, page 4). Participants responded to a question on each board by writing responses on sticky notes. The project team posted one or two responses derived from the interviews to provide an example response.

A short presentation was projected in the back of the room (on a loop). The slides included information about the objectives, background, and timeline of the Freight Plan (see: Presentation, page 9).

OPEN HOUSE ACTIVITY RESULTS

How is the freight world CHANGING? What do we need to prepare for?

- Interview Feedback Example: There are issues with urban freight deliveries as bicycle traffic increases.
- Interview Feedback Example: E-Commerce is having a huge impact on deliveries in my institution.
- Increasing demand for lower emissions, especially from locomotives and reduced idling.

How can MassDOT INVEST to relieve bottlenecks and maximize utility?

- Interview Feedback Example: We need double stack clearance. Fix the Hoosac Tunnel! 286k Rail!
- Interview Feedback Example: We need more truck stops on I-495.
- Continue striving for reliability – freight & passenger rail
- Fund rail replacement projects to modernize tracks in the Berkshires.
- Make the needed investment in the Northeast Central Railroad (NECR) to eliminate the “gap.”

What **POLICIES AND REGULATIONS** support an efficient freight system?

- Interview Feedback Example: Oversize/overweight permitting is getting better but still not as good as other states
- Publish contact for the Pan Am agreement.
- Needs more investment in track upgrades and electrification.
- Coordination across state lines (but what should this look like?).

How can MassDOT COLLABORATE with system users to collect feedback?

- Interview Feedback Example: We need more truck education to help build the workforce

PRESENTATION

Our objectives

- Fulfill all **federal requirements** for State Freight Plans
- Articulate a **vision** for the freight system
- **Raise awareness** of freight's role in the economy
- Use **scenario planning** to address an **uncertain future** and develop **robust strategies**

How we see the freight system

Economy

*Types of Industries, Number of Households,
Types and Volumes of Commodities*

Logistics

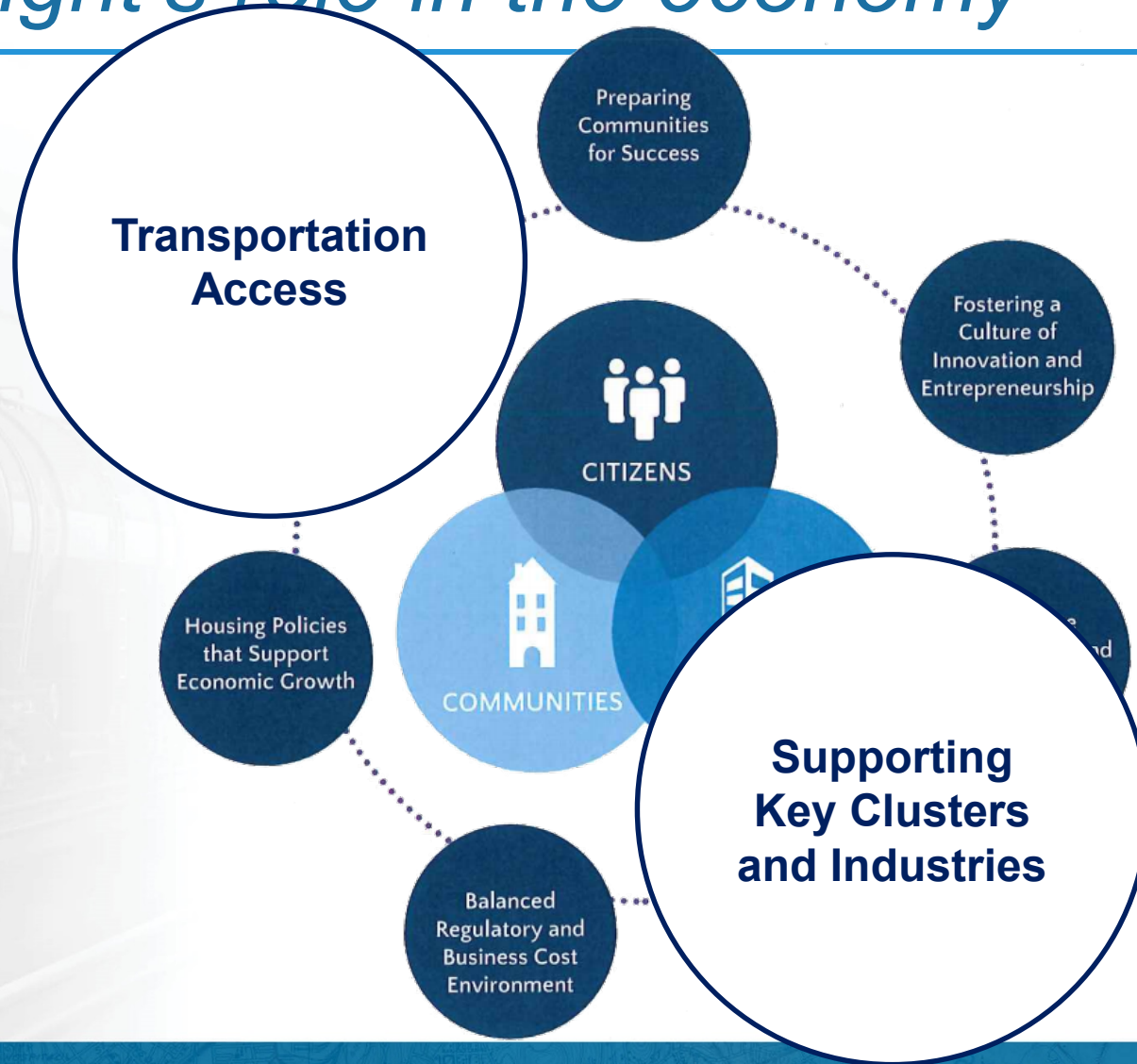
Supply Chains, Distribution Networks

Transportation

*Infrastructure: Highways, Rail Lines, Ports, Airports...
Vehicles/Flows: Trucks, Planes, Rail Cars, Ships...*

Policy and Regulation
Ownership, Use, Pricing, Taxation...

Freight's role in the economy



What we are doing

Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul

**Synthesize 30+ reports
Analyze Freight Data
4 Agency Round Tables
25+ Industry Interviews**

**4 FAC Meetings and
Open Houses**
Scenario Planning to
articulate vision, goals,
objectives, and robust
strategies.

**2017
Freight
Plan**

How MassDOT thinks about overall transportation goals



Customer Experience

Provide reliable and accessible services to MassDOT and MBTA customers and ensure that they are satisfied with the services provided.



System Condition

Ensure that the transportation system is well maintained and follows best practices for maintaining, preserving, and modernizing assets.



Budget and Capital Performance

Maximize capital investment effectively and efficiently by delivering programs and projects that produce the greatest benefits to the Commonwealth, its residents, and its visitors.



Safety

Provide and support a multi-modal transportation network that is safe for our workers and all users.



Healthy and Sustainable Transportation

Invest in and support a transportation system that promotes and protects the health of all users and the natural environment.

How MassDOT thinks about investment priorities

1

Reliability

Maintain and improve the overall condition and reliability of the transportation system

2

Modernization

Modernize the transportation system to make it safer and more accessible and to accommodate growth

3

Expansion

Expand diverse transportation options for communities throughout the Commonwealth