Weston Planning Board Study on Transportation “Best Practices”

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Topics

- Motivation
- Framework
- Outreach
- Recommendation: Town Opportunities/Funding
- Next Steps

Interactive with Nav Singh (Governor's Commission)

Encountered many bright lights

*people, ideas, services*
Motivation

Daily 2-4 hour gridlock*

Increasingly detrimental to quality of life, productivity, economy, and environment

No easy answers, but try to improve the situation

* Boston drivers spend 14% (60 hours) of drive in congestion, 7th worst of 319 and climbing, Waltham-Boston commute time increased 34% in last 10 years
Our Framework

a. Start small, be practical

b. Focus on commute hours, reducing SOV phenomenon

c. This is a regional challenge – think RT117 and RT20

d. Solutions are a combination of new services and behaviors

e. Small improvements can make a big difference

f. Timeframe = medium-term (2-4 years)
Outreach – 20+ Interviews

- **Federal - MA MPO (Chairman, Team)**

- **State**
  - MassDOT (“Moving Together”)
  - Governor’s Commission (FOTC by T4MA*)
  - Safe Routes to School

- **Region**
  - Route 128 Business Council (Director)
  - Metro Area Planning Council (Transportation Director)
  - Metrowest Regional Collaborative (Council Meetings)

- **Towns**
  - Lexington (Town Planner)
  - Westboro (Transit Manager)
  - Braintree (Mayor, MDOT Board)
  - Los Angeles (APA data model)

- **Weston**
  - Residents (Facebook)
  - BOS (ChrisH), Traffic (ClintS)
  - Planning Board

- **Private Sector**
  - Uber/Lyft/Lime
  - McKinsey (MP Boston Office)
  - MIT/Hult (Prof. of Entrepreneurship)
Outreach – 4 Strategic Plans

- MetroCommon 2050 – MAPC
  [https://metrocommon.mapc.org/](https://metrocommon.mapc.org/)

- FOCUS40 – MBTA
  [www.mbtafocus40.com/focus40theplan](http://www.mbtafocus40.com/focus40theplan)

- Future of Transportation – Baker Commission

- Destination 2040 – MPO
  [www.ctps.org/lrtp](http://www.ctps.org/lrtp)
Major Takeaways – Aligned Framework

Larger impact: quality of life, productivity, economic growth, environment

Regional challenge: requires collaboration

Theme: More people in fewer vehicles*

MA Transportation CIP: $3.4B/year **

MPO Investment: $100M/year for improvement

Growth (2040): +10% population, +600k residents, +350k jobs

* little/no SOV road expansion
** all sources, $42B MA budget, reliability + modernization + expansion
Major Takeaways – Their Medium-term Opportunities

**PRIORITY SERVICES**

Better transit: more options & connections
New last/first mile connections
Ride sharing (TNC pooling)
Bikeability: lanes, parking, sharing

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Huge value of surveys
Leverage “gateway” cities
Towns share services and assets
Pilot often and expand successes
Learn & tap funding sources
Major Takeaways – Their Longer-term Opportunities

Electric Vehicles (cleaner)
Autonomous Vehicles (smarter, 40% of sales by 2040)
Direct connect between Towns (likely buses)

Adjust land use (more efficient movement)
Encourage staggered hours/work-from-home (reduce peaks)
Congestion pricing (reduce peaks)

Climate change (mitigate, protect)

Feedback: more integrated planning, fuller communication, sync w/housing
"Can Weston do anything about this traffic?"
Weston Medium-term Opportunities

a. Survey to identify resident travel, preferences, and feedback

b. Consider Pilots
   • Shuttle service to/from train stations (pilot w/1 neighborhood)
   • Partner with Uber/Lyft on pooling services (subsidize pilot)
   • More frequent "trains" – mimick late trains with shuttles

c. Apply best practices to proposed 40b developments – shuttle service, bike-friendly, “We Work” for residents

d. Make Weston more bike-friendly for resident transportation

e. Collaborate on services with other Towns and State/Region/Federal

f. Tap Funding Sources: MPO* (pilot), MBTA (pilot), Barr (TBD), Town (survey)

* Community Transportation Program, Unified Planning Work Program
Our Next Steps

1. Submit/present paper for further feedback and collaboration

2. Track and incorporate: Northeastern 117 Study, Destination 2040, Metro Common, Rail Vision, SR2S, MPO Board Position

3. Engage other Town Boards/Committees and residents

4. Prioritize and manage top opportunities *

5. Assign as ongoing function to Town employee and/or Committee

* survey, funding, friendly 40Bs, shuttle pilot, collaboration
Feedback to date

Services

- Pooled Uber/Lyft commute to/from Boston
- Share shuttle assets/services with Council on Aging
- "Park-n-Ride" shuttle along 117 to Kendal Green or Waltham
- Bike sharing
- **Hurry up!**

Plan

- Review SmartGrowth America, Transportation America, Strong Town sites
- Review plan with State Reps
- Perform traffic management plan
- **AI for Traffic "hackathon" at Olin-Babson**
- ...
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