



# TRANSPORTATION PLANNING



## REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN

### INTRODUCTION

A Regional Transportation Plan is a twenty year plan which includes all the different ways of traveling and moving freight, such as driving cars and trucks, bicycling, walking, taking transit, and hauling freight by rail. The purpose is to ensure that transportation projects are consistent with the area's overall development policies and are coordinated with one another to provide an effective transportation system that makes efficient use of available funds. Federal regulations require an adopted regional transportation plan for federal funding of transportation projects.

### KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Aspects of this project transferable among most large planning efforts include:

- Considerable time and effort built in to educate and involve a broad range of the public. This includes a variety of methods of outreach.
- Make an early start on the first phases of the project so there should be enough time to work through the controversial later parts with solid technical analysis and efforts to reach broad public consensus. While moving along promptly, we seek basic consensus on each step to build a solid foundation for the rest of the project.
- Set up and explain the technical process well before applying it. Even people not fond of the results should feel comfortable that a solid process was applied.



### STATUS/NEXT STEPS

- **December 12, 2002**—Berkshire Transportation Forum (BTF) gathering ideas for alternatives to solve problems. All are welcome to participate.
- **February 6, 2003 (this is a tentative meeting date; please check with BRPC)** - BTF meeting on the preliminary screening of alternatives
- **June, 2003**—Draft Report required at state and federal agencies
- **September, 2003**—Vote by Metropolitan Planning Organization on endorsing the Plan. The final version will be distributed to libraries and town/city halls.

Keep up with the Regional Transportation Plan by asking to receive BTF mailings or see regular updates at [www.BerkshirePlanning.org/Transportation](http://www.BerkshirePlanning.org/Transportation).

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