

Commuter News & Notes



A Newsletter for Members of the MVTMA

Spring 2006, Volume 5, Number 1

Inside this issue:

The results are in. TMA members express satisfaction with TMA services. 1

The Merrimack Valley TMA prepares for its annual Bike to Work (BtW) events and Celebration. 1

I-93 Construction Corner—Learn the latest about the NH DOT project to reconstruct I-93 from Manchester to the Massachusetts state line. 2

Spring TMA Calendar of Events 3

And the winner is...Check out this quarter's TMA raffle winners. 4

TMA Receives High Marks for Member Satisfaction

Working with Merrimack Valley TMA Board member, Pat Hunt from Philips Medical Systems, TMA staff conducted a member survey during March designed to identify the level of satisfaction with the services provided by the TMA. The results of the survey were overwhelmingly positive – 92% of respondents indicated that overall they were very satisfied or satisfied with the TMA and its services, while 8% responded that they were neutral—these respondents noted that they had been working with the TMA for too brief a period of time to accurately respond.

Both the newsletter and the website were viewed as effective tools for the TMA, though 46% of companies said it was moderate or difficult for their employees to access the website due to limited opportunities to log onto the internet at work. Online ridematching, Guaranteed Ride Home program, general advocacy, and promotional events were noted as the most important programs offered by the TMA. The Roundtable meetings, incentive programs, and advocacy for local road construction were also voted by members as extremely important services provided by the TMA. Finally, in terms of specific advocacy work—additional park and ride locations, maintaining and improving bridges/roads, interstates, and improved access to public transit were voted by TMA members as most important for the TMA to be involved. When the survey results were announced to the TMA Board of Directors, Pat Hunt stated, "Our members are telling us that we are on track with their needs."

Record Number of Events Planned for TMA's Annual May Bike to Work Month

Planning is well underway for this year's Bike to Work (BtW) events and BtW Celebration. TMA Executive Director, Andrea Leary noted, "Bike to Work is a national event traditionally taking place during the second week in May each year, but because enthusiasm for this event continues to grow, the TMA needs almost a full month to hold Bike to Work events at member worksites." According to Leary, this year will mark the largest number of BtW events in the six years that the TMA has held this annual springtime event for members. "It's really exciting that people look forward to both their company event and the BtW Celebration. Each year it seems we have new people participating

Continued on page 2



Bike to Work 2006—continued from Page 1

because they have a co-worker who has had a really great experience in the past.”

TMA members have been very generous in support of this event. Staybridge Suites will again host this year’s Bike to Work Celebration from 12:00 Noon—1:30 PM at their facility at 4 Tech Drive and Staybridge will sponsor the BtW raffle grand prize. Putnam Investments has provided print support for the events and Celebration as well as the bar-beque expertise of Putnam Board Members Brian Powers and Al Marrone. Eisai Research Institute has generously agreed to sponsor the Bike to Work t-shirts, while Philips Medical Systems will host the popular Bike to Work Bike Seminar sponsored by the TMA and Philips to be conducted by Massbike. The seminar will take place on May 2nd from 11:45 AM—1:00 PM at Philips Medical Systems, 3000 Minuteman Road in Andover. All employees who register to participate in BtW are invited to attend both the Bike Seminar and the BtW Celebration. Employees won’t have to miss lunch while they learn about safe biking and identifying the best cycling route to work, both the Bike Seminar and BtW Celebration include a free lunch for participants! This year’s BtW Celebration guests include Andover Town Manager Buzz Stapczynski, Executive Office of Transportation Bike and Pedestrian Program Manager, Josh Lehman and Bike-Walk Alliance of New Hampshire President Dave Topham.

Registration for this year’s Bike to Work events is April 5th—April 12th. You can register for Bike to Work through your company’s employee transportation advisor (ETA). Employees who participate in their company’s BtW day receive a bike pack with t-shirts, water bottles, cups, and bike information. A free BtW breakfast is sponsored by member companies. Participants are also automatically registered to win one of the many prizes drawn during the BtW Celebration. BtW event dates can be found listed in the TMA’s Spring Calendar of Events. For additional information about BtW, log onto the TMA’s website at www.MerrimackValleyTMA.com and click on the BtW 2006 logo.

I-93 Construction Corner

The I-93 Construction Corner is the place to learn the latest information about the I-93 widening project that could impact your commute. We hope that employees will take advantage of TMA programs that can lessen the burden of construction and that they will contact the TMA with concerns or questions about the project.

N.H. Department of Transportation Chief Project Manager Bill Cass provided the following information about the project to the TMA.

There is some uncertainty presently about the start of construction as the Conservation Law Foundation has filed a lawsuit against the project. They have requested an injunction restricting construction. It is uncertain whether their request will be granted or not by the courts or if the injunction would apply to the construction of the Park and Ride facilities. Be that as it may, the state is progressing the design of the project. The state believes the final environmental permits are imminent and plans to begin construction, barring an injunction, on the Exit 5 and Exit 2 Park and Ride facilities later this summer/fall with an anticipated completion/operation by the fall of the following year (2007). I-93 corridor construction could begin late this year with some overpass bridge replacements (Cross Street). In December of 2005 construction began on a terminal facility at the Exit 4 Park and Ride in Londonderry. The facility—a model for all of the project Park and Ride facilities is expected to be completed in August 2006.

Other Elements

- The joint transit investment study with Massachusetts, looking at long range mass transit needs in the greater I-93 corridor from Manchester to Boston will be starting this spring.
- NH DOT has been working - through a series of strategic planning sessions with the 26 corridor communities representatives, state and federal agencies, and non-governmental organizations interested in growth management - on developing the Community Technical Assistance Program (CTAP) and how to most effectively allocate the \$3.5M of planning assistance to the communities.
- Earlier this year NH DOT updated the project website (www.rebuilding193.com). According to project manager, Cass, “It is a work in progress but is a good reference for overall project information and as the Park and Rides and expanded bus service come on line, the website will contain information about that, schedules, etc.”



TMA Spring Calendar of Events

Bike to Work 2006

Registration Week

April 5, 2006 – April 12, 2006

April 2006

April 12

9:30 AM – 11:00 AM

Property Managers/ Developers/Facility Mgrs. Meeting

Putnam Investments
7 Shattuck Road
Andover, MA

May 2006—TMA Mtgs.

May 31

9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Board of Director's Meeting

Brickstone Properties
One Minuteman Road
Andover, MA

June 2006 – TMA Mtgs.

June 14

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

ETA Meeting

Verizon
20 Shattuck Road
Andover, MA

May 2006 Bike to Work Events

May 2

BtW Seminar

11:45 AM – 1:00 PM

Philips Medical Systems

3000 Minuteman Road
Bldg. 4
Andover, MA

May 10

7:30 AM – 9:00 AM

Boston Properties Tenants

40 Shattuck Road
Andover, MA

May 11

7:30 AM – 9:00 AM

Verizon

20 Shattuck Road
Andover, MA

May 12

7:30 AM – 9:00 AM

Eisai Research Institute

One Corporate Drive
Andover, MA

May 15

7:30 AM – 9:00 AM

Polycom

100 Minuteman Road
Andover, MA

May 16

7:30 AM – 9:00 AM

Hewlett-Packard

165 Dascomb Road
Andover, MA

May 17

7:30 AM – 9:00 AM

Putnam

7 Shattuck Road
Andover, MA

May 18

6:30 AM – 9:00 AM

Philips Medical Systems

3000 Minuteman Road
Andover, MA

May 19

7:30 AM – 9:00 AM

MKS

6 Shattuck Road
Andover, MA

May 22

7:30 AM – 9:00 AM

Enterasys

50 Minuteman Road
Andover, MA

May 23

7:30 AM – 9:00 AM

VICOR

400 Federal Street
Andover, MA

May 24

7:30 AM – 9:00 AM

VICOR

25 Frontage Road
Andover, MA

May 25

7:30 AM – 9:00 AM

RREEF Tenants

One Tech Drive
Andover, MA

June 2006

June 8

12:00 Noon – 1:30 PM

Bike to Work Celebration

Staybridge Suites Hotel

Four Tech Drive
Andover, MA

And the Winner is...

To thank our member employees for using an alternative commute mode, each month the TMA draws a name from the GRH database for a \$10 gift card to Dunkin Donuts. Congratulations to the winners listed below!

Monthly GRH Raffle Winners

<u>January 2006</u> Scott Kenison – VICOR	<u>February 2006</u> Richard Cote - HP	<u>March 2006</u> Richard Zeblisky – Enterasys
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TMA Event and Promotion Raffle Winners January—March

Event Raffle Winners

<u>Event</u>	<u>Prize</u>	<u>Winner</u>	<u>Company</u>
GLTS Promotion	\$25 gas card winner	Margaret O'Donohue	GLTS
GLTS Promotion	\$10 gas card winner	Suzanne Anganes	GLTS
Philips Fitness Fair	\$25 gas card winner	Amy Shen	Philips

Winter Promotion


CONTACT US:

Phone: 781-639-6262

Fax: 781-639-6263

Email: andrealeary@verizon.net

WWW.MERRIMACKVALLEYTMA.COM



Merrimack Valley TMA
c/o Northeast Transit Planning & Management Corp.
28 Brook Road
Marblehead, MA 01945