



Issue: #1

May 2012

Dear TMA Member,

Welcome to the Merrimack Valley TMA's new online newsletter!

We realize that our member employees are extremely pressed for time these days so we've instituted this new format to provide you with quick tidbits about happenings within the TMA service area, Merrimack Valley TMA programs and services, and with additional information that may impact your commute. We hope you enjoy the new format and, as always, please don't hesitate to contact TMA staff with any questions, comments, or concerns related to your commute. We're here to help.

Cheers!

Andrea Leary, Executive Director  
Merrimack Valley TMA

## News



### TMA Members Honored by MassDOT Secretary Davey

On March 29th, five Merrimack Valley TMA members were presented with Certificates of Recognition at the Massachusetts [Excellence in Commuter Options \(ECO\) Awards](#). Keynote speaker for the event was Massachusetts Department of Transportation Secretary Richard Davey.

Your TMA membership makes a difference! Thanks to their partnership with the Merrimack Valley TMA, the following TMA members earned recognition at the "Leader" level: DRC, Drager Medical, Hewlett-Packard, Philips, and Putnam. Congratulations to each of our members for their accomplishment! [Check out the full set of event pictures](#) on Facebook.

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### A Tale of Two Salt Sheds:

#### MassDOT Shed Inches Closer, While Town Shed Stalls

Plans to locate both a MassDOT salt shed and a town yard facility within the River Road business district have had mixed success. When it became apparent that the MassDOT salt shed was destined for River Road, a group representing the Merrimack Valley TMA member businesses - including Jeff & Marty Spagat, Brickstone Properties; Ken Pirro, Eisai Research Institute; Don Koski, Philips North America; and MVTMA Executive Director Andrea Leary met this winter and early spring with State Senator Barry Feingold, town officials, and representatives from MassDOT to negotiate the location of the buildings, plantings, and design of the structures that will be located on the site.

The TMA group worked with representatives from MassDOT as well as architect Robert Taylor of Taylor & Burns and MassDOT landscape architect Andrew Schlenker. Brickstone Properties also secured advice from John

Crowe, who was responsible for much of the civil engineering and architectural landscape design and planting for many buildings in the River Road area. The state facility, which will be located in the interchange buffer parcel of land between the I-93 southbound exit ramp to River Road and Route I-93 south, is envisioned as a collection of New England farm buildings. The buildings, plantings, and grade of the site have all been designed to mitigate the visual and traffic impact of the facility and to ensure that the buildings meld into the landscape as much as possible. MassDOT officials have agreed to meet annually with the town and Merrimack Valley

TMA representatives to review operations and conditions at the site. MassDOT has also indicated that they will be available throughout the year should issues of a more immediate concern arise and need to be addressed. Construction of the MassDOT facility will likely begin fall of 2012 or early in the spring of 2013.

The location of the Andover Town Yard facility on Campanelli Drive - just off Old River Road, seems less certain. Both the Andover Board of Selectmen (3 to 2) and the town's Finance Committee (6 to 3) voted against the proposed plan to move the Town Yard to Campanelli Drive. The \$18.5 million price tag for the project as well as its size and the operating costs for the facility were factors that contributed to the decision not to recommend the proposed plan to move the Town Yard to Campanelli Drive. The \$18.5 million price tag for the project as well as its size and the operating costs for the facility were factors that contributed to the decision not to recommend the project at Andover's annual Town Meeting on April 30th and May 1st. During Town Meeting, support for the Town Yard proposal fell short of the 2/3 majority (212 votes) necessary to move the project forward. Residents voted 181 votes in favor of the project to 137 votes opposed to the project.

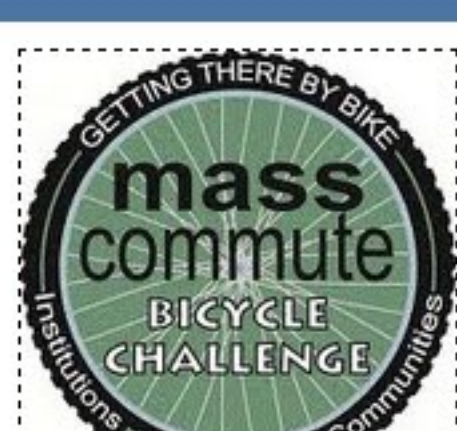


#### Andover Town Yard Move/ Shattuck Road 40b Development: Focus of Spring MVTMA Roundtable

Andover Town Planner Paul Materazzo and chair of the Town Yard Taskforce Committee, Rick Feldman provided information to TMA members about the proposed move of the Andover Town Yard from the downtown Andover to Campanelli Drive (just off Old River Road near the Marriott Courtyard Hotel). Members were interested to hear the plans proposed by the town. Some expressed their concern that with the imminent construction of the MassDOT salt shed and maintenance facility at River Road, the area will degenerate into a less desirable business district, while others expressed unease over the impact of the new facility on the corporate tax rate. Although some company representatives do not oppose the proposed location of the Town Yard, there was consensus with all present that traffic congestion, especially during inclement weather will be a major issue for employees both arriving and leaving the area.

In addition to the potential Town Yard move, Paul Materazzo gave a brief status update on the 40B project proposed for Shattuck Road. The majority of business representatives in the room again noted their concern about the additional traffic that will be generated by the project as well as the impact to the Shattuck Road sewer system which is privately owned and maintained by the businesses along Shattuck Road. Paul told the group that the project is still before the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA). At its most recent meeting the members of the ZBA asked the proponent (Hanover Group) to provide for more open space by tightening up the footprint of the project. There will be several more meetings before a decision is made.

## Events



### 2012 Merrimack Valley TMA Bike to Work/ MassCommute Bicycle Challenge: Time to 'Gear Up'!

Did we miss winter this year or did spring just come early? Either way, the time has come to gear up for the [2012 Merrimack Valley TMA Bike to Work/MassCommute Bicycle Challenge](#)! Registration for this annual event - taking place during [Bay State Bike Week \(May 14th - May 20th\)](#), and the many awards that follow began with a kick-off event sponsored by Merrimack Valley TMA member Philips on April 3rd. Registration officially closed on May 4th, but late registrations will be accepted through bike week. Employees are encouraged to support their company in this friendly challenge against other businesses in our area and throughout the state to help their company post the most employee miles biked during Bay State Bike Week! Make sure to check the [TMA website](#) - we have [lots of resources for bikers](#) (especially those who are new to biking) - including suggested routes/maps from a variety of locations and a new Bike Buddy program that will pair experienced cyclists with novice cyclist - or cyclists who just want to ride with others, from several communities to the River Road area on different days during bike week.

As always, we'll be setting up camp at different member locations throughout the week where we'll welcome all bike commuters in the morning with a light breakfast. We'll wrap things up with two great events: The [MassCommute Bike Bash](#) will be held after work on May 23rd at [Flat Top Johnny's](#) in Cambridge and perennial TMA favorite, the [Bike to Work Celebration](#) - a lunchtime barbecue will take place on the back patio at 200 Minuteman Road, Andover.

[Visit our website](#) to register, view a complete schedule of events, and to find specific check-in locations during Bay State Bike Week 2012.