



## ***Annual Environmental Consultation Session***

**Date:** Wednesday, June 20, 2012  
**Time:** 10:00 AM  
**Place:** CMRPC's Union Hall, Union Station, 2 Washington Square,  
Worcester, MA 01604-4016

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### ***MEETING AGENDA***

- 1.) Welcome & Around-the-Room Introductions
- 2.) Ongoing MPO Certification Activities, *CMRPC Staff*
  - 2012 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) & 2013 to 2016 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
  - Regional "Environmental Profiles"
  - Major Highway Infrastructure Projects
- 3.) US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Activities, *Abby Swaine, EPA*
  - The Benefits of Early Environmental Consultation
- 4.) Environmental Mitigation Strategies, *Stephen Tyler, Town of Spencer*
  - Overview
  - Typically Encountered Challenges
  - Standard & Customized Mitigation Techniques
- 5.) Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) Activities, *Jennifer Rushlow, CLF*
  - Introduction to the CLF's Mission
  - Participation in the Regional Planning Process
  - Examples from the Greater Region
- 6.) Closing Remarks

*Do you have further questions or need additional information? Contact Bill Moisuk, Principal Planner, at your convenience, at 508-459-3313 or [bmoisuk@cmrpc.org](mailto:bmoisuk@cmrpc.org)*

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## ***Environmental Consultation: What's required?***

Generally, a discussion of potential environmental mitigation activities and potential areas to carry out these activities, including activities that may have the greatest potential to restore and maintain the environmental functions affected by the metropolitan transportation plan. The discussion shall be developed via consultation with Federal, State, and Tribal land management, wildlife, and regulatory agencies.

***Consultation*** means that one or more parties confer with other identified parties in accordance with an established process and, prior to taking action(s), considers the views of the other parties and periodically informs them about action(s) taken. *(This definition does not apply to the "consultation" performed by the States and the MPOs in comparing the long range statewide transportation plan and the metropolitan transportation plan, respectively, to State and Tribal conservation plans or maps or inventories of natural or historic resources.)*

***Environmental mitigation activities*** means strategies, policies, programs, actions, and activities that, over time, will serve to avoid, minimize, or compensate for (by replacing or providing substitute resources) the impacts to or disruption of elements of the human and natural environment associated with the implementation of a long-range statewide transportation plan or metropolitan transportation plan. The human and natural environment includes, for example, neighborhoods and communities, homes and businesses, cultural resources, parks and recreation areas, wetlands and water sources, forested and other natural areas, agricultural areas, endangered and threatened species, and the ambient air. The environmental mitigation strategies and activities are intended to be regional in scope.

Further, the MPO shall consult, as appropriate, with State and local agencies responsible for land use management, natural resources, environmental protection, conservation, and historic preservation concerning the development of the transportation plan. The consultation shall involve, as appropriate:

- Comparison of transportation plans with State conservation plans or maps, if available; or
- Comparison of transportation plans to inventories of natural or historic resources, if available.