



## Commonwealth of Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners

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### MEMORANDUM

**To:** Public Library Directors, Public Library Trustee Chairs  
**From:** Robert C. Maier, Director  
**Date:** September 24, 2009  
**Subject:** Proposed Regulations for Public Library Construction Program

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Enclosed is a Hearing Notice with regard to the Public Hearing process being conducted this fall relative to amendments and changes to 605 CMR 6.00 – Library Improvement Program – Public Library Construction.

The draft document, with important changes indicated, will be posted along with additional documentation on the MBLC website at <http://mblc.state.ma.us/construction/hearings> by Monday, September 28, 2009. A hard copy of the proposed amended regulations may also be obtained by contacting Rachel Masse, Administrative Coordinator, at the above address. Telephone: 1-800-952-7403, x 234. [rachel.masse@state.ma.us](mailto:rachel.masse@state.ma.us).

The timeline for regulatory review and change calls for four public Hearings at different sites throughout the Commonwealth, after which the Board of Library Commissioners will consider any further modifications at their regular December 3 meeting. The Calendar calls for publication of the final Regulations in the Central Register in late January, 2010, at which time they will become final.

The major changes proposed in the revised draft regulations are:

- Modifications to the grant formula to increase awards to an average of 50% of eligible project costs in a future Application Round.
- The inclusion of a need factor to recognize the difficulty some communities have in matching the state grant
- Provision of an incentive for communities to design and build “green” public library facilities

As a point of reference you may wish to consult the existing Regulations, last modified on May 5, 2006 at <http://mblc.state.ma.us/grants/construction/program/605cmr6.pdf>. You may also wish to review the Program Notice for the 2004-05 (most recent) construction application round at [http://mblc.state.ma.us/grants/construction/program/construction\\_prog\\_notice.pdf](http://mblc.state.ma.us/grants/construction/program/construction_prog_notice.pdf), as it provides an overview of the program and application process.

Please submit oral testimony, electronic summaries and post-hearing statements up until 4:00 p.m. on November 9, 2009, addressed to me by mail, e-mail ([robert.maier@state.ma.us](mailto:robert.maier@state.ma.us)) or by fax to the address above.