



CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The minutes of the CMMPO Advisory Committee meeting held **February 25th, 2026**. The meeting was held virtually through Zoom.

CMMPO Advisory Committee Members Present:

- Adam Menard – Town of Oxford
- Chris Payant – Town of Westborough
- Anya Wilczynski – Blackstone Heritage Corridor
- Alex Salcedo - MassBike
- Erin Quael – Worcester Department of Public Health
- Claudia Oliviera De Paiva - Edward M. Kennedy Community Health Center
- Liz Myska – Visions Consulting L3C
- Alysha Irisari Malo – Town of Douglas
- Sarah Bradbury – MassDOT District 3
- Caleigh McClaren – Blackstone Watershed Collaborative
- Nick Burnham – WRTA
- Adam Thielker – Tasks for Transit

Ex-Officio Members Present:

- N/A

CMRPC Staff Present:

- Nathan Lewis
- Kevin Krasnecky
- Sujatha Krishnan
- Richard Rydant
- Yahaira Graxirena

- Ryan Hurley
- Constance Mellis

Guest:

- Fiona DiMartino – Town of Grafton

Agenda Item #1 – Around the Room Introductions

Chair Adam Menard opened the meeting at 3:01 PM. A rollcall of the CMMPO Advisory members was announced, followed by the rest of the attendees.

Adam Thielker introduced himself as a new member of the Advisory Committee noting that he has been involved with transportation issues in and around Worcester for a long time and is currently the chair of Tasks for Transit.

Nick Burnham also introduced himself as a new member stating that he is the director of operations for the WRTA replacing Thomas Coyne.

Agenda Item #2 – Approval of January 28th, 2026, Meeting

Minutes

Minutes for January 28th, 2026, CMMPO Advisory meeting were considered for approval. Chair Menard entertains a motion to approve January 28th, 2026, meeting minutes. Chris Payant makes a motion to approve. The motion is seconded by Adam Thielker. The vote was unanimous in favor of approval.

Agenda Item #3 – Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- **Potential Action:** Seeking recommendation to the CMMPO concerning endorsement of the Proposed Amendment #4 to the 2026-2030 TIP Highway Project Listing.

Kevin Krasnecky presented this item. The proposed Amendment #4 includes two changes to the FFY 2026-2030 TIP Highway Project Listing: 4

- #612190 – Holden – Bridge Replacement, H-18-004, Salisbury Street over G&W Railroad
 - In FFY 2026, total project cost increased from \$6,897,436 to \$8,825,098.
- #S13417 – Worcester – Mill Street Planning and Design (Federal Earmark for Design – MA296)
 - Project added to FFY 2026 under Section 1B (Earmark or Discretionary Grant Funded Projects) in the amount of \$2.5 million.

- This Earmark was originally programmed in FFY 2025, but was inexpedient to obligate, requiring reprogramming into the active TIP.

Alysha Malo asked for more information with regards to the cost increase for the bridge in Holden.

Kevin Krasnecky replied that the addition of added temporary traffic signal to facilitate traffic detour, having a more aggressive seven day work schedule, and the inclusion of additional hazardous material excavation removal.

There were no further questions or comments.

Nick Burnham made a motion and was seconded by Chris Payant to recommend to the CMMPO concerning endorsement of the Proposed Amendment #4 to the 2026-2030 TIP Highway Project Listing. All members voted unanimously to release the proposed amendment #4.

- FFY 2027 MicroProjects Presentation

Fiona DiMartino, the director of planning and community development for the town of Grafton, presented this item. Fiona presented a slideshow discussing their partnership with MassBike to bring bike related public education outreach activities. Mrs. DiMartino explained how the town of Grafton has been looking to improve their connectivity and bike ability in their town and this initiative will be one of the beginnings of executing their plan by connecting with the public and specifically underrepresented individuals. They will be working alongside MassBike to execute this project. Not only will these efforts be educating the public, but it will also capture data that will help inform the Bike plan. The total costs for this project are around \$7,000.

Liz Myska asked if there will be education surrounding walker awareness. Specifically, visually impaired pedestrians.

Fiona DiMartino responded, saying their process will hopefully be targeting all abilities including those who are visually impaired to make sure they are being as inclusive as possible. Also adding that they can look at the budget and reallocate money towards making sure they are adding in more inclusive work for the project.

There were no further comments.

- FFY 2027-2031 TIP Readiness Day Updates

Kevin Krasnecky presented this item. Mr. Krasnecky provided a summary of the projects that were discussed at TIP Readiness Day. The updates included:

FFY 2026

- **608961 – Worcester – Intersection Improvements on Chandler St. and May St.**
 - Currently at 75% design and 100% due this spring.
 - There is a risk to 2026 due to Right of Way (ROW) concerns.
 - Project is staying in 2026 for now.
- **610535 – Worcester – Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements on Pleasant Street.**
 - Currently at 25% design and the 75/100% design are under review.
 - Need revised Notice of Intent (NOI).
 - Recommended to stay in 2026 but there is a risk.
- **610769 – Sutton – Superstructure Replacement, Manchaug Road. over Mumford River**
 - The revised 25% design and ROW plans are currently under review.
 - The ROW could be complicated, and it is recommended pushing back to 2028.

FFY 2027

- **609441 – Northbridge – Intersection Improvements at Route 122, School Street, Sutton Street, and Upton Street.**
 - Currently at 25% design and 75% plans are due in April.
 - Some risk to 2027 but still recommended staying in 2027.
- **610931 – Uxbridge – Rehabilitation of Route 16, from Taft Hill Road to 200 FT west of Main Street.**
 - Currently at 75% design and 100% plans are due in September.
 - Significant ROW and still need town meeting approval.
 - Some risk but still recommended staying in 2027.
- **611933 – Sturbridge – Roundabout Construction at Route 20 & Route 131.**
 - Currently at 25% design.
 - Design Public Hearing is likely to be scheduled soon.
 - Recommended pushing back to 2028.
- **612084 – Barre – Bridge Replacement, Old Coldbrook Road over Prince River.**
 - Currently at 25% design and 75% plans are due in May.
 - There are risks to ROW and environmental permitting.
 - Recommended pushing back to 2028.
- **609186 – Dudley – Bridge Replacement, Route 131 over Quinebaug River.**
 - Currently at Pre-25% design and 25% plans are due in June.
 - ROW submission is still needed.
 - Recommended pushing back to 2029.
- **612181 – Charlton – Bridge Replacement, US 20 over Cady Brook.**
 - Currently at Pre-25% design.
 - Updated project schedule and ROW submission needed.
 - Recommended pushing back to 2029.

- **612089 – Dudley/Southbridge – Resurfacing & Related Work on Route 131.**
 - Currently at 100% design and PS&E expected in May.
 - There is no ROW for this project.
 - Project could move up to 2026 if funding is available.
- **612092 – Uxbridge – Bridge Replacement, Homeward Avenue over Providence Worcester Railroad.**
 - Currently at 25% design.
 - Need revised sketch plans.
 - Recommended pushing back to 2028.
- **612192 – Auburn – Bridge Replacement, US 20 over I-395.**
 - Currently at 25% design and 75% plans are due in April.
 - There is no ROW for this project.
 - There is a risk but still recommended to stay in 2027.

FFY 2028

- **608990 – Worcester – Intersection Improvements on Chandler Street, from Main Street to Park Avenue.**
 - Currently at 25% design but needs a revised 25% plan submission.
 - Still needs a Design Public Hearing and approved ROW plans.
 - Recommended pushing back to 2029.
- **613655 – Rutland – Intersection Improvements at Route 122 and Pleasantdale Road.**
 - Currently at Pre-25% design and waiting on 25% plan submission.
 - Environmental permitting for this project might be challenging.
 - High risk but recommended staying in 2028.
- **613126 – East Brookfield – Bridge Replacement, Cove Street over Seven Mile River.**
 - Currently at Pre-25% design and waiting on 25% plan submission.
 - Still need ROW plans and town meeting approval.
 - Recommending pushing back to 2029.
- **611967 – Sturbridge/Charlton – Intersection Improvements on Route 49 at Putnam Road, Walker Pond Road, and Route 20.**
 - Currently at Pre-25% design and 75% plans are due in September.
 - Public Design Hearing is still needed.
 - Risk due to ROW but still recommended to stay in 2028.
- **608490 – Upton – Resurfacing & Related work on Route 140 and Roundabout Construction at Route 140, Church Street and Grove Street.**
 - Currently at 75% design and 100% plans are due in March.
 - Project design is changing and will have less ROW but will now address some drainage issues.
 - Recommended pushing back to 2029.

There were no further comments or questions.

- FFY 2031 TIP Project Candidates PM Scoring Review

Kevin Krasnecky presented this item. There are four FFY 2031 TIP candidate projects:

1. #613875: Auburn/Worcester – Improvements on Route 20 (Washington St.), from 1,000’ east of Commerce Dr. to the Auburn/Worcester TL, \$6,527,690
2. #613873: Sturbridge – Improvements on Route 20 (Charlton Rd.), from 1,000’ east of Hall Rd. to east of the I-84 Ramps, \$6,579,155
3. #613261: Worcester – Lincoln St. Transit Infrastructure Improvements, \$3,335,000
4. #613311: Worcester – Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements on Millbury St., \$3,475,000

The projects were scored in the categories of Safety (PM1), State of Good Repair (PM2), Congestion (PM3), Security, Multimodality, Sustainability, Geographic Distribution, Economic, Stormwater Management, and Travel and Tourism. After review, the final scores, from highest to lowest, were:

- Worcester – Lincoln Street: **15 points**
- Worcester – Millbury Street: **15 points**
- Sturbridge – Route 20: **13 points**
- Auburn/Worcester – Route 20: **12 points**

There were no further questions or comments

Agenda Item #4 – TIP/UPWP Guidance Summary

Sujatha Krishnan presented this item. The FFY 2027-2031 TIP guidance includes both narrative and financial guidance. The narrative guidance includes:

- Narrative – project programming rationale; reliability of TIP project delivery
- Public Engagement – community outreach best practices
- Performance Measurement – target setting and planning; current targets
- Project Lists – creative use of regional target funds; statewide and interregional projects

The financial guidance lists target funding for each TIP year:

- 2027: \$30,955,126
- 2028: \$31,434,646
- 2029: \$31,923,756
- 2030: \$31,499,325
- 2031: \$32,192,859

The FFY 2027 UPWP guidance also includes both narrative and financial guidance. The narrative guidance includes:

- General Guidelines – amendment/adjustment procedures; municipal, regional, and statewide connections
- Administrative Items – direct cost budget; staff specification
- Task-Specific Guidelines – safety; multimodal; freight; housing, economic development, and land use; other data resources and activities; distribution analysis and public engagement; municipal coordination

The financial guidance provides the following updates:

- FFY 2027 Funding: \$1,695,590 (\$25,704 increase from FFY 2026 UPWP)
- FHWA PL Funding Increase: 2%
- FTA (5303) Planning Funding: TBD
- Complete Streets 2.5%: \$28,724.44

As for the timeline for these documents, the TIP will be released for public review in April and endorsed in May while the UPWP will be released for public review in May and endorsed in June.

There were no further questions or comments.

Agenda Item #5 – Staff Updates

- Next public meeting for the TIP amendments will be taking place on March 9th
- There will be three events for the Vernon Connected project.
 - History Coffee Hour at the Senior Center March 4th at 10:30 am.
 - Jeff Speck event on March 19th at 6 pm.
 - Design Workshop on March 25th 4 pm – 8 pm.

Agenda Item #6 – New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

Agenda Item #8 Next Meetings

Chair Menard announced the schedule for the next meeting:

- CMMPO Advisory Committee meeting (virtual) – March 25th, 2026, at 3:00 PM
- CMMPO Meeting (virtual) – Wednesday, March 18th, 2026, at 4:00 PM

Agenda Item #9 – Adjournment

At 4:06 PM Chair Menard called for a motion to adjourn. Chris Payant made the motion, which Nick Burnham seconded. The group voted unanimously to adjourn.

Meeting minutes prepared: Nathan Lewis, Public Outreach Coordinator

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