



CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The minutes of the CMMPO Advisory Committee meeting held **April 23rd, 2025**. The meeting was held virtually through Zoom.

CMMPO Advisory Committee Members Present:

- Adam Menard – Town of Auburn
- Conor McCormack – Town of Millbury
- Alex Salcedo – MassBike
- Joanne Clarke – AARP
- Robert Bilotta – CLW
- Liz Myska – Visions Consulting L3C
- Sarah Bradbury – MassDOT District 3
- Daryl Amaral – MassDOT District 2

Ex-Officio Members Present:

- N/A

CMRPC Staff Present:

- Sujatha Krishnan
- Nathan Lewis
- Zach Blais
- Rich Rydant
- Ryan Hurley
- Kevin Krasnecky
- Yahaira Graxirena
- Jordan Hollinger

Guest:

- N/A

Agenda Item #1 – Around the Room Introductions

Chair Adam Menard opened the meeting at 3:03 PM. A roll-call of the CMMPO Advisory members was announced, followed by the rest of the attendees.

Agenda Item #2 – Approval of March 26th, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Minutes for March 26th, 2025, CMMPO Advisory meeting were considered for approval. Chair Menard entertains a motion to approve the March 26th, 2025, meeting minutes. Liz Myska makes a motion to approve. The motion is seconded by Robert Bilotta. The vote was unanimous in favor of approval.

Agenda Item #3 – FFY 2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Action Item: Seeking recommendation concerning CMMPO endorsement of the Proposed Amendment #6 to the 2025-2029 TIP Highway Project Listing.

Mr. Krasnecky provided an overview of the Proposed Amendment #6 to the 2025 – 2029 TIP Highway Project listing that will be released for public review and comment:

- **Cost increase of Project 613208 – Worcester – Bridge Preservation of 11 Structures on I-190 and Ramps.** In the amount of \$8,268,663. The new total project cost is now \$15,768,663.

A public meeting will be held on May 6th regarding this project.

There were no comments at the time.

Chair Menard motioned to recommend approval of these changes to the Central Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (CMMPO). Conor McCormack moved, and Robert Bilotta seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #4 – FFY 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Action Item: Seeking recommendations concerning CMMPO endorsement of the Draft 2026-2030 TIP.

CMRPC staff, Kevin Krasnecky, presented this item. Mr. Krasnecky presented both the Draft FFY 2026 to FFY 2030 TIP Highway and Transit Project Listings. Further, Mr. Krasnecky noted that staff also compiled a TIP summary document and Technical Appendix, which includes additional information required by MassDOT and FHWA. All draft TIP documents are posted on the CMRPC website.

There were no comments or questions regarding the project listings.

Chair Menard motioned to recommend approval to release the Draft FFY 2026 to FFY 2030 TIP for 21-Day Public Review and Comment Period. Sarah Bradbury moved, and Joanne Clark seconded. All members present voted unanimously to release the Draft FFY 2026 to FFY 2030 for public review and comment period.

Agenda Item #5 – FFY 2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Action Item: Seeking recommendation to the CMMPO concerning endorsement of Proposed Amendment #2 to the FFY 2025 UPWP.

Sujatha Krishnan, presented this item. Amendment #2 included a budget change to the FFY 2025 UPWP:

- **Element 2, Task 2.5 – Regional Housing and Transportation Plan** ■ Reduce budget by \$150,000 and move to FFY 2026 UPWP
- Updated FFY 2025 budget for Task 2.5 - \$100,000

There were no comments or questions regarding this change.

Chair Menard motioned to recommend approval of the release of Proposed Amendment #2 to the FFY 2025 UPWP. Robert Bilotta moved, and Conor McCormack seconded. All members present voted unanimously to release Proposed Amendment #2 for public review and comment period.

Agenda Item #6 – CMRPC Regional Housing and Transportation Study

CMRPC staff, Jordan Hollinger, presented this item. Mr. Hollinger provided a presentation on the Regional Housing and Transportation Study.

The purpose of this study is to analyze the intersection between housing and transportation, as these two items are often the most significant expenses in a household's

budget and are closely intertwined. Similar to the rest of the state, Central Massachusetts has also experienced rising housing and transportation costs, and it is critical to understand these gaps at a regional and granular level.

Regarding the budget, the maximum funding amount for this study is \$200,000, which is federally funded under the UPWP. The funds are available until September 30, 2026.

Below are the four main tasks and multiple sub-tasks within the Scope of Work:

- Existing Conditions Housing Assessment
 - Transportation system analysis
 - Housing and transportation connection
 - Development constraints
- Stakeholder Engagement Stakeholder Identification
 - Engagement methods and activities
 - Key engagement outcomes
- Suitability Analysis
 - Suitability criteria development
 - Suitability Analysis
 - Interpretation and application of findings
- Final Report and Housing and Transportation Toolkit: Regional Housing and Transportation Strategies
 - Housing and Transportation Toolkit
 - Final Report

More updates will be released on the proposals and proposal review process, as well as the project selection process, in the near future.

There were no comments or questions.

Agenda Item #7 – Environmental Consultation

Mr. Rydant and Mr. Blais provided a brief presentation on the Environmental Consultation.

Mr. Rydant began with an overview of the Environmental Consultation, which included the following components:

- Early Coordination
- Environmental Resource Analysis
- Mitigation
- Consultation
- Planning Integration

He then presented several maps highlighting key environmental features:

- North Atlantic Connectivity Collaborative (NAACC) Culverts
- MassDCR Open Space
- FEMA Flood Zones
- MassDEP Wetlands
- MassWildlife Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP)

Following this, Mr. Blais discussed the Massachusetts Project Intake Tool (MAPIT), explaining that MassDOT uses this online tool to guide new project proponents through a three-step initiation process.

Mr. Blais also highlighted Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) resources, which include:

- Technical Grant Writing Support
- ArcGIS Online Dashboards
- NAACC Culvert Assessments
- Other Data Collection Program (Traffic Counts)

He reviewed TIP Project Screening and Selection criteria:

- Project Goals
- Proposed Conditions
- Existing Conditions
- Current Estimated Construction Costs

Mr. Blais then shared maps related to the Uxbridge TIP project:

- Uxbridge TIP Project: Basemap
- Uxbridge TIP Project: NAACC Culverts
- Uxbridge TIP Project: MassDCR Open Space
- Uxbridge TIP Project: FEMA Flood Zones
- Uxbridge TIP Project: MassDEP Wetlands
- Uxbridge TIP Project: MassWildlife NHESP

To conclude, he provided updates on the following programs:

- Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ)
- Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Program Development
- UPWP Culvert Assessment Program Updates.

Agenda Item #8 Staff Updates

- Vernon Street/I-290 Transportation Study

Yahaira Graxirena announced that this project/study proposal is still in negotiations with the consultant. A Limited Notice to Proceed was issued to work on the Scope of Work. The consultant chosen will be announced once the negotiations are finalized.

- Safe Streets for All (SS4A)

Sujatha Krishnan announced that the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the SS4A will be released within the next two to three weeks.

Agenda Item #9 Next Meetings

Chair Menard announced the schedule for the next meeting:

- CMMPO Advisory Committee meeting (virtual) – Wednesday, May 28th, 2025, at 3:00 PM
- CMMPO Meeting (virtual) – Wednesday, May 21st, 2025, at 4:00 PM

Agenda Item #10 – Adjournment

At 4:00 PM Chair Menard called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. McCormack made the motion, which Ms. Bradbury seconded. The group voted unanimously to adjourn.

Meeting minutes prepared: Nathan Lewis, Public Outreach Coordinator

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