



CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

The minutes of the Central Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (CMMPO) meeting, on **Wednesday, April 16th, 2025**. This meeting was held virtually using Zoom Webinar.

- **CMMPO Members Present:**

1. Derek Shooster – MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning, designee to MassDOT Secretary Monica Tibbits-Nutt
2. Ann Sullivan – MassDOT Highway Division District #3, designee to MassDOT Highway Division Administrator Jonathon Gulliver
3. Joshua Rickman – WRTA Administrator
4. Bob Hassinger – designee to CMRPC Commission Chair
5. Betsy Goodrich – designee to City Manager Eric Batista
6. Michelle Conlin – Shrewsbury, Northeast Subregion Representative
7. John Daniel – Southbridge, Southwest Subregion Representative
8. Jared Grigg – Spencer, West Subregion Representative

- **CMMPO Ex-Officio Members Present:**

No Ex-Officio Members were present.

- **Guests:**

1. Bill Filsinger – Boylston, Northeast Subregion Alternate
2. Sarah Bradbury, MassDOT District #3
3. Daryl Amaral, MassDOT District #2
4. Jonathon Church, MassDOT
5. Heather Butler
6. Peg Dean, Southbridge
7. Pete Boria, Spencer
8. Steven Tyler, HSH

- **CMRPC Staff**

1. Sujatha Krishnan, Deputy Director – Transportation
2. Kevin Krasnecky, Project Manager – Transportation
3. Rich Rydant, Director of MPO Activities – Transportation

4. Zack Blais, Principal Planner – Transportation
5. Connie Mellis, Manager – Transit
6. Yahaira Graxirena, Project Manager – Transportation
7. Jordan Hollinger, Planning and Transportation Researcher – Transportation
8. Nate Lewis, Assistant Planner – Transportation

The CMMPO fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. The CMMPO does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, English proficiency, income, religious creed, ancestry, disability, age, gender, sexual orientation, military service, or gender identity or expression. Any person who believes himself/herself or any specific class of people has been subjected to discrimination prohibited by Title VI or related statutes or regulations may, himself/herself or via a representative, file a complaint with the CMMPO. A complaint must be filed no later than 180 calendar days after the date on which the person believes the discrimination occurred. Contact the CMMPO Title VI Coordinator at (508) 459-3313 or titleVIcoordinator@cmrpc.org, to obtain a copy of the CMMPO Complaint Procedure and forms, or visit <http://cmrpc.org/title-vi-policy> to review online.

Agenda Item #1 – Introductions

CMMPO Chair Derek Shooster opened the meeting at 4:02 PM. A roll call of CMMPO members was announced.

Agenda Item #2 – Approval of March 19, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Jared Grigg made a motion and was seconded by Bob Hassinger to approve the March 19, 2025 meeting minutes. All members present voted to approve the March 19, 2025 meeting minutes.

Derek Shooster – Yes

Betsy Goodrich – Yes

Ann Sullivan – Yes

Michelle Conlin – Yes

Josh Rickman – Yes

John Daniel – Yes

Bob Hassinger – Yes

Jared Grigg – Yes

Agenda Item #3 – Opportunity for Public Comment

CMMPO Chair Derek Shooster commented that the reason this month's meeting had to defer to Microsoft Teams was due to Zoom having an outage shortly before the start of the CMMPO Meeting. A Teams meeting link was created and sent to the CMMPO members and other interested parties to inform them of the change. The updated meeting link was also posted on the CMRPC website calendar.

There were no comments from the public.

Agenda Item #4 – Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- **Potential Action:** Approval of Proposed Amendment #5 to the FFY 2025 to FFY 2029 TIP Highway Project Listing

CMRPC staff, Kevin Krasnecky, presented this item. The proposed amendment includes four changes to FFY 2025, including:

- **Project #608961** – Worcester – Intersection Improvements on Chandler Street and May Street
 - Remove from FFY 2025
 - Will be programmed in FFY 2026 of the Draft FFY 2026-2030 TIP
- **Project #608778** – Southbridge – Intersection Improvements at Central Street, Foster Street, Hook Street and Hamilton Street
 - Cost increase - \$914,202 (added to STBG funding source)
 - New total project cost - \$8,193,645
 - Cost increase due to off-site hazardous materials inability to be utilized on-site and unanticipated utility agreement costs
- **Project #610769** – Sutton – Superstructure Replacement, S-33-002, Manchaug Road over Mumford River
 - Remove from FFY 2025
 - Will be programmed in FFY 2026 of Draft FFY 2026-2030 TIP

- **Project #612195** – Worcester – Superstructure Replacement, W-44-091, I-290 over East Central Street
 - Remove from FFY 2025
 - Will be programmed in FFY 2026 of Draft FFY 2026-2030 TIP

There were no questions or comments regarding these changes.

Bob Hassinger made a motion and was seconded by Jared Grigg to approve the Proposed Amendment #5 to the FFY 2025 to FFY 2029 TIP Highway Project Listing. All members present voted unanimously to approve the Proposed Amendment #5.

Derek Shooster – Yes

Betsy Goodrich – Yes

Ann Sullivan – Yes

Michelle Conlin – Yes

Josh Rickman – Yes

John Daniel – Yes

Bob Hassinger – Yes

Jared Grigg – Yes

- **Potential Action:** Release the Proposed Amendment #6 to the FFY 2025 to FFY 2029 TIP Highway Project Listing for 21-Day Public Review and Comment Period

CMRPC staff, Kevin Krasnecky, presented this item. The proposed amendment includes one change to FFY 2025, which includes:

- **Project #613208** – Worcester – Bridge Preservation of 11 Structures on I-190 and Ramps
 - Cost increase - \$8,268,663
 - New total project cost - \$15,768,663

Jared Grigg asked what the reason was for the cost increase. Both Derek Shooster and Ann Sullivan responded with details about the project. The cost increase was mainly due to the increase in steel prices.

There were no additional comments or questions.

Bob Hassinger made a motion and was seconded by Jared Grigg to release the Proposed Amendment #6 to the FFY 2025 to FFY 2029 TIP Highway Project Listing for 21-Day Public Review and Comment Period. All members present voted unanimously to release the Proposed Amendment #6.

Derek Shooster – Yes

Betsy Goodrich – Yes

Ann Sullivan – Yes

Michelle Conlin – Yes

Josh Rickman – Yes

John Daniel – Yes

Bob Hassinger – Yes

Jared Grigg – Yes

- **Potential Action:** Release Draft FFY 2026 to FFY 2030 TIP for 21-Day Public Review and Comment Period

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.

Jared Grigg made a motion and was seconded by Bob Hassinger to release the Draft FFY 2026 to FFY 2030 TIP for 21-Day Public Review and Comment Period. All members present voted unanimously to release the Draft FFY 2026 to FFY 2030 for public review and comment period.

Derek Shooster – Yes

Betsy Goodrich – Yes

Ann Sullivan – Yes

Michelle Conlin – Yes

Josh Rickman – Yes

John Daniel – Yes

Bob Hassinger – Yes

Jared Grigg – Yes

Agenda Item #5 – WRTA Transit Asset Management (TAM) Plan Update

- Concurrence with Updated TAM Targets

CMRPC staff, Connie Mellis, presented this item. The WRTA TAM helps develop a process for operating, maintaining, and improving public capital assets throughout the assets' life cycle. With that, public transit agencies are required to establish performance measures and targets. The most recently updated TAM Plan that was adopted by the WRTA Advisory Board was in FY 2022.

The updated TAM performance target is for vans. At the end of 2024, MassDOT issued updated guidance to extend the Useful Life Benchmark (ULB) from 6/7 years to 8 years. This update applies to all MAP vans model years 2022 and newer, which is about 50% of the WRTA van fleet. Therefore, WRTA are looking for concurrence from CMMPO members to update the 2022 WRTA TAM Plan Performance Targets to reflect this guidance.

There were no questions regarding the updates.

All members concurred with the updated TAM targets.

Agenda Item #6 – FFY 2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

- **Potential Action:** Release Proposed Amendment #2 to the FFY 2025 UPWP for 21-Day Public Review and Comment Period

CMRPC staff, 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.

Jared Grigg made a motion and was seconded by Ann Sullivan to Release Proposed Amendment #2 to the FFY 2025 UPWP for 21-Day Public Review and Comment Period. All members present voted unanimously to release Proposed Amendment #2 for public review and comment period.

Derek Shooster – Yes

Betsy Goodrich – Yes

Ann Sullivan – Yes

Michelle Conlin – Yes

Josh Rickman – Yes

John Daniel – Yes

Bob Hassinger – Yes

Jared Grigg – Yes

Agenda Item #7 – Regional Housing Transportation Plan Update

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

The purpose of the study is to analyze the intersection between housing and transportation, as the two are often the most expensive items in a household's budget and are also interwoven. Similar to the rest of the state, Central Massachusetts has also seen rising housing and transportation costs, and it is critical to understand these gaps at a regional and granular scale.

Regarding budget, the maximum reward to fund this study is \$200,000 and is federally funding 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:

1. Existing Conditions
 - Housing assessment
 - Transportation system analysis
 - Housing and transportation connection
 - Development constraints
2. Stakeholder Engagement
 - Stakeholder identification
 - Engagement methods and activities
 - Key engagement outcomes
3. Suitability Analysis
 - Suitability criteria development
 - Suitability Analysis
 - Interpretation and application of findings
4. 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 #8 – Staff Updates

- Vernon Street/I-290 Transportation Study

CMRPC staff, Yahaira Graxirena, announced that this project/study proposal is still in negotiations with the consultant in order to move forward with the Scope of Work. The consultant chosen will be announced once the negotiations are finalized.

- Safe Streets for All (SS4A)

CMRPC staff, Sujatha Krishnan, announced that the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the SS4A will be released within the next 2-3 weeks.

Agenda Item #9 – New Business

Yahaira Graxirena announced news of the new statewide E-bike voucher by the MassCEC, which works at the point-of-sale and is based on household income and number of individuals living in a household. The deadline is April 28 and there are 3,000 vouchers available. Ms. Graxirena also announced that May is bike month, with many events being scheduled.

Josh Rickman announced that on April 26th the new WRTA Fixed-Route schedules will be released. More information on this is available on the WRTA website.

Agenda Item # 10 – Next Meetings

- CMMPO Advisory Committee meeting (virtual) – Wednesday, April 23, 2025, at 3:00 PM
- CMMPO Committee meeting (virtual) – Wednesday, May 21, 2025, at 4:00 PM

Agenda Item #11 – Adjournment

Bob Hassinger made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by John Daniel. The meeting concluded at 5:00 PM.

Meeting Minutes prepared by: Zack Blais, Transportation Principal Planner