



CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

The minutes of the Central Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (CMMPO) meeting, on **Wednesday, May 21st, 2025**. This meeting was held virtually using Zoom Webinar.

- **CMMPO Members Present:**

1. Steve Woelfel – 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. Betsy Goodrich – designee to City Manager Eric Batista
5. Michelle Conlin – Shrewsbury, Northeast Subregion Representative
6. John Daniel – Southbridge, Southwest Subregion Representative
7. Jared Grigg – Spencer, West Subregion Representative

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

1. Derek Shooster – MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning

- **Guests:**

1. Sarah Bradbury, MassDOT District #3
2. Daryl Amaral, MassDOT District #2
3. Jonathon Church, MassDOT
4. Maria Cardenas, Kimley-Horn

- **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. Nate Lewis, Assistant Planner – Transportation
6. Sandy Amoakohene, Principal Planner – Transportation

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Agenda Item #1 – Introductions

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

Agenda Item #2 – Approval of April 16, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Jared Grigg made a motion and was seconded by Josh Rickman to approve the April 16, 2025 meeting minutes. All members present voted to approve of the April 16, 2025 meeting minutes.

Steve Woelfel – Yes

Michelle Conlin – Yes

Ann Sullivan – Yes

John Daniel – Yes

Josh Rickman – Yes

Jared Grigg – Yes

Betsy Goodrich – Yes

Agenda Item #3 – Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no comments from the public at this meeting.

Agenda Item #4 – Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- **Potential Action:** Approval of Proposed Amendment #6 to the FFY 2025 to FFY 2029 TIP Highway Project Listing

Kevin Krasnecky presented this item. The Proposed Amendment #6 to the FFY 2025 to FFY 2029 TIP Highway Project Listing includes a cost increase to 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

There were no questions or comments regarding the proposed amendment.

Jared Grigg made a motion and was seconded by Ann Sullivan to approve the Proposed Amendment #6 to the FFY 2025 to FFY 2029 TIP Highway Project Listing. All members present voted unanimously to approve the Proposed Amendment #6.

Steve Woelfel – Yes

Michelle Conlin – Yes

Ann Sullivan – Yes

John Daniel – Yes

Josh Rickman – Yes

Jared Grigg – Yes

Betsy Goodrich – Yes

- **Potential Action:** Approval of Proposed Adjustment #7 to the FFY 2025 to FFY 2029 TIP Transit Project Listing

Kevin Krasnecky presented this item. The Proposed Adjustment #7 to the FFY 2025 to FFY 2029 TIP Transit Project Listing includes the addition of three Community Transit Grants to FFY 2025:

- Project WRTA012099 – WRTA – Purchase of 5 Type E Vehicles
 - Total Project Cost: \$564,256

- 5310 funding: \$358,334
 - GOBOND funding: \$205,922
- Project WRTA012100 – WRTA – Purchase of 2 Ca Vehicles
 - Total Project Cost: \$257,640
 - 5310 funding: \$112,229
 - GOBOND funding: \$145,411
- Project WRTA012114 – Town of Blackstone COA – Purchase of one (1) A Vehicle
 - Total Project Cost: \$83,684
 - GOBOND funding: \$71,131
 - Local funding: \$12,553

There were no questions or comments regarding the proposed adjustment.

Jared Grigg made a motion and was seconded by John Daniel to approve the Proposed Adjustment #7 to the FFY 2025 to FFY 2029 TIP Transit Project Listing. All members voted unanimously to approve the Proposed Adjustment #7.

Steve Woelfel – Yes
 Ann Sullivan – Yes
 Josh Rickman – Yes
 Betsy Goodrich – Yes

Michelle Conlin – Yes
 John Daniel – Yes
 Jared Grigg – Yes

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

- **Potential Action:** Approval of Proposed Amendment #2 to the FFY 2025 UPWP

Sujatha Krishnan presented this item. The Proposed Amendment #2 to the FFY 2025 UPWP included a budget change for Element 2.5 Regional Housing and Transportation Plan. Following the changes, the new budget for this element in FFY 2025 is \$100,000. The remainder amount of \$150,000 will be moved to the FFY 2026 UPWP.

There were no questions or comments regarding the proposed amendment.

Jared Grigg made a motion and was seconded by Betsy Goodrich to approve the Proposed Amendment #2 to the FFY 2025 UPWP. All members present voted unanimously to approve the Proposed Amendment #2 to the FFY 2025 UPWP.

Steve Woelfel – Yes
 Ann Sullivan – Yes
 Josh Rickman – Yes
 Betsy Goodrich – Yes

Michelle Conlin – Yes
 John Daniel – Yes
 Jared Grigg – Yes

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

Sujatha Krishnan presented this item. The FFY 2026 UPWP Table of Contents and funding table were briefly reviewed. As explained, there is a 3.3% increase in the budget from the FFY 2025 UPWP. These budget increases are seen in:

- PL funding up 2%
- WRTA funding down 44% to account for staffing capacity reduction
- Extension of additional funding for special studies utilizing de-obligated funds from FY 21-23 PL funds
- Anticipated second year funding for the Safe Streets for All grant funding

There were no comments or questions.

Michelle Conlin made a motion and was seconded by Jared Grigg to approve the release of the Draft FFY 2026 UPWP for 21-Day Public Review and Comment Period. All members present voted unanimously to release for Draft FFY 2026 UPWP for 21-Day Public Review and Comment Period.

Steve Woelfel – Yes

Michelle Conlin – Yes

Ann Sullivan – Yes

John Daniel – Yes

Josh Rickman – Yes

Jared Grigg – Yes

Betsy Goodrich – Yes

Agenda Item #6 – Oxford Food Access Study Presentation

Sandy Amoakohene presented this item. The goal of this study was to identify transportation barriers to food resources for vulnerable populations, specifically for older adults and persons with disabilities in Oxford. For the study, priority destinations considered included food pantries, farmers markets, supermarkets and grocery stores, convenience stores, and other essential destinations. The project scope included quantitative data (i.e., active transportation network, demographics, transit access); partners interviews with Oxford FoodShelf, Oxford Senior Center, Tri-Valley, Inc., and Oxford Housing Authority; study findings; and recommendations including recommended activities and possible funding resources.

During the interviews, themes included limited funding to support food delivery/transport programs; older adults that can't afford groceries; concerns on limitations to SNAP benefits and other safety-net services; and bag limits on fixed routes for those using transit services for grocery shopping.

Several study findings included a strong dependence on cars over walking/biking or transit; the pedestrian network and fixed route bus routes focus mainly on Route 12 (Main Street) and Route 20; majority of identified food resources are focused along Main Street and Route 20; majority of identified food resources are convenience stores; and COA van services and Senior Center van services do not align with Food Pantry hours due to an impact of driver shortage.

Per these findings, the study recommended:

- First-and-Last-Mile Connections
 - Prioritize gap between an individual and/or destination and the existing transportation network along Main Street and Route 20.
- Partnerships with Private Transportation Providers
 - Partner with on-demand private transit service to allow service to be available to qualifying Oxford residents.
- Food Pantry/Van Service Alignment
 - Use funding opportunities to expand the capacity of Senior Center or COA transport services.
- Mobilizing Food Resources
 - Partner with grocers, farmers markets, or other food resources to provide food delivery and mobile van services.
- Pedestrian Network Improvements
 - Improve 'fair' or 'poor' sidewalk segments in central and southern Oxford.

There were no comments or questions.

Agenda Item #7 – Bay State Bike Month Updates

Nate Lewis presented this item. Nate provided an update on all of the Bike Month events that occurred throughout May and the activities that CMRPC staff participated in.

A highlight of Bike Month included the City of Worcester declaring May as Bike Month through an official proclamation.

One of the CMRPC activities included the "Bike Breakfast" on May 12th. The event helped to encourage bike commuting and raise awareness about the importance of bike-friendly infrastructure.

Another notable highlight during Bike Month included the "Worcester Earn-A-Bike". This is a shop that hosts open hours to help give community members a chance to earn a bike or get a free tune up, regardless of income or experience. The shop will provide open hours throughout the summer on Thursdays and Saturdays.

There were no comments or questions.

Agenda Item #8 – Staff Updates

- Vernon Street/I-290 Transportation Study

Sujatha Krishnan announced that a contract has been signed with Stantec. The project will kickoff at the beginning of June and a steering committee will be put together consisting of MassDOT and City of Worcester staff.

- Safe Streets for All (SS4A)

Sujatha Krishnan announced the RFP was released on May 12th. The submittal deadline is Monday June 9th and consultant interviews will begin soon after the deadline.

- Regional Housing Study

Sujatha Krishnan announced that consultant interviews have been completed. A preferred consultant has been chosen, and staff are currently working on the contract. The results will be announced once the contract has been finalized.

Agenda Item #9 – New Business

There was no new business at this meeting.

Agenda Item # 10 – Next Meetings

- CMMPO Advisory Committee meeting (virtual) – Wednesday, May 28, 2025, at 3:00 PM
- CMMPO Committee meeting (virtual) – Wednesday, June 18, 2025, at 4:00 PM

Agenda Item #11 – Adjournment

Michelle Conlin made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Betsy Goodrich. The meeting concluded at 4:47 PM.

Meeting Minutes prepared by: Zack Blais, Transportation Principal Planner