



CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

The minutes of the Central Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (CMMPO) meeting held **Wednesday, February 21st, 2024**. This meeting was held virtually using Zoom Webinar.

- **CMMPO Members Present:**

1. Derek Krevat – 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. Jesse Limanek – Sutton, Southeast Subregion Representative
7. Rich Eichacker – Warren, West Subregion Representative

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

1. Chris Klem, MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning

- **Guests:**

1. Sarah Bradbury, MassDOT District #3
2. Peter Boria, Spencer
3. Ann Marie Foley, Grafton, Southeast Subregion Alternate
4. Amanda Bazinet, VHB
5. Derek Shooster, MassDOT OTP
6. Greg Russell, VHB
7. Keelan Boyle
8. Jared Grigg, Spencer, West Subregion Alternate
9. Isabel McCauley, MassDOT
10. Daryl Amaral, MassDOT District #2

- **CMRPC Staff**

1. Sujatha Krishnan, Deputy Director – Transportation
2. Kevin Krasnecky, Project Manager – Transportation
3. Zack Blais, Associate Planner – Transportation
4. Rich Rydant, Project Manager – Transportation
5. Rob Raymond, Project Manager – Transportation
6. Adam Wriggins, Assistant Planner – Transportation
7. Nathan Lewis, Public Outreach Coordinator – Transportation
8. Eric Gemperline, Associate Planner – Transportation
9. Yahaira Graxirena, Project Manager – Transportation
10. Tyler Distefano, Assistant Planner – Transportation

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Agenda Item #1 – Introductions

CMMPO Chair Derek Krevat opened the meeting at 4:00 PM. A roll call of CMMPO members was announced.

Agenda Item #2 – Approval of January 17, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the January 17, 2024, meeting of the CMMPO were considered for approval. Ann Sullivan motioned to accept the minutes and was seconded by Josh Rickman. A roll call vote was announced, and members voted to approve the minutes with one abstention.

Derek Krevat – Yes

Betsy Goodrich – Yes

Ann Sullivan – Yes

Jesse Limanek – Yes

Joshua Rickman – Yes

Rich Eichacker – Abstain

Bob Hassinger – Yes

Agenda Item #3 – Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

Agenda Item #4 – Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- **Potential Action:** Approval of Proposed Amendment #3 to the FFY 2024 to FFY 2028 TIP Highway and Transit List

Kevin Krasnecky presented this item. Proposed Amendment #3 includes two changes to FFY 2024 of the highway list. These changes are:

- Remove #610535 Worcester – Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements on Pleasant Street
- Decrease statewide funding for #602659 Charlton-Oxford – Reconstruction on Route 20, from Richardson’s Corner Easterly to Route 12, Includes Rehab of C-06-023 and Replacement of O-06-002.
 - Statewide CMAQ funding was reduced to \$123,655.
 - Statewide HSIP reduced to \$0.
 - Statewide NHPP funding reduced to \$7,956,218.
 - Statewide STBG funding reduced to \$0.

Proposed Amendment #3 also includes five additional projects to FFY 2024 of the transit list. These new projects are:

- WRTA011658 – Shrewsbury: Town of Shrewsbury – CTGP Shrewsbury Operating
 - Total project cost: \$25,000
- WRTA011661 – Holden: WRTA-Holden to Worcester Extended Service Hours
 - Total project cost: \$20,000
- WRTA011686 – Town of Rutland: Rutland Extended Transportation
 - Total project cost: \$75,477
- WRTA011687 – WRTA: SCM Elderbus – READYBUS Service

- Total project cost: \$70,000
- WRTA011688 – WRTA: SCM Elderbus Midday Shuttle
 - Total project cost: \$34,000

Mr. Krasnecky also noted that a public meeting was held for this Amendment #3 and there were no comments. Additionally, Amendment #3 was presented to the CMMPO Advisory Committee and CMRPC’s Transportation Committee and both recommended approval.

Chris Klem and Ann Sullivan both provided comments on the Worcester Bike/Pedestrian highway project. There were no other comments or questions.

Ann Sullivan made a motion and was seconded by Jesse Limanek to approve the proposed Amendment #3 to the FFY 2024 to FFY 2028 TIP Highway and Transit List. All members voted unanimously to approve proposed Amendment #3.

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| Derek Krevat – Yes | Betsy Goodrich – Yes |
| Ann Sullivan – Yes | Jesse Limanek – Yes |
| Joshua Rickman – Yes | Rich Eichacker – Yes |
| Bob Hassinger – Yes | |

- **Potential Action:** Release Proposed Amendment #4 to the FFY 2024 to FFY 2028 TIP Highway List for 21-Day Public Review and Comment Period

Kevin Krasnecky presented this item. Proposed Amendment #4 included two changes to FFY 2024 of the FFY 2024 to FFY 2028 TIP Highway List. These changes are:

- #612874 Shrewsbury-Worcester-Bridge Preservation, S-14-115 (1RA & 1RB), I-290 (EB & WB) Over Combination of Lake Quinsigamond and Lake Avenue North
 - Move project from FFY 2024 to FFY 2025
- Increase cost of #606517 West Brookfield – Resurfacing and Related Work on Route 9, from Ware T.L. to 850’ West of Welcome Road (Phase 1)
 - New Total Project Cost: \$9,661,739
 - Decrease STBG funding: \$638,190
 - Add TAP funding: \$648,738
 - Add Statewide TAP funding: \$1,574,365

There were no comments or questions.

Bob Hassinger made a motion and was seconded by Jesse Limanek. All members voted unanimously to approve the release of the proposed Amendment #4 to the FFY 2024 to FFY 2028 TIP Highway List for 21-day Public Review and Comment Period.

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| Derek Krevat – Yes | Jesse Limanek – Yes |
| Ann Sullivan – Yes | Rich Eichacker – Yes |
| Joshua Rickman – Yes | Bob Hassinger – Yes |
| Betsy Goodrich – Yes | |

- FFY 2025 to FFY 2028 TIP Readiness Update

Kevin Krasnecky provided updates from TIP Readiness Day on February 6, 2024. Mr. Krasnecky discussed the status of numerous projects and their recommended programming year. The following updates were provided:

- **Uxbridge #608174 – Reconstruction of Route 122 (South Main St):** Still on track for 2024.
- **Shrewsbury/Worcester #612874 – Bridge Maintenance, I-290 over Lake Quinsigamond & Lake Ave North:** Recommended pushing back to 2025 because of scope change.
- **Worcester #608961 – Intersection Improvements on Chandler St & May St:** MassDOT waiting on WSU to review design. Recommended pushing back to 2026/2027. Staff looking to keep project in 2025 and will schedule meeting with the City of Worcester.
- **Southbridge #608862 – Bridge Replacement, Mill St over McKinstry Brook and Quinebaug River:** Design has been delayed and was recommended to push back to 2026.
- **Upton #608490 – Route 140 Resurfacing & Roundabout Construction:** Many Right of Way and utility concerns. Recommended pushing back to 2026.
- **Dudley #609186 – Bridge Replacement, Route 131 over Quinebaug River:** Need design and Right of Way submission. Recommended pushing back to 2026.
- **Worcester #612608 – Flood Relief on Route 20:** Could potentially move up to 2024, depending on design and Right of Way submissions.
- **Auburn #612192 – Bridge Replacement, US 20 WB over I-395:** Still need design and Right of Way submissions. Might need to push back to 2026.
- **Worcester #608990 & 612011 – Chandler St Improvements Phase I & II:** Large project and a lot of Right of Way. Phase I recommended pushing back to 2027. Phase II could potentially move back to 2028.
- **Northbridge #609441 – Intersection Improvements at Route 122 & School St:** Municipal Right of Way concerns need to be resolved. Recommended pushing back to 2027. Staff would like to keep in 2026 and will schedule a meeting with the town.
- **Charlton #612181 – Bridge Replacement, US 20 over Cady Brook:** 25% design due 3/9/24 and needs hydraulic study. Recommended pushing back to 2027.
- **Shrewsbury #607764 – Intersection Improvements at US 20 & Grafton St:** MassDOT to meet on this project to find best path forward. Need to be consistent with Route 20 Corridor Plan. Recommended pushing back to 2027.
- **Auburn #612191 – Bridge Replacement, Oxford St over Kettle Brook:** Need design and Right of Way submissions. Recommended pushing back to 2027.
- **Grafton #612510 – Bridge Replacement, Route 140 over Railroad:** 25% design due on 5/5/24. Potentially push back to 2027.
- **East Brookfield #612629 – Route 9 Resurfacing:** Project is being deactivated and this section of Route 9 will be resurfaced under Districtwide resurfacing contract.

- **Charlton/Sturbridge #611967 – Route 49 Intersection Improvements:** 25% design expected to be completed soon. Recommended to stay in 2027 but could potentially move up to 2026.
- **West Brookfield #613143 – Bridge Replacement, Long Hill Rd over Quaboag River:** Could potentially advance as soon as 2027.

There were no comments or questions.

- FFY 2025 Worcester Micro-Project Summary

Yahaira Graxirena presented a summary on the FFY 2025 Worcester Micro-Project. The project is to install multiple bicycle racks/bicycle parking locations throughout the city. The city is requesting \$35,000 for the project. This will help fund 10 four-hoop racks on rails and delineators; 42 new post and hitch racks; and 30 post and hitch meter retrofit racks. The goals of the project are to build on the Worcester’s Complete Streets Policy, Green Worcester Plan, and Mobility Action Plan (MAP) Goals; encourage mode shift; support everyday trips for work, education, commercial, and recreational purposes; provide safe and secure places for people to park their bicycles; support Safe Routes to School and Safe Routes to Parks programs; and support business and economic development.

Derek Krevat asked if the city would be providing match funds. Ms. Graxirena answered yes. There were no other comments or questions.

- TIP Design Funding Discussion

Sujatha Krishnan presented TIP funding for design and engineering.

Some communities struggle to come up with design and engineering funds for projects due to lack of Chapter 90 funds. Therefore, MPOs have worked with MassDOT to create a process to make federal funding available for design and engineering usages for communities. Only new projects are available for this funding assistance and FHWA and MassDOT have provided guidance. The community would need to do a reimbursable contract with MassDOT and the local match (20%) would be the responsibility of the community. The construction project should be programmed on the TIP/STIP, there should be coordination with utility providers and rail operators, and there should be hiring of MassDOT prequalified A&E firms.

The project would need to be approved by MassDOT’s Project Review Committee (PRC). This will begin in FFY 2025 if there are available funds and will have a max total design funding cap of \$1 million per year. The project will go through the same scoring criteria as any TIP construction project.

Next steps include setting aside design funding at the March TIP workshop, finalizing CMMPO Guidance in Summer 2024, and including that guidance in the application form in FFY 2026 TIP “call for projects” packet.

Ann Sullivan asked if the \$1 million design funding is set aside for each project or is the total funding amount per year. Sujatha answered that it would be a total of \$1 million of funding for that year, and funding could be increased depending on needs. Amanda Bazinet asked if design funds would be phased/available to communities for multiple years since design can typically take more than one year for some projects. Sujatha answered that this detail is still being worked on. Derek Krevat added that the

funding could be available for the programmed year, and after that it would be put into a contract where the funds could be spent however the terms of the contract are laid out.

Agenda Item #5 – TIP/UPWP Guidance Summary

Sujatha Krishnan presented this agenda item on TIP and UPWP guidance from MassDOT/FHWA.

As part of this guidance, the CMRPC have kept up with all federal certification review findings; public participation continues to be a primary focus of our work; staff are currently working on updating the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan; staff are working on ways to spend de-obligated Metropolitan Planning (PL) funds; staff are continuing to account for all earmarks or non-FHWA/discretionary grants; and staff are planning to set our own regional greenhouse gas emission reduction targets or adopt the state targets.

There are several new focus areas, including housing coordination; TIP design funding; updating pedestrian and bicycle plan; CMMPO certification; and a possible update to the CMMPO Public Participation Plan.

There were no questions or comments.

Agenda Item #6 – CY 2024 Safety Performance Measures (PM1)

- **Potential Action:** Adopt State Safety Targets

Eric Gemperline presented this item. Mr. Gemperline summarized the safety targets for CY 2024 Safety Performance Measures (PM1) that was presented at last month's meeting, and this month staff are asking the CMMPO members to vote on whether they would adopt the State safety targets or to set their own regional targets. Mr. Gemperline noted that the CMMPO Advisory Committee and CMMPO Transportation Committee both voted in favor of adopting the State's safety targets.

Bob Hassinger made a motion and was seconded by Joshua Rickman to adopt the State's safety targets for CY 2024. All members voted unanimously to adopt the State's safety targets for CY 2024.

- Derek Krevat – Yes
- Ann Sullivan – Yes
- Joshua Rickman – Yes
- Betsy Goodrich – Yes
- Jesse Limanek – Yes
- Rich Eichacker – Yes
- Bob Hassinger – Yes

Agenda Item #7 – Community Transportation Data/Project Services Presentation

Rob Raymond presented on recent efforts CMRPC transportation have completed with data and project services. This included many types of data to help support MassDOT and MPO planning efforts, which include traffic counting, pavement management, pedestrian asset inventories (sidewalks, curb ramps, crosswalks, obstructions), and bike rack inventories.

Mr. Raymond summarized numerous maps about where traffic counts are completed, where pedestrian assets have been assessed, and where bike racks have been inventoried in the region. Next, Eric Gemperline discussed the drone services the transportation staff offers and the work that has been completed with the drone.

Lastly, Mr. Raymond continued the discussion by focusing on specific projects the transportation staff have worked on. These have included the Auburn Local Sidewalk Prioritization Plan, Leicester Town Safety Concerns, Central Turnpike and Sutton Ave Corridor Profile, and others.

There were no comments or questions.

Agenda Item #8 – Staff Updates

- Safe Streets for All Grant

Sujatha Krishnan announced that staff were awarded the Safe Streets for All Grant and are currently working on completing the agreement.

- Other Federal Grants

Sujatha Krishnan announced that staff are still waiting to hear about the Thriving Communities Grant and Reconnecting Communities Program Grant. Staff have also assisted Southbridge and Worcester with the RAISE Grant.

Agenda Item #9– New Business

- MassDOT Innovation Conference

Sujatha Krishnan announced the MassDOT Innovation Conference is occurring on April 30 – May 1, 2024.

Agenda Item #10 – Next Meetings

- CMMPO Advisory Committee meeting (virtual) – February 28, 2024, at 3:00PM
- CMMPO meeting (virtual/in-person) – March 20, 2024, at 4:00PM

Agenda Item #10 – Adjournment

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

Meeting Minutes prepared by: Zachary Blais, Transportation Associate Planner