



CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (CMMPO)

The minutes of the Central Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (CMMPO) meeting, on **Wednesday, January 21st, 2026**. This meeting was held virtually using Zoom Webinar.

- **CMMPO Members Present:**

1. Steve Woefel – MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning, designee to MassDOT Interim Secretary Phillip Eng
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. John Daniel – Southbridge, Southwest Subregion Representative
8. Leah Whiteman – Rutland, North Subregion Alternate

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

1. Miranda Briseno – MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning

- **Guests:**

1. Daryl Amaral – MassDOT D2
2. Peg Dean, Southbridge
3. Robin Grimm, Sturbridge
4. Sam Taylor, MassDOT OTP
5. Doug Johnson, MassDOT
6. Alex Lyon – West Boylston, Transportation Committee
7. J Proias

- **CMRPC Staff**

1. Sujatha Krishnan, Deputy Director – Transportation
2. Kevin Krasnecky, Manager, Transportation Improvement Program – Transportation
3. Zack Blais, Principal Planner, Environmental Planning – Transportation
4. Rich Rydant, Director, MPO Activities – Transportation
5. Constance Mellis, Manager, Transit Planning – Transportation

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Agenda Item #1 – Introductions

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

Agenda Item #2 – Approval of December 17, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Bob Hassinger made a motion and was seconded by Ann Sullivan to approve December 17, 2025, meeting minutes. The members present voted to approve of the December 17, 2025, meeting minutes.

Steve Woelfel – Yes

Betsy Goodrich – Yes

Ann Sullivan – Yes

Jesse Limanek – Yes

Joshua Rickman – Yes

John Daniel – Yes

Bob Hassinger – Yes

Leah Whiteman – Abstain

Agenda Item #3 – Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no comments from the public at this meeting.

Agenda Item #4 – Critical Rural and Urban Freight Corridors Updates

- **Potential Action:** Approval of Proposed New Rural and Urban Freight Corridors

CMRPC staff, Rich Rydant, presented this action item. A brief review of the proposed rural and urban freight corridors in the region was presented. The new proposed rural and urban corridors are:

- Route 122 (Rutland/Paxton) – from Route 122A (Rutland) to Brooks Road (Paxton)
- Route 32A (Hardwick) – from Petersham TL to Mechanic Street
- Route 32 (Hardwick/Barre) – from just east of Upper Church Street (Hardwick) to Route 67 (Barre)
- Route 68 (Rutland) – from Hubbardston TL to Wachusett Street
- Southbridge Street (Worcester) – from Cambridge Street to just south of Glade Street
- Route 49 (Spencer) – from Route 9 to Railroad Bridge
- Route 49 (Sturbridge) – from Route 20 to MassPike
- Route 122 (Paxton/Worcester) – from Brooks Road (Paxton) to Chandler Street (Worcester)

There were no comments or questions.

Bob Hassinger made a motion and was seconded by John Daniel to approve the Proposed New Rural and Urban Freight Corridors. All members voted unanimously to approve the Proposed New Rural and Urban Freight Corridors.

Steve Woelfel – Yes

Betsy Goodrich – Yes

Ann Sullivan – Yes

Jesse Limanek – Yes

Joshua Rickman – Yes

John Daniel – Yes

Bob Hassinger – Yes

Leah Whiteman – Yes

Agenda Item #5 – Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- **Potential Action:** Approval of Proposed Amendment #2 to the FFY 2026-2030 TIP Highway Project Listing

Kevin Krasnecky presented this action item. The Proposed Amendment #2 includes several changes:

- *610535: Worcester – Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements on Pleasant Street*
 - FFY 2026 – STBG funding reduced by \$3,466,213 and earmark funding (HPP) added under Section 1B (Earmark or Discretionary Grant Funded Projects) in the amount of \$1,615,550.
 - **MassDOT Comments:** The 75/100% submission was received during the public comment period and the **updated total project cost is \$4,485,691**, which is \$327,512 more than what was released. The \$327,512 will be added back into the target STBG funding.
- *S13376: Southbridge – Hamilton Street Reconstruction Project (FY 2024 BUILD Grant)*
 - This Discretionary Grant added to FFY 2026 with earmark funding (HPP) in the amount of \$1,120,384 under Section 1B.
- *608862: Southbridge – Bridge Replacement, S-21-009, Mill Street over McKinstry Brook and S-21-003, Mill Street over the Quinebaug River*
 - FFY 2026 – A cost increase of \$1,239,170
 - Updated total project cost – \$11,232,073
- *612195: Worcester – Superstructure Replacement, W-44-0091, I-290 over East Central Street*
 - FFY 2027 funding is being removed and additional funding added to FFY 2026.
 - Funding source for this project is now NHPP (\$12,696,662) and NHPP-PEN (\$23,041,525).
 - Updated total project cost – \$35,738,187 (increase of \$4,808,426)
- *612092: Uxbridge – Bridge Replacement, U-02-051, Homeward Avenue over Providence Railroad*
 - Project added to FFY 2027 in Section 2A (Federal Aid Funded State Prioritized Reliability Projects).
 - Funded with STBG-BR-OFF – \$3,741,988
- *612191: Auburn – Bridge Replacement, A-17-003, Oxford Street over Kettle Brook*
 - Project moved from FFY 2027 to FFY 2029
 - Updated total project cost – \$19,577,600

- *613367: Westborough – Fisher Street Improvements (SRTS)*
 - Project moved from FFY 2028 to FFY 2029
 - Updated total project cost – \$3,278,903

Mr. Krasnecky noted that staff did receive comments from MassDOT during the comment period regarding the Worcester Pleasant Street project. An updated design submission was received during the comment period and the new project cost was updated accordingly for the amendment.

Ann Sullivan made a motion and was seconded by Betsy Goodrich to approve the Proposed Amendment #2 to the FFY 2026-2030 TIP Highway Project Listing. All members voted unanimously to approve the Proposed Amendment #2 to the FFY 2026-2030 TIP Highway Project Listing.

Steve Woelfel – Yes

Betsy Goodrich – Yes

Ann Sullivan – Yes

Jesse Limanek – Yes

Joshua Rickman – Yes

John Daniel – Yes

Bob Hassinger – Yes

Leah Whiteman – Yes

- **Potential Action:** Approval of Proposed Adjustment #3 to the FFY 2026-2030 TIP Highway Project Listing

Kevin Krasnecky presented this action item. The Proposed Adjustment #3 includes the following change:

- *#608990 – Worcester – Intersection Improvements and Resurfacing on Chandler Street, from Main Street to Park Avenue*
 - In FFY 2028, add \$703,876 in earmark funding under Section 1B (Earmark or Discretionary Grant Funding Projects).
 - Updated programmed total project cost – \$23,949,840
 - This earmark is part of MassDOT’s FY 2025 Earmark repurposing effort.

There were no comments or questions.

Ann Sullivan made a motion and was seconded by Betsy Goodrich to approve the Proposed Adjustment #3 to the FFY 2026-2030 TIP Highway Project Listing. All members voted unanimously to approve the Proposed Adjustment #3 to the FFY 2026-2030 TIP Highway Project Listing.

Steve Woelfel – Yes

Betsy Goodrich – Yes

Ann Sullivan – Yes

Jesse Limanek – Yes

Joshua Rickman – Yes

John Daniel – Yes

Bob Hassinger – Yes

Leah Whiteman – Yes

- FFY 2031 Presentation by Project Proponents
 - *613875: Auburn/Worcester – Route 20 Improvements*

Ann Sullivan presented this project. The project will improve bicycle and pedestrian accommodation to provide safe multimodal access between residential areas and the Route 20 commercial district, where existing facilities are limited. Improvements will maximize use of the existing roadway cross-section, with some widening as needed. Proposed work includes construction of a shared-use path and sidewalk along Route 20, potential retaining walls, modifications to the existing bridge cross-section, and upgraded pavement markings and signage.

The project is currently at the pre-25% design stage. A survey has been completed, and a design consultant has been assigned. Environmental permitting, ROW acquisitions or easements are still being determined. Utility relocations will be required. The current cost estimate is \$6,527,690.

There were no comments or questions.

- *613873: Sturbridge – Route 20 Improvements*

Ann Sullivan presented this project. Existing conditions include a 2017-2019 HSIP crash cluster, recent commercial growth increasing the number of left-hand turns (increasing potential for serious crashes), and a speed limit of 50MPH. Project needs include a long-term goal of the district to median divide Route 20 and provide strategic locations for vehicles to reverse directions. Project goals include a median along Route 20, with a potential roundabout at Hall Road to allow vehicles to reverse direction without having to make left turns, as well as investigating and improving safety for the properties and driveways at Hall Road along the corridor.

The project is currently at pre-25% design stage. A survey has been completed, and a design consultant has been assigned. The required environmental permits and ROW acquisitions or easements are still being determined. Some utility relocations will be required. The current cost estimate is \$6,579,155.

John Daniel asked if a roundabout was the preferred choice as there is a lot of truck traffic. Ms. Sullivan replied that further evaluations of the roundabout versus traffic signal would need to be completed during the design process to determine the best option.

There were no further comments or questions.

- *613261: Worcester – Lincoln Street Transit Infrastructure Improvements*

Doug Johnson (MassDOT) presented this project. Three WRTA bus routes utilize the corridor, the corridor is a Top 200 Crash Cluster and a Top 5% Intersection Crash Cluster for crash years 2017-2020 (statewide), a Top 5% Bicycle Crash Cluster for 2010-2019 (statewide), and three locations that are Top 5% MPO Crash Locations for Fatal and Serious Injuries. The goal of the project is to improve transit service reliability and user experience, ADA compliance, and provide bicycle facilities for the corridor. The project proposes transit signal priority treatments, bus stop reconstruction and amenities,

sidewalk repair, ADA compliant curb ramps, and bicycle facilities. Additional work includes improved pavement marking and signage.

The project is currently at pre-25% design stage. VHB has received Notice to Proceed in November 2025. Traffic counts and signal phasing plans have been obtained. Survey field work is mostly complete, and survey plans are being prepared. Crash records are also being compiled. The required environmental permits and ROW acquisitions or easements are still being determined. Utility relocations may be required. The current cost estimate is \$3,335,000.

Josh Rickman commented that the route is very important to the city for transit and multi-modal transportation, that it is very actively used.

There were no other comments or questions.

- *613311: Worcester – Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements on Millbury Street*

Doug Johnson (MassDOT) presented this project. The project corridor was identified as a top 5% bicycle and pedestrian need statewide. The corridor would benefit from improved pedestrian and bicycle accommodations. WRTA bus routes operate along the corridor, but existing bus stops lack amenities, signage, and roadway striping, and ADA compliant curb ramps are needed. The corridor is located within an REJ+ community and provides a key connection between Millbury Street and the pedestrian bridge over Route 146. Proposed improvements include bus stop reconstruction and amenities, sidewalk repairs, ADA-compliant curb ramps, bicycle facilities, and enhanced pavement markings and signage. Existing curb-to-curb widths will generally be maintained, with limited widening where needed to accommodate bus stop amenities and buffered bicycle facilities.

The project is currently at the pre-25% design stage. The Engineering Corporation (TEC) is the design consultant. Pre-25% plans have been prepared and are being revised based on feedback received from the City in December 2025. The required environmental permits and ROW acquisitions or easements are still being determined. Utility relocations, except for a small number of light poles, are not required. The current cost estimate is \$3,475,000.

There were no comments or questions.

Agenda Item #6 – WRTA Updates Presentation

Josh Rickman presented this item. The presentation included brief updates on the Comprehensive Regional Transit Plan (CRTP), Union Station lobby re-design, fixed route services, demand response software, and an overview of the rebranding of the WRTA.

CRTP Update – the initial CRTP that was completed by AECOM in 2015, last updated in 2020, and will be updated in 2025. CRTPs are RTA-driven and includes stakeholder coordination, an evaluation of existing system/conditions data, alternative analyses, and recommendations for future service efforts. Since

May 2025, WRTA has worked with AECOM on identifying needs and outlining goals and objectives for plan updates. The plan has defined three goals:

1. Reimagine mobility solutions
2. Prioritize innovative planning and capital projects
3. Promote WRTAs value in the community

For outreach, WRTA have consistently posted flyers, bus ads, grab bar hangers, and social media posts to gather public input. Next steps of the CRTP include reviewing the final draft, posting the final CRTP to the WRTA website by the end of February, and performing additional studies.

Union Station Lobby Re-Design – The lobby redesign concept increases seating capacity, including additional wheelchair spaces, improves customer service access, and adds a new security office and restrooms. The restroom design features open entry with two stalls per bathroom, located next to the security office. Benefits of the layout include quicker response to customer requests and greater interior oversight. Challenges include approximately \$160,000 in annual cleaning costs, capital funding used to address vandalism, potential facility misuse, and long-term funding sustainability. The project is currently in the demolition phase, with customer service relocated to a temporary platform building and the PBSI/Call Center moved to Venture X. The lobby is expected to reopen by the end of June 2026.

New CAD/AVL System for Fixed Route – a new CAD/AVL system has been awarded to Equans/Systrans. The new system supports public facing GTFS-real time, automatic update of mapping and trip planning on third party apps such as a transit app, and improved metrics/statistics. The system went live on January 2nd, 2026. The system includes customer-facing tools, like infotainment and transit app. Future initiatives of the system include real time signs and transit signal priority. The system includes driver and management interfaces, including a dispatch monitoring platform and mobile data terminal.

Demand Response Software – WRTA are reviewing internal needs and industry best practices and plan to issue a procurement in coming months for a new software that will improve customer facing tools and include new service modules.

WRTA Rebranding – the WRTA has concluded its rebranding process. The reasoning behind this is to create a sustainable design that is representative of the community. The method to do so included procuring a transit design firm, engaging the public through outreach, and engaging internal operations. The rebranded logo has also been fully designed for bus vehicles, with intent on each part of the bus design. The launch date of the new logo is February 13, 2026.

There were no comments or questions.

Agenda Item #7 – Presentation on CY 2026 Safety Performance Measures (PM1)

Kevin Krasnecky presented this item. The Safety Performance Measures (PM1) are required under MAP-21 (Section 1203), continued with Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). They require annual coordination of target settings with MPOs. MPOs can establish their own set of quantifiable performance targets every year or adopt the state's performance targets (for the entire Commonwealth – no quantifiable target required for region). The targets must be incorporated into Certification Documents.

The Performance Measures are presented in 5-year rolling averages and the trendline has been established using historical data. MassDOT also developed a 2024-2028 projection to forecast current trends further into the future. The IJA requires “performance targets to demonstrate constant or improved performance”.

For CY 2026, the 5 statewide safety targets are:

- Total fatalities: **357**
- Fatality rate per 100 million VMT: **0.56**
- Total serious injuries: **2,562**
- Serious injury rate: **4.03** per 100 million VMT
- Total combined non-motorist injuries + fatalities: **512**

Mr. Krasnecky described the methodology for each target and displayed a chart showing the state’s safety targets while also showing the CMMPO data for comparison.

While the state’s goal is towards zero fatalities and serious injuries, the state targets presented are not “goals”, but realistic targets considering the events of the last 4+ years. MassDOT approved the targets recognizing that MassDOT must demonstrate short-term incremental steps to achieve the Commonwealth’s goal. MPOs must either set their own 5 quantifiable safety targets or adopt MassDOT’s targets as an action item by February 28, 2026. The safety targets must be included in the FFY 2027-2031 TIPs.

Sam Taylor (MassDOT) noted that the CMMPO comparison numbers were only projections and that the CMMPO would be voting on the State’s targets then the time comes.

Agenda Item #8 – Staff Updates

- Sujatha Krishnan announced that public outreach kicked off for the vision zero action plan on January 8th at CMRPC’s Quarterly Commission Meeting.
- Sujatha Krishnan announced that staff helped 7 communities submit grants for the MassDOT Grant Central Program, including culverts and Complete Streets type projects.

Agenda Item #9 – New Business

There was no new business.

Agenda Item # 10 – Next Meetings

- CMMPO Advisory Committee meeting (virtual) – January 28, 2026 at 3:00 PM
- CMMPO Committee meeting (virtual) – February 18, 2026 at 4:00 PM

Agenda Item #11 – Adjournment

Ann Sullivan made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Bob Hassinger. The meeting concluded at 5:06 PM.

Meeting Minutes prepared by: Zack Blais, Transportation Principal Planner