



## **CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (CMMPO)**

The minutes of the Central Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (CMMPO) meeting, on **Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026**. This meeting was held virtually using Zoom Webinar.

- **CMMPO Members Present:**

1. Steve Woelfel – 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. Josh 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. Jesse Limanek – Sutton, Southeast Subregion Representative
8. Jared Grigg – Spencer, West Subregion Representative
9. 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. Sarah Bradbury – MassDOT D3
3. Peg Dean – Southbridge

- **CMRPC Staff**

1. Sujatha Krishnan, Deputy Director – Transportation
2. Kevin Krasnecky, Manager, Transportation Improvement Program – Transportation

3. Rich Rydant, Director, MPO Activities – Transportation
4. Yahaira Graxirena, Director, Access and Mobility – Transportation
5. Nate Lewis, Associate Planner, Public Outreach Coordinator – Transportation
6. Jordan Hollinger, Planning and Transportation Researcher – Transportation
7. Connie 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 April 15, 2026, Meeting Minutes**

Bob Hassinger made a motion and was seconded by Jesse Limanek to approve April 15, 2026, meeting minutes. The members present voted to approve of the April 15, 2026, meeting minutes.

Steve Woelfel – Yes  
Ann Sullivan – Yes  
Josh Rickman – Yes  
Bob Hassinger – Yes  
Betsy Goodrich – Yes  
Jesse Limanek – 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 the Proposed Adjustment #6 Changes to the FFY 2026-2030 TIP Highway Project Listing

Kevin Krasnecky presented this item. Proposed Adjustment #6 includes the following changes:

- *610825 – Shrewsbury/Northborough – Rehabilitation & Box Widening on Route 20, from Route 9 to South Street:* In FFY 2026, \$1,000,000 will be added to VUS funding and NHPP funding would be reduced from \$5,000,000 to \$4,000,000. The Total Project Cost is still \$49,235,394.

There were no comments or questions.

Ann Sullivan made a motion and was seconded by Betsy Goodrich to approve Proposed Adjustment #6 to the FFY 2026-2030 TIP Highway Project Listing. Jared Grigg abstained and all other members voted to approve the Proposed Adjustment #6.

Steve Woelfel – Yes  
Ann Sullivan – Yes  
Josh Rickman – Yes  
Bob Hassinger – Yes  
Betsy Goodrich – Yes  
Jared Grigg – Abstain  
Jesse Limanek – Yes

- **Potential Action:** Release Proposed Amendment #7 to the FFY 2026-2030 TIP Highway Project Listing for 21-Day Public Review and Comment Period

Kevin Krasnecky presented this item. Proposed Amendment #7 includes the following changes:

- *612195 – Worcester – Superstructure Replacement, W-44-091, I-290 over East Central Street* will be removed from FFY 2026. This project will be programmed in FFY 2027 of the new 2027-2031 TIP.
- *614241 – District 2 & District 3 – VRU Crosswalk Installation at State Signals at Multiple Locations* will be added to FFY 2026. The Total Project Cost is \$622,383.

There were no comments or questions regarding these changes.

Jared Grigg made a motion and was seconded by Bob Hassinger to release the Proposed Amendment #7 to the FFY 2026-2030 TIP Highway Project Listing for a 21-day public review and comment period. All members voted unanimously to release the Proposed Amendment #7 for public comment.

Steve Woelfel – Yes  
Ann Sullivan – Yes  
Josh Rickman – Yes  
Bob Hassinger – Yes

Betsy Goodrich – Yes  
Jesse Limanek – Yes  
Jared Grigg – Yes

- **Potential Action:** Approval of the FFY 2027-2031 TIP

Kevin Krasnecky presented this item. The Draft 2027-2031 TIP was reviewed with the CMMPO Advisory Committee and the CMRPC Transportation Committee and both recommended approval. A virtual public meeting was held on 5/4/26 and there were no comments from the attendees. MassDOT OTP reviewed the Draft TIP document and provided a few comments. The 495/MetroWest Partnership also provided a comment letter noting their support for the programmed projects within their region and concern for a few projects that were pushed back to later years.

Mr. Krasnecky then reviewed the three endorsements sheets included in the TIP document in which the CMMPO Chair would sign upon approval. The three endorsements sheets were the approval of the TIP, the Certification of the CMMPO Transportation Planning Process, and the compliance with the Global Warming Solutions Act Requirements for Transportation.

There were no comments or questions.

Bob Hassinger made a motion and was seconded by Ann Sullivan to approve the 2027-2031 TIP. All members voted unanimously to approve the 2027-2031 TIP.

Steve Woelfel – Yes  
Ann Sullivan – Yes  
Josh Rickman – Yes  
Bob Hassinger – Yes

Betsy Goodrich – Yes  
Michelle Conlin – Yes  
Jesse Limanek – Yes  
Leah Whitemand – Yes

#### **Agenda Item #5 – FFY 2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

- **Potential Action:** Release Draft FFY 2027 UPWP for 21-Day Public Review and Comment Period

Sujatha Krishnan presented this item. Ms. Krishnan reviewed the table of contents and the budget table from the document. Also, a virtual public meeting to comment on the Draft UPWP will be held on Tuesday, June 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM.

There were no comments or questions.

Bob Hassinger made a motion and was seconded by Leah Whiteman to release the Draft FFY 2027 UPWP for a 21-day public review and comment period. All members voted unanimously to release the Draft FFY 2027 UPWP for public comment.

Steve Woelfel – Yes

Ann Sullivan – Yes

Josh Rickman – Yes  
Bob Hassinger – Yes  
Betsy Goodrich – Yes

Michelle Conlin – Yes  
Jesse Limanek – Yes  
Jared Grigg – Yes

**Agenda Item #6 – Public Participation Plan (PPP) Updates Presentation**

Nate Lewis presented this item. Mr. Lewis provided an overview of changes, new sections, and staff review items for the FY 2026 update. Staff are updating the PPP to reflect new federal guidance, changing technology, and best practices. There are four entirely new sections or appendices, over nine sections updated or expanded, and over 15 items flagged and reviewed.

For Section 2 (Background), the regulatory tables have been updated, and additional law and regulation citations have been added. In Section 4 (Goals), a new 9<sup>th</sup> goal has been added. The new goal is to provide opportunities to build trust and compromise. In Section 5 (Self-Evaluation & Plan Modification), staff formalized the CMMPO’s commitment to reviewing and improving its public participation practices. In Section 6 (Tools), new tools were added and the previous tools were reviewed and removed, if needed. In Section 7 (Methods), three new formal engagement methods were added and they were one-on-one interactions, Public Involvement Plan (PIP), and scenario planning exercises. Staff also reviewed the current committee and platform information. Additionally, a new Section 10 (Using Artificial Intelligence for Community Engagement) was added to the document.

Under the appendices, a new Appendix A (Planning Document Public Participation Guidelines) was added to show minimum public participation standards for every planning document type. A new Appendix B (Staff Guide to Planning Public Engagement) was also added that shows a 7-step internal protocol for meeting Title VI and ADA requirements in all public outreach activities. The new Appendices C & D (Public-Facing Guides) was added that contain frequently asked questions and how to access virtual meetings. Lastly, a new Appendix E (Municipality Demographic Data) was added to help the CMMPO understand their communities better before starting a project.

The next steps will be to review the Draft PPP with the CMMPO Advisory Committee and then release the FY 2026 Draft PPP at the June CMMPO meeting for its 45-day public review and comment period. The FFY 2026 PPP would likely be endorsed by the CMMPO at their August or September meeting.

There were no comments or questions.

**Agenda Item #7 – Housing and Transportation Study Presentation**

Jordan Hollinger presented this item. Mr. Hollinger mentioned the purpose and objectives of the study and then gave a brief overview of the key findings that were presented at a previous meeting.

Next, Mr. Hollinger discussed the household profiles from the study. Hypothetical households were used to look at where people could live affordably in the region. The profiles were based on housing at the right price, housing of the right type, and housing in the right locations. The study also looked at rentals within the region, households in an area with walkable destinations, and households that get by with one car, hoping to walk or take transit some of the time.

Next, the suitability analysis was discussed. The suitability analysis is intended as a tool to facilitate conversations about where to prioritize regulatory change, investments, and other strategies to unlock opportunities for housing diversity across all CMRPC communities. The goals were:

- Establish physical barriers to development.
- Identify neighborhoods and corridors most supportive of housing-diverse development given existing infrastructure, transportation diversity, and access to amenities.
- Illustrate the kinds of development these areas can support, given their relative degree of transportation diversity and access to amenities. Highlight regulatory barriers to housing-diverse development.
- Illustrate how areas that are highly suitable for residential development compare to existing patterns of interest: overall demographics, equity focus areas, development, etc. Compare with areas of relative market risk and opportunity.
- Outline how targeted policy and investment interventions shift neighborhood suitability.

The suitability results were shown in four categories; high, somewhat high, somewhat limited, and limited.

The study and data have been turned into two online tools, an online data dashboard and mapping systems. Both tools were shown during the meeting. Lastly, the strategies overview was discussed. The strategies are primarily oriented toward public entities like cities, towns, and regional planning agencies, but many of the approaches are transferable to other stakeholders and local and regional housing partners.

There were no comments or questions.

#### **Agenda Item #8 – Staff Updates**

- *SS4A*: Sujatha Krishnan updated the group about recent SS4A project updates. The online survey will close soon, and staff have received over 700 responses. All community meetings have been completed. A draft Action Plan is anticipated in the fall and approval in January. The demonstration project is still being reviewed by MEPA.
- *Bay State Bike Month*: Nate Lewis provided this update. In May, staff held a bicycle breakfast with MassBike and there was great participation. A bike part was planned in Westborough, but it will likely be postponed due to the town planner leaving.

#### **Agenda Item #9 – New Business**

Sujatha Krishnan mentioned that the MassDOT Capital Investment Plan (CIP) virtual public meeting will be held on June 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 PM for the Central Massachusetts region. Jared Grigg asked about discussing the CMMPO Advisory Committee bylaws and potentially having it on the agenda for a future CMMPO meeting.

#### **Agenda Item # 10 – Next Meetings**

- CMMPO Advisory Committee meeting (virtual) – May 27, 2026 at 3:00 PM

- CMMPO Committee meeting (virtual) – June 17, 2026 at 4:00 PM

**Agenda Item #11 – Adjournment**

Bob Hassinger made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Michelle Conlin. The meeting concluded at 5:05 PM.

*Meeting Minutes prepared by: Kevin Krasnecky, TIP Manager*