



CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (CMMPO)

The minutes of the Central Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (CMMPO) meeting, on **Wednesday, July 15th, 2026**. This meeting was held virtually using Zoom Webinar.

- **CMMPO Members Present:**

1. Derek Shooster – 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. Stephen Rolle – designee to City Manager Eric Batista
6. Bill Filsinger – Boylston, Northeast Subregion Alternate
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. Etel Haxhijaj
4. Karin Valentine Goins, Walk Bike Worcester
5. Chris
6. Bill

- **CMRPC Staff**

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

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Agenda Item #1 – Introductions

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

Agenda Item #2 – Approval of June 17, 2026, Meeting Minutes

Bob Hassinger made a motion and was seconded by Jesse Limanek to approve the June 17, 2026, meeting minutes. All members present voted unanimously to approve of the June 17, 2026, meeting minutes. Bill Filsinger was not present for the vote of the minutes.

Derek Shooster – Yes

Stephen Rolle – Yes

Ann Sullivan – Yes

Jesse Limanek – Yes

Josh Rickman – Yes

Jared Grigg – Yes

Bob Hassinger – Yes

Leah Whiteman - Yes

Agenda Item #3 – Opportunity for Public Comment

Several public comments regarding the TIP Project #608961 – Worcester – Intersection Improvements on Chandler Street and May Street were made.

1. **Etel Haxhijaj** – Ms. Haxhijaj commented that she is a former District #5 Worcester City Councilor in which this project resides and is a member of the community. Ms. Haxhijaj supports this project and is disappointed the city is delaying the advertisement for this project in consideration of all the work and money spent on design. Misinformation has been spread concerning the project as well as claims that the project will result in dangerous travel conditions. Ms. Haxhijaj indicated that it is good that a community refresher meeting is planned to discuss this project. While there is opposition to the project, Ms. Haxhijaj ensures there is community support, especially after people in the neighborhood learned about the true facts of the project and hopes to work to help clear up misinformation about the project in the public.
2. **Karin Valentine Goins** – Ms. Goins commented that she is a Worcester resident and transportation advocate for 30 years, and she strongly supports the Chandler Street project based on both personal experience and community feedback. Ms. Goins described the corridor as unsafe for pedestrians and cyclists, citing frequent speeding, dangerous crossings, and the recent injury of their husband after being struck by a vehicle nearby. While disappointed by delays, Ms. Goins argued the project is needed to improve safety. Ms. Goins commented that opposition has been exaggerated and driven by misinformation, describing a neighborhood meeting where inaccurate claims about the project were presented, yet more attendees ultimately spoke in favor of it than against it. Karin also commented on the growing public support through outreach to residents and elected officials, her plans for a fact-based public education campaign, and promotion of the upcoming public meeting to reintroduce the project. Ms. Goins also commented on hopes for Worcester State University to publicly clarify its position, noting that its concerns appear to focus on construction impacts rather than opposition to the project itself.

3. **Chris** – Chris commented that he is a Worcester resident and lives within a mile from the project area. Chris supports the project and is dismayed by its delay. Chris is excited about Worcester’s growth, but part of it needs to be invested in infrastructure. Chris also commented that there is a lot of misinformation about the project, including picket signs in yards that say “Say No to the Double Rotary”.

Agenda Item #4 – Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- **Potential Action:** Approval of Proposed Amendment #9 to the FFY 2026-2030 TIP Highway Project Listing

Kevin Krasnecky presented this item. There were two changes regarding the Proposed Amendment #9:

- Cost increase for target ***Project #608961 – Worcester – Intersection Improvements on Chandler Street and May Street*** in FFY 2026. The cost has increased in the amount of \$1,645,731 for a New Total Project Cost of \$10,121,005. The changes are:
 - Add Carbon Reduction (CRP) funding in the amount of \$4,171,534.
 - STBG funding decreased from \$5,031,709 to \$1,750,053, a total decrease of \$3,281,656.
 - CMAQ funding increased from \$2,000,000 to \$2,040,014, a total increase of \$40,014.
 - HSIP funding increased from \$1,000,000 to \$1,715,835, a total increase of \$715,835.

MassDOT Public Comments: The City of Worcester informed staff that they will be formally pausing the advertisement for the Chandler Street/May Street intersection project. Therefore, the cost increase changes would not be needed and instead the project would be REMOVED from FFY 2026.
- Move ***Project #605323 – Oxford – Bridge Replacement, O-06-030, (ST 56) Leicester Road over the French River*** from FFY 2027 to FFY 2026. The updated Total Project Cost is \$4,594,106.

Following the review of Worcester project changes there was much discussion. Stephen Rolle commented on the current status of the project. The City is working on the Right of Way (ROW) and all its complexities. Mr. Rolle noted that he is aware of the opposition and the confusion about this project. Work also needs to be done in order to build community understanding and support for the project so there likely will be another public meeting for this project. All of this has made it clear that the advertising deadline would not be met for FY 2026. Instead, the city will work with MassDOT and the CMMPO to get the project advertised and funded in FFY 2027. Jared Grigg asked when the project was originally funded. Kevin Krasnecky replied that it was either FFY 2024 or FFY 2025 and it has previously been pushed back. Mr. Grigg asked what

would happen to the funding for the Worcester project. Derek Shooster said it would likely be added to another project, maybe the Shrewsbury/Northborough – Route 20 project.

Mr. Grigg asked if Mr. Rolle could provide the feedback to the CMMPO from the public meeting. Mr. Rolle said yes, he can provide a summary. Mr. Grigg also asked if this change would push back other projects to fit into FFY 2027. Sujatha Krishnan replied that there is no current plan to fit this project into FY 2027, but it likely would not impact other projects. The CMMPO would decide how the project could be programmed in the 2027 – 2031 TIP once it is active. Derek Shooster noted that changes can't be made to the 2027 – 2031 TIP until it is federally approved, likely sometime in October. Other comments included disappointment with these changes being brought up so late. Further, there was consensus for the CMMPO to vote on the approval of Amendment #9 project changes separately, rather than together.

Bob Hassinger made a motion and was seconded by Ann Sullivan to approve Amendment #9 to move Project #605323 – Oxford – Bridge Replacement, O-06-030, (ST 56) Leicester Road over the French River from FFY 2027 to FFY 2026. All members present voted unanimously to approve this change.

Derek Shooster – Yes
Ann Sullivan – Yes
Josh Rickman – Yes
Bob Hassinger – Yes
Stephen Rolle – Yes

Bill Filsinger – Yes
Jesse Limanek – Yes
Jared Grigg – Yes
Leah Whiteman – Yes

Jared Grigg made a motion and was seconded by Jesse Limanek to approve the removal of target Project #608961 – Worcester – Intersection Improvements on Chandler Street and May Street from FFY 2026. All members present voted to approve this change. Bob Hassinger voted “present”.

Derek Shooster – Yes
Ann Sullivan – Yes
Josh Rickman – Yes
Bob Hassinger – Present
Stephen Rolle – Yes

Bill Filsinger – Yes
Jesse Limanek – Yes
Jared Grigg – Yes
Leah Whiteman – Yes

Agenda Item #5 – Staff Updates

There were no staff updates.

Agenda Item #6 – New Business

There was no new business.

Agenda Item #7 – Next Meetings

- CMMPO Advisory Committee meeting (virtual) – TBD
- CMMPO Committee meeting (virtual) – TBD

Agenda Item #8 – Adjournment

Jared Grigg made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Jesse Limanek. The meeting concluded at 4:40 PM.

Meeting Minutes prepared by: Zack Blais, Principal Planner