



CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

The minutes of the Central Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (CMMPO) meeting held **Wednesday, April 17th, 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. Janet Pierce – designee to CMRPC Commission Chair
5. Betsy Goodrich – designee to City Manager Eric Batista
6. Shelby Marshall – Westborough, Northeast Subregion Representative
7. Jesse Limanek – Sutton, Southeast Subregion Representative
8. Rich Eichacker – Warren, West Subregion Representative

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

1. Chris Klem, MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning

- **Guests:**

1. Jared Grigg, Spencer, West Subregion Alternate
2. Sarah Bradbury, MassDOT District #3
3. Peg Dean, Southbridge
4. Michelle Scott (MassDOT)
5. Ben Breger (MassDOT District #2)
6. Robert King
7. Peter Boria, Spencer

- **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. Yahaira Graxirena, Project Manager – Transportation
6. Jeff Howland, Planning Engineer – 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 March 20, 2024, Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the March 20, 2024, meeting of the CMMPO were considered for approval. Jesse Limanek motioned to accept the minutes and was seconded by Shelby Marshall. A roll call vote was announced, and members voted to approve the minutes with one member abstaining.

Derek Krevat – Yes

Betsy Goodrich – Yes

Ann Sullivan – Yes

Shelby Marshall – Yes

Joshua Rickman – Yes

Jesse Limanek – Yes

Janet Pierce – Yes

Rich Eichacker – Abstain

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 #5 to the FFY 2024 to FFY 2028 TIP Highway and Transit List

Kevin Krasnecky presented this agenda item. Proposed Amendment #5 included two project cost increases to FFY 2024 highway projects and the addition of one transit project to FFY 2024. These changes are below:

Highway (2024)

- Project #612098 Upton/Grafton – Resurfacing and Related Work on Route 140
 - Increase cost of project from \$5,100,000 to \$5,817,840. An increase of \$717,840.
 - MassDOT Comments: Add Hopedale to project description and increase cost another \$1,082,160 for a new total of \$6,900,000.
- Project #609528 Grafton – Millbury Street Improvement (SRTS)
 - Increase cost of project from \$1,931,230 to \$3,177,661. An increase of \$1,246,431.

Transit (2024)

- ADD PROJECT – WRTA011811: Worcester Regional Transit Authority – Buy Replacement Van (7)
 - \$202,068 will be funded by 5307.
 - \$40,413 will be funded by Toll Development Credits (TDC).

Jesse Limanek asked why MassDOT is adding Hopedale to the Upton/Grafton project. Ann Sullivan replied that Hopedale includes a small portion of Route 140 so it would make sense to include it in the project. There were no other questions or comments.

Ann Sullivan motioned to approve the Proposed Amendment #5 and was seconded by Jesse Limanek. All voting members present voted unanimously to approve Proposed Amendment #5.

Derek Krevat – Yes

Betsy Goodrich – Yes

Ann Sullivan – Yes

Shelby Marshall – Yes

Joshua Rickman – Yes

Jesse Limanek – Yes

Janet Pierce – Yes

Rich Eichacker – Yes

- **Potential Action:** Approval of Proposed Adjustment #6 to the FFY 2024 to FFY 2028 TIP Highway Project List

Kevin Krasnecky presented this agenda item. Proposed Adjustment #6 included a shift in target funds for FFY 2024 Project #608433, Webster – Intersection Improvements at I-395 Ramps (Exit 2) at Route 16 (East Main Street) and Sutton Road. Regional target funds were shifted to Statewide funds, which also resulted in a slight increase of \$73,228. The new Total Project Cost is now \$15,018,236. The funding change are below:

- Regional Target Funds
 - CMAQ – Reduce by \$552,272
 - STBG – Reduce by \$3,055,727
- Statewide Funds
 - Add CMAQ funds – \$538,534
 - Add STBG funds – \$3,142,693

There were no comments or questions about Proposed Adjustment #6.

Ann Sullivan made a motion and was seconded by Jesse Limanek to approve Proposed Adjustment #6. All members voted unanimously to approve the Proposed Adjustment #6 to the FFY 2024 to FFY 2028 TIP Highway Project List.

Derek Krevat – Yes

Betsy Goodrich – Yes

Ann Sullivan – Yes

Shelby Marshall – Yes

Joshua Rickman – Yes

Jesse Limanek – Yes

Janet Pierce – Yes

Rich Eichacker – Yes

- **Potential Action:** Release Proposed Amendment #7 to the FFY 2024 to FFY 2028 TIP Highway List for 21-Day Public Review and Comment Period

Kevin Krasnecky presented this agenda item. The Proposed Amendment #7 included three changes to the FFY 2024 to FFY 2028 TIP Highway List. The changes are:

- Project #608171, Uxbridge – Reconstruction of Route 122 (South Main Street)
 - Increase cost of project from \$10,624,014 to \$14,232,013.
- Project #608851, Hardwick & New Braintree – Bridge Replacement, H-08-003=N-07-002
 - Move project from FFY 2025 to FFY 2024 with new Total Project Cost of \$3,659,382.

- Funding source will also change from STBG-BR-OFF to BROFF
- Project #608640, Sutton & Grafton – Bridge Reconstruction/Rehabilitation, S-33-004
 - Decrease project cost from \$12,380,610 to \$9,636,255.

Shelby Marshall asked about the difference between the “STBG-BR-OFF” and “BROFF” acronym. Derek Krevat explained the difference between the two bridge funding sources. Shelby also asked why the Uxbridge project increased. Mr. Krasnecky said the cost increased due to the latest average costs of bid prices, utility costs, and updated police detail costs.

Shelby Marshall made a motion and was seconded by Jesse Limanek to release the Proposed Amendment #7 for 21-Day Public Review and Comment Period. All members voted unanimously to release Proposed Amendment #7 for 21-Day Public Review and Comment Period.

Derek Krevat – Yes

Betsy Goodrich – Yes

Ann Sullivan – Yes

Shelby Marshall – Yes

Joshua Rickman – Yes

Jesse Limanek – Yes

Janet Pierce – Yes

Rich Eichacker – Yes

- **Potential Action:** Release Draft FFY 2025 to FFY 2029 TIP for 21-Day Public Review and Comment Period

Kevin Krasnecky presented this agenda item. Mr. Krasnecky briefly reviewed each of the highway and transit projects included in the draft project listings. Mr. Krasnecky also noted a summary document and technical appendix was also produced by staff and all draft TIP documents are on the CMRPC website. Staff asked members to vote to release the Draft FFY 2025 to 2029 TIP for 21-Day Public Review and Comment Period.

There were no comments or questions.

Jesse Limanek made a motion and was seconded by Josh Rickman to release the Draft FFY 2025 to FFY 2029 TIP for 21-Day Public Review and Comment Period. All members voted unanimously to release the Draft FFY 2025 to FFY 2029 TIP for 21-Day Public Review and Comment Period.

Derek Krevat – Yes

Betsy Goodrich – Yes

Ann Sullivan – Yes

Shelby Marshall – Yes

Joshua Rickman – Yes

Jesse Limanek – Yes

Janet Pierce – Yes

Rich Eichacker – Yes

- **Potential Action:** Endorsement of the FFY 2025 to FFY 2029 TIP Self-Certification of the CMMPO Transportation Planning Process

Kevin Krasnecky presented this agenda item. Mr. Krasnecky said that that each year the CMMPO must certify that its conduct of the planning process complies with all applicable requirements and that it includes activities to support the development and implementation of the LRTP and Air Quality Conformity Determination, the TIP and Air Quality Conformity Determination, and the UPWP. Mr. Krasnecky briefly reviewed the listed requirements.

There were no comments or questions.

Shelby Marshall made a motion and was seconded Janet Pierce to endorse the FFY 2025 to FFY 2029 TIP Self-Certification of the CMMPO Transportation Planning Process. All members voted unanimously to endorse the FFY 2025 to FFY 2029 TIP Self-Certification of the CMMPO Transportation Planning Process.

Derek Krevat – Yes

Betsy Goodrich – Yes

Ann Sullivan – Yes

Shelby Marshall – Yes

Joshua Rickman – Yes

Jesse Limanek – Yes

Janet Pierce – Yes

Rich Eichacker – Yes

- **Potential Action:** Endorsement of the FFY 2025 to FFY 2029 TIP Certification of the CMMPO Greenhouse Gases (GHG) Requirements

Kevin Krasnecky presented this agenda item. Mr. Krasnecky explained that each year the CMMPO must certify that the TIP and Air Quality Conformity Determination for the CMMPO LRTP is in compliance with all applicable requirements in State Regulation 310 CMR 60.05: Global Warming Solutions Act Requirements for Transportation. Mr. Krasnecky briefly reviewed those regulation requirements.

There were no comments or questions.

Ann Sullivan made a motion and was seconded by Jesse Limanek to endorse the FFY 2025 to FFY 2029 TIP Certification of the CMMPO GHG Requirements. All members voted unanimously to endorse the FFY 2025 to FFY 2029 TIP CMMPO GHG Requirements.

Derek Krevat – Yes

Betsy Goodrich – Yes

Ann Sullivan – Yes

Shelby Marshall – Yes

Joshua Rickman – Yes

Jesse Limanek – Yes

Janet Pierce – Yes

Rich Eichacker – Yes

Agenda Item #5 – MassDOT Beyond Mobility Update

Derek Krevat (MassDOT) presented this agenda item on MassDOT’s Beyond Mobility plan. Beyond Mobility is an update to the previous MassDOT Statewide Long Range Transportation Plan (SLRTP). It aims to think beyond traditional transportation planning and center people and transportation outcomes at the heart of the planning framework. The plan is currently out for public comment until May 31, 2024.

Initial development of the plan has included extensive public and internal outreach, data analyses, and analyses of prior plans to define a vision for transportation in 2050, the values MassDOT should maintain in the approach, and the key challenges that characterize the states transportation network.

Top responses from public engagement included:

- Car-free connectivity
- Ability to reach destinations more easily
- Bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure

- Transit investment
- Improved bike/ped connections to transit stations
- Wayfinding near transit stations
- More frequent bus and commuter rail service and more passenger rail options

The Beyond Mobility plan emphasizes six priority areas: Safety, Reliability, Supporting Clean Transportation, Destination Connectivity, Resiliency, and Travel Experience. Mr. Krevat briefly reviewed each priority area by providing a highlighted problem and a highlighted action for each priority area.

There were no comments or questions.

Agenda Item #6 – MassDOT Capital Investment Plan (CIP) Presentation

Michelle Scott (MassDOT) presented this agenda item on the development process and State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) coordination of the MassDOT Capital Investment Plan (CIP). The CIP is a five-year plan that funds planning, construction, and maintenance of the transportation system. It includes investments in roads and bridges, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, state-funded transit items, state rail networks, public use airports, MassDOT-wide enterprise services, and the Registry of Motor Vehicles. CIP funding sources consist of federal, state, MassDOT, and other sources. The CIP includes highway and transit projects reflected in the STIP and other investments selected through internal MassDOT and external processes.

MassDOT is currently developing the FY 2025 to FY 2029 CIP, focusing its investments on the areas of Safety, Climate Stewardship, Asset Management, and Partnerships with Municipalities. On May 15, 2024, MassDOT will be requesting the Board to release the CIP for public review and comment. On June 18, 2024, MassDOT will be requesting the Board to vote to approve the final CIP. Ms. Scott briefly reviewed spending data for each investment area mentioned above. Ms. Scott also provided a list of proposed highlights for Central Massachusetts from the FY 2025 to FY 2029 CIP.

There were no comments or questions.

Agenda Item #7 – Staff Updates

- Federal Grants

Yahaira Graxirena updated the group on several federal grants. Ms. Graxirena announced that staff were not awarded the Reconnecting Communities & Regional Thriving Communities Grants and other funding options are being explored. Ms. Graxirena also announced that the Active Transportation Improvement Grant Program is open until June 17.

- Bike Month Activities

Ms. Graxirena announced that staff are working with stakeholders in the region to host events on May 15th and May 18th for the Worcester E-Bike Program.

Agenda Item #8– New Business

Sujatha Krishnan welcomed new CMRPC staff employee, Jeff Howland, to the CMMPO group, and commented on the ways his role will be able to assist towns through various project requirements.

Agenda Item #9 – Next Meetings

- CMMPO Advisory Committee meeting (virtual) – April 24, 2024, at 3:00PM
- CMMPO meeting (virtual) – May 15, 2024, at 4:00PM

Agenda Item #10 – Adjournment

Shelby Marshall made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Jesse Limanek. The meeting concluded at 5:15 PM.

Meeting Minutes prepared by: Zack Blais, Transportation Associate Planner