



CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

The minutes of the Central Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (CMMPO) meeting held **Wednesday, October 16th, 2024**. This meeting was held virtually using Zoom Webinar.

- **CMMPO Members Present:**

1. Steve Woelfel – 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. Michelle Conlin – Shrewsbury, Northeast Subregion Representative
7. John Daniel – Southbridge, Southwest Subregion Representative
8. Jared Grigg – Warren, West Subregion Representative

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

1. Derek Shooster, MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning
2. Kirstie Hostetter, Federal Transit Authority (FTA)

- **Guests:**

1. Sarah Bradbury, MassDOT District #3
2. Bill Filsinger, Boylston, Northeast Subregion Alternate
3. Brad Kadelski, Brookfield, West Subregion Alternate
4. Florence Persons (MassDOT)
5. Charlotte Mays (MassDOT)

- **CMRPC Staff**

1. Sujatha Krishnan, Deputy Director – Transportation
2. Kevin Krasnecky, Project Manager – Transportation
3. Rich Rydant, Director of MPO Activities – Transportation
4. Zack Blais, Principal Planner – Transportation
5. Rob Raymond, Manager – Transportation

6. Jeff Howland, Senior Transportation and Planning Engineer – Transportation
7. Yahaira Graxirena, Project Manager – Transportation
8. Adam Wriggins, Assistant Planner – 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 September 18, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the September 18, 2024, meeting of the CMMPO were considered for approval. Bob Hassinger motioned to accept the minutes and was seconded by Jared Grigg. A roll call vote was announced, and members voted to approve the minutes.

Steve Woelfel – Yes	Michelle Conlin – Abstain
Ann Sullivan – Yes	John Daniel – Yes
Joshua Rickman – Yes	Betsy Goodrich - Yes
Bob Hassinger – Yes	Jared Grigg – Abstain

Agenda Item #3 – Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

Agenda Item #4 – CMMPO Northeast and West Subregion Representative Election Results

Kevin Krasnecky from CMRPC presented this item. Elections for the Northeast and West subregions of the CMMPO were held to choose a Representative and Alternate. The Northeast subregion election was held on September 19th and the West subregion election was held on September 25th. The Northeast subregion election voted for Michelle Conlin, from Shrewsbury, to become the subregion’s new Representative and Bill Filsinger, from Boylston, to become the subregion’s new Alternate. The West subregion voted for Jared Grigg, from Spencer, to become the subregion’s new Representative and Brad Kadelski, from Brookfield, to become the subregion's new Alternate.

There were no comments or questions following the announcement.

Agenda Item #5 – Title VI Program

- **Potential Action:** Approval of Title VI Program

Yahaira Graxirena from CMRPC announced that all of the suggested changes were incorporated into the final document, including the MassDOT comments. Staff are looking for CMMPO to endorse the document. There were no questions or comments.

Betsy Goodrich made a motion and was seconded by Michelle Conlin to approve the Title VI Program. All members voted unanimously to approve the Title VI Program.

Steve Woelfel – Yes	Michelle Conlin – Yes
Ann Sullivan – Yes	John Daniel – Yes
Joshua Rickman – Yes	Betsy Goodrich – Yes
Bob Hassinger – Yes	Jared Grigg – Yes

Agenda Item #6 – Functional Classification Update Presentation

Charlotte Mays from MassDOT provided a quick overview of Road Functional Classification and Rob Raymond from CMRPC provided a presentation on the CMMPO region.

Road Functional Classification was defined as the classification of all roads into different categories (e.g. Interstate, Collector, Principal, Arterial). A “Decision Tree” was presented to display how these classifications were broken down. Important to the functional classification roadways are federal-aid eligible roads, which are roadways that are classified as Urban Collector/Rural Major Collector, or higher. Federal-aid roads are eligible for federal transportation dollars to be spent on them. Federal-aid roads also tie into MPO planning documents in many ways, including data collection, reporting, and analysis, as well as the formation of the TIP.

Mr. Raymond explained the timeline for updating the Road Functional Classification. It follows the 2020 census update, the development of the updated census urban areas, the development of the adjusted urban areas.

Updates to criteria for Census Urban Areas in the 2020 update include:

- Based on a minimum threshold of 2,000 housing units or 5,000 people
- Urban areas are no longer distinguished as either an “urbanized area” or an “urban cluster”
- Maximum hop distance 0.5 miles, maximum jump distance 1.5 miles. Intervening low-density jump corridor blocks not included in urban area.

In these updates, the adjusted urban areas should consider transportation terminals and transit routes, follow municipal limits or physical features, be simple without irregularities, and not split roadways.

MassDOT included three roadway classifications in the CMMPO region. These included:

- Berlin
 - Randal Road from West Street to Lancaster Road
 - Lancaster Road from Randal Road to Bolton Town Line
 - Change from Minor Collector to Major Collector
- Rutland
 - Pommogussett Road from Moulton Mill Road to Sassawanna Road
 - Major Collector to Minor Arterial

In addition, CMRPC staff are making several recommendations. These include:

- Worcester
 - Stores Street and New Bond Street (Local to Minor Arterial)
 - Connectivity between Route 12 and I-190
 - Gold Star Boulevard (Minor Arterial to Principal Arterial)
 - Maintain some classification as West Boylston Street
 - Mulberry Street (Local to Collector)
 - Provides connection between Shrewsbury Street and I-290 ramps

- Hospital Drive (Local to Collector)
 - Major biotech developments underway
- Berlin
 - Highland Street (Minor Collector to Major Collector)
 - Continue as a Major Collector through the urban area
- Charlton
 - Partridge Hill Road (Minor Collector to Major Collector)
- Uxbridge
 - Route 98 (Minor Collector to Major Collector)
 - State numbered route currently with limited federal-aid eligibility
- Upton
 - East Street (Local to Major Collector)
 - Small missing connection to Hopkinton
- Hardwick
 - Greenwich Road (Minor Collector to Local)

Next steps for these updates include that staff have until November 12th to provide comments to MassDOT, staff will be contacting communities for feedback to provide to MassDOT, MassDOT will complete a final review of proposed changes, and the updates will finally be reflected in the updated Road Inventory File (RIF).

Jared Grigg asked if changing the road in Hardwick would make it ineligible for federal-aid funding and if staff reached out to the town to make sure they are okay with it. Mr. Raymond responded yes, it would not be eligible for federal-aid funding anymore and staff will be reaching out to all communities for their comments and informing them of staff's suggested changes.

Agenda Item #7 – Upcoming Request for Proposals (RFP)

- Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)

First, Rob Raymond presented the upcoming RFP for the Safe Streets and Roads for All grant. CMRPC was recently awarded a FY 2023 Planning and Demonstration Grant for \$480,000 to develop a Regional Vision Zero Action Plan for the CMMPO Region. Also In grant, there will be a demonstration project in Worcester. CMRPC is currently completing the grant agreement with FHWA and is developing an RFP for a consultant to assist with the development of the regional plan.

The grant work will include existing conditions analysis, public engagement, safety needs assessment, policy and process recommendations, an equity analysis, prioritization of strategies and projects, and performance measures.

As for the timeline, the final grant agreement is expected to be signed in November; the RFP and consultant being selected in January 2025; the establishment of a Regional Safety Action Task Force in February 2025; the development of the High Injury Network in May 2025; a Needs Assessment in August

2025; a draft plan in December 2025; and a Final Vision Zero Action Plan in January 2026. Regular status updates will be provided to the CMMPO and Advisory Committee.

There were no questions.

- Access to Regional Housing and Transportation Plan

Sujatha Krishnan presented this agenda item. The State Housing Plan will help assess housing needs, develop strategies to solve housing challenges, inform data-driven decisions, and guide local, regional, and statewide action. The plan will include an overview of the state housing landscape, future housing needs, priority areas and strategies, and the implementation of the plan (e.g. strategies, funding, responsible parties).

Major components of CMRPC's regional plan will include recommendations from the state's housing plan, limitations and local challenges, transportation access to existing and future housing, and community engagement.

Deliverables for the regional plan will include an existing housing and transportation inventory, a gap analysis of current housing and transportation access, local and regional recommendations for future housing demand, housing strategies and actionable items, and transportation access strategies.

Timeline includes RFP and consultant selection in January 2025; bi-monthly deliverables; community engagement in summer 2025; a Draft Plan in winter 2025; and a Final Plan in spring 2026.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item #8 – Staff Updates

Ms. Krishnan announced the award of a One-Stop Grant for \$125K of the Vernon Street Planning Study. Next, Ms. Krishnan mentioned the Moving Together and Mass Trails conference happening in October. Mr. Blais announced that staff were successful in working with the Town of Warren on applying for a DER culvert replacement grant.

Agenda Item #9 – New Business

There was no new business announced.

Agenda Item #10 – Next Meetings

- CMMPO Advisory Committee meeting (virtual) – Wednesday, October 30, 2024, at 3:00 PM
- CMMPO meeting (virtual) – Wednesday, November 20, 2024, at 4:00 PM

Agenda Item #11 – Adjournment

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

Meeting Minutes prepared by: Zack Blais, Transportation Principal Planner