



## **CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

The minutes of the Central Massachusetts Transportation Planning Committee In-Person/Virtual meeting held Thursday, March 27, 2025, using Zoom.

### **T-Committee Members Present:**

1. Bob Hassinger, Grafton, Committee Chairperson
2. Brian Pigeon, Worcester
3. Rick Baker, Boylston
4. Otto Lies, Holden
5. Matt Stencel, Sutton

### **CMRPC Staff Present:**

1. Kevin Krasnecky
2. Rich Rydant

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### Around-the-Room Introductions

Committee Chairperson Bob Hassinger opened the meeting at 6:00 PM and asked for around the room introductions.

### Approval of February 27, 2025, T-Committee Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the February 27, 2025, meeting were considered for approval. Brian Pigeon motioned to accept the minutes and was seconded by Rick Baker. All Members voted to approve the minutes.

### Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no public comments.

### Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- **Action Item:** Seeking a recommendation concerning CMMPO endorsement of the Proposed Amendment #5 to the 2025-2029 TIP Highway Project Listing.

Kevin Krasnecky presented the Proposed Amendment #5. For the Highway Project Listing, there were four proposed changes for Amendment #5. They include:

- Remove **Project 608961 – Worcester – Intersection Improvements on Chandler Street and May Street** from FFY 2025. This project will be programmed in FFY 2026 of the Draft 2026-2030 TIP.
- Cost increase of **Project 608778 – Southbridge – Intersection Improvements at Central Street, Foster Street, Hook Street and Hamilton Street**. The project cost is increasing \$914,202 and will be added to the STBG funding source. The new total project cost is now \$8,193,645.
  - Cost increases due to off-site hazardous material added due to inability for hazardous material to be utilized on-site, and unanticipated utility agreement costs.
- Remove **Project 610769 – Sutton – Superstructure Replacement, S-33-002, Manchaug Road over Mumford River**. This project will be programmed in FFY 2026 of the Draft 2026-2030 TIP.
- Remove **Project 612195 – Worcester – Superstructure Replacement, W-44-091, I-290 over East Central Street**. This project will be programmed in FFY 2026 of the Draft 2026-2030 TIP.

Bob Hassinger asked how the changes affect the current funding. Mr. Krasnecky said that since the Worcester Chandler Street & May Street project was removed from 2025 the extra funds would be used to cover the cost increase of the Southbridge project. After the changes, there is now \$5.8 Million of target funds available. Rick Baker commented that he thought the Chandler Street project was split over two years. Mr. Krasnecky said that was the other

Chandler Street project between Main Street and Park Avenue. The Chandler Street project in the amendment is the project by Worcester State University.

**On a motion from Otto Lies and a second from Matt Stencel, the members unanimously voted to recommend to the CMMPO endorsement of Proposed Amendment #5 to the 2025-2029 TIP Highway Project Listing.**

- **Action Item:** Seeking recommendation to the CMMPO concerning Draft Options for the 2026-2030 TIP Highway target projects.

Kevin Krasnecky presented this agenda item. Mr. Krasnecky said the 2026-2030 TIP Workshop was held during the March CMMPO meeting. At the Workshop, staff provided four programming scenarios to the CMMPO members for the regional target projects. Option D was the staff's preferred option to use for the draft 2026-2030 TIP Highway Project listing. The four options were summarized for the T-Committee members and Option D (staff's preferred option) includes the following:

#### FFY 2026

- #610535 – Worcester: Pleasant Street Bicycle & Pedestrian Improvements, \$6.009 Million
- #608456 – Upton: Route 140 Culvert Replacement, \$2.554 Million
- #608961 – Worcester: Chandler Street & May Street Intersection Improvements, \$8.475 Million
- Micro-Project – Millbury: Elm Street & Main Street Transit Access Improvements, \$6,150
- Micro-Project – Westborough: Purchase of Bike Racks, \$8,207
- CMMPO TIP Design Funding Placeholder, \$1 Million

#### FFY 2027

- #610931 – Uxbridge: Route 16 Rehabilitation, \$15.358 Million
- #609441 – Northbridge: Route 122/Sutton St/School St/Upton St Intersection Improvements, \$4.886 Million
- #611933 – Sturbridge: Route 20 & Route 131 Roundabout, \$8.067 Million
- Micro-Projects Program Placeholder, \$400,000
- CMMPO TIP Design Funding Placeholder, \$1 Million

#### FFY 2028

- #613097 – Spencer: Route 9 & Route 49 Intersection Improvements, \$13.294 Million
- #613655 – Rutland: Route 122 & Pleasantdale Road Intersection Improvements, \$3.255 Million
- #611988 – Oxford: Route 12 Rehabilitation, \$5.500 Million

- #608990 – Worcester: Chandler Street Resurfacing & Intersection Improvements, \$9.952 Million
- Micro-Projects Program Placeholder, \$75,000

#### FFY 2029

- #611988 – Oxford: Route 12 Rehabilitation, \$17.053 Million
- #608990 – Worcester: Chandler Street Resurfacing & Intersection Improvements, \$13.294 Million
- Micro-Projects Program Placeholder, \$400,000
- CMMPO TIP Design Funding Placeholder, \$500,000

#### FFY 2030

- #612779 – West Brookfield: Route 9 Improvements (Phase III), \$13.231 Million
- #613242 – Westborough: Route 30 Improvements, \$10.237 Million
- #613648 – Worcester: Lake Avenue & Bigelow Davis Parkway Intersection Improvements, \$7.786 Million
- Micro-Projects Program Placeholder, \$400,000
- CMMPO TIP Design Funding Placeholder, \$500,000

Brian Pigeon asked why Option D was staff's preferred option. Mr. Krasnecky said staff felt more comfortable with the Chandler Street project in 2027. Also, the Northbridge and Uxbridge projects were further along in design so they were selected for 2027 over the Chandler Street project.

**On a motion from Matt Stencel and a second from Otto Lies, the members unanimously voted to recommend Option D to the CMMPO for the development of the draft 2026-2030 TIP Highway Project Listing.**

#### ➤ Review of 2026-2030 TIP Statewide Highway Project Listing

Kevin Krasnecky presented this agenda item. Mr. Krasnecky summarized the current draft listing of the 2026-2030 statewide highway projects.

There were no comments or questions.

#### ➤ Review of 2026-2030 TIP Transit Project Listing

Kevin Krasnecky presented this agenda item. Mr. Krasnecky summarized the current draft 2026-2030 TIP transit projects.

Bob Hassinger asked about the Hybrid buses. Mr. Krasnecky said that they run on both electric and diesel.

#### **FFY 2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

Rich Rydant presented this agenda item. Mr. Rydant first discussed the budget for the proposed FFY 2026 UPWP and compared it to current FFY 2025. Mr. Rydant noted decreases in Title VI & Public Participation, Performance Management, and WRTA Technical Assistance. Some of the elements that increased were Management & Support and the Long-Range Transportation Plan. Overall, there was about a 2% increase in funding. Next, Mr. Rydant provided a summary of the different tasks that staff anticipates working on during FFY 2026. There were no comments or questions.

### **Staff Updates**

Rich Rydant provided the following updates:

- Vernon Street/I-290 Study: A pre-meeting was held and later seven consultant teams submitted proposals. A committee was formed to review the proposals and to interview the consultants. Then, five of the consultants were invited for interviews by the committee. Staff are currently under negotiations with the selected consultant. This consultant will be announced once a contract is finalized.
- Environmental Consultation: The meeting will be held virtually on Thursday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10am. Staff will be presenting on the environmental work that is done for the LRTP, TIP, and UPWP. MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning will also present on their Resilience Improvement Plan (RIP).
- Safe Streets for All (SS4A): Staff is currently finalizing the contract with MassDOT. Also, FHWA is currently reviewing the Request For Proposals (RFP).
- Housing: The RFP was recently released and a preproposal meeting for interested consulting teams is scheduled for Friday, March 28<sup>th</sup>. The deadline to submit proposals is mid-April.
- Status of Remote Meetings: The governor is poised to extend the option of remote meeting participation until June 2027.

### **New Business**

There was no new business.

### **Next Meetings**

- CMMPO Meeting – Wednesday, April 16, 2025, at 4:00 PM.
- CMMPO Advisory Committee Meeting – Wednesday, April 23, 2025, at 3:00 PM.
- CMTPC Meeting – Thursday, April 24, 2025, at 6:00 PM.

### **Adjournment**

Upon a motion by Rick Baker and a second from Matt Stencel, the members unanimously voted to adjourn at 6:55 PM.