



## **CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

The minutes of the Central Massachusetts Transportation Planning Committee In-Person/Virtual meeting held Thursday, April 24, 2025, using Zoom.

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

1. Bob Hassinger, Grafton, Committee Chairperson
2. Brian Pigeon, Worcester
3. Matt Stencel, Sutton

### **CMRPC Staff Present:**

1. Kevin Krasnecky
2. Rich Rydant
3. Jordan Hollinger

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### **Around-the-Room Introductions**

Committee Chairperson Bob Hassinger opened the meeting at 6:02 PM and asked for around the room introductions.

### **Approval of March 27, 2025, T-Committee Meeting Minutes**

Minutes from March 27, 2025, meeting were considered for approval. Matt Stencel motioned to accept the minutes and was seconded by Bob Hassinger. All Members voted to approve the minutes.

### **Opportunity for Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

### **Regional Housing Transportation Plan Update**

Jordan Hollinger presented this agenda item. Housing, Economic, and Transportation integration was a new task included as part of the FFY 2025 UPWP and it included developing a regional housing and transportation study. The purpose of the study is to identify projects and strategies that will promote consistency between transportation improvements and State and local housing patterns. Transportation and housing are often the two most costly items in a household budget and like the rest of the state, our region has seen rising housing and transportation costs.

A Request for Proposals (RFP) was published on March 19, 2025. There was a pre-submittal meeting on March 28, 2025, and the proposals were due on April 18, 2025. The Selection Committee will review the proposals between April 18<sup>th</sup> and April 28<sup>th</sup> and interviews will then be held. The maximum amount for this study is \$200,000 and must be spent by September 30, 2026.

For the scope of work there are four tasks that are expected to be completed. The tasks are:

1. Existing Conditions Analysis: Under this task a housing assessment will be completed for Central Massachusetts. Also, an evaluation of the region's transportation network and how it impacts access to housing will be done as well as how housing and transportation costs impact affordability, mobility, and economic opportunity. Lastly, key infrastructure will be identified as barriers or opportunities to new housing development.
2. Stakeholder Engagement: Regional stakeholders will be identified and meetings will be held to review findings from task 1. Engagement methods and activities will be developed, and a summary of the received input will be completed.
3. Suitability Analysis: A defensible framework for evaluating housing suitability will be established, areas best suited for different types of housing development will be identified, and there will be interpretation and application of findings.

4. Final Report & Toolkit: Regional housing and transportation strategies will be developed. A housing and transportation toolkit will also be completed as well as a final report that includes the findings from all the previous tasks.

There were no comments or questions.

#### **Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

- **Action Item:** Seeking a recommendation concerning CMMPO endorsement of the Proposed Amendment #6 to the 2025-2029 TIP Highway Project Listing.

Kevin Krasnecky presented the Proposed Amendment #6. For the Highway Project Listing, there was one proposed change for Amendment #6. It includes:

- Cost increase of **Project 613208 – Worcester – Bridge Preservation of 11 Structures on I-190 and Ramps** in the amount of \$8,268,663. The new total project cost is now \$15,768,663.

There were no comments or questions.

**On a motion from Brian Pigeon and a second from Matt Stencel, the members unanimously voted to recommend CMMPO endorsement of Proposed Amendment #6 to the 2025-2029 TIP Highway Project Listing.**

- **Action Item:** Seeking recommendation to the CMMPO concerning endorsement of the Draft 2026-2030 TIP.

Kevin Krasnecky presented this agenda item. Mr. Krasnecky reviewed the projects from both the draft highway and transit 2026-2030 project listings. In addition, staff also compiled a TIP draft document and technical appendix that includes other pertinent information for the TIP and all draft documents are posted on the CMRPC website.

There were no comments or questions.

**On a motion from Matt Stencel and a second from Brian Pigeon, the members unanimously voted to recommend CMMPO endorsement of the Draft 2026-2030 TIP.**

#### **FFY 2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

- **Action Item:** Seeking a recommendation concerning CMMPO endorsement of the Proposed Amendment #2 to the FFY 2025 UPWP.

Rich Rydant presented this agenda item. Mr. Rydant said that Amendment #2 included the following changes:

- Reduce budget for Element 2.5 Regional Housing and Transportation Plan. The new budget for this element in FFY 2025 UPWP is \$100,000. The remainder amount of \$150,000 will be moved to FFY 2026 UPWP.

There were no comments or questions.

**On a motion from Brian Pigeon and a second from Matt Stencel, the members unanimously voted to recommend CMMPO endorsement of Proposed Amendment #2 to the FFY 2025 UPWP.**

### **Staff Updates**

Rich Rydant provided the following updates:

- Vernon Street/I-290 Study: A consultant has been selected, and negotiations are still ongoing. The consultant is currently creating the scope of the study. An Advisory Group is also being assembled, including residents from the nearby neighborhood. Bob Hassinger asked who was doing the negotiations. Mr. Rydant said the Selection Committee which includes CMRPC, City of Worcester and MassDOT.
- Safe Streets for All (SS4A): Both FHWA and MassDOT have approved the RFP, and the RFP will be released soon.

### **New Business**

There was no new business.

### **Next Meetings**

- CMMPO Meeting – Wednesday, May 21, 2025, at 4:00 PM.
- CMMPO Advisory Committee Meeting – Wednesday, May 28, 2025, at 3:00 PM.
- CMTPC Meeting – Thursday, May 29, 2025, at 6:00 PM.

### **Adjournment**

Upon a motion by Matt Stencel and a second from Brian Pigeon, the members unanimously voted to adjourn at 6:30 PM.