



CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

The minutes of the Central Massachusetts Transportation Planning Committee Virtual meeting held Thursday, December 18, 2025, using Zoom.

T-Committee Members Present:

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

CMRPC Staff Present:

1. Kevin Krasnecky
2. Rich Rydant

The CMRPC fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. The CMRPC does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, English proficiency, income, religious creed, ancestry, disability, age, gender, sexual orientation, military service, or gender identity or expression. Any person who believes himself/herself or any specific class of persons have been subjected to discrimination prohibited by Title VI or related statutes or regulations may, himself/herself or via a representative, file a complaint with the CMRPC. A complaint must be filed no later than 180 calendar days after the date on which the person believes the discrimination occurred.

Around-the-Room Introductions

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

Approval of October 30, 2025, T-Committee Meeting Minutes

Minutes from October 30, 2025 meeting were considered for approval. Brian Pigeon motioned to accept the minutes and was seconded by Matt Stencel. All members voted to approve the minutes.

Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- **Action Item:** Seeking recommendation to the CMMPO concerning endorsement of the Proposed Amendment #2 to the 2026-2030 TIP Highway Project Listing.

Kevin Krasnecky presented this agenda item. Amendment #2 has several changes to the TIP highway project listing. These changes include:

- **610535 – Worcester – Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements on Pleasant Street:** In FFY 2026, STBG target funding will be reduced by \$3,466,213 and earmark funding (HPP) will be added under Section 1B (Earmark or Discretionary Grant Funded Projects) in the amount of \$1,615,550. The updated total project cost is now \$4,158,179.
- **S13376 – Southbridge – Hamilton Street Reconstruction Project (FY 2024 BUILD Grant) – Design Only:** This Discretionary Grant will be added to FFY 2026 with earmark funding (HPP) in the amount of \$1,120,384 under Section 1B (Earmark or Discretionary Grant Funded Projects).
- **608862 – Southbridge – Bridge Replacement, S-21-009, Mill Street over McKinstry Brook and S-21-003, Mill Street over the Quinebaug River:** In FFY 2026, a cost increase of \$1,239,170 will be added to this project and the updated total project cost is \$11,232,073.
- **612195 – Worcester – Superstructure Replacement, W-44-0091, I-290 over East Central Street:** Currently programmed in FFY 2026 & 2027. Funding in 2027 is being removed and additional funding will be added to 2026. The funding source for this project is now NHPP (\$12,696,662) & NHPP-PEN (\$23,041,525). The updated total project cost is now \$35,738,187, which is an increase of \$4,808,426.
- **612092 – Uxbridge – Bridge Replacement, U-02-051, Homeward Avenue over Providence Railroad:** This project will be added to FFY 2027 in Section 2A (Federal Aid

Funded State Prioritized Reliability Projects) and funded with STBG-BR-OFF in the amount of \$3,741,988.

- **612191 – Auburn – Bridge Replacement, A-17-003, Oxford Street over Kettle Brook:** This project is being moved from FFY 2027 to FFY 2029 with an updated total project cost of \$19,577,600.
- **613367 – Westborough – Fisher Street Improvements (SRTS):** This project is being moved from FFY 2028 to FFY 2029 with an updated total project cost of \$3,278,903.

There were no comments or questions.

On a motion from Matt Stencel and a second from Rick Baker, the members unanimously voted to recommend endorsement to the CMMPO of Proposed Amendment #2 to the 2026-2030 TIP Highway Project Listing.

➤ Potential FFY 2031 TIP Candidate Projects

Kevin Krasnecky presented this agenda item. Mr. Krasnecky discussed the four potential TIP project candidates for regional target funding in FFY 2031. These projects did not get funded last year so they will try again this year. MassDOT is the proponent of all four projects and they include:

- 613875 – Auburn/Worcester – Improvements on Route 20 (Washington Street), from 1,000 FT east of Commerce Drive to the Auburn/Worcester TL.
- 613873 – Sturbridge – Improvements on Route 20 (Charlton Road), from 1,000 FT east of Hall Road to east of the I-84 Ramps.
- 613261 – Worcester – Lincoln Street Transit Infrastructure Improvements.
- 613311 – Worcester – Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements on Millbury Street.

These projects will be presented at the January CMMPO meeting. A summary of the projects will be provided to the T-Committee members at their January meeting.

There were no comments or questions.

Critical Rural and Urban Freight Corridors Update

- **Action Item:** Seeking recommendation to the CMMPO concerning endorsement of the new Proposed Critical Rural and Urban Freight Corridors.

Rich Rydant presented this agenda item. Mr. Rydant provided a brief history of the freight corridors. Next, Mr. Rydant summarized the current rural and urban freight corridors. These identified corridors are often situated around the various intermodal facilities in the CMMPO region, specifically in the communities of Barre, Spencer, Westborough, and Worcester.

Staff were provided additional miles to add to the rural and urban freight corridors network in the CMMPO region. The new proposed rural freight corridors include:

- Route 122, from Route 122A in Rutland to Brooks Road in Paxton
- Route 32A in Hardwick, from Petersham TL to Mechanic Street
- Route 32, from just east of Upper Church Street in Hardwick to Route 67 in Barre
- Route 68 in Rutland, from Hubbardston TL to Wachusett Street

The new proposed urban freight corridors include:

- Southbridge Street in Worcester, from Cambridge Street to just south of Glade Street
- Route 49 in Spencer, from Route 9 to the CSX railroad bridge
- Route 49 in Sturbridge, from US Route 20 to the I-90 (MassPike) bridge
- Route 122, from Brooks Road in Paxton to Chandler Street in Worcester

There were no comments or questions.

On a motion from Matt Stencel and a second from Otto Lies, the members unanimously voted to recommend endorsement to the CMMPO of the Proposed New Rural and Urban Critical Freight Corridors in the CMMPO region.

Vernon Connected Transportation Study Update Presentation

Rich Rydant presented this agenda item. The project is being led by the CMRPC, CMMPO, and the City of Worcester, with Stantec as the primary consultant. For this project a Steering Committee and Advisory Committee have been established. The project is critically important because the existing bridge must be replaced. The existing bridge and surroundings are unable to serve the immediate area's need for safe and connected mobility for all travel modes. Well planned future improvements could thoughtfully repair impacts and unify the community previously divided as a result of the I-290 construction.

The goals of the project are:

- Support the community across social, cultural, economic, and racial lines.
- Establish the corridor as a modern model of sustainable, innovative, and environmentally responsible urban design.
- Better connections for people walking, biking, driving, and taking transit.
- Expand safe transportation options for access to jobs, services, and other daily activities.
- Drive inclusive economic opportunity and local business growth.
- Increase community pride and improve perceptions about Worcester.

During the community and stakeholder engagement, there have been eight (8) community pop-ups, over 250 survey responses, one (1) public workshop, five (5) Steering Committee meetings,

numerous targeted discussions, and three (3) Advisory Committee meetings. Some of the top takeaways were:

- Most visitors to the area use a car
- Key destinations are much denser of the west side of I-290
- High number of severe vehicle crashes on Vernon Street
- Traffic is experiencing a slight volume increase in recent years
- Vernon Street bridge sees the highest demand compared to other places to cross I-290
- Biking, walking, or using transit are often not safe, convenient, or comfortable
- No Vernon Street bridge amenities beyond its basis function
- Few public places to meet and connect
- Culturally diverse neighborhoods
- The community enjoys social activities and wants to congregate

Next, a range of potential solutions were discussed. The solutions were based on six categories. They were Transportation, Programming, Connections, Active Space, Green Space, and Buildings. The community was most interested in trees, playgrounds, public art, public restrooms, bike lanes, and a pedestrian bridge.

Some of the Vernon Connected study's next steps are to finalize the public survey, broaden the message of the project through new formats, focus groups and key stakeholder discussions, and to begin ideating how potential solutions may look in context.

There were no comments or questions.

Staff Updates

Kevin Krasnecky provided the following updates:

- Housing and Transportation Study: The six planned subregional meetings have all been completed and staff received a lot of good feedback and data. Next up is the planned suitability analysis and the development of a map dashboard.
- Safe Streets for All (SS4A): The consultant is currently working on a dashboard to show all the safety data. A Vision Zero Advisory Committee was formed and one meeting has already been held. The committee intends to meet quarterly. Public outreach will include a survey, town meetings, meetings with community organizations, and the use of a data dashboard. Other safety plans and neighboring MPO plans will also be considered when developing the regional plan. Next steps will be to begin public outreach, develop and refine the high injury network, and the analysis of obtained data.

New Business

There was no new business.

Next Meetings

- CMMPO Meeting – Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at 4:00 PM.
- CMMPO Advisory Committee Meeting – Wednesday, January 7, 2026, at 3:00 PM.
- CMTPC Meeting – Thursday, January 29, 2026, at 6:00 PM.

Adjournment

Upon a motion by Matt Stencel and a second from Brian Pigeon, the members unanimously voted to adjourn at 6:53 PM.