



## **CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

The minutes of the Central Massachusetts Transportation Planning Committee Virtual meeting held Thursday, March 26, 2026, 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

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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 26, 2026, T-Committee Meeting Minutes**

Brian Pigeon motioned to accept the minutes from February 26, 2026 meeting and was seconded by Otto Lies. 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 #5 to the 2026-2030 TIP Highway Project Listing.

Kevin Krasnecky presented this agenda item. Amendment #5 has two proposed changes to the TIP highway project listing. These changes include:

- **610825 – Shrewsbury/Northborough – Rehabilitation & Box Widening on Route 20, from Route 9 to South Street** In FFY 2026, \$8,500,000 will be added to target funding and \$359,840 in Earmark funding will be added under Section 1B (Earmark or Discretionary Grant Funded Projects). In FFY 2029, funding will be reduced from \$9,729,166 to \$6,158,947, which is a decrease of \$3,570,219. In FFY 2030, the \$2,929,694 in funding will be removed. The updated Total Project Cost is \$49,235,394.
- **610769 – Sutton – Superstructure Replacement, S-33-002, Manchaug Road over Mumford River:** This project will be removed from FFY 2026 and reprogrammed in FFY 2028 on the new 2027-2031 TIP.

There were no comments or questions.

**On a motion from Matt Stencel and a second from Otto Lies, the members unanimously voted to recommend to the CMMPO the endorsement of the proposed Amendment #5.**

- **Action Item:** Seeking recommendation to the CMMPO concerning Draft Options for the 2027-2031 TIP Highway target projects.

Kevin Krasnecky presented this agenda item. Mr. Krasnecky said the 2027-2031 TIP Workshop was held during the March CMMPO meeting. At the Workshop, staff provided two programming scenarios to the CMMPO members for the regional target projects. Option A was the staff's preferred option to use for the draft 2027-2031 TIP Highway Project listing. The two options were summarized for the T-Committee members and Option A (staff's preferred option) includes the following:

#### FFY 2027

- #610931 – Uxbridge: Route 16 Rehabilitation, \$18.018 Million
- #609441 – Northbridge: Route 122/Sutton St/School St/Upton St Intersection Improvements, \$3.908 Million
- #S13466 – Grafton Micro-Project: Bicycle Education & Outreach, \$7,162

#### FFY 2028

- #611933 – Sturbridge: Route 20 & Route 131 Roundabout, \$18.400 Million
- #611988 – Oxford: Route 12 Rehabilitation, \$11.000 Million
- CMMPO TIP Design Funding Placeholder, \$1 Million
- Micro-Projects Program Placeholder, \$400,000

#### FFY 2029

- #611988 – Oxford: Route 12 Rehabilitation, \$11.522 Million
- #608990 – Worcester: Chandler Street Resurfacing & Intersection Improvements, \$13.000 Million
- Micro-Projects Program Placeholder, \$400,000
- CMMPO TIP Design Funding Placeholder, \$1 Million

#### FFY 2030

- #612779 – West Brookfield: Route 9 Improvements (Phase III), \$8.000 Million
- #608990 – Worcester: Chandler Street Resurfacing & Intersection Improvements, \$13.047 Million
- #613648 – Worcester: Lake Avenue & Bigelow Davis Parkway Intersection Improvements, \$7.517 Million
- Micro-Projects Program Placeholder, \$400,000
- CMMPO TIP Design Funding Placeholder, \$1 Million

#### FFY 2031

- #613242 – Westborough: Route 30 Improvements, \$10.237 Million
- #612779 – West Brookfield: Route 9 Improvements (Phase III), \$12.219 Million
- #613311 – Worcester: Millbury Street Bicycle & Pedestrian Improvements, \$3.854 Million
- Micro-Projects Program Placeholder, \$400,000
- CMMPO TIP Design Funding Placeholder, \$1 Million

Mr. Krasnecky noted that the Spencer Route 9/Route 49 and Rutland Route 122/Pleasantdale Road projects were now being funded through MassDOT's statewide program using freight program funding. Further, Mr. Krasnecky said that the only difference in Option B is that the

Westborough Route 30 project is funded in 2030 and the Worcester Lake Avenue/Bigelow Davis Parkway project is funded in 2031.

Bob Hassinger asked why the TIP Design placeholder was not included in the options for 2027. Mr. Krasnecky noted that there were no new community-led projects that were eligible for the design funding at this time.

**On a motion from Matt Stencil and a second from Brian Pigeon, the members unanimously voted to recommend staff's Option A to the CMMPO for development of the Draft 2027-2031 TIP.**

➤ Review of the 2027-2031 TIP Statewide Highway Project Listing

Kevin Krasnecky presented this agenda item. Mr. Krasnecky summarized the current draft listing of the 2027-2031 statewide highway projects.

Matt Stencil asked what the pavement preservation projects are doing. Mr. Krasnecky said the roadway is likely just to be repaved, but the specifics of these types of projects are not yet known.

➤ Review of the 2027-2031 TIP Transit Project Listing

Kevin Krasnecky presented this agenda item. Mr. Krasnecky summarized the current draft 2027-2031 TIP transit project listing.

There were no comments or questions.

**FFY 2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

➤ Budget & Major Task Listing

Rich Rydant presented this agenda item. Mr. Rydant first provided a summary of the budget for the FFY 2027 UPWP. Mr. Rydant noted a couple of changes to the work elements and the total funding is \$1,686,189. Next, Mr. Rydant summarized the major tasks and work products that staff are expected to complete during FFY 2027.

There were no comments or questions.

➤ FHWA Guidance

Rich Rydant presented this agenda item. CMRPC staff recently met with FHWA to discuss the updated guidance for developing the FFY 2027 UPWP. FHWA suggested a restructuring of the actual UPWP document, so it is more streamlined and easier to review. The new structure is:

- Cover page and planning context
- Overview and compliance snapshot
- Work elements
- Budget section

- Amendment and adjustment procedures
- Appendices

For each work task, FHWA also provided a new format that includes:

- Purpose/Need
- Objectives
- Scope of Work
- Products/Deliverables
- Schedule
- Responsible parties
- Funding sources
- Related to Performance Measures and Planning Factors
- Equity/Title VI & Public Participation considerations

Lastly, a new structure was recommended for all Annual Performance Expenditure Report (APER) submissions. These submissions should now include:

- Cover page and report information
- Executive summary
- Performance compared vs. established goals
- Schedule progress
- Financial performance and expenditure reporting
- Cost overruns and underruns
- Approved work program revisions
- Deliverables and supporting documentation
- Supporting data and option appendices

There were no comments or questions.

### **Staff Updates**

- **Environmental Consultation:** Mr. Krasnecky told the group that the Environmental Consultation meeting will be held virtually on Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00 AM. Topics will include an overview of the environmental consultation process for the TIP, CMRPC's culvert assessment program, EV chargers update, and a presentation on current and future EV work in Massachusetts by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs (EEA).
- **Vernon Connected:** Mr. Rydant said that on Wednesday night there was an open house at the Girls Club in Worcester and there were a range of topics discussed. On April 16<sup>th</sup>, at the Worcester Library, there will be an event about the history of the neighborhood and I-290 roadway and in May, at the Senior Center, there will be another event to learn about and provide commentary on the study.

- **SS4A:** Mr. Rydant said that there is a survey underway. The four subregional meetings have been completed and now staff are meeting individually with each community in the CMRPC region.
- **Housing and Transportation:** Mr. Rydant said that all major meetings have been completed and that the consultant is presently working on a suitability analysis for the planning region.

### **New Business**

There was no new business.

### **Next Meetings**

- CMMPO Meeting – Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at 4:00 PM.
- CMMPO Advisory Committee Meeting – Wednesday, April 22, 2026, at 3:00 PM.
- CMTPC Meeting – Thursday, April 30, 2026, at 6:00 PM.

### **Adjournment**

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