



CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

The minutes of the Central Massachusetts Transportation Planning Committee Virtual meeting held Thursday, June 25, 2026, using Zoom.

T-Committee Members Present:

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

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 May 28, 2026, T-Committee Meeting Minutes

Rick Baker motioned to accept the minutes of May 28, 2026, meeting and was seconded by Brian Pigeon. 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 #9 to the 2026-2030 TIP Highway Project Listing.

Kevin Krasnecky presented this agenda item. Proposed Amendment #9 includes the following changes:

- Cost increase for target **Project #608961 – Worcester – Intersection Improvements on Chandler Street and May Street** in FFY 2026. The cost has increased in the amount of \$1,645,731 for a new Total Project Cost of \$10,121,005. The changes are:
 - Add Carbon Reduction (CRP) funding in the amount of \$4,171,534.
 - STBG funding decreased from \$5,031,709 to \$1,750,053, a total decrease of \$3,281,656.
 - CMAQ funding increased from \$2,000,000 to \$2,040,014, a total increase of \$40,014.
 - HSIP funding increased from \$1,000,000 to \$1,715,835, a total increase of \$715,835
- Move **Project #605323 – Oxford – Bridge Replacement, O-06-030, (ST 56) Leicester Road over the French River** from FFY 2027 to FFY 2026. The updated Total Project Cost is \$4,594,106.

Mr. Krasnecky noted that a virtual public meeting to discuss the proposed Amendment #9 will be held on 7/7/26.

There were no comments or questions.

On a motion from Brian Pigeon and a second from Rick Baker, the members unanimously voted to recommend to the CMMPO the endorsement of Proposed 2026-2030 TIP Amendment #9.

FY 2026 Public Participation Plan (PPP)

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

Kevin Krasnecky presented this agenda item. Mr. Krasnecky said that staff have completed the Draft FY 2026 PPP as summarized in the presentation that was given at last month's meeting. For the Draft PPP there is a 45-day public review and comment period and staff will hold two virtual public meetings on July 21st. The first meeting will be at 12:00 PM and the second meeting will be at 5:00 PM.

There were no comments or questions.

On a motion from Brian Pigeon and a second from Rick Baker, the members unanimously voted to recommend to the CMMPO the endorsement of the Draft FY 2026 PPP.

Vernon Connected Presentation

Rich Rydant presented this item. Mr. Rydant provided an overview of the public engagement activities for the Vernon Connected Study. There were 16 Community Pop-Up/Table Sessions, 250+ survey responses, 3 Public Workshops, 1 Special Public Event with Jeff Speck, many targeted stakeholder discussions, 5 Advisory Committee meetings, and 7 Steering Committee meetings. The Jeff Speck event was on March 19, 2026, and had over 160 attendees. There was a public workshop on March 24, 2026, and it had over 50 attendees. There was also an Oral History Event on April 16, 2026, which was held to share the history of the study area.

When thinking about potential changes in the study corridor and how important it is to include certain features suggested by the public, the top 5 results for each established category were shown. The top choices from each category were:

- Green Space Features: Trees
- Active Space Features: Playgrounds
- Programming Features: Public Art
- Building Features: Public Restroom
- Transportation Features: Multi-Use Path
- Connections Features: Pedestrian Bridge

Next, Mr. Rydant summarized the project's goals and provided an overview of all the project ideas by types, such as Roadway, Pedestrian and Bicycle, Green and Open Space, and Development and Programming. Three scenarios were also shown and discussed. Scenario 1 was for neighborhood connections, Scenario 2 had a nodal focus, and Scenario 3 had a major park focus. A few park examples were shown from other states that have addressed similar situations where major highways have divided previously tight knit neighborhoods.

Lastly, Stantec will analyze a range of metrics for a preferred scenario. There is a final survey out for the public to take before July 6th.

There were no comments or questions.

Staff Updates

- **SS4A:** Mr. Rydant said this project is still ongoing and nearing completion. Staff have received over 1,000 survey responses. The consultant, Beta Group, analyzed the public input and MassDOT crash data and developed a list of high crash locations throughout the planning region. Staff are also reviewing the list of identified high crash locations.
- **Shared Streets and Spaces Grant:** Mr. Rydant said this grant opportunity is open for another two weeks. Jeff Howland, from staff, is assisting a couple of towns in our region.
- **AARP Grant:** Mr. Rydant said staff received an AARP Grant to conduct walk audits, specifically in the Vernon Hill and Green Island areas in Worcester.

New Business

There was no new business.

Next Meetings

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

Adjournment

Upon a motion by Rick Baker and a second from Brian Pigeon, the members unanimously voted to adjourn at 6:52 PM.