



CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

The minutes of the Central Massachusetts Transportation Planning Committee Hybrid meeting held Thursday, March 30, 2023 using Zoom.

T-Committee Members Present:

1. Bob Hassinger, Grafton, Committee Chairperson
2. Rick Baker, Boylston
3. Dick Williams, Rutland
4. Otto Lies, Holden
5. Jeff Howland, New Braintree

CMRPC Staff Present:

1. Rich Rydant
2. Kevin Krasnecky
3. Nahrin Sangkagalo

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Around-the-Room Introductions

Committee Chairperson Bob Hassinger opened the meeting at 6:05 PM and asked for around the room introductions.

Approval of the February 23, 2023 T-Committee Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the February 23, 2023 meeting were considered for approval. Dick Williams motioned to accept the minutes and was seconded by Otto Lies. All members voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no public comments.

2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- **Potential Action Item:** Seeking recommendation to the CMMPO concerning Draft Options for the 2024-2028 TIP Highway target projects.

Kevin Krasnecky presented this agenda item to the members. Mr. Krasnecky noted that the TIP Workshop was held at the March 15th CMMPO meeting to discuss project programming options for the development of the 2024-2028 TIP. Mr. Krasnecky reviewed the project options for each year of the FFY 2024 to 2028 TIP. The three options that were presented to the CMMPO members were discussed with the T-Committee members. Mr. Krasnecky said that there were some cost increases for the early year projects, and the Southbridge project would be pushed back into FFY 2025. Based on the three project options, staff were seeking a recommendation to the CMMPO as to which option to use to develop the Draft 2024-2028 TIP.

After some discussion, the T-Committee agreed with staff's recommended Option A to develop the 2024-2028 TIP Highway Project listing. Option A includes the following projects:

2024

- #606517 – West Brookfield – Route 9 Resurfacing (Phase 1)
- #608171 – Uxbridge – Route 122 (South Main Street) Reconstruction
- #608433 – Webster – Intersection Improvements at I-395/Route 16/Sutton Road
- S12815 – Ware – Purchase of Hybrid Minivan
- S12816 – Southbridge – Public Transportation Multi-Media Communications Campaign

2025

- #602659 – Charlton/Oxford – Route 20 Reconstruction
- #609049 – West Brookfield – Route 9 Resurfacing (Phase 2)
- #608778 – Southbridge – Intersection Improvements at Central St/Foster St/Hook St/Hamilton St

- #608961 – Worcester – Intersection Improvements at Chandler Street & May Street

2026

- #608456 – Upton – Route 140 Culvert Replacement over Unnamed Tributary to Center Brook
- #608890 – Worcester – Chandler Street Intersection Improvements from Main Street to Queen Street
- #611933 – Sturbridge – Route 20 & Route 131 Roundabout Construction
- #609441 – Northbridge – Intersection Improvements at Route 122/School St/Sutton St/Upton St
- S12813 – CMMPO LRTP Micro-Projects Program Reserve Funding

2027

- #610931 – Uxbridge – Route 16 (Douglas Street) Rehabilitation
- #612011 – Worcester – Chandler Street Intersection Improvements from Queen Street to Park Avenue
- #612629 – East Brookfield – Route 9 Resurfacing
- S12812 – CMMPO LRTP Micro-Projects Program Reserve Funding

2028

- #611988 – Oxford – Route 12 (Main Street) Rehabilitation
- #613097 – Spencer – Intersection Improvements at Route 9 & Route 49
- S12811 – CMMPO LRTP Micro-Projects Program Reserve Funding

On a motion from Dick Williams and a second from Jeff Howland, the members unanimously voted to recommend Option A in the development of the Draft 2024-2028 TIP Highway Project Listing.

- Review of Preliminary Statewide Highway Project Listing

Kevin Krasnecky presented this agenda item to the members. Mr. Krasnecky reviewed the numerous statewide roadway, intersection, and bridge projects for all five years. It was noted that the statewide listing is not finalized and could potentially change prior to the release of the Draft 2024-2028 TIP.

Dick Williams asked if the Holden bridge replacement on Salisbury Street will retain the same clearance over the tracks under the bridge or will it be increased for future double stack rail freight. Mr. Krasnecky said that he was not familiar with the details of this project. Jeff Howland asked why the Shrewsbury Route 20 project was pushed back to 2028. Mr. Krasnecky said that it is a large project and is progressing slowly. Until the design has progressed more, MassDOT was unable to accurately select which year this project would be ready.

FFY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

➤ Budget and Major Task Listing

Rich Rydant presented this agenda item. First, Mr. Rydant presented the proposed FFY 2024 UPWP budget, which included a table comparing the budget for FFY 2024 to the FFY 2023 UPWP budget for the activities under each UPWP element. As shown, there was an increase of about 2% in total funding for the FFY 2024 UPWP. The big change for the FFY 2024 UPWP budget was seen under the LRTP. In this current year, CMRPC staff are developing the LRTP therefore the budget for the LRTP for FFY 2024 is decreasing under the LRTP Implementation task. Additional funding will also be allocated into other planning activities, like congestion, safety, and asset management. The other big change is seen in the contract with the WRTA. There were three full-time staff members helping with that contract, and after conversations with WRTA the intention going forth is for an in-house staff member within WRTA to handle that work. The FFY 2024 budget will fully fund the transportation staff members and potential future employees for roles that need to be filled. This budget will be included in the upcoming draft UPWP that will likely be released in May for public review by the CMMPO.

Secondly, Mr. Rydant presented the major task listing for the FFY 2024 UPWP. Mr. Rydant summarized the tasks and products expected under each topic work activity. Some examples are the Annual Environmental Consultation session, Annual MassDOT Title VI report, asset management data collection, drone flights, conduct/participation in Road Safety Audits (RSAs), develop a Regional Trails Plan, Highway Trucking Accommodation Studies, implementation of *2050 Connections* LRTP, and many more.

Dick Williams commented that the Regional Transportation Model should be used to assess trucking on Route 49 as a high number of heavy vehicles have been observed to use local back roads.

Long Range Transportation Plan Updates

Rich Rydant presented this agenda item. This update included a collection of needs for different studies, initiatives, and projects that came from recent Modal Plans, BIL and Micro-Projects Survey, Travel Demand Model, Data Integration, Equity Analysis, public engagement results, and subregional “Summit” workshops. Mr. Rydant mentioned several studies, initiatives, and projects that were related to highways, transit, non-motorized transportation, freight, airports, safety planning, congestion management process, asset management, emerging technologies, and environment.

Dick Williams commented on GHG savings and clean air and the potential future extension of I-190 up to New Hampshire so trucking would encounter less delays due to congestion.

Next, Mr. Rydant briefly discussed the potential Major Infrastructure (MI) project options that will be included in the LRTP. While compiling the MI project listing, staff received comments from MassDOT District #3 which adjusted the timeframe of some of the projects. These options were presented to the CMMPO at their March meeting and a preferred option was selected by the members. Mr. Rydant then summarized the CMMPO-preferred listing of MI projects to the group.

Staff Updates

There were no staff updates.

New Business

There was no new business.

Next Meetings

- CMMPO Meeting – Wednesday, April 19, 2023 at 4:00 PM
- CMMPO Advisory Committee Meeting – April 26, 2023 at 3:00 PM
- CMTPC Meeting – Thursday, April 27, 2023 at 6:00 PM

Adjournment

Upon a motion by Dick Williams and a second from Jeff Howland, the members unanimously voted to adjourn at 6:55 PM.