



CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The minutes of the CMMPO Advisory Committee held **Wednesday, March 22, 2023**. This meeting was held virtually through Zoom.

CMMPO Advisory Committee Members Present:

- Adam Menard, Chair, Town of Auburn
- Chris Payant – Vicechair, Town of Westborough
- Jeremy Thompson – 495/Metrowest Partnership
- Karin Valentine-Goins, WalkBike Worcester
- Sandy Amoakohene, Division of Public Health, City of Worcester
- Sarah Bradbury – MassDOT District 3
- Daryl Amaral – MassDOT District 2
- Benjamin Berger – MassDOT District 2
- Ethan Belding - Central Massachusetts Agency on Aging

Ex-Officio Members Present:

- Chris Klem – MassDOT OTP

CMRPC Staff Present:

- Sujatha Krishnan
- Yahaira Graxirena
- Kevin Krasnecky
- Eric Gemperline

The CMMPO fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. The CMMPO 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 CMMPO. A complaint must be filed no later than 180 calendar days after the date on which the person believes the discrimination occurred. Contact the CMMPO Title VI Coordinator at (508) 459-3313 or titleVIcoordinator@cmrpc.org, to obtain a copy of the CMMPO Complaint Procedure and forms, or visit <http://cmrpc.org/title-vi-policy> to review online.

Agenda Item #1 – Around the Room Introductions

Chairperson Adam Menard opened the meeting at 3:04 PM. A roll call of CMMPO Advisory members was announced, followed by the rest of the attendees.

Agenda Item #2 – Approval of February 22, 2023 meeting minutes

Minutes for February 22, 2023, CMMPO Advisory meeting were considered for approval. Mr. Menard entertains a motion to approve the February 25, 2023, meeting minutes. Vicechair Payant makes a motion to approve. The motion is seconded by Mr. Thompson. The vote is unanimous in favor of approval.

Agenda Item #3 – CMMPO FFY 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Potential Action: Seeking recommendation to CMMPO.

Kevin Krasnecky presented this item.

Mr. Krasnecky reviewed the project options for each year of the FFY 2024 to 2028 TIP. Three options were presented to the CMMPO members for their consideration to develop the draft FFY 2024 to 2028 TIP. Mr. Krasnecky noted that there were some cost increases of the early year projects and the Southbridge project would be pushed back into FFY 2025.

Based on the presented project options, staff are asking members to come up with a preferred preference of which Option staff should pursue when developing the draft TIP for April's CMMPO Meeting. Out of the four options for each year of the FFY 2024 to 2028 TIP, staff's preferred option is "Option A". The MPO also recommends "Option A".

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 MicroProjects 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 MicroProjects Program Reserve Funding

2028

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

Ms. Valentine-Goins has a question regarding two funding numbers for the Chandler and May Street projects. Mr. Krasnecky responds that the correct funding number is 6.001. Ms. Valentine-Goins asks if there is one sheet that shows “Option A” funding throughout the years, Mr. Krasnecky affirms that there is not. Ms. Krishnan adds that the Southbridge project is moving back a year and the Webster project will move up in replacement in 2024. Ms. Valentine-Goins asks how staff is handling rising costs. Mr. Krasnecky responds that numbers are based on federal guidelines. Ms. Krishnan adds that projects must resubmit refined costs to MassDOT and those are reflected. Additionally, MassDOT has asked for MPO’s to leave some room within the TIP budget.

Vicechair Payant asks question regarding funding for Uxbridge in 2026, Mr. Krasnecky responds that unfunded projects on the chart are reflected elsewhere. These tables can be found online at the CMRPC website. Chairperson Menard asks for a motion to support “Option A”.

Vicechair Payant makes the motion to support “Option A” to the CMMPO. The motion is seconded by Ms. Valentine-Goins. The motion passes unanimously.

Agenda Item #4 – Review DRAFT FFY 2024-2028 Statewide Highway Project Listing

Kevin Krasnecky presented this agenda item to the members. The following projects are scheduled.

2024

- Spencer #609179 – Bridge Replacement at North Spencer Road (Route 31) over the Seven Mile River.
- Worcester #609179 – Pedestrian and bicycle improvements on Pleasant Street.
- Shrewsbury/Worcester #612874 – Bridge maintenance I-290 (EB and WB) over combination of Lake Quinsigamond and Lake Avenue North.
- Worcester # 613179 – Bridge preservation for Ararat Street over I-90.
- Northborough #613180 – Bridge preservation for I-290 over MDC aqueduct and CSX railroad.
- Mendon #608491 – Resurfacing and Related work on Route 16.
- Spencer #608814 – Resurfacing and related work on Route 9.
- Upton/Hopedale #612098 – Resurfacing and related work on Route 140.
- Sutton/Grafton #608640 – Bridge reconstruction/rehabilitation for Depot Street over the Blackstone River.
- Auburn #612087 – Resurfacing and related work on I-290 and I-395.
- Charlton/Oxford #602659 – Reconstruction on Route 20.
- Webster #608433 – Intersection improvements at I-395 Ramps (Exit 2) at Route 16 (East Main Street) and Sutton Road.
- Grafton #609528 – Millbury Street improvements.

2025

- Southbridge #608862 – Bridge replacement at Mill Street over McKinstry Brook and at Mill Street over Quinebaug River.
- Sutton #610769 – Superstructure replacement at Manchaug Road over Mumford River.
- Upton #608490 – Resurfacing and related work on Route 140 and roundabout construction at Route 140, Church Street, and Grove Street.

- Hardwick/New Braintree #608851 – Bridge replacement at Creamery Road over Ware River.
- Worcester #609185 – Bridge reconstruction of Harrison Street over I-290 and Laurel Street over I-290
- Dudley #609168 – Bridge replacement on State Route 131 over the Quinebaug River.
- Route 146 (Uxbridge to Worcester) #610717 – Guide and traffic sign replacement on a section of Route 146.
- Holden #612190 – Bridge replacement on Salisbury Street over PW Railroad.
- Auburn #612192 – Bridge replacement on US-20 (WB) Washington Street over I-395.
- Worcester #612195 – Superstructure replacement I-290 over East Central Street

2026

- Barre #612084 – Bridge replacement on Old Coldbrook Road over Prince River.
- Uxbridge #612092 – Bridge replacement on Homeward Avenue over PW Railroad.
- Oxford #612095 – Interstate maintenance and related work on I-395.
- Charlton #612181 – Bridge replacement on US 20 Sturbridge Road over Cady Brook.
- Shrewsbury #607764 – Intersection and signal improvement at US 20 (Hartford Turnpike) at Grafton Street.
- Sturbridge #612893 – Improvements at Burgess Elementary School.
- Auburn #612191 – Bridge replacement on Oxford Street over Kettle Brook.
- Grafton #612510 – Bridge replacement on Shrewsbury Street over MBTA/CSX Railroad.

2027

- Sturbridge/Charlton #611967 – Intersection improvements on Route 49 at Putnam Road, Walker Pond Road, and Route 20.
- Southbridge #612089 – Resurfacing and related work on Route 131.
- Oxford #605323 – Bridge replacement on Leicester Road over the French River.

2028

- East Brookfield #613126 – Bridge superstructure replacement on Cove Street over Seven Mile River.
- West Brookfield #613143 – Bridge replacement on Long Hill Road over Quaboag River.
- Charlton #608334 – Bridge rehabilitation on Northside Road over I-90.
- Shrewsbury #610825 - Rehabilitation and box widening on Route 20, from Route 9 to South Street.

Chairperson Menard asks if there are any questions or comments, there are none.

Agenda Item #5 – FFY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Sujatha Krishnan presented this item.

First, Ms. Krishnan 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. Last year, increases in funding were given as a result from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), therefore there is an increase of about 2% in total funding for the FFY 2024 UPWP. For the most part, funding numbers have stayed relatively the same. The big changes for the FFY 2024 UPWP budget is seen in the LRTP. In this current year CMRPC staff are developing the LRTP, so for FFY 2024 the budget for the LRTP is decreasing for implementation purposes. That funding is 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 is for a staff member within WRTA to help with that work. The 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 be released in May by the CMMPO.

Secondly, Ms. Krishnan presented the major task listing for the FFY 2024 UPWP. This included a list of different tasks and products for the different work activities within the upcoming UPWP. 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, a corridor study, and many more.

Ms. Valentine-Goins had a question regarding 'requested' projects. Ms. Krishnan states requested projects are from public outreach or a community. Chairperson Menard asks for questions or comments. Ms. Valentine-Goins comments that her job is working on climate action plan revisions and that communities should work together on climate change. There are no further questions or comments.

Agenda Item #6 – Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Updates

Yahaira Graxirena presented this item.

This update showed a collection of needs for different studies, initiatives, and projects that came from the public engagement results, regional workshops, and the BIL and MicroProjects Survey. Ms. Graxirena 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.

Chairperson Menard asks about the timeline for finishing the plan, Ms. Graxirena states that in April-May there will be another opportunity for the public to weigh in on the priorities. The deadline to release LRTP is June for MPO approval in July.

Agenda Item #7 – Walk Audit Academy Presentation

Ms. Valentine-Goins presented this item.

CMRPC was involved in a walk audit pilot program put on by WalkBoston and the UMass Chan Medical School Prevention Research Center. How can public health research impact and shape walkability in our region and how walk audits can help achieve desired outcomes. Walk auditing is a systematic, observational tour of a selected environment. Walk audits are used to educate, build community, and collect data about walking. Ms. Amoakohene joined Ms. Valentine-Goins in the presentation describing the CDC's REACH program, or Radical and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health and the role they play in the city from food pantries to early childhood education and much more. The goal of the Walk Audit Academy is to give power to citizens to organize and empower using the tools taught via the academy, like the planning, conduction, and reporting of the walk audit and the noting elements of the built environment that are conducive to safe walking.

Staff completed the Walk Audit Academy pilot program in several locations and provided a drone-video summarizing the exercise.

There we no questions or comments.

Agenda Item #8 – Staff Updates and New Business

The MassDOT Innovation Conference is upcoming and interested parties should register.

Agenda Item #9 – Next Meetings

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

Agenda Item #10 – Adjournment

At 4:25 PM Chairperson Menard entertained a motion to adjourn. Vicechair Payant made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Belding. The group voted unanimously to adjourn.

Meeting minutes prepared: Eric Gemperline, Transportation Associate Planner