



CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The minutes of the CMMPO Advisory Committee held **Wednesday, May 24, 2023**. This meeting was held virtually through Zoom.

CMMPO Advisory Committee Members Present:

- Adam Menard, Chair, Town of Auburn
- Jeremy Thompson – 495/Metrowest Partnership
- Sandy Amoakohene, Division of Public Health, City of Worcester
- Sarah Bradbury – MassDOT District 3
- Daryl Amaral – MassDOT District 2
- Benjamin Breger – MassDOT District 2
- Thomas Coyne - WRTA

Ex-Officio Members Present:

- Chris Klem – MassDOT OTP

CMRPC Staff Present:

- Sujatha Krishnan
- Yahaira Graxirena
- Kevin Krasnecky
- Eric Gemperline
- Greer Jarvis
- Ian McElwee
- Rich Rydant
- Adam Wriggins
- Priya V

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Agenda Item #1 – Around the Room Introductions

Chairperson Adam Menard opened the meeting at 3:03 PM. A roll call of CMMPO Advisory members was announced, followed by the rest of the attendees.

Agenda Item #2 – Approval of April 28, 2023 meeting minutes

Minutes for April 28, 2023, CMMPO Advisory meeting were considered for approval. Mr. Menard entertains a motion to approve the April 28, 2023, meeting minutes. Mr. Thompson makes a motion to approve. The motion is seconded by Ms. Amoakohene. The vote was unanimous in favor of approval.

Agenda Item #3 – CMMPO FFY 2024 Unified Working (UPWP)

- **Potential Action:** Seeking recommendation from CMMPO Advisory Committee to endorse the CMMPO FFY 2024 UPWP

Ms. Krishnan presented this item. Staff released the Draft FFY 2024 UPWP for a 21-day public review and comment period last week.

Ms. Krishnan reminded the members that the budget for the major tasks was reviewed at the previous CMMPO meeting and announced that the Draft FFY 2024 UPWP document is now available on the CMRPC website. Ms. Krishnan went over the elements of the UPWP which include: Element 1 – Management and Support, Element 2 – Data Collection and Analysis Activities, Element 3 – Transportation Plan Refinement activities, and Element 4 – Other Technical Activities. Ms. Krishnan states that the UPWP will be voted on in June.

Ms. Amoakohene asks if there have been changes to the UPWP since the last presentation. Ms. Krishnan responds that the UPWP major elements are the same and that there was some streamlining of the document.

There were no further questions.

Chairperson Menard asks for a motion to endorse the UPWP. Mr. Coyne makes a motion to endorse the UPWP to the CMMPO. Ms. Amoakohene seconds the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Agenda Item #4 – CMMPO Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Prioritization Process Presentation

Yahaira Graxirena presented this item.

When coming up with priorities for the LRTP, *2050 Connections*, there are many areas to consider. They include data management systems, public outreach, environmental consultation, performance-based planning, financial constraint, land use and economic development, new policies and emphasis areas, and equity analysis and regional environmental justice “plus” (REJ+) communities.

One of the major products from the *2050 Connections* effort is a list of transportation priorities. Similar to efforts from the previous LRTP, once the plan is completed staff works in the implementation aspects of the plan. The presentation included the priorities from the previous LRTP (*Mobility 2040*) to show progress of what has been completed since then. Some priorities/projects were completed, some are still in-progress, and others are being monitored. The new priorities identified for the *2050 Connections* plan were presented and organized by the plan’s Five Programmatic Areas.

Ms. Graxirena shared several slides showing some examples of priority projects and studies that were included as priorities by programmatic area. These included TIP projects, bicycle pathway projects, transit signal priority, truck parking, culvert assessments, Safe Routes to School projects, and EV charging infrastructure studies.

Lastly, Ms. Graxirena shared that staff will be hosting a Public Hybrid Meeting on May 31, from 5:00PM to 6:30PM at the Paul Revere Room in Worcester (1 Mercantile Street). This meeting will review all material received from the public, data, the plan’s priorities, and will have more opportunities for dialogue with those who attend to discuss their priorities. This meeting will officially close the public outreach process of *2050 Connections*.

Chairperson Menard asks about the 90/495 interchange and what stage the project is in. Mr. Rydant responds that construction began last year on the interchange. There were no further comments or questions following the presentation.

Agenda Item #5 – CMRPC Regional Efforts: Climate Change – EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant

This item was presented by Ian McElwee.

There is a new grant opportunity in the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant using funding from the Inflation Reduction Act. This project will provide 1 million in funds over 4 years to work with the Worcester MSA to create a short-term climate action plan, a comprehensive climate action plan, and an end of study report. CMRPC will take the lead and will work with all its member communities, as well as parts of Montachusett and MAPC if their respective town fall within the Worcester MSA totaling 82 towns and cities. CMRPC will create a baseline of emission inventory to identify needs and strategies in relation to climate change. The goal is to create a more climate resilient region. The application will be submitted to the EPA by the end of the month

and the grant is non-competitive and funds are guaranteed. The grant work is expected to start in July 2023.

There we no questions.

Agenda Item #6 – Staff Updates and New Business

Ms. Krishnan states there is a public meeting on June 5th at 6:00 for the Statewide Capital Investment Plan that CMRPC will be hosting via zoom.

Agenda Item #7 – Next Meetings

- CMMPO Advisory Committee Meeting – June 28, 2023, at 3:00 PM
- CMMPO Meeting – Wednesday, June 21, 2023, at 4:00 PM

Agenda Item #9 – Adjournment

At 3:40 PM Chairperson Menard entertained a motion to adjourn. Mr. Thompson made the motion and was seconded by Ms. Bradbury. The group voted unanimously to adjourn.

Meeting minutes prepared: Eric Gemperline, Transportation Associate Planner