



## CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The minutes of the CMMPO Advisory Committee held **Wednesday, May 25, 2022**. This meeting was held virtually through Zoom.

### **CMMPO Advisory Committee Members Present:**

- Adam Menard – Chair, Town of Auburn
- Chris Payant – Vicechair, Town of Westborough
- Sandy Amoakohene – City of Worcester DPH
- Jeremy Thompson – 495/MetroWest Partnership
- Sarah Bradbury – MassDOT District 3
- Daryl Amaral – MassDOT District 2
- Ann Sullivan – MassDOT District 3
- Karin Valentine-Goins – WalkBike Worcester
- Maritza Cruz – Worcester Resident
- Thomas Coyne – WRTA
- Alaa Abusallah – Town of Leicester

### **Ex-Officio Members**

- Chris Klem – MassDOT OTP

### **CMRPC Staff Present:**

- Faye Rhault
- Yahaira Graxirena
- Kevin Krasnecky
- Eric Gemperline

### **Other Individuals Present:**

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**Agenda Item #1 – Around the Room Introductions**

Chairperson Adam Menard opened the meeting at 3:00 PM. A roll call of CMMPO Advisory members was announced, followed by the rest of the attendees.

**Agenda Item #2 – Approval of April 27, 2022 meeting minutes**

Minutes for April 27, 2022, CMMPO Advisory meeting were considered for approval. Chairperson Menard entertains a motion to approve the April 27, 2022, meeting minutes. Ms. Sullivan makes a motion to approve. The motion is seconded by Chris Payant. The vote is unanimous in favor of approval. All members voted to approve the minutes except for the following who abstained: Chris Payant, Thomas Coyne, and Maritza Cruz. Additionally, Alaa Abusallah arrived after the vote occurred.

**Agenda Item #3 – FFY 2022-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Highway List:**

**Amendment #5**

**ACTION ITEM: Seeking recommendation to the CMMPO**

Kevin Krasnecky presented this item.

CMMPO Advisory Members were asked to review the Proposed Amendment #5 to the FFY 2022-2026 TIP Highway List for a 21-day public review and comment period. There have been changes to the highway and transit listings of Proposed Amendment #5 which equate to a shifting of funds.

**Transit Project Listing (FFY 2022)**

- RTD0009778 – Decrease total project cost by \$125,000. New total project cost is \$169,000.
- RTD0009781 – Decrease total project cost by \$25,000. New total project cost is \$0.
- RTD0009779 – Increase total project cost by \$23,040. New total project cost is \$105,040.
- RTD0009774 – Decrease total project cost by \$80,000. New total project cost is \$87,000.
- RTD0009777 – Decrease total project cost by \$75,000. New total project cost is \$278,000.
- RTD0009780 – Decrease total project cost by \$23,040. New total project cost \$0.
- RTD0009772 – Increase total project cost by \$44,040. New total project cost is \$229,405.

The total decrease in project costs is \$260,960.

**Highway Project Listing (FFY 2022)**

- Add Project #S12739 – Westborough Demand Response Rideshare Service Pilot – Phase II in the amount of \$3,121,572 in CMAQ funds. This project will be flexed to FTA in FFY 2022. Match will be provided by RTA CAP.

The virtual public meeting for comments will be Wednesday, June 1, 2022.

There were no comments or questions following the request to release the Amendment.

Chairperson Menard asks if there are any questions, barring none, he entertains a motion for recommendation of the proposed changes to Amendment #5. Mr. Payant makes a motion to approve the amendment. The motion was seconded by Ms. Sullivan. The vote was unanimous in favor of approval.

#### **Agenda Item #4 DRAFT FFY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

##### **ACTION ITEM: Seeking recommendation to the CMMPO**

Yahaira Graxirena presented this item.

The draft UPWP is available for public review. There have been changes made since the March presentation with the introduction of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). Staff is working towards the completion of the LRTP and there has been an increase in funding for the following element tasks.

Element 1, 1.1 Management and Support of “3C” Process (+\$35,048), 1.4 Title VI – LEP (+\$15,000), and 1.5 Public Participation (+\$15,000). Element 2, 2.2 Regional Transportation Model (+\$30,000) and 2.3 Community and Regional Technical Assistance (+\$11,838). Element 3, 3.7 Long-term RTP Implementation (+\$75,000). Element 4, 4.1 Transit / Paratransit / Rail and Technical Activities (+\$10,000).

Chairperson Menard asks for a motion to recommend the DRAFT FFY 2023 UPWP to CMMPO. Mr. Payant makes a motion to recommend. Ms. Valentine-Goins seconds the motion. The vote is unanimous in the affirmative.

#### **Agenda Item #5 MassDOT Statewide Long Range Transportation Plan**

Chris Klem presented this item.

The presentation was an introduction and overview of the Massachusetts 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) titled “Beyond Mobility”.

To help articulate a vision for the future of transportation in Massachusetts, Beyond Mobility provides direction for the future of MassDOT, serves as a strategic plan across modes, and guides the future of capital planning and program sizing. At this point, Beyond Mobility has a general process to help guide it to completion by Fall 2023, including assessments (i.e., existing condition analysis), visioning (i.e., public engagement plan), evaluations (i.e., site specific needs assessment), and recommendations.

To help establish a vision, MassDOT will be performing public engagement and activities. Phase 1 engagement will include setting visions and values for transportation in Massachusetts and needs and barriers experienced by transportation users. Activities like multilingual/multiethnic focus groups and interviews; community surveys; and stakeholder and internal meetings will be done to help establish the vision.

To conclude, Mr. Klem included more information about how individuals can get involved and learn more about Beyond Mobility.

There were no questions or comments following the presentation.

#### **Agenda Item #6 – Worcester E-Bike Project – Presentation and Discussion**

Faye Rhault presented for this item on the upcoming Worcester E-Bike Pilot Program.

The Massachusetts Bicycle Coalition (MassBike) was awarded about \$439,295 through the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center's (MassCEC) new Accelerating Clean Transportation for All Act (ACT4All) Program to conduct a 2-year program to distribute electric bicycles and track their uses among select populations in the City of Worcester. MassBike is a non-profit that will lead a team including the Worcester Chamber of Commerce, community-based organizations, and the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) to deploy e-bikes to low-income residents throughout Worcester. MassBike will also explore e-bike education initiatives and grow the community interest in clean transportation options. Not only will the program provide bicycles, but it will also offer clinics, classes, events, and community support to encourage safe and regular everyday riding.

There are several goals of the E-Bike Program, including:

- Identify low-income participants who live and/or work in Worcester.
- Distribute about 100 electric-assist bicycles, to be preowned by participants.
- Provide instruction and encouragement to participants.
- Track rider usage of bicycles for everyday use.
- Measures
  - GHG reductions due to mode shift.
  - Physical activity of participants.
  - Comfort level of riding in/around Worcester.
  - Identify barriers to riding.
  - Economic impact of bicycle use as primary mode of transportation.

There are several partners with each having their own roles. For example, CMRPC will be designing the application and intake form, strategizing surveys for ongoing data collection, analyzing data for use in planning and development conversations.

The general timeline for the E-Bike Program includes:

- April – June 2022: distributing applications and identifying participants in program
- June – July 2022: procuring e-bikes and distributing to participants
- July – September 2022: host 3 classes for participants for safety, maintenance, and other tips
- July 2022 – Spring, 2024: surveys, tracking usage, community events, weekly and quarterly reports
- Spring – Fall, 2024: analyze data for grant report final outcomes

Expected challenges include the ability to reach out to priority populations, supporting new/novice riders, keeping in contact, and tracking bicycle usage, maintaining low attrition amongst the participants, and being flexible.

Ms. Rhault asks if there are any questions. Ms. Amoakohene had a question regarding how riders will be tracked during the program. Ms. Rhault responds that participants will log their destination and mileage and self-report.

## **Agenda Item #7 – Staff Updates**

Staff is working on Imagine 2050 and a survey is available online. The Healthy Aging Initiative is currently going on and a survey is available. RCCP Staff is running workshops on municipal energy planning.

**Agenda Item #8 – New Business**

No Updates are available.

**Agenda Item #9 – Adjournment**

At 3:30 PM Chairperson. Menard entertained a motion to adjourn. Ms. Valentine-Goins made the motion to and was seconded by Ms. Sullivan. The group voted unanimously to adjourn.

Meeting minutes prepared: Eric Gemperline, Transportation Assistant Planner.