



CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The minutes of the CMMPO Advisory Committee held **Wednesday, June 22, 2022**. This meeting was held virtually through Zoom.

CMMPO Advisory Committee Members Present:

- Chris Payant – Vicechair, Town of Westborough
- Sandy Amoakohene – City of Worcester DPH
- Sarah Bradbury – MassDOT District 3
- Daryl Amaral – MassDOT District 2
- Ann Sullivan – MassDOT District 3
- Karin Valentine-Goins – WalkBike Worcester
- Alaa Abusallah – Town of Leicester
- Ethan Belding – Central Massachusetts Agency on Aging

Ex-Officio Members

- Chris Klem – MassDOT OTP

CMRPC Staff Present:

- Zack Blais
- Faye Rhault
- Yahaira Graxirena
- Kevin Krasnecky
- Eric Gemperline
- Rich Rydant

Other Individuals Present:

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Agenda Item #1 – Around the Room Introductions

Vicechair Chris Payant opened the meeting at 3:05 PM. A roll call of CMMPO Advisory members was announced, followed by the rest of the attendees.

Agenda Item #2 – Approval of May 25, 2022 meeting minutes

Minutes for May 25, 2022, CMMPO Advisory meeting were considered for approval. Vicechair Payant entertains a motion to approve the May 25, 2022, meeting minutes. Ms. Valentine-Goins makes a motion to approve. The motion is seconded by Ann Sullivan. 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 #6

ACTION ITEM: Seeking recommendation to the CMMPO

Kevin Krasnecky presented this agenda item.

CMMPO Advisory Members were asked to review and make recommendations for proposed Amendment #6 to the FFY 2022-2026 TIP Highway List for a 21-day public review and comment period. The following was the proposed project cost increase associated with Amendment #6:

- Increase cost of Project #608432 – Rutland – Reconstruction of Route 56 (Pommogussett Road) by \$1,028,660. The updated target funding is \$7,181,881 of STBG and the additional Statewide STBG funding is \$81,269. The new total project cost is \$7,263,150.

There were no comments or questions following the amendment presentation. Ms. Sullivan made a motion to recommend the amendment to the CMMPO. Ms. Abusalah seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #4 – CMMPO Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Presentation and Discussion

Yahaira Graxirena provided a presentation on recent updates on the development of the upcoming CMMPO LRTP: 2050 Connections. The update for the LRTP will be completed by 2023.

The timeline for the LRTP will include a kick-off and public outreach effort in June 2022. Following this, staff will develop a needs assessment by September 2022 and then scenario planning by December 2022. By March 2023 staff will work on validating LRTP priorities and the financial plan. The LRTP will include a heavy amount of public outreach and stakeholder engagement. By June 2023 staff plan to release the Draft LRTP for public comments and will approach the CMMPO to endorse the LRTP by July 2023.

The strategy for the development of the LRTP will focus on three key areas of planning, actors, and implementation. For planning it is important to reflect on where the CMMPO is currently at and what it plans to accomplish by 2050. In terms of actors, the development of the LRTP will focus heavily on who

is at the table, who is on the sideline, and who is missing. It is very important to include everyone in the process and development of the LRTP. Finally, when implementing the LRTP, staff must work to guarantee the best use of the resources available in the region.

The structure of the LRTP will include five programmatic areas. These include:

- Major Infrastructure Projects
- Asset Management and Operations
- Livability and Healthy Aging
- Transit Mobility and Management
- Climate Change and Resiliency

As was previously mentioned, public involvement will be a big piece of the development of the LRTP. Staff will work heavily with the public to inform, consult, involve, partner, empower, and co-create with them in the process. Methods to do so will include surveys, community events, interviews, and targeted outreach, among others. Staff will use data to determine areas of opportunity and regional priorities, conduct regional workshops to identify and validate regionally significant projects, use surveys to interact with the public to identify priorities, identify scenarios to help determine the best mix of projects to accomplish regional goals for 2050, engage in virtual public involvement to increase long-term engagement with the public and partner communities, and involve underserved and under-represented populations that face transportation disadvantages.

Performance management data sources will continue to be used in the development of this plan, which include pavement conditions, accessibility to jobs, culvert assessments, truck travel time and reliability, and ADA ramps conditions, among many others.

Workshops will be held by sub-region and will also include surveys to help determine the status of needs included in the LRTP, multimodal recommendations, projects with regional significance, and local priorities.

The scenario planning effort of the LRTP development will include 4 options:

- *No-Build Option* – what if everything continues as is without any improvements to the transportation network?
- *Build Option 1* – what if all the projects listed in the LRTP are built?
- *Build Option 2* – what if some of the projects listed in the LRTP are built?
- *Build Option X, Y, Z* – what are impacts to transportation disadvantaged populations, financial constraints, emissions reductions, population, and employment projections, among others?

Mentioned above, transportation disadvantage populations are more than just environmental justice (EJ). It is defined as “those individuals that are unable to transport themselves or purchase transportation services and are dependent on others to access healthcare, employment, education, shopping, social activities, and other life-sustaining activities”. This includes physical or mental disability, age, income, transit dependent, households with no access to a car, households with no access to broadband, and LEP population.

Currently, staff are working on creating a website for the LRTP, utilizing the ArcGIS Hub application. The LRTP Hub site will be a virtual engagement tool that presents information, data, and opportunities to participate remotely. More information regarding the Hub site will be provided as needed.

There were no comments or questions following the presentation.

Agenda Item #5 – Staff Updates

Zack Blais, a transportation planner presented the ‘Culvert Assessment Program Hub’ which he has been developing. This year staff will start cataloging and assessing culverts in Sturbridge. Data will be made available through the hub site. Data will include which culverts have been identified, catalogued, and scored. Scoring is based off the North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative criteria. Visitors to the hub site can use the map to help locate culverts, provide information about culvert such as its condition and type, and leave general comments. This information will then be shared with the community and any interested parties. Vicechair Payant asks if Town’s can share their data by uploading the data to the hub. Mr. Blais responds that the data can be emailed to him and then uploaded to the hub. Additionally, Mr. Blais would be happy to take any culvert information a town my have.

Last summer staff collected data on culverts along federal aid roadways in West Brookfield. That data was then used to create a dashboard for the Town. Staff is planning on taking the same approach for the Town of Sturbridge. There were no further questions on culverts.

Ms. Rhault informed the board that staff was working with the Massachusetts Healthy Aging Collaborative received funding through the DLTA to pursue a regional age friendly designation. Staff has a survey out and will be hosting in-person workshops throughout the region in the coming weeks.

Agenda Item #6 – New Business

No Updates are available.

Agenda Item #7 – Adjournment

At 3:43 PM Vicechair Payant entertained a motion to adjourn. Ms. Sullivan made the motion to and was seconded by Mr. Belding. The group voted unanimously to adjourn.

Meeting minutes prepared: Eric Gemperline, Transportation Associate Planner.