



**CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The minutes of the CMMPO Advisory Committee held **Wednesday, June 28, 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
- Jason Palitch – 495/Metrowest Partnership
- Ethan Belding – Central Massachusetts Agency on Aging
- Sarah Bradbury – MassDOT District 3
- Daryl Amaral – MassDOT District 2
- Karin Valentine-Goins – WalkBike Worcester
- Thomas Coyne - WRTA

Ex-Officio Members Present:

- Chris Klem – MassDOT OTP

CMRPC Staff Present:

- Sujatha Krishnan
- Yahaira Graxirena
- Kevin Krasnecky
- Eric Gemperline
- Greer Jarvis
- Sarah Plutnicki
- Rich Rydant

Others Present:

- Bailey Pennington – MassDOT District 2 Planning Intern

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Agenda Item #1 – Around the Room Introductions

Chairperson Adam Menard opened the meeting at 3:01 PM. A roll call of CMMPO Advisory members was announced, followed by the rest of the attendees.

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

Minutes for May 28, 2023, CMMPO Advisory meeting were considered for approval. Mr. Menard entertains a motion to approve the May 28, 2023, meeting minutes. Mr. Payant makes a motion to approve. The motion is seconded by Ms. Bradbury. Mr. Belding and Ms. Valentine-Goins abstained. The vote was unanimous in favor of approval.

Agenda Item #3 – CMMPO Long Range Transportation Plan

- **Potential Action:** Seeking recommendation to the CMMPO concerning endorsement of the DRAFT LRTP 2050 Connections

Ms. Graxirena presented this item.

This 2050 Connections Long Range Transportation Plan is open for public comment. Comments can be made on the LRTP hub site. The LRTP consists of seven chapters.

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Chapter 2 – Background: Emphasis areas and how we are addressing them threw out the documents, resources from MassDOT that all MPO gets. Scenario Planning is an activity.

Chapter 3 – Linkages: All things related to transportation – CMRPC regional plan tie to Imagine 2050 from transportation view are included here 0 public health, services, quality of life. Population and employment projections.

Chapter 4 - Planning Areas Modes and Related Programmatic Areas: Background Info and Analysis for Freight, Transit, Non-Motorized, Highways, Airports. Background for Planning Areas – Safety Planning, Congestion Management, Asset Management, Environment, Emerging Technologies

Chapter 5 – Program and Prioritization: The following had studies, initiatives or projects related to them: Public engagement, regional workshops, modal plans, BIL + MicroProjects Survey, Travel Demand Model, Data Integration, Equity Analysis, and Green-house Gas Savings. Final outreach opportunity was May 31st – Hybrid meeting to go over identified needs should be highlighted before next LRTP. An interactive map was created for online users and physical maps and notes were used for in person attendance.

Chapter 6 – Financial Plan – Regional Targets received until 2050. Funds are broken down and different scenarios for funding have been provided. Long range funding is important when considering Major Infrastructure Projects that will be funded at some point between now and 2050, highlights include the reconstruction of US Route 20 in Charlton and Oxford in 2023 – 2025, interchange reconstruction of US Route 20 in Shrewsbury and US Route 20 and Route 122 in Worcester in 2026 – 2030, Route 122 bridge replacement over I-290 in 2031 – 2035, the I-495/Route 9 interchange reconstruction in Westborough in 2036 – 2040, Route 146 and New Boston Road new grade-separated interchange in Sutton in 2041 – 2045, and Route 9 and Route 135 interchange replacement in Westborough in 2046 – 2050.

The following are transit projects occurring:

Worcester: Union Station Improvements, WRTA Transit Signal Priority, WRTA Bus Replacement Program – Fleet Electrification, WRTA Via On-Demand Service, East-West Commuter Rail Connections, and WRTA Expansion of weekend and late-night service.

Chapter 7 – Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Assessments: This chapter is provided by MassDOT based on major infrastructure projects occurring within the MPO.

Mr. Menard asks if there are any questions. There are no questions and Mr. Menard asks for a motion for the committee to endorse the 2050 Connections, the LRTP. Mr. Coyne makes a motion to endorse 2050 Connections. Ms. Valentine-Goins seconds the motion. The vote is unanimous in favor of endorsing 2050 Connections.

Agenda Item #4 – CMMPO Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) **Amendment #8**

- **Potential Action:** Seeking recommendation to the CMMPO concerning Proposed Amendment #8 to the FFY 2023-2027 TIP Transit Listing

Kevin Krasnecky presented this item. Proposed Amendment #8 includes the addition of several projects as part of the Community Transit Grant Program (FTA 5310) Vehicle Awards. These projects included:

- Add WRTA011548 – WRTA Buy Replacement Van (5-1 type E) to FFY 2023 in the amount of \$106,000 under 5310 funding source.
- Add WRTA011549 – WRTA Buy Replacement Vans (5-1 type E2a) to FFY 2023 and 2024. \$93,360 of 5310 funding will be added to 2023 and \$23,340 of GOBOND funding will be added in 2024. The total cost of the project is \$116,700.

- Add WRTA011550 – WRTA Buy Replacement Vans (5-3 LF) to FFY 2023 and 2024. \$453,413 of 5310 funding will be added to 2023 and \$106,555 of GOBOND funding will be added to 2024. The total cost of the project is \$559,968.
- Add WRTA011570 – Town of Uxbridge – Buy Replacement Van (5310 Carryover) to FFY 2023 in the amount of \$78,604 under 5310 funding source.
- Add WRTA011574 – Town of Millville – Buy Expansion Van (5310) to FFY 2023 in the amount of \$78,604. \$62,883 is 5310 funding and \$15,721 is LF funding.

Mr. Krasnecky asks for a recommendation of proposed amendment 8 the MPO. Mr. Menard ask for any questions. Mr. Coyne asks if it is typical if town vans being listed under the WRTA is common. Mr. Krasnecky responds that this is how MassDOT is presenting the data. Mr. Menard asks for a motion. Mr. Coyne makes a motion to recommend proposed amendment 8. Ms. Bradbury seconds the motion. The motion is unanimous.

Agenda Item #5 – CMRPC Regional Efforts: Trail Accessibility Project

Sarah Plutnicki presented this item. This included a presentation on the CMRPC Inclusive and Accessible Trails Toolkit Project. The goal of the project is to create an Inclusion and Accessibility Trail Guide. This guide will serve as a toolkit to assess and improve knowledge, accessibility, and utilization of trails across the region. The hope is to increase outdoor recreational opportunities for all populations. The project is funded with a Mass Trails Grant provided by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR).

The Toolkit aims to create a rating/grading system for trails; provide recommendations for improving access to trails; develop mapping criteria to highlight accessibility concerns along trails; and demonstrate examples of the toolkit being utilized on seven trails in the region. Potential users of the Toolkit include local governments, land trusts, trail committees, trail users, and other landowners.

There will be a Youth Trails Stewardship Pilot Program to help with the effort. The youth will assist with the Toolkit, which will include developing a ranking criteria and performing trail audits. They will also assist with general trail mapping activities and the program will also do a trail walk in the region, which will include a trail event for all ages.

Several aspects are being considered for accessibility. These include knowledge and awareness of a trail; location of and transportation access to a trail; physical features of a trail; and comfort while on a trail. There have been two previous trail dialogue events and another sometime in September 2023 to go over the trail audit results and overview of the finalized grading rubric.

Next steps of the project include finalizing a draft rubric, forming the Youth Stewardship Program, completing the trail audits on seven trails in the region by the end of July/early August, and completing the Toolkit and presenting the findings by Fall 2023. The project is expected to be fully completed by December 2023.

There were no comments or questions.

Agenda Item #6 – Staff Updates and New Business

Ms. Graxirena mentions that on July 10th there will be a meeting regarding 2050 Connections. Ms. Krishnan mentions that the Moving Together Conference will be held in October in Boston at the Sheraton Hotel.

Agenda Item #7 – Next Meetings

- CMMPO Advisory Committee Meeting – September 27, 2023, at 3:00 PM

Agenda Item #9 – Adjournment

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

Meeting minutes prepared: Eric Gemperline, AICP, Transportation Associate Planner