



## CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

The minutes of the Central Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (CMMPO) meeting held **Wednesday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022**. This meeting was held virtually using Zoom.

- **CMMPO Members Present:**

1. Steve Woelfel, MassDOT Planning Division, designee to MassDOT Secretary Jamey L. Tesler
2. Arthur Frost, MassDOT Highway Division District #3 office, designee to MassDOT Highway Division Administrator Jonathan Gulliver
3. Robert Hassinger, Grafton, CMRPC Commission Chair
4. Dennis Lamarche, Oxford, Southwest Subregion Representative
5. Brian Pigeon, City of Worcester
6. Jesse Limanek – Southeast Subregion Representative
7. Dennis Lipka – Worcester Regional Transit Authority (WRTA)
8. Shelby Marshall – Westborough, Northeast Subregion Representative

- **CMMPO Ex-Officio Members Present:**

1. Chris Klem, MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning
2. Chris Timmel, FHWA
3. Derek Krevat, MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning

- **Guests:**

1. Ann Sullivan, MassDOT District #3
2. Daryl Amaral, MassDOT District #2
3. Sarah Bradbury, MassDOT District #3
4. William Cundiff - Spencer
5. Greg Russel – VHB
6. Dana Roscoe - PVPC

- **CMRPC Staff Present:**

- Zack Blais, Assistant Transportation Planner
- Kevin Krasnecky, Principal Transportation Planner
- Rich Rydant, Transportation Project Manager

- Sujatha Krishnan, Deputy Director - Transportation
- Yahaira Graxirena – Transportation Project Manager
- Faye Rhault, Assistant Transportation Planner
- Robert Raymond, Principal Transportation Planner
- Eric Gemperline, Assistant Transportation Planner

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### **Agenda Item #1 – Introductions**

CMMPO Chair Steve Woelfel opened the meeting at 4:00 PM. A roll call of CMMPO members was announced, followed by the rest of attendees.

### **Agenda Item #2 – Approval of January 19, 2022, Meeting Minutes**

Minutes from the January 19, 2021, meeting of the CMMPO were considered for approval. Bob Hassinger motioned to accept the minutes and was seconded by Dennis Lamarche. A roll call vote was announced, and members present voted unanimously to accept the minutes.

Robert Hassinger – Yes

Shelby Marshall – Yes

Arthur Frost - Yes

Dennis Lamarche – Yes

Stephen Woelfel – Yes

Brian Pigeon – Yes

Jesse Limanek – Yes

Dennis Lipka – Yes

### **Agenda Item #3 – Opportunity for Public Comment**

There were no comments from the public.

### **Agenda Item #4 – TIP/UPWP Updates from MassDOT MARPA Meeting**

Sujatha Krishnan presented for this item, which specifically highlighted the FFY 2023 TIP and UPWP financials and guidance updates from the MassDOT MARPA in January.

Currently, CMMPO staff are now developing the FFY 2023-2027 TIP. A table was used to show each year's current targets and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) proposed targets. The BIL was just recently passed and will help increase funding targets for each year by about \$4 million. The current targets are between \$21.2 - \$22.3 million and the new proposed targets would be between \$25.3 - \$26.7 million. These increases will help make sure projects stay in their current TIP year and avoid falling back to later years due to increased costs.

Next, Ms. Krishnan highlighted some of the guidance that will be used in the development of the TIP, which includes:

- **Project Programming Rationale**
  - LRTP Priority
  - UPWP Study
  - Statewide or Municipal Plans/Priorities
  - Performance-based planning
- **Performance Target Setting and Planning**
  - Transit Asset Management (TAM)
  - Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP)
- **TIP Project Scoring** – Involving project proponents and project scoring
- **Creative Use of Regional Target Funds** (i.e., MicroProjects)

- **Equity Analysis** (Geographic, Social, and Environmental Justice)
- **Community Outreach**
  - Virtual Public Involvement
  - Non-Traditional Stakeholders
  - Limited English Proficiency (LEP)

In addition to the TIP, the CMMPO Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) will also have funding increased by about 16.1%, which is about a \$200,000 increase.

- **FFY 2022 Funding:** \$1,202,452
- **FFY 2023 Funding:** \$1,394,338

Ms. Krishnan then summarized the highlights of the UPWP guidance, which includes:

- **Connections to various documents**
  - 2020 LRTP
  - Past UPWPs
  - Statewide Modal Plans
  - Municipal Plans (Landuse, Master Plans)
  - Other Regional Plans (CEDs)
- **Landuse, Housing, and Transportation Linkages – IMAGINE2050**
- **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Review**
- **2024 LRTP Update**
- **2021 Planning Emphasis Areas**
- **Amendments and Administrative Modifications**

There were no comments or questions following the presentation.

**Agenda Item #5 – FFY 2023-2027 TIP Readiness Day Updates**

TIP Readiness Day occurred on Tuesday, February 8<sup>th</sup> with MassDOT and all of the MPO’s to discuss the status of the current programmed TIP projects in all planning regions for FFY 2022 through FFY 2026.

Highlights include:

- For FFY 2022 TIP, all regional target Projects should be advertised this fiscal year. The Rutland TIP Project #608432 needs to make sure they continue with their Right of Way (ROW) process and complete any necessary land acquisitions.
- For regional target Projects in FFY 2023, the Uxbridge TIP Project #608171 will likely be pushed back by at least another year as the state ROW will not be completed for FFY 2023. The other remaining FFY 2023 regional target projects are on track to be advertised this fiscal year. For Statewide projects in FFY 2023 the Worcester TIP Project #609185, Spencer TIP Project #609179, and Upton TIP Project #608490 will likely be pushed back year.

- For FFY 2024, all regional target Projects are on track to be advertised this year. Mr. Krasnecky noted cost increases with the West Brookfield TIP Project #606517 and Southbridge TIP Project #608778. For the Southbridge TIP Project #608778 and Holden TIP Project #609219, it was discussed whether one of these projects would be able to replace the Uxbridge TIP Project #608171 in FFY 2023. For FFY 2024 Statewide projects, all are still on track for this year. The Spencer/East Brookfield TIP Project #608814 will likely split into two projects, one for each town.
- For FFY 2025, all regional target Projects are on track for this year. There is a slight increase to the Worcester TIP Project #608961 cost, and a slight decrease in cost to the West Brookfield TIP Project #609049. For FFY 2025 Statewide Projects, they are still on track for this year. The Worcester TIP Project #608757 could potentially move up to FFY 2024.
- For FFY 2026, all regional target and Statewide Projects are still on track for this year.

Arthur Frost commented on the Holden and Southbridge TIP projects and their readiness potential.

There were no other comments or questions.

**Agenda Item #6 – FFY 2027 TIP Project Candidates PM Scoring Review**

Kevin Krasnecky also presented for this item. The project scoring results were reviewed for the 2027 TIP candidate projects. The Regional Performance Measures Scoresheet considers several objectives and targets/measures across 10 categories.

- |                         |                          |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Safety               | 6. Sustainability        |
| 2. State of Good Repair | 7. Equity                |
| 3. Congestion           | 8. Economic              |
| 4. Security             | 9. Stormwater Management |
| 5. Multimodality        | 10. Travel and Tourism   |

Each category was scored according to criteria related to those measures and targets. The maximum score a project can score is 27 points. The projects that were scored included:

- **(Project ID: 610825) Shrewsbury** – Rehabilitation and Box Widening on Route 20, from Route 9 to South Street, **\$15.401 million**
- **(Project ID: 610931) Uxbridge** – Rehabilitation of Route 16 (Douglas Street), from Taft Hill Road to 200’ west of Main Street, **\$6.25 million**
- **(Project ID: 612011) Worcester** – Chandler Street Resurfacing and Intersection Improvements, from Queen Street to Park Avenue (Phase 2), **\$4.2 million**

The results were:

- **Shrewsbury Project ID: 610825** – 17 points
- **Uxbridge Project ID: 610931** – 13 points
- **Worcester Project ID: 612011** – 17 points

There were no other comments or questions following the presentation.

## **Agenda Item #7 – TIP MicroProjects Program Update**

Yahaira Graxirena presented for this item to share updates on CMMPO MicroProjects implementation.

In brief, a MicroProject is a low-cost project that is aligned with the CMMPO's goals and objectives as included in Mobility2040. For example, MicroProjects can help address the regional subregional, and local priorities in the areas of safety, congestion, connectivity gaps, and first-last mile connections. Currently, \$400,000 is programmed in FFY 2026 TIP for MicroProjects, representing 2% of regional targets.

During the past year staff have been hard at work doing outreach to communities to complete the MicroProjects Survey. In addition, staff have also been continuing conversations with MassDOT and other MPOs about the implementation of Micro-Projects, among other efforts. To summarize the MicroProject Survey, respondents expressed their interests in projects related to:

- Pedestrian and Bicycle Accommodations
- Bikesharing Stations
- Transit Shelters and Other Amenities
- Transportation Services for Older Adults
- Culvert Replacements
- Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Stations

To begin implementing MicroProjects it is important to understand how the Community Connections Program works at the Boston MPO.

For Community Connections Program:

- Main funding source is the CMAQ program in which all projects must demonstrate air quality benefits.
- Municipalities, RTAs, Transportation Management Associations (TMAs) and Non-Profit in partnership with a municipality are eligible to apply.
- Eligible projects are bike sharing stations, bike lanes, bus lanes, and more.

Aside from this, it is important to consider other recent changes in legislation and new grant funds that were not available when MicroProjects were conceived. The new BIL will add new funding programs through new formula programs and discretionary grants that are available to states, MPOs and local jurisdictions. For example, the National EV Infrastructure and Safe Streets for All. At the Statewide level, new grants programs by MassDOT include Shared Streets and Spaces, Local Bottleneck Reduction, and Community Transit. Additionally, other Statewide funding programs are included through MassDEP, MassDCR, and MassCEC.

For CMMPO MicroProjects, opportunities include promoting use of CMAQ funds, considering opportunities to improve safety, resiliency, supporting transit access, transportation for older adults, and ADA accessibility.

There are several next steps to implementation, which include the potential for RPAs to collaborate in a scheme like MAPC Collective Purchasing Program, developing an evaluation criteria and application

package, and developing a guide to distribute to municipalities and organizations explaining how to apply and the types of projects eligible, among others.

Chris Klem asked about which MPOs staff have been communicating with. Ms. Graxirena replied that staff have been communicating with the Boston MPO, MVPC, and PVPC. She added that staff may take this topic to a Transportation Manager Group (TMG) meeting.

Shelby Marshall asked about at which point would dates or a timeline be created to work around the intended implementation process. Ms. Graxirena replied that it is unknown at this time.

There were no other comments or questions.

### **Agenda Item #8 – CY 2022 Safety Performance Measures (PM1)**

- **Potential Action:** Adopt State Safety Targets

Eric Gemperline presented this agenda item. In regards to the Safety Performance Measures (PM1), a presentation was given to this group at their January meeting and now the CMMPO must decide to either adopt the Statewide targets or to use the CMMPO’s own quantifiable safety targets.

For Calendar Year (CY) 2022, the five Statewide safety targets are:

- **Total Fatalities:** 340
- **Fatality Rate per 100 million vehicle miles traveled (VMT):** 0.56
- **Total Serious Injuries:** 2,504
- **Serious Injury Rate:** 4.11 per 100 million VMT
- **Total Combined Non-Motorist Injuries and Fatalities:** 471

The CY 2022 Safety Performance Measures (PM1) were also presented to the CMMPO Advisory Committee and CMRPC’s Transportation Planning Committee. The Advisory Committee voted to recommend to follow the State’s target, but they had a concern that data from 2020 and 2021 was not being used. As for the CMRPC Transportation Committee, they also voted to recommend that the CMMPO follow the State’s targets.

Mr. Woelfel asked what it means when the CMMPO Advisory endorsed these targets with qualifiers. Mr. Gemperline replied that some members were confused as to why these targets don’t include 2020 or 2021 data. Derek Krevat provided much more context regarding safety data.

There were no other comments or questions.

Bob Hassinger made a motion to approve the Statewide Safety Targets and was seconded by Dennis Lamarche. All members voted unanimously to approve the Statewide Safety Targets.

Robert Hassinger – Yes

Shelby Marshall – Yes

Arthur Frost - Yes

Dennis Lamarche – Yes

Stephen Woelfel – Yes

Brian Pigeon – Yes

Jesse Limanek – Yes

Dennis Lipka – Yes

### **Agenda Item #9 – Staff Updates**

Ms. Krishnan reminded the group that the MassDERs Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance Grant (CRMA) program is in its Request for Response phase of the application process.

**Agenda Item #10 – New Business**

Mr. Woelfel announced that the Innovation Conference is happening as a hybrid event, which will be held on March 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> at the DCU Center in Worcester.

**Agenda Item #11 – Next Meetings**

- CMMPO Advisory Committee meeting (virtual) – Wednesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 3:00 PM
- CMMPO meeting (virtual) – Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM

**Agenda Item #12 – Adjournment**

Bob Hassinger made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Dennis Lamarche. The meeting concluded at around 5:15 PM.

*Meeting Minutes prepared by: Zachary Blais, Transportation Associate Planner*