



## CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

The minutes of the Central Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (CMMPO) meeting held **Wednesday, May 18<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 Lipka, WRTA
5. Brian Pigeon, City of Worcester
6. Dennis Lamarche, Oxford, Southwest Subregion Representative
7. Jesse Limanek – Sutton, Southeast Subregion Representative
8. Julie Quink – Hardwick, West Subregion Representative

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

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

- **Guests:**

1. Ann Sullivan, MassDOT District #3
2. Daryl Amaral, MassDOT District #2
3. Nick Burnham, WRTA
4. Dori Vecchio, Blackstone
5. Greg Doerschler
6. Rich Eichacker – Warren, West Subregion Alternate

- **CMRPC Staff Present:**

1. Sujatha Krishnan, Deputy Director – Transportation
2. Rich Rydant, Project Manager – Transportation
3. Kevin Krasnecky, Principal Planner – Transportation
4. Yahaira Graxirena, Project Manager – Transportation

5. Zack Blais, Associate Planner – Transportation
6. Faye Rhault, Assistant Planner – Transportation

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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 April 20, 2022, Meeting Minutes**

Minutes from the April 20, 2022, 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  
Arthur Frost – Yes  
Stephen Woelfel – Yes  
Jesse Limanek – Yes

Julie Quink – Yes  
Dennis Lamarche – Yes  
Dennis Lipka – Yes  
Brian Pigeon – Yes

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

Arthur Frost commented that this would be his last CMMPO meeting.

**Agenda Item #4 – FFY 2022-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

- **Potential Action:** Approval of Amendment #4 to the FFY 2022-2026 TIP Highway Project Listing

Kevin Krasnecky presented for this item, in which staff is looking for the CMMPO to approve Proposed Amendment #4 to the FFY 2022-2026 TIP Highway Project Listing for FFY 2022:

- Add Project #612133 – Oxford – Structural Steel Cleaning, Painting, and Various Repairs of Overhead Bridges on I-395: O-06-03 (1PX), O-06-034 (1PY), O-06-035 (1Q2), and O-06-040 (1QD) to Statewide Bridge Systematic Maintenance for a total project cost of \$8,741,567

Bob Hassinger made a motion and was seconded by Dennis Lamarche to approve Amendment #4 to the FFY 2022-2026 TIP Highway Project Listing. All members voted unanimously to approve Amendment #4 to the FFY 2022-2026 TIP Highway Project Listing.

Robert Hassinger – Yes  
Arthur Frost – Yes  
Stephen Woelfel – Yes  
Jesse Limanek – Yes

Julie Quink – Yes  
Dennis Lamarche – Yes  
Dennis Lipka – Yes  
Brian Pigeon – Yes

There were no questions or comments.

- **Potential Action:** Release Proposed Amendment #5 to the FFY 2022-2026 TIP for 21-day Public Review and Comment Period

Kevin Krasnecky also presented for this item, in which staff is looking for the CMMPO to release both the transit and highway proposed Amendment #5 to the FFY 2022-2026 TIP for a 21-day public review and comment period.

#### 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.

#### 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.

Sujatha Krishnan commented that the Rideshare project should also include Shrewsbury in the description since it was expanded into the community and the members agreed to the change.

There were no other comments or questions.

Dennis Lamarche made a motion and was seconded by Bob Hassinger to release Amendment #5 to the FFY 2022-2026 TIP for a 21-day public review and comment period. All members voted unanimously to release Amendment #5 to the FFY 2022-2026 TIP for a 21-day Public Review and Comment Period.

Robert Hassinger – Yes

Julie Quink – Yes

Arthur Frost – Yes

Dennis Lamarche – Yes

Stephen Woelfel – Yes

Dennis Lipka – Yes

Jesse Limanek – Yes

Brian Pigeon – Yes

#### **Agenda Item #5 – FFY 2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

- **Potential Action:** Approval of FFY 2023-2027 TIP

Kevin Krasnecky presented for this item, in which staff is looking for the CMMPO to approve the FFY 2023-2027 TIP.

For the highway project listing there was a few changes. For FFY 2023, Project #602219 (Holden) was initially only funded through STBG funds but was approved to also use CMAQ funds for the project. Other changes throughout FFY 2025, 2026, and 2027 include funding changes to multiple bridge projects. These projects are now funded through the Next Generation Bridge Program (NGBP) (i.e., FFY 2025 Project #612192). These projects are non-federal aid funded projects. All other projects and cost amounts stayed the same. For the transit project listing, the formatting of the listing was updated but all projects and cost amounts stayed the same.

During the public comments and review period, comments were received from MassDOT OTP and FHWA. In addition, a letter was received from I-495/MetroWest Partnership, in which they showed their support regarding the projects within their planning region. No other comments were received during the public comment and review period.

Following the presentation, Arthur Frost commented on FFY 2023 Project #609219 in Holden, in which during a recent town meeting, the town failed to reach two thirds vote on acquiring the right-of-way (ROW) for the project. With that, the plan is to do more public outreach and hopefully have the ROW acquisitions approved at a future town meeting.

There were no other comments or questions.

Dennis Lipka made a motion and was seconded by Dennis Lamarche to approve the FFY 2023-2027 TIP. All members voted unanimously to approve the FFY 2023-2027 TIP.

Robert Hassinger – Yes

Julie Quink – Yes

Arthur Frost – Yes

Dennis Lamarche – Yes

Stephen Woelfel – Yes

Dennis Lipka – Yes

Jesse Limanek – Yes

Brian Pigeon – Yes

### **Agenda Item #6 – FFY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

- **Potential Action:** Release of Draft FFY 2023 UPWP for 21-day Public Review and Comment Period

Sujatha Krishnan presented for this item, in which staff is looking for the CMMPO to release the Draft FFY 2023 UPWP for 21-day public review and comment period.

Major tasks that staff will be working on for FFY 2023 include Task 3.7: Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Development, Task 1.5: Public Participation, Task 2.1: Data Collection and Analysis, and Task 2.2: Regional Transportation Model.

Regarding the budget there have been two changes. First, with the addition of Federal Transit Authority (FTA) funds, the FFY 2023 UPWP budget has increased by about \$180,000. Second, WRTA funding was reduced to about \$50,000. With that, the FFY 2023 UPWP budget has increased by about \$100,000 from what was presented in the March CMMPO meeting. A public meeting to review and discuss the Draft FFY 2023 UPWP will be held virtually on June 1 at 5:00 PM.

Bob Hassinger made a motion and was seconded by Dennis Lamarche to release the Draft FFY 2023 UPWP for a 21-day public review and comment period. All members voted unanimously to release the Draft FFY 2023 UPWP for a 21-day public review and comment period.

Robert Hassinger – Yes

Julie Quink – Yes

Arthur Frost – Yes

Dennis Lamarche – Yes

Stephen Woelfel – Yes

Dennis Lipka – Yes

Jesse Limanek – Yes

Brian Pigeon – Yes

### **Agenda Item #7 – Worcester E-Bike Project – Presentation and Discussion**

Faye Rhault presented for this item on the upcoming Worcester E-Bike 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 attrition amongst the participants, and being flexible.

Bob Hassinger asked if anybody else has done a similar program. Ms. Rhault replied that there were a few other RPA's that received funding during this grant round to do similar programs. Mr. Hassinger also asked about servicing of the bikes and people who do not have ready-access to other transportation and if they will know how to fix the bikes. Faye replied that the program will provide classes to help train the individuals for basic bike maintenance, like charging needs and securing the bike in public. Any major fixes to the bicycles will be handled through Worcester Earn-A-Bike or Landry's Bicycles so that participants will not have to worry about those issues. Following the 18-month period the owner will be obligated to take care of their own bicycle if they wish to keep it. Stephen Woelfel commented that Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) has a similar program and can help Ms. Rhault if needed.

Chris Klem asked if the program has considered if only the owner can ride the bike or if multiple people in the household would be able to ride it. Ms. Rhault replied that yes, anyone can share the bicycle with their family or people in household/residence.

There were no other comments or questions.

#### **Agenda Item #8 – MassDOT Statewide Long Range Transportation Plan – Presentation and Discussion**

Chris Klem presented for this item to give an introduction and overview of the Massachusetts 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) titled which is 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 #9 – Staff Updates**

Sujatha Krishnan noted that CMRPC hired a new staff member to begin the following week.

#### **Agenda Item #10 – New Business**

MassDOT approved the release of the Capital Investment Plan (CIP), and the Central Massachusetts Region public meeting will be held virtually on May 26 at 6:00PM.

#### **Agenda Item #11 – Next Meetings**

- CMMPO Advisory Committee meeting (virtual) – Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM
- CMMPO meeting (virtual) – Wednesday, June 15<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 4:45 PM.

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