



CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

The minutes of the Central Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (CMMPO) meeting held **Wednesday, June 15th, 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. Ann Sullivan, MassDOT Highway Division District #3 office, designee to MassDOT Highway Division Administrator Jonathan Gulliver
3. Robert Hassinger, Grafton, CMRPC Commission Chair
4. Nick Burnham, WRTA
5. Brian Pigeon, City of Worcester
6. Shelby Marshall, Westborough, Northeast Subregion Representative
7. Jesse Limanek – Sutton, Southeast Subregion Representative

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

1. Chris Klem, MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning

- **Guests:**

1. Laura Hanson, MassDOT District #2
2. Jeff Bridges, Town of Spencer
3. Sarah Bradbury, MassDOT District #3
4. Sandy Amoakohene, Worcester DPH

- **CMRPC Staff Present:**

1. Rich Rydant, Project Manager – Transportation
2. Kevin Krasnecky, Principal Planner – Transportation
3. Yahaira Graxirena, Project Manager – Transportation
4. Zack Blais, Associate Planner – Transportation
5. 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 May 18, 2022, Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the May 18, 2022, meeting of the CMMPO were considered for approval. Bob Hassinger motioned to accept the minutes and was seconded by Jesse Limanek. A roll call vote was announced, and members present voted unanimously to accept the minutes.

Robert Hassinger – Yes
Ann Sullivan – Yes
Stephen Woelfel – Yes
Jesse Limanek – Yes

Nick Burnham – Yes
Brian Pigeon – Yes
Shelby Marshall - Yes

Agenda Item #3 – Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

Agenda Item #4 – FFY 2022-2026 Transportation Improvement Program

- **Potential Action:** Approval of Amendment #5 to the FFY 2022-2026 TIP Highway and Transit Project Listing

Kevin Krasnecky presented this agenda item to the group. Members were asked to approve Amendment #5 to the FFY 2022-2026 TIP Highway and Transit Project Listing. The following were the project cost changes to consider with the proposed Amendment #5 to the FFY 2022-2026 TIP Transit List for 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 is \$0.
- **RTD0009772** – Increase total project cost by \$44,040. New total project cost is \$229,405.

Additionally, there was only one project change to consider with the proposed Amendment #5 to the FFY 2022-2026 TIP Highway List for FFY 2022:

- Add Project #S12739 – Westborough – Shrewsbury 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.

Mr. Krasnecky noted that staff did not receive any public comments regarding Amendment #5. Following the updates, Ann Sullivan made a motion and was seconded by Jesse Limanek to approve Amendment #5 to the FFY 2022-2026 TIP Highway and Transit Project Listing. All members voted unanimously to approve Amendment #5 to the FFY 2022-2026 TIP Highway and Transit Project Listing.

Robert Hassinger – Yes
 Ann Sullivan – Yes
 Stephen Woelfel – Yes
 Jesse Limanek – Yes

Nick Burnham – Yes
 Brian Pigeon – Yes
 Shelby Marshall - Yes

There were no comments or questions.

- **Potential Action:** Release Proposed Amendment #6 to the FFY 2022-2026 TIP for 21-day Public Review and Comment Period
 - Cost Increase of Project #608432 – Rutland – Reconstruction of Route 56 (Pommogussett Road)

Kevin Krasnecky presented this agenda item to the group. Members were asked to release the 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.

Following the summary of the amendment, Ann Sullivan made a motion and was seconded by Jesse Limanek to approve the release of proposed Amendment #6 to the FFY 2022-2026 TIP for a 21-day public review and comment period. All members voted unanimously to approve the release of the proposed Amendment #6 to the FFY 2022-2026 TIP for a 21-day public review and comment period.

Robert Hassinger – Yes
 Ann Sullivan – Yes
 Stephen Woelfel – Yes
 Jesse Limanek – Yes

Nick Burnham – Yes
 Brian Pigeon – Yes
 Shelby Marshall - Yes

There were no comments or questions.

Agenda Item #5 – FFY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

- **Potential Action:** Approval of FFY 2023 UPWP

Kevin Krasnecky presented this agenda item to the group. Members were asked to endorse the FFY 2023 UPWP. Mr. Krasnecky noted that staff presented the Draft FFY 2023 UPWP to the CMMPO

Advisory and CMRPC Transportation Committee, in which they both recommended the approval of the document. Further, a public meeting for the document was also held virtually on June 1st, in which there were no comments or questions from the public.

In addition, minor comments were received from MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning and staff did fix those text edits in the document and added additional information to specific task numbers to show which towns would benefit from these tasks. Also, a table was added at the end of the document to show overall staff hours and the number of hours anticipated for each of the work tasks. No other comments were received on the document.

Shelby Marshall made a motion and was seconded by Nick Burnham to approve the edits and endorse the FFY 2023 UPWP. All members voted unanimously to endorse the FFY 2023 UPWP.

Robert Hassinger – Yes
Ann Sullivan – Yes
Stephen Woelfel – Yes
Jesse Limanek – Yes

Nick Burnham – Yes
Brian Pigeon – Yes
Shelby Marshall - Yes

Agenda Item #6 – 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 is 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 #7 – Staff Updates

Faye Rhault mentioned that in March 2022 CMRPC was awarded funding through the District Local Technical Assistance to pursue a regional age-friendly designation to support planning efforts throughout Central Massachusetts communities to incorporate older adults in transportation planning, housing development, and community development. Staff have been working on this effort and are planning upcoming listening sessions for each CMRPC sub-region. Currently, a community survey is live and will continue throughout the summer. Listening sessions locations include:

- June 17, Tri-Valley Elder Services – Dudley (Southwest Subregion)

- June 27, Northbridge Senior Center – Northbridge (Southeast Subregion)
- June 30, 19 Carter – Berlin (Northeast Subregion)
- July 12, Rutland Public Library – Rutland (North Subregion)
- July 18, West Brookfield Senior Center – West Brookfield (West Subregion)

Staff is currently working on creating a listening session for the City of Worcester (Central Subregion). Shelby Marshall asked when is the deadline for public comments. Ms. Rhault replied that until at least all listening sessions are completed.

Rich Rydant mentioned that the upcoming CMRPC Legislative Affairs Committee is hosting a discussion regarding east-west passenger rail. The discussion will involve US Congressman Jim McGovern, Senator Eric Lester, former Lieutenant Governor Tim Murray, and other CMRPC staff.

There were no other staff updates.

Agenda Item #8 – New Business

Chris Klem reminded the MPO that the public survey for the Statewide Long Range Transportation Plan is still open until July 8, 2022.

Agenda Item #9 – Next Meetings

- CMMPO Advisory Committee meeting (virtual) – Wednesday, June 22nd at 3:00 PM
- CMMPO meeting (virtual) – Wednesday, July 20th at 4:00 PM

Agenda Item #10 – Adjournment

Bob Hassinger made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Jesse Limanek. The meeting concluded at 4:30 PM.

Meeting Minutes prepared by: Zachary Blais, Transportation Associate Planner