



CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

The minutes of the Central Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (CMMPO) meeting held **Wednesday, June 21st, 2023**. This meeting was held virtually using Zoom.

- **CMMPO Members Present:**

1. Steve Woelfel – MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning, designee to MassDOT Secretary Gina Fiandaca
2. Ann Sullivan – MassDOT Highway Division District #3, designee to MassDOT Highway Division Administrator Jonathon Gulliver
3. Dennis Lipka – WRTA
4. Bob Hassinger – designee to CMRPC Commission Chair
5. Brian Pigeon – designee to City Manager Eric Batista
6. Jesse Limanek – Sutton, Southeast Subregion Representative
7. Stephanie Mulroy – Holden, North 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. Arthur Frost, MassDOT District #3
2. Sarah Bradbury, MassDOT District #3
3. Daryl Amaral, MassDOT District #2
4. Mason Perrone – RI Division of Statewide Planning, Transportation Assistant Chief
5. Liza Farr, RI Division of Statewide Planning
6. Roberto Echevarria – RI Division of Statewide Planning, Transportation Principal Planner
7. Sean Hendricks, Town of Millbury
8. John Eul Jr., Town of Oxford

- **CMRPC Staff Present:**

1. Sujatha Krishnan, Deputy Director – Transportation
2. Kevin Krasnecky, Project Manager – Transportation
3. Zack Blais, Associate Planner – Transportation
4. Rich Rydant, Project Manager – Transportation
5. Yahaira Graxirena, Project Manager - Transportation
6. Nahrin Sangkagalo, Associate Planner – Transportation
7. Rowan Compton, Intern – Transportation
8. Sarah Plutnicki, Assistant Planner – RCCP

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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 17, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the May 17, 2023, 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 voted unanimously approve the minutes, with one abstention.

Steve Woelfel – Yes
Ann Sullivan – Yes
Dennis Lipka – Yes
Bob Hassinger – Yes

Brian Pigeon – Abstain
Jesse Limanek – Yes
Stephanie Mulroy – Yes

Agenda Item #3 – Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

Agenda Item #4 – Transportation Improvement Program

- **Potential Action:** Proposed Adjustment #7 to the FFY 2023-2027 TIP Highway Project Listing

Kevin Krasnecky presented this item. Proposed Adjustment #7 included the adjustment of funding for the Holden TIP Project #609219 – Pavement Rehabilitation on Main Street, Shrewsbury Street and Doyle Road, from State Police Barracks to Brattle Street. Following this adjusted funding, the new Total Project Cost remained at \$13,049,700. As part of this adjustment, three changes to funding were included:

- CMAQ Target funding reduced by \$293,711
- Statewide STBG funding reduced by \$1,505,840
- Statewide TAP funding added in the amount of \$1,799,551

There were no comments or questions.

Ann Sullivan made a motion to approve the Proposed Adjustment #7 to the FFY 2023-2027 TIP Highway Project Listing and was seconded by Dennis Lipka. All members present voted unanimously to approve the Proposed Adjustment #7 to the FFY 2023-2027 TIP Highway Project Listing.

Steve Woelfel – Yes
Ann Sullivan – Yes
Dennis Lipka – Yes
Bob Hassinger – Yes

Brian Pigeon – Yes
Jesse Limanek – Yes
Stephanie Mulroy – Yes

- **Potential Action:** Release Proposed Amendment #8 to the FFY 2023-2027 TIP Transit Project Listing for a 21-Day Public Review and Comment Period

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.

Following the presentation, Dennis Lipka commented that WRTA have had a shortage of vans and deliveries lately and have been working to adjust numbers with the fiscal years to ensure vans will be purchased.

There were no other comments or questions.

Bob Hassinger made a motion and was seconded by Ann Sullivan to release Proposed Amendment #8 to the FFY 2023-2027 TIP Transit Project Listing for a 21-day public review and comment period. All members voted unanimously to approve the release of Proposed Amendment #8 to the FFY 2023 TIP Transit Project Listing for 21-day public review and comment period.

Steve Woelfel – Yes

Brian Pigeon – Yes

Ann Sullivan – Yes

Jesse Limanek – Yes

Dennis Lipka – Yes

Stephanie Mulroy – Yes

Bob Hassinger – Yes

Agenda Item #5 – FFY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

- **Potential Action:** Endorse FFY 2024 UPWP

Sujatha Krishnan presented this item. CMRPC staff were looking for members to approve the endorsement of FFY 2024 UPWP. Ms. Krishnan briefly reviewed the Table of Contents, as has been done in previous CMMPO meetings. In addition, Ms. Krishnan reviewed the “Task Summary by Funding Source” (budget), which outlines the funding totals for each of the Tasks under the UPWP Elements. In total, funding for the UPWP in FFY will be \$1,876,609. During the comment period Complete Streets funding is now listed separately under Task 3.5. Moreover, Ms. Krishnan mentioned that staff hosted a

public meeting on June 6 for the Draft FFY 2024 UPWP, and the public comments were made from the towns of Sutton and Shrewsbury are summarized in the endorsed version of the UPWP.

There were no comments or questions.

Ann Sullivan made a motion and was seconded by Jesse Limanek to endorse the FFY 2024 UPWP. All members voted unanimously to endorse the FFY 2024 UPWP.

Steve Woelfel – Yes

Brian Pigeon – Yes

Ann Sullivan – Yes

Jesse Limanek – Yes

Dennis Lipka – Yes

Stephanie Mulroy – Yes

Bob Hassinger – Yes

Agenda Item #6 – Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)

- **Potential Action:** Release Draft LRTP *2050 Connections* for 21-Day Public Review and Comment Period

Sujatha Krishnan presented this item. This included a brief description of the Table of Contents. The first chapter breaks down what the LRTP is, what public outreach has been done, and discusses the five programmatic areas. The second chapter reviews the planning considerations, which include scenario planning, planning factors, emphasis areas, and resources. The third chapter identifies linkages, which include land use projections and the transportation impacts as well as linking the document to the CMRPC Regional Plan *Imagine2050*. The fourth chapter includes the review of the planning areas, modes and related programmatic areas. The included modes are freight, transit, non-motorized transportation, highways, and airports. The planning areas are safety, congestion management, asset management, environment, and emerging technologies. Chapter five includes all of the needs of the region for each programmatic area and prioritizes them into various studies, initiatives, and projects. These needs were developed from regional workshops, equity analysis, greenhouse gas savings, modal plans, and more. Public meetings and a web map were also utilized to help identify the various needs and priorities. The sixth chapter is the financial plan, which is broken down by the five programmatic areas: active transportation, major infrastructure projects, system maintenance and operations, transit support, and climate change and resiliency. The anticipated funding between 2024 and 2050 is \$1,025,467,044. Both highway and transit financials are included in the chapter. Ms. Krishnan also noted the listing of major infrastructure (MI) highway projects in each of the 5-year bands of the LRTP out to 2050. In addition, a short list of major transit projects was also discussed. Lastly, chapter 7 includes the air quality and GHG assessment. This chapter shows the overall emissions reductions from all the MI projects included in the LRTP. The results show a reduction in GHG emissions and improvements in air quality in the region.

Ms. Krishnan noted that a virtual public meeting for the draft LRTP will be hosted by staff on July 10, 2023. There were no comments or questions.

Stephanie Mulroy made a motion and was seconded by Dennis Lipka to release the Draft LRTP *2050 Connections* for 21-day public review and comment period. All members voted unanimously to release the Draft LRTP for a 21-day public review and comment period.

Steve Woelfel – Yes

Ann Sullivan – Yes

Dennis Lipka – Yes
Bob Hassinger – Yes

Brian Pigeon – Yes
Jesse Limanek – Yes
Stephanie Mulroy – Yes

Agenda Item #7 – Trails Accessibility Project Presentation

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 #8 – Staff Updates

- Climate Pollution Reduction Grant

Kevin Krasnecky presented about the EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. Funding for the grant is provided by the Inflation Reduction Act, which was signed by President Biden in 2022. Available funding includes \$3.6 billion throughout the country. This is a non-competitive grant and CMRPC will receive \$1 million in planning funds over a 4-year period.

CMRPC will lead the effort and work with CMRPC communities, Montachusett Regional Planning Commission (MRPC), a few communities from Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) region, and the Northeast Connecticut Council of Governments (NECCOG). Overall, a total of 82 cities and towns will be included. A baseline inventory of emissions for all sectors will be developed by CMRPC, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and consultants. Several community engagement efforts will be conducted

to develop the needs, strategies, vulnerable areas for EJ populations, and potential projects. Staff will work with MPO's and RTAs to identify projects that could help reduce emissions.

Documents that are part of the grant include a short-term Climate Action Plan, a medium/long-term Climate Action Plan, and a Final Status Report. The Final Status Report will include information on what has been achieved, the projects that will be implemented, and how emissions have been reduced (and align with the States goals).

As for the current status of the grant, staff submitted the grant application at the end of May, and the planning process is expected to start in July. Staff will look at a few community plans to see what work was completed and projects were implemented to help determine what still needs to be done. These include Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Plans, Hazard Mitigation Plans, and Climate Plans. Future updates will likely be provided as more work has been completed.

There were no comments or questions.

Agenda Item #9 – New Business

Sujatha Krishnan announced that staff will be applying for Safe Streets for All Grant, which has a deadline of July 10th.

Agenda Item #10 – Next Meetings

- CMMPO Advisory Committee meeting (virtual) – June 28, 2023, at 3:00pm
- Draft LRTP Virtual Public Meeting – July 10, 2023, at 5:00pm
- CMMPO meeting (virtual) – July 19, 2023, at 4:00pm

Agenda Item #10 – Adjournment

Bob Hassinger made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Ann Sullivan. The meeting concluded at 5:00 PM.

Meeting Minutes prepared by: Zachary Blais, Transportation Associate Planner