



CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

The minutes of the Central Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (CMMPO) meeting held **Wednesday, December 21st, 2022**. This meeting was held virtually using Zoom.

- **CMMPO Members Present:**

1. Steve Woelfel – MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning
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. Shelby Marshall – Westborough, Northeast Subregion Representative
7. Jesse Limanek – Sutton, Southeast Subregion Representative
8. Dennis Lamarche – Oxford, Southwest 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. Sarah Bradbury, MassDOT District #3
2. Daryl Amaral, MassDOT District #2
3. Dave Adams, Southbridge, Southwest Subregion Alternate
4. Sean Hendricks, Town of Millbury

- **CMRPC Staff Present:**

1. Kevin Krasnecky, Project Manager – Transportation
2. Yahaira Graxirena, Project Manager – Transportation
3. Zack Blais, Associate Planner – Transportation
4. Greer Jarvis, Assistant Planner – Transportation
5. Rich Rydant, Project Manager – 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 November 16, 2022, Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the November 16, 2022, meeting of the CMMPO were considered for approval. Bob Hassinger motioned to accept the minutes and was seconded by Ann Sullivan. A roll call vote was announced, and all members present voted to accept the minutes. Dennis Lipka abstained due to him not being present at last month’s meeting.

Steve Woelfel – Yes

Brian Pigeon – Yes

Ann Sullivan – Yes

Shelby Marshall – Yes

Dennis Lipka – Abstain

Jesse Limanek – Yes

Bob Hassinger – Yes

Dennis Lamarche – Yes

Agenda Item #3 – Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

Agenda Item #4 – Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- **Potential Action:** Approval of Proposed Amendment #2 to the FFY 2023-2027 TIP Transit List

Kevin Krasnecky reminded the members that proposed Amendment #2 to the FFY 2023-2027 TIP Transit List was for a cost increase of Project #RTD0010843 in FFY 2023. This Project is for the Worcester Regional Transit Authority (WRTA) to buy and replace 35 FT buses (8). As part of the proposed Amendment, the Federal funds will increase \$1,200,000 and the State funds (TDC) will increase \$240,000. The updated total project cost is \$5,541,148. Additionally, the project description will change from (8) to (9).

Mr. Krasnecky noted that the Proposed Amendment #2 to the FFY 2023-2027 TIP Transit List was recently voted in favor by the CMMPO Advisory and the CMRPC Transportation Committee to be endorsed by the CMMPO. In addition, a virtual meeting was held on December 6. At this virtual meeting there were comments regarding what types of buses were being purchased as part of the Amendment and that they would like to see electric vehicles purchased by the Worcester Regional Transit Authority (WRTA) in the future. Additionally, an official comment letter was received from a Representative from the Conservation Law Foundation (CLF), encouraging the CMMPO and WRTA to consider purchasing electric buses for their fleet in future TIPs. The WRTA responded to the CLF comment letter, noting that purchasing electric buses are in WRTA future plans.

There were no comments or questions.

Jesse Limanek made a motion and was seconded by Ann Sullivan to approve the proposed Amendment #2 to the FFY 2023-2027 TIP Transit List. All members present voted unanimously to approve the proposed Amendment #2 to the FFY 2023-2027 TIP Transit List.

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

Brian Pigeon – Yes
Shelby Marshall – Yes
Jessie Limanek – Yes
Dennis Lamarche – Yes

- FFY 2028 Potential Candidate TIP Projects

Kevin Krasnecky said staff will soon be starting the development of the 2024-2028 TIP. Similar to the last few years, potential candidate projects for FFY 2028 will be invited to attend the January CMMPO meeting to present their projects. The potential TIP project candidates for FFY 2028 include:

#611988: Oxford – Roadway Rehabilitation on Route 12 (Main Street), \$4,531,250

#612629: East Brookfield – Resurfacing and Related Work on Route 9, \$8,050,000

#613097: Spencer – Intersection Improvements at Route 9 and Route 49, \$5,002,500

Brian Pigeon asked for background on where these projects came from and how they are considered as candidate projects. Kevin Krasnecky replied that in order to be considered on the new TIP cycle a project must be approved and assigned a project ID number by the MassDOT Project Review Committee.

There were no other comments or questions.

Agenda Item #5 – Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Updates

- Public Outreach Results

CMRPC staff Greer Jarvis presented the recently completed public outreach results as part of the LRTP.

Over the last several months staff have reached out to the region in various ways, including tabling at public events, reaching out to local businesses and organizations, holding stakeholder meetings, posting to social media, press releases, hosting sub-regional infrastructure summits, and sharing the LRTP survey.

Tabling at public events has included locations such as the Westborough 4 Life event, the Worcester Street Art Festival, and the Apple Country Fair. Targeted outreach has included email blasts and posting survey flyers online and at participating locations. Stakeholder meetings have been at several locations, like the Worcester Senior Center, Southbridge Public Library, and a virtual meeting with MassDOT Districts 2 and 3. There have been many social media posts to share a plethora of information and links to surveys. Press releases have included articles published in news outlets, like the Auburn News, Webster Times, and the Blackstone Valley Tribune. Sub-Regional Infrastructure Summits were also held in each of the sub-regions, along with two other virtual summits for those who were not able to attend the sub-regional summits in person.

As for the LRTP Survey there were 284 completed surveys and over 1,000 written comments. Greer Jarvis went over the survey results in much more detail, including showing the demographics of the survey and results of several major transportation questions. Some of these questions included:

- What is the first thing that comes to mind when you think about transportation?
- Do you have access to a hybrid or electric vehicle?
- How often do you use public transportation?
- Have you experienced any transportation related difficulty during the past year?
- How do you rate pedestrian infrastructure?
- If you didn't have access to your primary mode of transportation, how would you get around?
- What are your transportation project priorities?

Regarding results for transportation priorities, 53 people put improving pedestrian infrastructure as their top priority, 36 people put improving public transportation as their top priority, 25 people put congestion mitigation as their top priority, and 25 people put strategies to reduce vehicle crashes as their top priority.

Shelby Marshall asked for a distinction between the questions of “Do you have access to a bicycle?” and “Did you visit a trail this past year?” since they were included on the same slide. Ms. Jarvis replied that trails also included walking and hiking. Shelby also asked what the next steps are following the results of this survey. Ms. Jarvis replied that staff will be analyzing the results of the surveys and other public outreach events and including these as part of the planning process. Yahaira Graxirena followed up by replying that these results will be included in the LRTP and become part of the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) priorities.

There were no other comments or questions.

Agenda Item #6 – Title VI Reporting Update

Yahaira Graxirena announced that staff are working on submitting a Title VI annual report to MassDOT. Because the CMMPO is a recipient of Federal funds it needs to comply with Title VI. Ms. Graxirena announced to the members that staff will be asking the Chair of the CMMPO to sign the Title VI Assurances for the CMMPO region.

There were no comments or questions.

Agenda Item #7 – Staff Updates

Yahaira Graxirena announced that the MicroProjects Applications were released on the CMRPC website. The deadline to apply is January 20, 2023.

Agenda Item #8 – New Business

Steve Woelfel announced that the MassDOT Innovation Conference will be held on May 2 and May 3, 2023 at the DCU Center in Worcester, MA.

Agenda Item #9 – Next Meetings

- CMMPO Advisory Committee meeting (virtual) – January 25, 2023 at 3:00pm
- CMMPO meeting (virtual) – January 18, 2023 at 4:00pm

Agenda Item #10 – Adjournment

Bob Hassinger made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Ann Sullivan. The meeting concluded around 4:30 PM.

Meeting Minutes prepared by: Zachary Blais, Transportation Associate Planner