



CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

The minutes of the Central Massachusetts Transportation Planning Committee Virtual meeting held Thursday, February 24, 2022 using Zoom.

T-Committee Members Present:

1. Bob Hassinger, Grafton, Committee Chairperson
2. Richard Baker, Boylston
3. Dick Williams, Rutland
4. Otto Lies, Holden
5. Brian Pigeon, Worcester
6. Jeff Howland, New Braintree

CMRPC Staff Present:

1. Rich Rydant
2. Kevin Krasnecky
3. Yahaira Graxirena

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Around-the-Room Introductions

Committee Chairperson Bob Hassinger opened the meeting at 6:00 PM and asked for around the room introductions.

Approval of the January 27, 2022 T-Committee Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the January 27, 2022 meeting were considered for approval. Otto Lies motioned to accept the minutes and was seconded by Dick Williams. All members voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

TIP/UPWP Updates from MassDOT MARPA Meeting

Rich Rydant presented this agenda item to the group. Mr. Rydant provided a summary of the TIP and UPWP guidance and financials that was discussed at the annual MassDOT-MARPA meeting. In regards to the TIP, Mr. Rydant showed the current regional funding targets and the new proposed funding targets from the new Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). Mr. Rydant summarized the following highlights:

- Project Programming Rationale from the LRTP, UPWP, Statewide & Municipal Plans, and Performance-Based Planning
- Performance Target Setting & Planning for the WRTA Transit Asset Management (TAM) Plan and the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP)
- Involving Project Proponents in the TIP Project Scoring
- Micro-Projects Program
- Equity Analysis
- Community Outreach for Virtual Public Involvement, Non-Traditional Stakeholders, and Limited English Proficiency (LEP)

For the UPWP, Mr. Rydant noted a 16.1% increase in funding for CMRPC's work program. The total increase was about \$200K. The following are the UPWP guidance highlights:

- Connections to various document such as the LRTP, Statewide Modal Plans, Municipal Plans, and other Regional Plans
- Linkages to Land use, Housing, and Transportation
- Review of current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU's)
- 2024 LRTP Update
- The new 2021 Planning Emphasis Areas
- Amendments & Adjustments to the Work Program

There were no questions regarding this agenda item.

2023-2027 TIP Readiness Day Update

Kevin Krasnecky presented this agenda item to the group. Mr. Krasnecky said that MassDOT held their annual TIP Readiness Day on February 8, 2022. Readiness Day is a time for MassDOT and the MPO's to discuss the programmed TIP projects in their planning regions. Mr. Krasnecky summarized what staff learned about the current TIP projects. In FFY 2022, all projects currently programmed are still on track to be advertised during this fiscal year. Mr. Krasnecky did note that the town of Rutland needs to keep progressing with the right-of-way for their project to be advertised this year. In FFY 2023, Mr. Krasnecky said that the Uxbridge – Route 122 project is likely going to get pushed back a year due to extensive state right-of-way. All other regional target projects are still expected to be ready in FFY 2023. Additionally, there are some cost increases for most of the projects, but nothing too drastic. As for the statewide projects currently listed in FFY 2023, they are all likely to get pushed back due to varying issues. In FFY 2024, all regional target and statewide projects are still expected to be ready during this year. Mr. Krasnecky said that the Holden – Shrewsbury Street project could potentially move up to FFY 2023, but is not known at this time. In FFY 2025 and 2026, all regional target and statewide projects are still expected to be ready in their current fiscal years.

There were no questions regarding this agenda item.

FFY 2027 TIP Potential Candidate Projects – Performance Management Scoring

- ***Potential Action Item:*** Seeking recommendation to the CMMPO concerning the ranking of projects.

Kevin Krasnecky presented this agenda item. Mr. Krasnecky told the group that the scoring was completed for four (4) FFY 2027 candidate projects which are Shrewsbury (Route 20), Uxbridge (Route 16), Worcester (Chandler Street-Phase 2), and CMMPO MicroProjects (TBD). Mr. Krasnecky said the MicroProjects candidate was not scored but should be included in the decision of which projects to program in 2027. If the MicroProjects were to be selected, \$400,000 would be reserved in 2027 for communities to use those future funds for smaller projects, yet to be determined.

Next, Mr. Krasnecky began to summarize the scoring criteria for all the candidate projects. Once finished, Mr. Krasnecky pointed out that the Shrewsbury and Worcester projects tied for the highest score with a total of 17 points and the Uxbridge project scored 13 points. Mr. Krasnecky then asked the group to provide their rankings of the candidate projects to determine which ones should be programmed in FFY 2027 as there not sufficient funding to program all the projects.

Rich Rydant commented that it is possible that some statewide monies could be available for the Shrewsbury project, but it is not known at this time. Mr. Rydant also noted that this is the second year that the Shrewsbury and Uxbridge projects have attempted to get TIP funding. Brian Pigeon commented that the Phase 1 of Worcester's Chandler Street project is currently

programmed in FFY 2026. After some discussion, the members decided to favor the MicroProjects and Worcester Chandler Street *first*, the Shrewsbury project *second*, and the Uxbridge project *last*.

On a motion from Richard Baker and a second from Otto Lies, the members unanimously voted to recommend to the CMMPO to support the TIP projects of Worcester and MicroProjects as the first choice, followed by the Shrewsbury project in second and the Uxbridge project in third.

TIP Micro-Projects Program Update

Yahaira Graxirena presented this agenda item. Ms. Graxirena started off by giving a brief overview of the MicroProjects. Next, a summary was provided as to what staff has been working on during the year. There was a survey given to the communities to determine what types of projects were of interest. Some of the responses included bikesharing stations, bicycle & pedestrian accommodations, and culvert replacements. Staff studied the Community Connections program of the Boston MPO to determine how these types of programs are working and what types of projects are eligible.

Ms. Graxirena told the group about new funding programs under the recently passed BIL. These programs include National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure, Safe Streets for All, and PROTECT. At the State level there are new or current grant programs that include Shared Streets and Spaces, Local Bottleneck Reduction, and Community Transit. Additionally, other funding programs are available through the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR), and the Clean Energy Center (MassCEC).

Next, Ms. Graxirena discussed the opportunities of the MicroProjects program. These opportunities include CMAQ funds, safety, resiliency, transit access, transportation for older adults, and ADA accessibility. Lastly, Ms. Graxirena summarized the next steps for the implementation of this program. Staff will develop a guide for the municipalities explaining how to apply for the MicroProjects program and the types of projects eligible. Further, staff will conduct outreach, develop evaluation criteria and an application package, and release a schedule with timelines concurrent with the annual TIP development process.

Staff Updates

Rich Rydant mentioned to the group that the DER Culvert Grant program is now open for solicitation with a March 14, 2022 due date.

New Business

None

Next Meetings

- CMMPO Meeting – Wednesday, March 16, 2022 at 4:00 PM
- CMMPO Advisory Committee Meeting – Wednesday, March 23, 2022 at 3:00 PM

- CMTPC Meeting – Thursday, March 31, 2022 at 6:00 PM

Adjournment

Upon a motion by Dick Williams and a second from Otto Lies, the members unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:00 PM.