



## **CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

The minutes of the Central Massachusetts Transportation Planning Committee Virtual meeting held Thursday, March 31, 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

### **CMRPC Staff Present:**

1. Sujatha Krishnan
2. Kevin Krasnecky

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## **Around-the-Room Introductions**

Committee Chairperson Bob Hassinger opened the meeting at 6:02 PM and asked for around the room introductions.

## **Approval of the February 24, 2022 T-Committee Meeting Minutes**

Minutes from the February 24, 2022 meeting were considered for approval. Dick Williams motioned to accept the minutes and was seconded by Otto Lies. All members voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

## **2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

- **Potential Action Item:** Seeking recommendation to the CMMPO concerning Draft Options for the 2023-2027 TIP Highway target projects.

Kevin Krasnecky presented this agenda item to the group. Every year with the development of the TIP staff holds a “TIP Workshop” in March, a month before the release of the draft TIP in April. The TIP Workshop is a way for staff to come up with options for programming in all five years of the TIP. The projects chosen were based on information learned from TIP Readiness Day, project costs, and project scoring. This year, there is about \$4 million in additional funds from the new Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) for FFY 2023-2027 – which helped cover typical cost increases for already programmed projects. Most of the projects stayed in their current programmed year. It was noted that the Uxbridge project was pushed back a year and the Holden project moved up a year to take its place. Since most projects were unable to move up or needed to be pushed back, staff compiled only one option for the CMMPO. The following is the list of projects programmed in Option A:

FFY 23 Option A: This option would cost \$25.457 Million, leaving \$623K still available.

- 608873: Spencer – Meadow Rd Rehabilitation, \$9.542 Million
- 605035: New Braintree – Ravine Rd & Hardwick Rd Resurfacing, \$4.605 Million
- 609219: Holden – Shrewsbury St & Doyle Rd Rehab, \$9.542 Million
- 602659: Charlton/Oxford – Route 20 Reconstruction, \$1.768 Million

FFY 24 Option A: This option would cost \$20.207 Million, leaving \$5.2 Million still available.

- 608171: Uxbridge – Route 122 (S Main St) Reconstruction, \$8.080 Million
- 608778: Southbridge – Downtown Intersection Improvements, \$5.209 Million
- 606517: West Brookfield – Route 9 Reconstruction (Ph1), \$6.918 Million

FFY 25 Option A: This option would cost \$17.381 Million, leaving \$6.669 Million still available.

- 608433: Webster – Rt 16/I-395/Sutton Rd Improvements, \$3.031 Million
- 609049: West Brookfield – Route 9 Reconstruction (Ph2), \$5.573 Million

- 608961: Worcester – May St & Chandler St Int Improvements, \$6.001 Million
- 602659: Charlton/Oxford – Route 20 Reconstruction, \$2.776 Million

FFY 26 Option A: This option would cost \$15.963 Million, leaving \$6.661 Million still available.

- 609441: Northbridge – Rt 122/Sutton St/School St/Upton St, \$2.760 Million
- 608990: Worcester – Chandler St Improvements (Ph1), \$5.503 Million
- 611933: Sturbridge – Route 20 & 131 Roundabout, \$6.404 Million
- 608456: Upton – Route 140 Culvert Replacement, \$.896K
- Reserving \$400,000 funds for CMMPO Micro-Projects Program

FFY 27 Option A: This option would cost \$10.855 Million, leaving \$12.168 Million still available.

- 612011: Worcester – Chandler St Improvements (Ph2), \$4.205 Million
- 610931: Uxbridge – Route 16 (Douglas St) Rehabilitation, \$6.250 Million
- Reserving \$400,000 funds for CMMPO Micro-Projects Program

It was also noted that the Shrewsbury TIP Project #610825, Route 20 reconstruction, which was a candidate for FFY 2027, was able to be entirely state funded in FFY 2026.

**On a motion from Dick Williams and a second from Brian Pigeon, the members unanimously voted to recommend Option A to the CMMPO for the Draft 2023 – 2027 TIP Highway target projects.**

- Review of Preliminary Statewide Highway Project Listing

Kevin Krasnecky presented this agenda item to the group. Mr. Krasnecky briefly discussed the draft statewide highway projects for 2023 – 2027 TIP. Dick Williams commented that he was glad to see all these projects programmed.

- Review of Preliminary Transit Project Listing

Kevin Krasnecky presented this agenda item to the group. Mr. Krasnecky discussed the preliminary transit project listing for the 2023 – 2027 TIP. It was noted that the same types of projects are listed in all five years. The projects include purchasing new buses, support vehicles, replacement vans, and operating assistance for the fixed route service. Maintenance projects for the Maintenance & Operations and Hub facilities are also included. Additionally, new support equipment, spare parts, bus shelters, and signage will be purchased. Total funding for each year is \$23.9 Million in 2023, \$24.4 Million in 2024, \$26.4 Million in 2025, \$24.7 Million in 2026, and \$25.5 Million in 2027.

Bob Hassinger asked if any of the new bus purchases were electric. Mr. Krasnecky responded that none of the new buses will be electric. Mr. Hassinger also asked about the Rehabilitation of Union Station project. Mr. Krasnecky said that it is nothing specific, but the monies are used for general maintenance of the facility.

## **FFY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) – Budget & Major Task Listing**

Sujatha Krishnan presented this agenda item to the group. Similar to the TIP, the UPWP will also see an increase in planning funds. A table was used to show how the funds were being spent on each task in the FFY 2022 budget, and how it is anticipated to change for the FFY 2023 budget. For the FFY 2022 MassDOT contract, CMRPC received a total budget of \$1,202,452 while the FFY 2023 budget is \$1,394,338, which represents about a 12% increase. As part of the FFY 2022 WRTA contract, CMRPC received a total budget of \$412,000. The WRTA budget will remain the same at \$412,000 for FFY 2023, however, this may change when it is time to release the draft UPWP document.

Ms. Krishnan then highlighted three tasks that saw decreased funding as part of the current FFY 2022 UPWP budget:

- Task 1.1, Management & Support of “3C” Process - **\$239,952**
- Task 2.3, Community & Regional Technical Assistance - **\$110,000**
- Task 4.1, Transit/Paratransit/Rail & Technical Activities - **\$30,000**

As for the FFY 2023 budget, it will result in increased funding for the three above listed tasks as well as other tasks as follows:

- Task 1.1, Management & Support of “3C” Process - **\$275,000**
- Task 1.4, Title VI – LEP - **\$40,000**
- Task 1.5, Public Participation - **\$40,000**
- Task 2.2, Regional Transportation Model - **\$100,000**
- Task 2.3, Community & Regional Technical Assistance - **\$121,838**
- Task 3.7, Long-Term RTP Implementation - **\$150,000**
- Task 4.1, Transit/Paratransit/Rail & Technical Activities - **\$40,000**

Following the budget, Ms. Krishnan briefly reviewed a listing of FFY 2023 UPWP Tasks/Products. The listing highlighted the different activities staff will be working on for each task in the upcoming UPWP. For FFY 2023, the major item staff will be working on is the new Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Further, a significant amount of the work included under other task categories will assist in the development of new LRTP. Ms. Krishnan also noted that if there are any tasks or topics that staff is forgetting, please let staff know so that any additional eligible activities can be incorporated into the draft UPWP.

### **Staff Updates**

Sujatha Krishnan mentioned that the annual TIP Environmental Consultation meeting will be held virtually on April 7<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM and Electric Vehicle (EV) infrastructure will be a main topic of discussion.

### **New Business**

None

### **Next Meetings**

- CMMPO Meeting – Wednesday, April 20, 2022 at 4:00 PM
- CMMPO Advisory Committee Meeting – Wednesday, April 27, 2022 at 3:00 PM
- CMTPC Meeting – Thursday, April 28, 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 6:40 PM.