



CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

The minutes of the Central Massachusetts Transportation Planning Committee Hybrid meeting held Thursday, May 26, 2022 in-person at the CMRPC Office and also using Zoom.

T-Committee Members Present:

1. Bob Hassinger, Grafton, Committee Chairperson
2. Rick 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. Faye Rhault

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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 April 28, 2022 T-Committee Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the April 28, 2022 meeting were considered for approval. Dick Williams motioned to accept the minutes and was seconded by Rick Baker. All members voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

2022-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- **Potential Action Item:** Seeking recommendation to the CMMPO concerning Endorsement of Proposed Amendment #5 to the Highway & Transit Project Listings.

Kevin Krasnecky presented this agenda item to the group. Mr. Krasnecky noted that the Proposed Amendment #5 to the 2022-2026 TIP highway & transit project listings was released for a 21-day public review and comment period by the CMMPO at their May 18th meeting. The Proposed Amendment calls for the following changes to the transit and highway project listing.

Transit Project Listing (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 \$0.
- RTD0009772 – Increase total project cost by \$44,040. New total project cost is \$229,405.

Highway Project Listing (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 also said that there is a virtual public meeting to discuss Proposed Amendment #5 on Wednesday, June 1, 2022 at 5:00 PM. There were no questions regarding this amendment.

On a motion from Otto Lies and a second from Dick Williams, the members unanimously voted to recommend Endorsement of Proposed Amendment #5 to the 2022 – 2026 TIP Highway & Transit project listings.

FFY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

- **Potential Action Item:** Seeking recommendation to the CMMPO concerning Endorsement of the Draft 2023 UPWP.

Rich Rydant presented this agenda item to the group. Mr. Rydant noted that the Draft 2023 UPWP was released for a 21-day public review and comment period at the May CMMPO meeting. Mr. Rydant briefly described the table of contents of the UPWP and some of the associated work tasks. Mr. Rydant also summarized the funding allocated to each of the work tasks. There were no questions on this agenda item.

On a motion from Dick Williams and a second from Jeff Howland, the members unanimously voted to recommend Endorsement of the Draft 2023 UPWP.

Worcester eBike Project – Presentation & Discussion

Faye Rhault presented this agenda item to the group. The Massachusetts Bicycle Coalition (MassBike) was awarded about \$439,295 through the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center's (MassCEC) new Accelerating Clean Transportation for All Act (ACT4All) Program to conduct a 2-year program to distribute electric bicycles and track their use among select populations in the City of Worcester. MassBike is a non-profit that will lead a team including the Worcester Chamber of Commerce, community-based organizations, and the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) to deploy e-bikes to low-income residents throughout Worcester. MassBike will also explore e-bike education initiatives and grow the community interest in clean transportation options. Not only will the program provide bicycles, but it will also offer clinics, classes, events, and community support to encourage safe and regular everyday riding.

There are several goals of the E-Bike Program, including:

- Identify low-income participants who live and/or work in Worcester.
- Distribute about 100 electric-assist bicycles, to be preowned by participants.
- Provide instruction and encouragement to participants.
- Track rider usage of bicycles for everyday use.
- Measures
 - GHG reductions due to mode shift.
 - Physical activity of participants.
 - Comfort level of riding in/around Worcester.
 - Identify barriers to riding.

- Economic impact of bicycle usage as a primary mode of transportation.

There are several partners with each having their own roles. For example, CMRPC will be designing the application and intake form, strategizing surveys for ongoing data collection, as well as analyzing data for use in planning and development conversations.

The general timeline for the E-Bike Program includes:

- April – June 2022: distributing applications and identifying participants in program
- June – July 2022: procuring e-bikes and distributing to participants
- July – September 2022: host 3 classes for participants for safety, maintenance, and other tips
- July 2022 – Spring, 2024: surveys, tracking usage, community events, weekly and quarterly reports
- Spring – Fall, 2024: analyze data for grant report final outcomes

Expected challenges include the ability to reach out to priority populations, supporting new/novice riders, keeping in contact and tracking bicycle usage, maintaining attrition amongst the participants, and being flexible.

Otto Lies asked if there is any insurance for the riders in this program. Ms. Rhault said there is no insurance provided by MassBike and they are liable if anything happens to the bike. Bob Hassinger asked what the range of a single charge was for the bikes. Ms. Rhault was not sure but she thinks it is around 35-50 miles.

Staff Updates

Rich Rydant mentioned CMRPC's annual meeting at the Publick House in Sturbridge on June 9th. Mr. Rydant also mentioned that MassDOT's Capital Investment Program (CIP) public meeting for the Central Mass region is currently being held tonight. MassDOT also has kicked off its Statewide Long-Range Transportation Plan, "Beyond Mobility".

New Business

Rick Baker asked who installed the new traffic signals on Route 70 at the Shrewsbury/Worcester city line. Mr. Baker wondered if Shrewsbury, Worcester, or MassDOT installed the new signals. No one was sure who installed the new signals.

Next Meetings

- CMMPO Meeting – Wednesday, June 15, 2022 at 4:00 PM
- CMMPO Advisory Committee Meeting – Wednesday, June 22, 2022 at 3:00 PM
- CMTPC Meeting – Thursday, June 30, 2022 at 6:00 PM

Adjournment

Upon a motion by Jeff Howland and a second from Dick Williams, the members unanimously voted to adjourn at 6:42 PM.