



CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

The minutes of the Central Massachusetts Transportation Planning Committee Hybrid meeting held Thursday, July 28, 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. Eric Gemperline

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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 June 30, 2022 T-Committee Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the June 30, 2022 meeting were considered for approval. Jeff Howland motioned to accept the minutes and was seconded by Dick Williams. All members voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no public comments.

2022-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- **Potential Action Item:** Seeking recommendation to the CMMPO concerning Endorsement of Proposed Amendment #7 to the Transit Project Listing.

Kevin Krasnecky presented this agenda item to the members. Mr. Krasnecky noted that Amendment #7 was released for a 21-day public review and comment period at the July 20th CMMPO meeting. Amendment #7 calls for the addition of the Community Transit Grant Awards to FFY 2022. The following five awards would be added to the Transit TIP in FFY 2022:

- **Project #RTD0010496** – Town of Shrewsbury – Operating Assistance for a total of \$56,000
- **Project #RTD0010501** – Worcester Regional Transit Authority – SCM Elderbus Midday Service for a total of \$30,000
- **Project #RTD0010502** – Worcester Regional Transit Authority – Holden to Worcester Extended Service Hours for a total of \$24,000
- **Project #RTD0010503** – Worcester Regional Transit Authority – Buy Replacement Vans (16) for a total of \$930,846
- **Project #RTD0010514** – Worcester Regional Transit Authority – SCM ReadyBus Service for a total of \$90,000

Mr. Krasnecky noted that the project for the replacement vans was actually for 14 vans, not 16, as what's in the description. Also, the grants are funded by federal monies and matched by either local or state funds. Bob Hassinger asked who pays for the local match. Mr. Krasnecky said that the WRTA would pay the local match for their awards while the agency that applied for the grant in Shrewsbury would be responsible for their local match, likely the Council on Aging (COA).

On a motion from Dick Williams and a second from Jeff Howland, the members voted unanimously to recommend CMMPO Endorsement of Proposed Amendment #7 to the 2022 – 2026 TIP Transit project listing.

CMMPO Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update

Rich Rydant presented this agenda item to the group. The presentation was about the refined table of contents for the next LRTP document, *2050 Connections*. The following seven chapters were summarized:

1. **Introduction:** This chapter will build on the previous LRTP and provide an introduction to the five Programmatic Areas. These areas are Major Infrastructure Projects, Asset Management & Operations, Livability & Healthy Aging, Transit & Mobility Management, and Climate Change & Resiliency.
2. **The Process:** This chapter will provide information on the overall process of the development of the LRTP, which includes:
 - a. Public Outreach – the approach, methods, and tools to engage the public.
 - b. Performance Management – the presentation of national and regional goals and their relationship with federal and regional metrics.
 - c. Equity Considerations – includes geographic equity considerations and the region’s demographic characteristics.
 - d. Federal, State, and Community – includes the review of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), MassDOT Beyond Mobility (LRTP), Master Plans, and locally-identified priorities.
3. **Linkages:** This section will discuss population projections, employment projections, and future growth. It will also discuss CMRPC’s Regional Plan: *Imagine 2050* and its three “pillars” of Economy, Environment, and Equity and how they result in pertinent, various cross-cutting themes related to transportation such as infrastructure, quality of life, community vitality, sustainability & resiliency, and education.
4. **Modes and Planning Area:** This chapter will review all major transportation modes including freight movement, transit, non-motorized, highways, and airports. It will also discuss various planning areas including safety planning, the congestion management process, asset management, as well as emerging technologies.
5. **Programmatic Areas, Needs and Priorities:** This chapter will include the studies, initiatives, and projects related to various modal plans, the BIL and the CMMPO’s MicroProjects survey, Travel Demand Model, data integration efforts, equity analysis, public engagement results, regional workshops, and GHG savings.

6. **Financial Plan:** This chapter will include the funding options, financial constraints, and project revenues & expenses for highway projects and initiatives, transit projects and initiatives, and non-motorized (bicycle & pedestrian) projects and initiatives.
7. **Air Quality and Greenhouse Gases (GHG) Assessment:** This chapter will include a background air quality conformity evaluation that would be provided by MassDOT.

Brian Pigeon commented that the Worcester City Department of Transportation and Mobility is officially launching next month and project planning will be the responsibility of that department. Mr. Pigeon asked to keep that department in mind when staff is conducting public outreach activities. Dick Williams commented about the possible extension of I-190 connection up to Milford, New Hampshire. Further, Mr. Williams asked if there is better pavement available that would last longer on the region's roadways. Jeff Howland commented to not use the recycled materials that are currently used in the pavement.

CMMPO Data Collection Program Presentation

Eric Gemperline presented this agenda item to the group. The presentation was a review of the CMMPO data collection program. The purpose of the data collection program is to inform the regional planning process and support projects and tasks identified in the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). All the data collected and related services are available to the region's communities and other planning partners as needed. Data is mainly collected on federal-aid eligible roadways and, if requested, on local roadways. The following data is collected as part of the CMMPO's data collection program:

- Traffic Counting
 - 1,151 federal-aid locations monitored by staff (200-300 locations each year)
 - About 30 additional locations counted on behalf of MassDOT each year
 - Traffic counters collect total vehicle volume, speed, and classification
- Turning Movement Counts (TMCs)
 - 15-30 TMCs conducted each year only when school is in session (spring & fall)
 - Monitor the condition of intersections in the region
 - Before and after project counts are completed to determine effectiveness of the implemented improvements
- Pavement Condition Surveys
 - "Windshield" surveys collected along federal-aid roadways, excluding Interstates
 - Data collected on a 3-year rotating cycle
 - Data is input into the pavement management software to determine Pavement Condition Index (PCI)

- Data also used to run scenarios to determine regional condition scores, backlogs, and costs to maintain condition
- Sidewalk and Curb Ramp Inventory
 - Mainly focused on federal-aid roadways
 - Significant amount of local network roads in database from Complete Street projects
 - 4-year cycle to match LRTP development
 - Data collected using a walking survey method
- Culvert Surveys
 - Staff have assessed culverts on federal-aid roadways in West Brookfield as well as culverts in Berlin, Oxford, and Sutton for specific projects
 - Staff completed maps, dashboards, and reports for assessed culverts
 - Staff can train others to assess culverts
- Traffic Signal Inventory (Pilot)
 - Use existing datasets to identify traffic signals in the region for assessments
 - Staff coordinated with MassDOT District staff to determine available data to include in pilot program
 - Staff conducted limited inventory of traffic signals in region
 - Staff looks to expand effort and integrate it with other data collection efforts
- Bicycle Facility Inventory
 - Staff utilized available data to generate Bicycle Compatibility Index (BCI) score for federal-aid roadways in the region
 - BCI measures how adequately roads can accommodate bicycles
 - Staff submits updates to MassDOT Bike Inventory File as data is collected
 - Staff will resume trail counts

In addition to the above activities, staff also conducts many other data collection efforts and analyses, such as:

- Park and Ride Usage Data
- MBTA Commuter Rail Parking Usage Data
- Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Dashboard
- CMRPC Drone Program
- Video Cameras for TMCs and other counts
- MassDOT “Big Data” sets of RITIS, Conveyal, and Strava
- Crash Data from local police and MassDOT Impact Site

Dick Williams commented that he would like to see the video cameras used in Rutland. There were no other questions or comments from the group.

Staff Updates

Rich Rydant noted that staff will be meeting with MassDOT OTP to discuss the CMMPO's evolving MicroProjects program. From the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), there is a new program called "Reconnecting Communities". Staff will be meeting with MassDOT OTP to discuss this program and a potential project that may meet the necessary federal criteria.

New Business

No new business.

Next Meetings

- CMMPO Meeting – Wednesday, August 17, 2022 at 4:00 PM
- CMMPO Advisory Committee Meeting – Wednesday, August 24, 2022 at 3:00 PM
- CMTPC Meeting – Thursday, August 25, 2022 at 6:00 PM

Adjournment

Upon a motion by Dick Williams and a second from Jeff Howland, the members unanimously voted to adjourn at 6:40 PM.