

CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION



CMMPO Endorsed Amendment #2 2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

December 21, 2022



Document Prepared by:
Staff of the Central Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization
1 Mercantile Street, Suite 520, Worcester MA 01608

Prepared in cooperation with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation and the U.S. Department of Transportation – Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration. The views and opinions of the Central Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation or the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Notice of Nondiscrimination Rights and Protections to Beneficiaries

Federal Title VI/Nondiscrimination Protections

The Central Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (CMMPO) hereby states its policy to operate its programs, services and activities in full compliance with federal nondiscrimination laws including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, and related federal and state statutes and regulations. Title VI prohibits discrimination in federally assisted programs and requires that no person in the United States of America shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, including limited English proficiency, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal assistance.

Related federal nondiscrimination laws administered by the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration, or both prohibit discrimination on the basis of age, sex, and disability. These protected categories are contemplated within the CMMPO's Title VI Programs consistent with federal and state interpretation and administration. Additionally, the CMMPO provides meaningful access to its programs, services, and activities to individuals with limited English proficiency, in compliance with US Department of Transportation policy and guidance on federal Executive Order 13166.

State Nondiscrimination Protections

The CMMPO also complies with the Massachusetts Public Accommodation Law, M.G.L. c272 §§ 92a, 98, 98a, prohibiting making any distinction, discrimination, or restriction in admission to or treatment in a place of public accommodation based on race, color, religious creed, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability or ancestry. Likewise, CMMPO complies with the Governor's Executive Order 526, section 4, requiring all programs, activities and services provided, performed, licensed, chartered, funded, regulated, or contracted for by the state shall be conducted without unlawful discrimination based on race, color, age, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, religion, creed, ancestry, national origin, disability, veteran's status (including Vietnam-era veterans), or background.

Filing a Complaint

Individuals who feel they have been discriminated against in violation of Title VI or related Federal nondiscrimination laws, must file a complaint within 180 days of the alleged discriminatory conduct to:

To file a complaint alleging violation of the State's Public Accommodation Law, contact the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination within 300 days of the alleged discriminatory conduct at:

Ms. Janet Pierce, Executive Director
Central Massachusetts Regional Planning
Commission
1 Mercantile Street
Suite 520
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 756-7717

Massachusetts Commission Against
Discrimination (MCAD)
One Ashburton Place, 6th floor
Boston, MA 02109
(617) 994-6000
TTY: (617) 994-6196

Translation

English: If this information is needed in another language, please contact the CMRPC/CMMPO Title VI Specialist at (508) 756-7717.

Spanish: Si necesita esta información en otro lenguaje, favor contactar al especialista de Título VI de CMRPC/CMMPO al (508) 756-7717.

French: Si vous avez besoin d'obtenir une copie de la présente dans une autre langue, veuillez contacter le spécialiste du Titre VI de CMRPC/CMMPO en composant le (508) 756-7717.

Portuguese: Caso esta informação seja necessária em outro idioma, favor contatar o Especialista em Título VI do CMRPC/CMMPO pelo fone (508) 756-7717.

Vietnamese: Nếu bạn cần thông tin bằng ngôn ngữ khác, xin vui lòng liên lạc với Tiêu đề VI Chuyên CMRPC/CMMPO tại (508) 756-7717.

Chinese: 如果用另一种语言需要的信息，请联系第六章专门CMRPC/CMMPO (508) 756-7717。

Afrikaans: As jy inligting nodig het in 'n ander taal, kontak asseblief die Titel VI Spesialis CMRPC/CMMPO by (508) 756-7717.

ADA/ 504 Notice of Nondiscrimination

The CMMPO does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to its programs, services, or activities; in access to them; in treatment of individuals with disabilities; or in any aspect of their operations. The CMMPO also does not discriminate on the basis of disability in its hiring or employment practices.

This notice is provided as required by Title II of the American with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Questions, complaints, or requests for additional information regarding ADA and Section 504 may be forwarded to:

Ms. Janet Pierce, Executive Director
Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission
1 Mercantile Street
Suite 520
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 756-7717

This notice and document are available from the CMMPO in large print, on audio tape, and in Braille upon request.

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Amendment #2 Transit Project Listing & Summary Materials

Proposed Amendment #2 to the 2023 to 2027 TIP Transit List

FFY 2023

- Increase cost of **Project #RTD0010843 – Worcester Regional Transit Authority: Buy Replacement 35 FT Bus (8)**. 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).



STIP Investments Report
Program Activity: Transit, Worcester Regional Transit Authority

STIP: 2023 - 2027 (D)

Year	MassDOT Project ID	Municipality	Program	MassDOT Project Description	Funding Source	Total Project Cost	Total Programmed Funds	Federal Funds	State Funds	Other Funds	Project Score	FTA Line Item	Other Information
Federal Fiscal Year 2023							\$26,314,116	\$17,151,481	\$8,410,637	\$751,998			
Worcester Regional Transit Authority							\$26,314,116	\$17,141,481	\$8,410,637	\$751,998			
2023	RTD0010853		Operating	Worcester Regional Transit Authority Regional Transit Authority: Operating Assistance - Fixed Route	5307	\$13,812,046	\$6,906,023	\$6,906,023				30.09.01	
2023	RTD0010853		Operating	Worcester Regional Transit Authority Regional Transit Authority: Operating Assistance - Fixed Route	SCA	\$13,812,046	\$6,906,023		\$6,906,023			30.09.01	
2023	RTD0010845		RTA Facility & System Modernization	Worcester Regional Transit Authority Regional Transit Authority: Purchase Support Equipment for Fixed Route and Demand Response	5307	\$599,440	\$479,552	\$479,552				11.42.20	
2023	RTD0010845		RTA Facility & System Modernization	Worcester Regional Transit Authority Regional Transit Authority: Purchase Support Equipment for Fixed Route and Demand Response	RTACAP	\$599,440	\$119,888		\$119,888			11.42.20	
2023	RTD0010849		RTA Facility & System Modernization	Worcester Regional Transit Authority Regional Transit Authority: Purchase Fixed Route Bus Shelters	5307	\$60,000	\$48,000	\$48,000				11.32.10	
2023	RTD0010849		RTA Facility & System Modernization	Worcester Regional Transit Authority Regional Transit Authority: Purchase Fixed Route Bus Shelters	RTACAP	\$60,000	\$12,000		\$12,000			11.32.10	
2023	RTD0010850		RTA Facility & System Modernization	Worcester Regional Transit Authority Regional Transit Authority: Purchase Bus Stop and Electronic Signage for Fixed Route	5307	\$5,000	\$4,000	\$4,000				11.32.09	
2023	RTD0010850		RTA Facility & System Modernization	Worcester Regional Transit Authority Regional Transit Authority: Purchase Bus Stop and Electronic Signage for Fixed Route	RTACAP	\$5,000	\$1,000		\$1,000			11.32.09	
2023	RTD0010846		RTA Facility & Vehicle Maintenance	Worcester Regional Transit Authority Regional Transit Authority: Purchase Spare Parts for Revenue Rolling Stock	5307	\$688,564	\$550,851	\$550,851				11.12.40	
2023	RTD0010846		RTA Facility & Vehicle Maintenance	Worcester Regional Transit Authority Regional Transit Authority: Purchase Spare Parts for Revenue Rolling Stock	RTACAP	\$688,564	\$137,713		\$137,713			11.12.40	
2023	RTD0010851		RTA Facility & Vehicle Maintenance	Worcester Regional Transit Authority: Renovations and Maintenance to WRTA Hub	5307	\$5,000	\$4,000	\$4,000				11.34.01	
2023	RTD0010851		RTA Facility & Vehicle Maintenance	Worcester Regional Transit Authority: Renovations and Maintenance to WRTA Hub	RTACAP	\$5,000	\$1,000		\$1,000			11.34.01	
2023	RTD0010852		RTA Facility & Vehicle Maintenance	Worcester Regional Transit Authority: Rehabilitation of Union Station	5337	\$3,759,989	\$3,007,991	\$3,007,991				11.34.03	
2023	RTD0010852		RTA Facility & Vehicle Maintenance	Worcester Regional Transit Authority: Rehabilitation of Union Station	LF	\$3,759,989	\$751,998			\$751,998		11.34.03	
2023	RTD0010877		RTA Facility & Vehicle Maintenance	Worcester Regional Transit Authority: Renovations and Maintenance to WRTA Maintenance and Operations Facility	5307	\$70,000	\$56,000	\$56,000				11.44.02	



STIP Investments Report

Program Activity: Transit, Worcester Regional Transit Authority

STIP: 2023 - 2027 (D)

Year	MassDOT Project ID	Municipality	Program	MassDOT Project Description	Funding Source	Total Project Cost	Total Programmed Funds	Federal Funds	State Funds	Other Funds	Project Score	FTA Line Item	Other Information
Federal Fiscal Year 2023							\$26,314,116	\$17,151,481	\$8,410,637	\$751,998			
Worcester Regional Transit Authority							\$26,314,116	\$17,141,481	\$8,410,637	\$751,998			
2023	RTD0010877		RTA Facility & Vehicle Maintenance	Worcester Regional Transit Authority: Renovations and Maintenance to WRTA Maintenance and Operations Facility	RTACAP	\$70,000	\$14,000		\$14,000			11.44.02	
2023	RTD0010843		RTA Vehicle Replacement	Worcester Regional Transit Authority Regional Transit Authority: Buy Replacement 35 FT Bus (8)(9)	5307	\$4,341,148 (\$5,541,148)	\$4,341,148 (\$5,541,148)	\$4,341,148 (\$5,541,148)				11.12.02	(+\$1,200,000)
2023	RTD0010843		RTA Vehicle Replacement	Worcester Regional Transit Authority Regional Transit Authority: Buy Replacement 35 FT Bus (8)(9)	TDC	\$4,341,148 (\$5,541,148)	\$868,230 (\$1,108,230)		\$868,230 (\$1,108,230)			11.12.02	(+\$240,000)
2023	RTD0010893		RTA Vehicle Replacement	Worcester Regional Transit Authority Regional Transit Authority - Buy Replacement 35 FT Bus (1)	5339	\$553,916	\$553,916	\$553,916				11.12.02	
2023	RTD0010893		RTA Vehicle Replacement	Worcester Regional Transit Authority Regional Transit Authority - Buy Replacement 35 FT Bus (1)	TDC	\$553,916	\$110,783		\$110,783			11.12.02	

Amendment #2 Proactive Public Outreach Summary

**Central Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization
Proposed 2023-2027 TIP Amendment #2 Available for Public Review and Comment**

For information purposes and in accordance with the Central Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization's (CMMPO) formal Public Participation Program, in full compliance of Environmental Justice regulations, the transportation staff of the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) announces the concurrent release of summary materials pertaining to the Proposed 2023-2027 TIP Amendment #2 for a 21-day public review and comment period, now underway.

The Worcester Regional Transit Authority (WRTA), the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5307(c) grant applicant, a member of the CMMPO, states that the public involvement process adopted for the development of the TIP satisfies the public hearing requirements that pertain to the development of the Program of Projects for regular Section 5307, Urbanized Area Formula Program, grant applications including the provision for public notice and the time established for public review and comment.

Proposed TIP Amendment #2 calls for the following change to the transit project listing: In FFY 2023, increase cost of Project #10843 – Worcester Regional Transit Authority – Buy Replacement 35 FT Bus (8) to purchase one additional bus.

All interested parties are welcome to attend a virtual public meeting to discuss the Proposed 2023-2027 TIP Amendment #2 on **Tuesday, December 6, 2022** at 5:00 PM using ZOOM. The details to join the public meeting can be found on the CMRPC website meeting calendar. The established deadline for public comment is 4:30 PM on **Wednesday, December 7, 2022**. Summary materials pertaining to the proposed amendment are available at www.cmrpc.org. Printed summary materials are available upon request at the CMRPC office. CMMPO meetings are conducted in accessible locations and close to transit. Materials can be provided free of charge in accessible formats and languages other than English. If you would like special accommodations, such as an interpreter, please contact the Title VI Coordinator, (508) 756-7717, or TitleVICoordinator@cmrpc.org at least 14 days prior to the meeting.



Notice of Virtual Public Meeting

A notice is hereby given of the availability of the following documents/materials for public review and comment by decision makers, stakeholders, and the general public:

2023-2027 TIP Amendment #2

What is the TIP? The CMMPO TIP lists the highway and transit projects in the CMMPO region that are programmed to receive federal funds during these fiscal years. The 2023-2027 TIP Amendment #2 calls for changes to FFY 2023 of the transit project listing. These changes are:

- Increase cost of **Project #RTD0010843 – Worcester Regional Transit Authority: Buy Replacement 35 FT Bus (8)**. 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).

Summary materials pertaining to the above listed documents are available at www.cmrpc.org or by request at the CMRPC office.

There will be opportunities for the public to comment on the TIP Amendment #2 during the virtual ZOOM meeting listed below:

Tuesday, December 6, 2022 at 5:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83310939544?pwd=a3A1WVJMVXZyWXpoRTFVaTNIRy8xdz09>

Meeting ID: 833 1093 9544

Passcode: 689366

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 646 931 3860 US

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

All written comments received before Wednesday, December 7, 2022 at 4:30PM will be fully considered.

CMMPO meetings are conducted in accessible locations and materials can be provided in accessible formats free of charge upon request (including but not limited to interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, open or closed captioning for videos, alternative material formats such as audio, Braille, and large print), as available. Interpreter and other translation requests must be made at least fourteen (14) business days before the meeting. Materials in alternative formats must be requested at least three (3) business days prior to the meeting. For accommodations or language assistance, or to request information or file a complaint, contact the CMMPO Title VI Coordinator by phone at (508) 756-7717, by fax at (508) 792-6818, or by email at TitleVICoordinator@cmrpc.org.

The Worcester Regional Transit Authority (WRTA), the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5307 (c) grant applicant, a member of the CMMPO, states that the public involvement process adopted for the development of the TIP satisfies the public hearing requirements that pertain to the development of the Program of Projects for regular Section 5307, Urbanized Area Formula Program, grant applications including the provision for public notice and the time established for public review and comment.

The CMMPO fully complies with all Federal and Commonwealth of Massachusetts nondiscrimination protections, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes and regulations, in all of its programs and activities. The CMMPO does not discriminate on the basis of: race, color, national origin, English proficiency, or age, ancestry, background, disability, gender, gender identity or expression, income, religion, sex, sexual orientation or expression, or military status. Any person who believes himself/herself or through a representative, file a complaint with the CMMPO. A complaint must be filed no later than 180 days after the date on which the person believes the discrimination occurred.

Title VI prohibits discrimination in federally assisted programs and requires that no person in the United States of America shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin (including Limited English Proficiency) be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal assistance.

Related federal non-discrimination laws administered by the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration prohibit discrimination on the basis of age, sex and disability. These protected categories are contemplated within CMMPO's Title VI Program, consistent with federal interpretation and administration. Additionally, CMMPO provides meaningful access to its programs, services and activities to individuals with limited English proficiency, in compliance with US Department of Transportation policy and guidance on federal Executive Order 13166. CMMPO also complies with the Massachusetts Public Accommodation Law, M.G.L. Chapter 272, Sections 92A, 98, and 98A prohibiting making any distinction, discrimination, or

restriction in admission to or treatment in place of public accommodation based on race, color, religious creed, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability, or ancestry. Likewise, CMMPO complies with the Governor's Executive Order 526, Section 4 requiring that all of its programs, activities, and services provided, performed, licensed, chartered, funded, regulated, or contracted shall be conducted without unlawful discrimination based on race, color, age, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, religion, creed, ancestry, national origin, disability, veteran's status, or background.

If this information is needed in another language, please visit www.cmrpc.org and use the Google Translate feature.

Translations

English:

If this information is needed in another language, please visit www.cmrpc.org and use the Google Translate feature.

Portuguese:

Se esta informação é necessária em outro idioma, por favor visite www.cmrpc.org e use o Google Translate.

Spanish:

Si necesita esta información en otro idioma, por favor visite www.cmrpc.org y utilice Google Translate.

French:

Si vous désirez ces renseignements dans une autre langue, prière de vous server de Google Translate qui se trouve à l'adresse suivante: www.cmrpc.org.

Polish:

Jeżeli informacja zawarta na stronie www.cmrpc.org jest potrzebna w innym języku, prosimy o skorzystanie z funkcji Google translate.

Vietnamese:

Nếu thông tin này là cần thiết trong một ngôn ngữ khác, vui lòng truy cập www.cmrpc.org và sử dụng các tính năng của Google Translate.

Chinese (Traditional):

如果此信息需要以另一種語言，請訪問www.cmrpc.org並使用谷歌翻譯功能。



Virtual Public Meeting to Discuss the Proposed 2023-2027 TIP Amendment #2

Date: Tuesday, December 6, 2022

Time: 5:00 PM

Place: This meeting will be held virtually through ZOOM.

Connection details will be available in meeting announcement email, and on the CMRPC web calendar <http://cmrpc.org/ffy-2023-2027-tip-amendment-2-public-meeting>

AGENDA

1. Call to Order & Around the Room Introductions
2. Proposed 2023-2027 TIP Amendment #2
 - TIP Amendment #2 Overview
 - Acceptance of Public Comment & Input
3. Adjournment

Please Note: All comments on the Proposed 2023-2027 TIP Amendment #2 should be forwarded to the CMRPC transportation staff prior to the CMMPO-established 4:30 PM on **Wednesday, December 7, 2022** deadline.

CMMPO meetings are conducted in accessible locations and materials can be provided in accessible formats free of charge upon request (including but not limited to interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, open or closed captioning for videos, alternative material formats such as audio, Braille, and large print), as available. Interpreter and other translation requests must be made at least fourteen (14) business days before the meeting. Materials in alternative formats must be requested at least three (3) business days prior to the meeting.

The CMMPO fully complies with all Federal and Commonwealth of Massachusetts nondiscrimination protections, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes and regulations, in all of its programs and activities. The CMMPO does not discriminate on the basis of: race, color, national origin, English proficiency, or age, ancestry, background, disability, gender, gender identity or expression, income, religion, sex, sexual orientation or expression, or military status. Any person who believes himself/herself or through a representative, file a complaint with the CMMPO. A complaint must be filed no later than 180 days after the date on which the person believes the discrimination occurred.

For accommodations or language assistance, or to request information or file a complaint, contact the CMMPO Title VI Coordinator by phone at (508) 756-7717, by fax at (508) 792-6818, or by email at TitleVICoordinator@cmrpc.org.

Tuesday, December 6, 2022 at 5:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83310939544?pwd=a3A1WVJMVXZyWXpoRTFVaTNIRy8xdz09>

Meeting ID: 833 1093 9544

Passcode: 689366

Dial by your location

+1 309 205 3325 US

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)



CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

The minutes of the 2022-2026 Proposed Amendment #7 virtual public meeting held Wednesday, August 3, 2022 through ZOOM.

- **Guests:**

1. Abby Ware, Representative Keefe's Office
2. Johannes Epke, CLF

- **CMRPC Staff Present:**

1. Kevin Krasnecky
2. Greer Jarvis

The CMMPO fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. The CMMPO does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, English proficiency, income, religious creed, ancestry, disability, age, gender, sexual orientation, military service, or gender identity or expression. Any person who believes himself/herself or any specific class of persons have been subjected to discrimination prohibited by Title VI or related statutes or regulations may, himself/herself or via a representative, file a complaint with the CMMPO. A complaint must be filed no later than 180 calendar days after the date on which the person believes the discrimination occurred.

Call to Order & Around the Room Introductions

Kevin Krasnecky called the meeting to order at 5:04 PM and did an around the room introductions.

Proposed Amendment #2 to the 2023-2027 TIP Transit Project Listing

Kevin Krasnecky reviewed this agenda item with the attendees. Mr. Krasnecky noted that the Proposed Amendment #2 to the 2023-2027 TIP transit project listing was released for a 21-day public review and comment period by the CMMPO at their November 16th meeting. The Proposed Amendment calls for the following changes:

Transit Project Listing (FFY 2023)

- Increase cost of Project #RTD0010843 – Worcester Regional Transit Authority: Buy Replacement 35FT Bus (8). 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).

Johannes Epke asked what types of buses were being purchased. Mr. Krasnecky responded by saying no electric buses were being purchased at this time and the buses were likely hybrid or diesel buses. Mr. Epke also asked what the reason was for the additional bus purchase. Mr. Krasnecky responded by saying it was just to replace an older bus in its fleet. Abby Ware asked if she could get a copy of the meeting materials. Mr. Krasnecky said he will email them to her.

Before Mr. Krasnecky closed the public meeting, he mentioned the deadline for public comment is 4:30 PM on Wednesday, December 7th. With no additional comments or questions, the 2023-2027 Proposed Amendment #2 virtual public meeting closed at 5:12 PM.

Public Comments Received

December 7, 2022

Kevin Krasnecky
Transportation Project Manager
CMRPC
1 Mercantile Street, Suite 520
Worcester, MA 01608
Via E-mail to kkrasnecky@cmrpc.org

**Subject: 2023-2027 TIP Amendment #2, Increase cost of Project #RTD0010843
– WRTA: Buy Replacement 35 FT Bus (8) to (9)**

Dear Mr. Krasnecky and CMMPO Board:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Central Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (CMMPO) 2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) Amendment #2 increasing the number of Worcester Regional Transit Authority (WRTA) replacement buses from eight (8) to nine (9). Thank you as well for the overview of the amendment and for answering questions during the public meeting yesterday.

Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) submits this comment to encourage CMMPO and WRTA to consider electrification of bus fleets and ensure electric buses are part of the procurement strategy. CLF is a non-profit, member-supported organization dedicated to conserving natural resources, protecting public health, and promoting thriving communities for all in New England. CLF's mission includes safeguarding the health and quality of life of New England communities facing the adverse effects of air pollution and climate change. We work to ensure that Massachusetts residents have access to the vibrant, welcoming, and healthy neighborhoods we all need to thrive. CLF has a long history of advocating for a transportation system that is accessible, reliable, efficient, affordable, and free of air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

As discussed in the public hearing yesterday, WRTA is not seeking to procure any additional electric buses at this time. It also appears from future years in the 2023-2027 TIP that WRTA is planning to replace a significant portion of the fleet over the next few years.¹ According to its website, WRTA maintains a fleet of 52 buses, including six (6) electric, 17 diesel-electric hybrid buses, and 29 diesel buses.²

¹ See i.e. CMMPO 2023-2027 TIP UPIN BCG001085, BCG0010895, BCG0010896

² <https://www.therta.com/about/wrta-fleet-and-service-areas/>

As you may be aware, the Massachusetts Legislature passed legislation earlier this year as part of the Act Driving Clean Energy and Offshore Wind and signed by the Governor as Chapter 179 of the Acts of 2022, Section 78.³ The law includes Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) requirements to assist RTAs in fleet electrification, cited here in full:

“SECTION 78. Notwithstanding any special or general law to the contrary, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation shall provide each regional transit authority established under chapter 161B of the General Laws with assistance to create an electric bus rollout plan that includes: (i) a goal to transition to zero-emission buses; provided, however, that the goal shall not require an internal combustion engine bus to be unnecessarily retired before the end of its useful life; (ii) identification of the types of zero-emission bus technologies a regional transit agency may deploy; (iii) a schedule for construction of facilities and related infrastructure modifications or upgrades required to deploy and maintain a zero-emission bus fleet including, but not limited to, charging, fueling and maintenance facilities; provided, however, that the schedule shall identify potential sites for each facility; (iv) a schedule for zero-emission and conventional internal combustion engine bus purchases and lease options identifying: (A) the bus and fuel type; (B) the number of zero-emission buses being purchased; and (C) the number of internal combustion engine buses being retired; (v) prioritization of the deployment of zero-emission buses on routes in underserved communities and communities with a high percentage of low-income households; (vi) a training plan for zero-emission bus operators and maintenance and repair staff; and (vii) identification of potential funding sources.”

CLF understands that MassDOT has hired a consultant to begin this assistance and planning, which will enter Phase 2 in the new year, and CLF encourages CMMPO and WRTA to consider whether business-as-usual procurement continues to best serve the RTA and the region at this time when state law and the urgency of improving air quality and combating climate change demand an evolving approach. CLF also encourages CMMPO and WRTA to seek federal support available for technical assistance in advancing a bus electrification strategy.^{4,5}

The TIP highlights environmental goals, including air quality and climate change, as priority goals for the region.⁶ The TIP and Amendment #2 also assert that the bus replacements will result in a decrease in carbon emissions, which would be much better served by replacement of diesel buses with electric buses.

The transportation sector is the largest contributor of greenhouse gas emissions in Massachusetts, and electrification is a key step to accomplish our transition to a clean energy and transportation future. Vehicle electrification does not merely shift the problem of decarbonization from the vehicle to the grid; it is both an early opportunity to reduce transportation emissions and an essential step to reducing greenhouse gas emissions generally. Public transit vehicle fleets represent a natural opportunity for rapid deployment of electric vehicles due to high mileage and

³ <https://malegislature.gov/Laws/SessionLaws/Acts/2022/Chapter179>

⁴ <https://driveelectric.gov/transit-agencies/>

⁵ <https://www.transit.dot.gov/funding/grants/zero-emission-fleet-transition-plan>

⁶ CMMPO 2023-2027 TIP Section 4 - Performance Measure 6: Environmental Sustainability.

regular vehicle replacement and procurement. While full vehicle electrification is the ultimate goal and state mandate, creating a schedule to start with these vehicles creates the greatest benefit relative to cost right now.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit these comments, and please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or to discuss fleet electrification generally. You can reach me by email at jepke@clf.org or phone (617) 850-1761.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Johannes Epke".

Johannes Epke
Staff Attorney
Conservation Law Foundation
62 Summer Street
Boston, MA 02110

From: Dennis Lipka <DLipka@therta.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 21, 2022 1:37 PM
To: Kevin Krasnecky; Johannes Epke
Cc: Thomas Coyne
Subject: RE: CLF comment on CMMPO 2023-2027 TIP Amendment #2

Johannes,

Thank you for your letter regarding electrification of the WRTA bus fleet. The WRTA was the first transit authority in New England to purchase and place in service Electric Battery Buses in FY 2014. These buses were prototype Proterra buses using on route fast chargers. Due to range limitations these vehicles were deployed on the shortest, downtown routes in the system at the time. The results from this effort were disappointing. The buses had many technical problems that required them to be out of service for extended periods of time and the charging system developed numerous issues which prevented the vehicles from being used reliably in public transportation. Our efforts to work with Proterra and the FTA to work out a solution to these problems has not been productive. On July 1, 2022 I removed these vehicles from service because Proterra informed the WRTA that they would no longer support the vehicle technology or the charging systems we deployed.

All that said, the WRTA is moving forward with the following plan:

1. Th WRTA is working with several consulting firms to install solar panels on the existing Maintenance Facility to reduce our dependence on fossil fuel generated electricity. This project should produce upwards of 875 KV of electricity. Given that the system is larger than 500KV we will be including some battery storage in this plan.
2. In the spring of FY2023 the WRTA will place an order for 7 EBB's which are current state of the art and have a range and charging system that will allow us to charge vehicles overnight for continuous service during the day. We will need to make extensive changes to the electrical system to accommodate a new charging system that will allow us to charge 7 vehicles at one time. These vehicles will be delivered in the Fall of 2025; current lead times for production of EBB vehicles is 20 months.
3. The bus purchase in this amendment will be the last diesel fuel vehicle buy in the current fleet replacement plan. It is our hope to have fifty percent of the fleet electric by 2030.

I hope that this brief description helps you appreciate where the WRTA is going on this issue. If you have questions please call me and we can discuss in more detail the plan that I have outlined.

Dennis J Lipka
Administrator
WRTA

CMMPO & CMMPO Advisory Committee Proceedings

- MPO November 16, 2022 – Initiate Amendment
- MPO December 21, 2022 – Endorsement of Amendment
- Advisory Committee November 30, 2022 – Recommend Approval of Amendment

MPO November 16, 2022 – Initiate Amendment



Meeting of the Central Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization

Date: Wednesday, **November 16, 2022**

Time: **4:00 PM**

Place: This meeting will be held virtually through Zoom.

Connection details are on the bottom of this agenda and in the meeting announcement email.

Additional meeting materials can be found through the CMRPC web calendar:

<https://cmrpc.org/cmm-po-meeting-111>

AGENDA

- Introductions
- Approval of October 19, 2022 Meeting Minutes
- Opportunity for Public Comment
- Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
 - **Potential Action:** Proposed Adjustment #1 to the FFY 2023-2027 TIP Highway List
 - **Potential Action:** Release Proposed Amendment #2 to the FFY 2023-2027 TIP Transit List for 21-day Public Review and Comment Period
 - Micro-Projects Update
- WRTA Transit Asset Management (TAM) Plan Update
 - **Potential Action:** Concurrence with WRTA Performance Targets
- Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Updates
 - Environmental Justice (EJ) Factors and Thresholds Presentation
 - **Potential Action:** Approval of Central Mass Regional EJ Factors and Thresholds
- Staff Updates
 - EV Charging Stations Survey
- New Business
- Next Meetings:
 - CMMPO Advisory Committee meeting (virtual) – November 30, 2022 at 3:00pm
 - CMMPO meeting (virtual) – December 21, 2022 at 4:00pm
- Adjournment

CMMPO meetings are conducted in accessible locations and materials can be provided in accessible formats free of charge upon request (including but not limited to interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, open or closed captioning for videos, alternative material formats such as audio, Braille, and large print), as available. Interpreter and other translation requests must be made at least fourteen (14) business days before the meeting. Materials in alternative formats must be requested at least three (3) business days prior to the meeting.

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CMMPO Zoom Meeting Details

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88922509906?pwd=R2ZFRmsrTGhvU0lQNkxFTVA1VUxDUT09>

Meeting ID: 889 2250 9906

Passcode: 853051

Dial by your location

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- +1 301 715 8592 US
- +1 312 626 6799 US



CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

The minutes of the Central Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (CMMPO) meeting held **Wednesday, November 16th, 2022**. This meeting was held virtually using Zoom.

- **CMMPO Members Present:**

1. Derek Krevat, MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning
2. Ann Sullivan, MassDOT Highway Division District #3, designee to MassDOT Highway Division Administrator Jonathon Gulliver
3. Nick Burnham, WRTA
4. Brian Pigeon, designee to acting City Manager Eric Batista
5. Shelby Marshall – Westborough, Northeast Subregion Representative
6. Jesse Limanek – Sutton, Southeast Subregion Representative
7. Dennis Lamarche – Oxford, Southwest Subregion Representative
8. Stephanie Mulroy – Holden, North Subregion Representative

- **CMMPO Ex-Officio Members Present:**

1. Chris Klem, MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning
2. Chris Timmel, FHWA

- **Guests:**

1. Sarah Bradbury, MassDOT District #3
2. Daryl Amaral, MassDOT District #2
3. Greg Russel, VHB
4. Heather Blakeley, Sturbridge DPW Director
5. Amanda Bazinet, VHB
6. Tim Bonin – Douglas, Southeast Subregion Alternate

- **CMRPC Staff Present:**

1. Sujatha Krishnan, Deputy Director – Transportation
2. Kevin Krasnecky, Project Manager – Transportation
3. Yahaira Graxirena, Project Manager – Transportation
4. Zack Blais, Associate Planner – Transportation

5. Faye Rhault – Transportation
6. Greer Jarvis – Transportation
7. Rich Rydant, Project Manager – Transportation

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Agenda Item #1 – Introductions

CMMPO Chair Derek Krevat 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 October 19, 2022, Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the October 19, 2022, meeting of the CMMPO were considered for approval. Jesse Limanek motioned to accept the minutes and was seconded by Ann Sullivan. A roll call vote was announced, and all members present voted unanimously to accept the minutes.

Derek Krevat – Yes

Shelby Marshall – Yes

Ann Sullivan – Yes

Jesse Limanek – Yes

Nick Burnham – Yes

Dennis Lamarche – Yes

Brian Pigeon – Yes

Stephanie Mulroy – Yes

Agenda Item #3 – Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

Agenda Item #4 – Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- **Potential Action:** Proposed Adjustment #1 to the FFY 2023-2027 TIP Highway List

Kevin Krasnecky presented this agenda item. Proposed Adjustment #1 includes cost adjustments to Project #602659 – Charlton/Oxford – Reconstruction on Route 20, from Richardson’s Corner easterly to Route 12.

In FFY 2024, there will be an increase of \$256,218 in Statewide NHPP funding. The updated funding amount is \$7,956,218.

In FFY 2025, there will be a decrease of \$600,000 in Statewide NHPP funding. The updated funding amount is \$0.

Shelby Marshall asked for a clarification of what NHPP means. Mr. Krasnecky replied that NHPP stands for National Highway Performance Program.

Jesse Limanek asked if the reasoning the funding for Project #602659 is being removed from 2025 is because the project is anticipated to be completed in 2024. Mr. Krasnecky replied that yes, the goal is for the project to be completed in 2024. Mr. Limanek also asked if the cost of the project was higher or lower than expected. Ann Sullivan replied that it was higher than what was in the TIP. This adjustment is more a matter of balancing funding and fiscal constraints, not a matter of changing the overall project.

There were no other comments or questions.

Shelby Marshall made a motion and was seconded by Jesse Limanek to endorse Adjustment #1 to the FFY 2023-2027 TIP Highway List. All members present voted unanimously to endorse Adjustment #1 to the FFY 2023-2027 TIP Highway List.

Derek Krevat – Yes

Ann Sullivan – Yes

Nick Burnham – Yes

Brian Pigeon – Yes

Shelby Marshall – Yes

Jesse Limanek – Yes

Dennis Lamarche – Yes

Stephanie Mulroy – Yes

- **Potential Action:** Release Proposed Amendment #2 to the FFY 2023-2027 TIP Transit List for 21-day Public Review and Comment Period

Kevin Krasnecky presented on this agenda item. Proposed Amendment #2 to the FFY 2023-2027 TIP Transit List includes the increased cost of Project #RTD0010843 – Worcester Regional Transit Authority: Buy Replacement 35 FT Bus (8). 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).

Shelby Marshall asked if the additional funds are coming from both Federal and State sources and if there is money in the budget to make the change. Both questions were confirmed by Mr. Krasnecky.

There were no other comments or questions.

Shelby Marshall made a motion and was seconded by Jesse Limanek to release the Propose Amendment #2 to the FFY 2023-2027 TIP Transit List for 21-day Public Review and Comment Period. All member present voted unanimously to release the Propose Amendment #2 to the FFY 2023-2027 TIP Transit List for 21-day Public Review and Comment Period.

Derek Krevat – Yes

Ann Sullivan – Yes

Nick Burnham – Yes

Brian Pigeon – Yes

Shelby Marshall – Yes

Jesse Limanek – Yes

Dennis Lamarche – Yes

Stephanie Mulroy – Yes

- **Micro-Projects Update**

Yahaira Graxirena provided a quick presentation to update the CMMPO on Micro-Projects.

As a refresher, the major goals of Micro-Projects are to support access to essential services, including access to jobs, education, health services, and healthy food. Other goals are to create first-and-last mile connections to transit and other modes of transportation as well as to fill the gaps within the transportation network.

Micro-Projects can include several different project types: bikeshare, microtransit, vans/shuttles, and TDM strategies. For bikeshare, this includes capital costs of bikeshare stations and bicycles, docks and related equipment. For microtransit, this includes operating assistance to introduce new service or pilots. In addition, the new service needs to demonstrate an increase in transit ridership and reductions in congestion, emissions, and single occupancy vehicle (SOV) trips. For vans/shuttles, this includes the

purchasing of new vehicles and equipment that results in emissions reduction. Other equipment may be eligible if it represents a major upgrade to improve reliability of service. For TDM strategies, this includes guaranteed ride-home programs, capital expenses for new or expanded TDM programs, real-time network information, and the project needs to demonstrate congestion reduction and/or SOV trip reductions.

The timeline for Micro-Projects includes the finalization of applications and comments/edits from MassDOT OTP in November. Sharing applications with communities and organizations, and virtual forums about the Micro-Projects Program will be in December. Presentations to the CMMPO of potential projects and CMAQ evaluations from January to March and final evaluation and CMMPO endorsement in May and June.

Shelby Marshall asked how communities will receive notice of applications in December. Ms. Graxirena replied that she will be sending notices to a mailing list she has, which includes Town Administrators, Town Planners, and DPW Directors.

Chris Timmel asked for a reminder what year the Micro-Projects will begin. Ms. Graxirena replied that staff will be starting to program the Micro-Projects Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 of the TIP but could also fill gaps in earlier years if funding is available.

There were no other comments or questions.

Agenda Item #5 – WRTA Transit Asset Management (TAM) Plan Update

- **Potential Action:** Concurrence with WRTA Performance Targets

Nick Burnham provided a presentation on updates to the WRTA TAM Plan.

The TAM Plan develops a process for operating, maintaining, and improving public capital assets through the assets' lifecycle. Public transit agencies are required to establish performance measures and targets, and to share with the MPO's for concurrence. The initial TAM Plan was adopted by the WRTA Advisory Board in FY 2018, and this Plan was recently updated and approved by the WRTA Advisory Board in September 2022.

The TAM performance targets are measures for transit assets that WRTA has direct capital responsibility. Asset types are referenced in each performance measure and performance targets are integrated in the CMMPO's Performance Management Program. The performance targets were based on Federal Transit Agency (FTA) guidance, and in tandem with WRTA Administration and Operations, and the CMMPO.

The performance targets in 2018 included targets for Rolling Stock, Equipment, and Facilities. Rolling Stock includes Buses > 30', Buses ≤ 30', and Demand Response Vans. Equipment included Support Vehicles and Facilities included Administration/Maintenance Facilities and Passenger/Parking Facilities. Performance targets for Rolling Stock and Equipment are based on their ability to meet their Useful Life Benchmark (ULB) and Facilities are based on their ability to meet their Transit Economic Requirements Model (TERM).

Performance targets in 2022 included a few changes in both Rolling Stock and Equipment from 2018. In 2022, Rolling Stock now includes Buses > 30', Buses ≤ 30', Vans (Type A, E, E2), and Vans (Type LF). For Rolling Stock, the ULB for Buses > 30' (12 years) and Buses ≤ 30' (10 years) has not changed. The ULB for Vans (Type A, E, E2) is 100% of fleet meets or exceeds ULB of 6 years and the ULB for Vans (Type LF) is 100% of fleet meets or exceeds ULB of 7 years. Equipment now includes Support Vehicles and Service Vehicles. A Support Vehicle must now meet the target of 100% of fleet meets or exceeds ULB of 7 years, and a Service Vehicle is 100% of fleet meets or exceeds ULB of 10 years. For Facilities, both Administration and Maintenance Facilities, and Passenger and Parking Facilities targets did not change. The target for both facilities is that 0% of facilities be rated under 3.0 on the TERM scale.

With these changes, the FFY 2022 TAM Plan update is in effect from October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2026. The performance targets are integrated into the CMMPOs Performance Management Program and the ongoing performance monitoring and annual reports are reported to the National Transit Database (NTD) while also providing annual updates to the CMMPO.

Derek Krevat asked if they think they are in position to meet current targets. Mr. Burnham confirmed that they are.

There were no other comments or questions.

Ann Sullivan made a motion and was seconded by Jesse Limanek to concur with the updated WRTA TAM Performance Targets. All members present voted unanimously to concur with the updated WRTA TAM Performance Targets.

Derek Krevat – Yes

Shelby Marshall – Yes

Ann Sullivan – Yes

Jesse Limanek – Yes

Nick Burnham – Yes

Dennis Lamarche – Yes

Brian Pigeon – Yes

Stephanie Mulroy – Yes

Agenda Item #6 – Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Updates

Sujatha Krishnan updated the group that since the last CMMPO meeting, staff have had a successful meeting with MassDOT OTP, District #3, and District #2 to understand the State's priorities so staff can add them to the LRTP. Additional stakeholder meetings have been completed and over 150 surveys have been completed. Staff is also reaching out to MassDOT regarding their LRTP to see how staff can combine their public outreach strategy with the State LRTP plan. The December CMMPO meeting will include an update regarding what staff have heard from the public.

- Environmental Justice (EJ) Factors and Thresholds Presentation
 - **Potential Action:** Approval of Central Mass Regional EJ Factors and Thresholds

Yahaira Graxirena presented for this item, in which staff are looking for CMMPO approval of the Central Massachusetts Regional EJ Factors and Thresholds.

EJ is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. EJ populations include both minority and low-income. In addition,

transportation disadvantage populations are considered, which includes 4 additional criteria: Linguistically Isolated Households, Zero-Car Households, Population of Older Adults, and Population with Disabilities.

In Massachusetts, an EJ population is a neighborhood where at least one or more of the following criteria is true: 1) annual median household income is 65% or less of statewide annual median household income, 2) minorities make up 40% or more of population, 3) 25% or more of households identify as speaking English less than “very well”, or 4) minorities make up 25% or more of population and the annual median household income of municipality in which neighborhood is located does not exceed 150% of statewide annual median household income.

For the CMMPO, a “Neighborhood of Environment Concern” is a US Census Block Group where one or more of following criteria are true: 1) annual median household income is 65% or less of the statewide annual median household income, or 2) minorities make up 22.2% or more of the regional average. In addition, a transportation disadvantaged population is a US Census Block Group where the proportion is 150% higher than the region’s average for the following criteria: 1) households with a person 75 years of older, 9.3%, 2) households without a vehicle, 13.5%, or 3) linguistically isolated households, 9.45%.

A Regional EJ “Plus” (REJ+) Communities are EJ populations that are most impacted by transportation changes. At least one of the three EJ criteria must be true: 1) annual median household income \leq MPO 25th percentile, 2) percent of minorities \geq MPO 75th percentile, or 3) percent of households with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) \geq MPO 75th percentile. In addition, at least one of the following three transportation criteria must be true: 1) percent of households with zero vehicles \geq MPO 75th percentile, 2) percent of households with disabilities \geq MPO 75th percentile, or 3) percent of seniors (65+ years) \geq MPO 75th percentile. The geography of REJ+ indicator is census block groups and the thresholds are relative to an MPO region.

For the MassDOT/CMMPO, the REJ+ thresholds are: 1) Income (65% median household income), \$53,780, 2) Minority, 41%, 3) LEP, 7%, 4) Disability, 33%, 5) Zero-Vehicle, 13%, 6) Older Adults, 21%.

There were no questions or comments.

Brian Pigeon made a motion and was seconded by Dennis Lamarche to approve the Central Massachusetts EJ Factors and Thresholds. All members present voted unanimously to approve the Central Massachusetts EJ Factors and Thresholds.

Derek Krevat – Yes

Shelby Marshall – Yes

Ann Sullivan – Yes

Jesse Limanek – Yes

Nick Burnham – Yes

Dennis Lamarche – Yes

Brian Pigeon – Yes

Stephanie Mulroy – Yes

Agenda Item #7 – Staff Updates

- EV Charging Stations Survey

Zack Blais updated the group that CMRPC staff recently sent out an EV charging stations survey to Town Administrators and Managers to ask about any experiences they have had with EV charging station installation, maintenance, and operation, as well as to see what their interest is in more EV charging

stations in their community and where they would like to see them installed in their community. So far staff have received 5 survey responses and are hoping to receive more responses before the survey closes at the end of November. Shelby Marshall asked if the Town Administrators and Managers were allowed to pass the surveys off to other community members that may be in a better position to complete the survey. Mr. Blais confirmed that would be okay. There were no other comments or questions.

Sujatha Krishnan updated the group that there is a Walk Audit facilitated by WalkBike Worcester scheduled for this upcoming Sunday along Belmont Street. Faye Rhault said that CMRPC will be participating along with other organizations. This walk audit will teach how to conduct a walk audit for projects.

Agenda Item #8 – New Business

There was no New Business.

Agenda Item #9 – Next Meetings

- CMMPO Advisory Committee meeting (virtual) – November 30, 2022 at 3:00pm
- CMMPO meeting (virtual) – December 21, 2022 at 4:00pm

Agenda Item #10 – Adjournment

Jesse Limanek made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Dennis Lamarche. The meeting concluded at 5:10 PM.

Meeting Minutes prepared by: Zachary Blais, Transportation Associate Planner

MPO December 21, 2022 – Endorsement of Amendment



Meeting of the Central Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization

Date: Wednesday, **December 21**, 2022

Time: **4:00 PM**

Place: This meeting will be held virtually through Zoom.

Connection details are on the bottom of this agenda and in the meeting announcement email.

Additional meeting materials can be found through the CMRPC web calendar:

<https://cmrpc.org/cmm-po-meeting-112>

AGENDA

- Introductions
- Approval of November 16, 2022 Meeting Minutes
- Opportunity for Public Comment
- Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
 - **Potential Action:** Approval of Proposed Amendment #2 to the FFY 2023-2027 TIP Transit List
 - FFY 2028 Potential Candidate TIP Projects
- Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Updates
 - Public Outreach Results
- Title VI Reporting Update
 - **Potential Action:** Title VI Assurances Signature on Sub-Recipient Page
- Staff Updates
- New Business
- Next Meetings:
 - CMMPO Advisory Committee meeting (virtual) – January 25, 2023 at 3:00pm
 - CMMPO meeting (virtual) – January 18, 2023 at 4:00pm
- Adjournment

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CMMPO Zoom Meeting Details

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85777863548?pwd=RE9Zcmh6Q3hNbFd2UnBsN3JFMGxKQT09>

Meeting ID: 857 7786 3548

Passcode: 518805

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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

Ann Sullivan – Yes

Dennis Lipka – Abstain

Bob Hassinger – Yes

Brian Pigeon – Yes

Shelby Marshall – Yes

Jesse Limanek – 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

**Advisory Committee November 30, 2022 –
Recommend Approval of Amendment**



Meeting of the Central Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Committee

Date: Wednesday, **November 30**, 2022

Time: **3:00 PM**

Place: Zoom Virtual Meeting

Connection details are on the bottom of this agenda and in the meeting announcement email. Additional meeting materials can be found through the CMRPC web calendar:

<http://cmrpc.org/cmm-po-advisory-committee-meeting-19>

AGENDA

- Around the Room Introductions
- Approval of **October 26, 2022** Meeting Minutes
- CMMPO Transportation Improvement Program **Amendment #2 to the FFY 2023-2027 TIP Transit**
 - **ACTION ITEM:** Seeking Recommendation to the CMMPO
- CMMPO Transportation Improvement Program
 - TIP MicroProjects Program Update
- CMMPO Long Range Transportation Plan
 - Updates
- Age Friendly Central Massachusetts Initiative
 - Presentation and Discussion
- Staff Updates
- New Business
- Next Meetings:
 - CMMPO Advisory Committee meeting (virtual) – Wednesday, **January 25**, 2023 at 3:00 PM
 - CMMPO Meeting (virtual) – Wednesday, December 21, 2022 at 4:00 PM
- Adjournment

CMMPO meetings are conducted in accessible locations and materials can be provided in accessible formats free of charge upon request (including but not limited to interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, open or closed captioning for videos, alternative material formats such as audio, Braille, and large print), as available. Interpreter and other translation requests must be made at least fourteen (14) business days before the meeting. Materials in alternative formats must be requested at least three (3) business days prior to the meeting.

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Zoom Meeting Details

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87809179209>

Meeting ID: 878 0917 9209

Dial by your location

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Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87809179209>



CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The minutes of the CMMPO Advisory Committee held **Wednesday, November 30, 2023**. This meeting was held virtually through Zoom.

CMMPO Advisory Committee Members Present:

- Adam Menard – Chairperson, Town of Auburn
- Chris Payant – Vicechair, Town of Westborough
- Sarah Bradbury – MassDOT District 3
- Daryl Amaral – MassDOT District 2
- Jeremy Thompson – 495/Metrowest Partnership
- Ann Sullivan – MassDOT District 3
- Benjamin Berger (Alternate, MassDOT District 3)
- Thomas Coyne - WRTA

Ex Officio Member:

- Chris Klem – MassDOT, Office of Transportation Planning

CMRPC Staff Present:

- Yahaira Graxirena
- Kevin Krasnecky
- Eric Gemperline
- Rich Rydant
- Greer Jarvis

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Agenda Item #1 – Around the Room Introductions

Chairperson Adam Menard opened the meeting at 3:05 PM. A roll call of CMMPO Advisory members was announced, followed by the rest of the attendees.

Agenda Item #2 – Approval of October 26, 2022 meeting minutes

Minutes for October 26, 2022, CMMPO Advisory meeting were considered for approval. Chairperson Menard entertains a motion to approve the October 26, 2022, meeting minutes. Vicechair Payant makes a motion to approve. The motion is seconded by Ann Sullivan. The vote is unanimous in favor of approval.

Agenda Item #3 – CMMPO TIP Amendment #2 to the FFY 2023-2027 TIP Transit

- **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 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.

Chairperson Menard entertains a motion to approve the proposed amendment. Mr. Coyne makes the motion and Vicechair Payant seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

There were no comments or questions.

Agenda Item #4 – CMMPO TIP Microprojects Update

This item was presented by Yahaira Graxirena.

A brief recap was provided of the major goals of the Microprojects: “Access – To support access to essential services, including access to jobs, education health services, and healthy food”, “Connections - To create first-and-last mile connections to transit and other modes of transportation”, and “Gaps – To fill the gaps within the transportation network”.

After conversations with MassDOT’s Office of Transportation Planning it was decided microprojects would be funded through TIP using CMAQ funds and it would be specifically for capital purchases and in some cases transit operations. Only transit authorities or municipalities can apply through the TIP. Other

applicants would need to file a joint application with either WRTA or municipalities. Microprojects are used to address needs in the region. 2024-28 TIP process is looked and the following categories will be focused on: bikeshare, microtransit, vans/shuttles/, and TDM strategies.

Currently, the final edits to the application are being made and once finalized the application form will be sent to Mass OTP and FHWA for approval. Once approved, the grant will be shared with municipalities and employers. The following steps would include a virtual information session about the Microproject program in December. January through March will allow for applications and presentations for potential projects. In May through June is when the final evaluation of the applications will be made with the CMMPO endorsement following afterwards.

There were no questions, Chairperson Menard just asked to be notified when applications are ready.

Agenda Item #5 – CMMPO LRTP Update

This item was presented by Yahaira Graxirena

Yahaira updated the group that since the last CMMPO meeting, staff have had a successful meeting with MassDOT OTP, District #3, and District #2 to understand the State's priorities so staff can add them to the LRTP. Additional stakeholder meetings have been completed and over 200 surveys have been completed. Staff is also reaching out to MassDOT regarding their LRTP to see how staff can combine their public outreach strategy with the State LRTP plan. The December CMMPO meeting will include an update regarding what staff have heard from the public.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item #6 – Age Friendly Central Mass Update

This item was presented by Faye Rhault

An update was provided on the process of designating Worcester as an 'Age-friendly community'. In 2030, nearly 1 and 5 people will be over the age of 65 with projections for central Massachusetts hitting those thresholds before the Nation. In response to this projected shift, the World Health Organization launched the network of Age Friendly Cities and Communities in 2006 as an international effort to promote livable communities through preemptive and adaptive planning strategies, which is administered across the United State through AARP.

The towns of North Brookfield and Barre are currently designated age friendly communities with AARP approved Action Plans, and the Town of Uxbridge and the City of Worcester have emerging age friendly community status meaning they are in development or engagement phases of the program approaching a permanent designation. Additionally, several communities have received a dementia friendly designation.

As the initiative progresses, a website was developed to store survey responses and more information about the program. The initiative involved six age-friendly meetings across the region to better understand the needs of older adults.

Some interesting results from the age-friendly survey included the following: the survey was highly over-represented by residents in the City of Worcester and the Central Subregion, and the survey results were largely over represented by women (80%), those age 60-69 (19.4%) and 70-79 (27.2%), and White respondents (92%). However, there was an even spread for income.

The transportation results were the focus of this presentation and indicated limited transportation services in rural/suburban communities, limited WRTA service area in terms of the region as a whole, the need for on-demand transit services, transportation to medical appointments, and public infrastructure, and local services, among others as priorities for the region.

Most respondents were aware of some sort of public transportation option either provided by the regional transit authority or the Senior Center, although roughly 90% of respondents do not use public transportation. When asked to rate their community in public transportation service, 38% of respondents rated the public transit poor in providing affordable and convenient service, while 39% rated it poor in providing timely public transit, and 32% identified public transit as unsafe. Additionally, 49% of respondents claimed to not have convenient access to information about alternative transportations like schedules, how to reserve rides, among others.

Aside from operating a personal vehicle, 56% of respondents claim to walk and 53% claim to rely on a family member or friendly for transportation to appointments or other activities.

The following overarching goals that relate to transportation that were identified in the survey are: Expanding transportation services in rural communities, investing in accessible, equitable, and connected multi-modal infrastructure, supporting financial sustainability and maintenance of localized and municipal older adult transportation services, bolstering participation and recreational opportunities through transportation access, and coordinating with the WRTA to expand and improve transit access.

The Age Friendly Action Plan, while a stand alone document, will be incorporated in other planning initiatives including Imagine 2050 and 2050 Connections.

There were no questions.

Agenda Item #7 – New Business

No Updates are available.

Agenda Item #8 – Adjournment

At 4:35 PM Chairperson Menard entertained a motion to adjourn. Mr. Coyne made the motion and was seconded by Ms. Sullilvan. The group voted unanimously to adjourn.

Meeting minutes prepared: Eric Gemperline, Transportation Associate Planner.

Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission

Member Communities

Auburn
Barre
Berlin
Blackstone
Boylston
Brookfield
Charlton
Douglas
Dudley
East Brookfield
Grafton
Hardwick
Holden
Hopedale
Leicester
Mendon
Millbury
Millville
New Braintree
North Brookfield

Northborough
Northbridge
Oakham
Oxford
Paxton
Princeton
Rutland
Shrewsbury
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Central Mass Regional Planning Commission



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