



CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The minutes of the CMMPO Advisory Committee held **January, 24, 2023**. This meeting was held virtually through Zoom.

CMMPO Advisory Committee Members Present:

- Adam Menard - Chair, Town of Auburn
- Chris Payant – Co-Chair, Town of Westborough
- Matt Benoit – Town of Douglas
- Connor McCormack – Town of Millbury
- Karin Valentine-Goins – WalkBike Massachusetts
- Collin Reuter – Green Hill Park Coalition
- Claudia Pavia – Latino Education Institute
- Caleigh McLaren – Blackstone Watershed Collaborative
- Benji Kemper – Center for Living and Working
- Sarah Bradbury – MassDOT District 3
- Daryl Amaral – MassDOT District 2
- Joann Clarke – AARP
- Ben Breger – MassDOT District 2 (Alt)

Ex-Officio Members Present:

- Chris Klem – MassDOT OTP

CMRPC Staff Present:

- Yahaira Graxirena
- Kevin Krasnecky
- Eric Gemperline
- Rich Rydant
- Rob Raymond
- Nathan Lewis

- Adam Wriggins

Guest:

- Betsy Goodrich – City of Worcester
- John Charbonneau – Town of Rutland

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Agenda Item #1 – Around the Room Introductions

Vice Chairperson Chris Payant opened the meeting at 3:10 PM. A roll call of CMMPO Advisory members was announced, followed by the rest of the attendees.

Agenda Item #2 – Approval of January 3, 2023, meeting minutes

Minutes for January 3, 2023, CMMPO Advisory meeting were considered for approval. Mr. Payant entertains a motion to approve the November 29, 2023, meeting minutes. Mr. McCormack makes a motion to approve. The motion is seconded by Ms. Bradbury. The vote was unanimous in favor of approval. Mr. Benoit abstained.

Agenda Item #3 – Transportation Improvement Program

- **Potential Action:** Release Proposed Amendment #3 to the FFY 2024 to FFY 2028 TIP Highway and Transit Lists for 21-Day Public Review and Comment Period

Kevin Krasnecky presented this item. Proposed Amendment #3 included several changes to FFY 2024 of the FFY 2024 to FFY 2028 TIP Highway and Transit Lists.

The changes to the Highway List are:

- Worcester #610535 – Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements on Pleasant Street: REMOVE PROJECT
- Charlton-Oxford #602659 – Reconstruction on Route 20, from Richardson’s Corner Easterly to Route 12, Includes Rehab of C-06-023 and Replacement of O-06-002: Reduce statewide CMAQ funding to \$123,655. Reduce statewide HSIP funding to \$0. Reduce statewide NHPP funding to \$7,956,218. Reduce statewide STBG funding to \$0.

The changes to the Transit List are:

- WRTA011658 – Shrewsbury: Town of Shrewsbury – CTGP Shrewsbury Operating: ADD PROJECT. Total cost of \$25,000.
- WRTA011661 – Holden: WRTA-Holden to Worcester Extended Service: ADD PROJECT. Total cost of \$20,000.
- WRTA011686 – Town of Rutland – Rutland Extended Transportation: ADD PROJECT. Total cost of \$75,477.
- WRTA011687 – WRTA – SCM Elderbus – READYBUS Service: ADD PROJECT. \$70,000.
- WRTA011688 – WRTA – SCM Elderbus Midday Shuttle: ADD PROJECT. Total cost of \$34,000.

Ms. Valentine-Goins asks about funding sources for the Pleasant Street project. Mr. Klem provides answers regarding the funding. Mr. Benoit makes the motion to recommend. The motion is seconded by Mr. McCormack. The motion passed unanimously.

FFY 2025 Micro-Projects Update

Yahaira Graxirena provided updates on the FFY 2025 Micro-Projects Program Update

City of Worcester Bike Parking Microproject Request – Presented by Betsy Goodrich of the City of Worcester. The city is looking to purchase bike racks using microproject funds. CMRPC and the City collaborated in 2023 on an inventory of the publicly available bike racks in the city. It was found that Worcester had 96 publicly owned racks that provided 430 parking spaces.

The city is requesting \$35,000 for 10 Four-hoop racks on rails and delineators, 42 new post and hitch racks, and 30 post and hitch meter retrofit racks. These racks would be in line with the City's Complete Streets policy, Green Worcester Plan, among others.

Ms. Valentine-Goins mentions knowing where racks at schools are and will talk offline with Ms. Goodrich. Ms. Clarke asks about bike racks at grocery stores and Ms. Goodrich responds that bike racks in front of drugstores was a popular response, but it is up to those private businesses to provide the racks. Ms. Goodrich also adds that this request is limited to federal-aid eligible roads and on public property. Ms. Graxirena adds that microproject applications are still open and this is an example of a project that can be done.

FY 2029 Presentations by Kevin Krasnecky

- Rutland #613655 – Intersection Improvements at Route 122 and Pleasantdale Road: Existing issues at this intersection include speed, safety, and was a High Crash location from 2017-2019. Route 122 Average Daily Traffic (ADT) is 5,917 and the roadway also provides an important connection to Worcester. The scope of the project is to construct a roundabout at the intersection, but other alternatives will also be considered. Also included are improved bike accommodation and upgraded signage and pavement markings. The project is currently at pre-25% design stage and survey work is being done. Required environmental permits and ROW acquisitions or easements are being determined. Utility relocations will be required. The current cost estimate of the project is \$3,013,900. There were no comments or questions following the presentation.
- West Brookfield #612779 – Resurfacing and Related Work on Route 9 (Phase 3): The entire Route 9 reconstruction project includes 4.3 miles. Phase 3 is 1.6 miles and includes resurfacing and related work. Roadway width varies between 24' to 26' and the 85% vehicle speeds are 45 MPH. Existing issues include safety for all users, pavement condition, and drainage issues. Safety concerns include snow and ice, shoulder width/visibility, truck traffic, speeding, signage/pavement markings, and bicycle and pedestrians. The proposed new roadway section includes two 12' travel lanes and two 5' shoulders to accommodate bicycle/pedestrians. There is also the Lamberton Brook culvert that would need to be improved. The project is currently at the pre-25% design stage and the 25% design is anticipated to be submitted in Fall 2024. Survey work and data collection is ongoing. The estimated project cost is \$14,000,000.

- Westborough #613242 – Roadway Improvements on Route 30 (East Main Street): The goals of the project are to improve traffic safety, improve bicycle/pedestrian safety, fill multimodal connectivity gaps, improve existing shared-use path crossing, improve congestion, and promote economic development through improved walkability and bikeability. Next steps for the project are to perform a topographic survey, conduct evaluation of Flanders Road intersection, conduct local community outreach, and complete the pre-25% design submission.
- Worcester #613648 – Intersection Improvements at Lake Avenue and Bigelow Davis Parkway: The goal of the project is to improve traffic control at the intersection to reduce speeding, improve safety, and create better multi-modal access for all with a particular focus on vulnerable roadway users. Existing conditions include a significant amount daily traffic, stop sign controlled, non-compliant ADA ramps, and sidewalks. The intersection is a Top 5% HSIP Crash Cluster and has long pedestrian crossing distances. Other problems include speeding, inadequate bike/micro-mobility facilities, multiple conflict points, and lack of gaps & long queues for turning traffic. The project includes traffic control through a traffic signal or a roundabout; a reduced footprint intersection and shorter crosswalks; right sized travel lanes to manage speeds; separated/protected bicycle lanes; and widened sidewalks/improved streetscape. Project planning and design is expected to be completed by the city in 2024-2025.

There were no further questions.

Agenda Item #4 – Transportation Safety in the CMRPC Region

Eric Gemperline presented this item.

An overview of transportation safety in the CMRPC Region was provided. CMRPC follows regulatory measures in reporting to have access to SHSP and HSIP funds. With these funds, the goal is to reduce fatalities and serious injuries in the region to zero.

Services provided by CMRPC rely on the MassDOT IMPACT portal to aggregate, analyze, and report crash data as well as conduct road safety audits, neighborhood walk audits and the facilitation of communication between member communities and MassDOT. CMRPC produces a safety report in support of the LRTP. The report includes an overview of crashes in the region. There were no questions.

Agenda Item #5 – Presentation on CY 2024 Safety Performance Measures (PM1)

Eric Gemperline presented this item.

Each year MPO's are required to either set their own or adopt the State's safety performance targets and must be incorporated into Certification Documents. MassDOT's overarching goal is towards zero

deaths. The performance measures are presented in 5-year rolling averages. Further, federal law prohibits States from using increasing targets.

The MassDOT safety targets for CY 2024 are:

- Total fatalities: 377
- Fatality rate per 100 million VMT: 0.61
- Total serious injuries: 2,708
- Serious injury rate: 4.36 per 100 million VMT
- Total combined non-motorist injuries + fatalities: 445

Mr. Gemperline then described MassDOT’s methodologies in setting their safety targets for the above categories. Graphics were also displayed showing the historical data and projected targets for the 5-year rolling averages for both the State and CMMPO in each safety category.

Mr. Gemperline explained that while the goal is towards zero deaths and injuries, the State’s targets are not “goals” but realistic targets considering the events of the last 3+ years. Mr. Gemperline also noted that the CMMPO must either set their own five quantifiable safety targets or adopt the MassDOT targets that were presented by February 29, 2024. These targets must be included in the FFY 2025 to FFY 2029 TIPs.

Ms. Valentine-Goins raises questions regarding the increase in fatalities and asks what would happen if CMRPC adopted their own numbers. Mr. Klem responds that CMRPC would have to develop their own targets and justify them. If targets were not met more money would need to be spent on HSIP locations in the region. Vicechair Payant asks for a motion, in which is made by Mr. McCormack and seconded by Ms. Valentine-Goins. The motion is unanimously approved to recommend going with the state numbers.

Agenda Item #6 – Advisory Committee Bylaws

Yahira Graxirena presented this item.

The CMMPO recently updated their memorandum of understanding which in turn triggered an update to the CMMPO Advisory Committee bylaws. The CMRPC transportation staff, which is permanently assigned to assist the CMMPO Advisory Committee, has undertaken a revision and refinement for the new bylaws.

Ms. Graxirena went over the revised bylaws as of January 3, 2024, highlighting changes noted in red in the document. Changes involved updating of archaic language and streamlining of the bylaws.

Vicechair Payant asks for a motion to recommend the changes to the bylaws. Mr. McCormack makes the motion, and it is seconded by Mr. Reuter. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #7 – Staff Updates – Federal and State Funding Opportunities

Yahira Graxirena presented this item.

Available grants include RAISE discretionary grants which the Town of Southbridge and City of Worcester are interested in applying for as well as the City of Gardner from outside the region. The deadline for the RAISE grant is 2/28/2024. Staff is working on an EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG).

Agenda Item #8 – New Business

Yahaira Graxirena presented this item.

John Charboneau of the Town of Rutland will be joining the CMMPO Advisory Board. Additionally, the Innovation Conference will take place at the DCU Center on April 30th and May 1st.

Agenda Item #9 – Next Meeting

February 28, 2024, at 3:00 PM

Agenda Item #10 – Adjournment

At 4:16 PM Vicechair Payant entertained a motion to adjourn. Mr. McCormack made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Benoit. The group voted unanimously to adjourn.

Meeting minutes prepared: Eric Gemperline, AICP, Transportation Associate Planner