



## CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

The minutes of the Central Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (CMMPO) meeting held **Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023**. This meeting was held virtually using Zoom.

- **CMMPO Members Present:**

1. Steve Woelfel – MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning, designee to MassDOT Secretary Monica Tibbits-Nutt
2. Ann Sullivan – MassDOT Highway Division District #3, designee to MassDOT Highway Division Administrator Jonathon Gulliver
3. Joshua Rickman – WRTA Administrator
4. Janet Pierce – designee to CMRPC Commission Chair
5. Steve Rolle – designee to City Manager Eric Batista
6. Shelby Marshall – Westborough, Northeast Subregion Representative
7. Jesse Limanek – Sutton, Southeast Subregion Representative
8. John Daniel – Southbridge, Southwest Subregion Representative
9. Stephanie Mulroy – Holden, North Subregion Representative

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

1. Derek Krevat, MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning

- **Guests:**

1. Sarah Cannamela, MassDOT
2. Brian Pigeon, City of Worcester
3. Daryl Amaral, MassDOT District #2
4. Ben Breger, MassDOT District #2
5. Peter Boria, Spencer
6. Peg Dean, Southbridge

- **CMRPC Staff**

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

5. Yahaira Graxirena, Project Manager – Transportation
6. Connie Mellis, Project Manager – Transportation
7. Rob Raymond, Project Manager – Transportation
8. Nathan Lewis, Public Outreach Coordinator – Transportation
9. Eric Gemperline, Associate Planner – Transportation
10. Tyler Distefano, Transit Planner – 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 15, 2023, Meeting Minutes**

Minutes from the November 15, 2023, meeting of the CMMPO were considered for approval. Jesse Limanek motioned to accept the minutes and was seconded by Stephanie Mulroy. A roll call vote was announced, and members voted to approve the minutes.

Steve Woelfel – Yes	Shelby Marshall – Abstain
Joshua Rickman – Yes	Jesse Limanek – Yes
Janet Pierce – Yes	John Daniel – Yes
Steve Rolle – Abstain	Stephanie Mulroy – Abstain

**Agenda Item #3 – Opportunity for Public Comment**

There were no comments from the public.

**Agenda Item #4 – Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

- **Potential Action:** Release Proposed Amendment #2 to the FFY 2024 to FFY 2028 TIP Transit List for 21-Day Public Review and Comment Period

Kevin Krasnecky presented this item. Amendment #2 includes three changes to FFY 2024:

- Cost Increase for RTD0010855 – WRTA Buy Replacement 35 FT Bus: 5307 funding would increase by \$1,010,000 for new total of \$8,189,019. TDC funding would increase by \$95,804 for a new total of \$1,637,804.
- WRTA011642 – On-Call (short-term) Planning Services: Add project to FFY 2024 for a total of \$250,000. \$200,000 will be 5307 funding and \$50,000 will be SCA funding.
- WRTA011643 – Preventative Maintenance for WRTA Vehicles and Facilities: Add project to FFY 2024 for a total of \$506,000. \$404,800 will be 5307 funding and \$101,200 will be SCA funding.

There were no questions or comments regarding the proposed Amendment #2.

Stephanie Mulroy made a motion and was seconded by Shelby Marshall. All members voted unanimously to release the proposed Amendment #2 to the FFY 2024 to FFY 2028 TIP Transit List for 21-day public review and comment period.

Steve Woelfel – Yes	Shelby Marshall – Yes
Joshua Rickman – Yes	Jesse Limanek – Yes
Janet Pierce – Yes	John Daniel – Yes
Steve Rolle – Yes	Stephanie Mulroy – Yes

- FFY 2029 TIP Project Candidates

Mr. Krasnecky summarized the list of the potential TIP project candidates for FFY 2029. They include:

- #612779: West Brookfield – Resurfacing and Related Work on Route 9 (Phase III)
- #613242: Westborough – Roadway Improvements on Route 30 (East Main Street), from Hastings Elementary to Thomas Newton Drive
- #613648: Worcester – Intersection Improvements at Lake Avenue and Bigelow Davis Parkway
- #613655: Rutland - Intersection Improvements at Route 122 and Pleasantdale Road

Mr. Krasnecky noted that the project proponents will be invited to the January CMMPO meeting to present the details of their projects.

There were no comments or questions regarding the project candidates.

**Agenda Item #5 – Title VI Program Update**

- **Potential Action:** Approval of the Title VI Program Updates

Nathan Lewis presented this item. Mr. Lewis explained that CMRPC has recently made several updates to Title VI notices and complaint procedures. MassDOT recently updated their template for the Title VI notice to the public and CMRPC has adopted this new template. The notice is available in multiple languages. CMRPC has also adopted the recently updated MassDOT Title VI Complaint Procedures and provided additional translated versions. Additionally, the Language Assistance Plan (LAP) has been updated with more recent Limited English Proficiency (LEP) data and new ADA disability data for auditory, visual, and cognitive disabilities have been added for the CMMPO region.

There were no questions or comments.

Steve Rolle made a motion and was seconded by Shelby Marshall to approve the Title VI Program updates. All members voted unanimously to approve the Title VI Program updates.

Steve Woelfel – Yes

Shelby Marshall – Yes

Joshua Rickman – Yes

Jesse Limanek – Yes

Janet Pierce – Yes

John Daniel – Yes

Steve Rolle – Yes

Stephanie Mulroy – Yes

**Agenda Item #6 – 2023 Transportation Activities Overview**

Sujatha Krishnan presented this item. Ms. Krishnan provided a brief overview of CMRPC transportation activities during the past year.

Staff works on several required certification documents, including the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Additionally, Staff works in many planning areas, including safety, congestion management, asset management, emerging technologies, environment, and active transportation. Many studies were completed or are still in progress related to Corridor Profiles, technical assistance plans, and freight. Title VI is also important regarding Environmental Justice, Public Participation Plan (PPP), and Language

Assistance Plan (LAP). For transit planning, work includes community transit planning services as well as required reporting and studies. Next, CMRPC data services were summarized. The services include numerous types of data collection, the development of various dashboards, and community and regional technical assistance such as the Auburn Sidewalk Plan and the Worcester Bicycle Parking Inventory, among others. Staff also have a drone program and completed many drone flights for transportation purposes, like for the I-495/I-90 Interchange Reconstruction.

Going forward, staff will continue the implementation of the recently updated LRTP which includes various plans, studies, and initiatives as well as assisting on Federal Discretionary Grants (i.e., Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods).

Shelby Marshall asked who is responsible for the Regional Age and Dementia Friendly Initiatives work staff are doing. Ms. Krishnan replied that Yahaira Graxirena would be the current contact person.

There were no further questions or comments.

#### **Agenda Item #7 – Staff Updates**

- Federal Discretionary Grants

Ms. Krishnan announced that staff received the Safe Streets for All grant funding. This includes funding for a regional action plan and a Worcester Demonstration Project on Main Street.

- Migrant Transportation

Ms. Krishnan announced that staff were able to work with WRTA to provide transit service one day per week for the migrant population in the town of Sutton.

#### **Agenda Item #8 – New Business**

There was no new business.

#### **Agenda Item #9 – Next Meetings**

- CMMPO Advisory Committee meeting (virtual) – January 3, 2024, at 3:00PM
- CMMPO meeting (virtual) – January 17, 2024, at 4:00PM

#### **Agenda Item #10 – Adjournment**

John Daniel made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Janet Pierce. The meeting concluded at 5:00 PM.

*Meeting Minutes prepared by: Zachary Blais, Transportation Associate Planner*