



## CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The minutes of the CMMPO Advisory Committee held **February, 28, 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
- Sandy Amoakohene – Worcester Division of Public Health
- Karin Valentine-Goins – WalkBike Massachusetts
- Claudia Pavia – WSU Binienda Center for Public Engagement
- Caleigh McLaren – Blackstone Watershed Collaborative
- Sarah Bradbury – MassDOT District 3
- Daryl Amaral – MassDOT District 2
- Joann Clarke – AARP
- Ben Breger – MassDOT District 2 (Alt)
- Thomas Coyne – WRTA

### **Ex-Officio Members Present:**

- Chris Klem – MassDOT OTP
- Joshua Barber – FHWA

### **CMRPC Staff Present:**

- Yahaira Graxirena
- Sujatha Krishnan
- Kevin Krasnecky
- Eric Gemperline
- Rich Rydant

- Rob Raymond
- Nathan Lewis

Guests:

- Betsy Goodrich – City of Worcester
- Jim Daley

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## **Agenda Item #1 – Around the Room Introductions**

Vice Chairperson Chris Payant 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 January 24, 2023, meeting minutes**

Minutes for January 24, 2024, CMMPO Advisory meeting were considered for approval. Mr. Menard entertains a motion to approve the January 24, 2024, meeting minutes. Mr. Payant makes a motion to approve. The motion is seconded by Ms. Bradbury. The vote was unanimous in favor of approval.

## **Agenda Item #3 – 2024 – 2028 Transportation Improvement Program**

- **Action Item:** Amendment #4 to the 2024-2028 TIP Highway Project Listing 2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Kevin Krasnecky presented this item. Proposed Amendment #4 included two changes to FFY 2024 of the FFY 2024 to FFY 2028 TIP Highway List. These changes are:

- #612874 Shrewsbury-Worcester-Bridge Preservation, S-14-115 (1RA & 1RB), I-290 (EB & WB) Over Combination of Lake Quinsigamond and Lake Avenue North
  - Move project from FFY 2024 to FFY 2025
- Increase cost of #606517 West Brookfield – Resurfacing and Related Work on Route 9, from Ware T.L. to 850' West of Welcome Road (Phase 1)
  - New Total Project Cost: \$9,661,739
  - Decrease STBG funding: \$638,190
  - Add TAP funding: \$648,738
  - Add Statewide TAP funding: \$1,574,365

Mr. Payant has a question for Mr. Krasnecky based on the change process. Mr. Krasnecky responds that the changes come from MassDOT. Mr. Klem adds that the planning division at MassDOT works closely with the highway division on these changes and that the project changes are reasonable. There are no further questions. Mr. Menard asks for a motion, Mr. Payant makes the motion. Ms. Amoakohene seconds the motion. The motion passes.

## **Agenda Item #4 – 2025 – 2029 Transportation Improvement Program**

- **FFY 2025 to FFY 2029 TIP Readiness Update**

Kevin Krasnecky provided updates from TIP Readiness Day on February 6, 2024. Mr. Krasnecky discussed the status of numerous projects and their recommended programming year. The following updates were provided:

- **Uxbridge #608174 – Reconstruction of Route 122 (South Main St):** Still on track for 2024.

- **Shrewsbury/Worcester #612874 – Bridge Maintenance, I-290 over Lake Quinsigamond & Lake Ave North:** Recommended pushing back to 2025 because of scope change.
- **Worcester #608961 – Intersection Improvements on Chandler St & May St:** MassDOT waiting on WSU to review design. Recommended pushing back to 2026/2027. Staff looking to keep project in 2025 and will schedule meeting with the City of Worcester.
- **Southbridge #608862 – Bridge Replacement, Mill St over McKinstry Brook and Quinebaug River:** Design has been delayed and was recommended to push back to 2026.
- **Upton #608490 – Route 140 Resurfacing & Roundabout Construction:** Many right of way and utility concerns. Recommended pushing back to 2026.
- **Dudley #609186 – Bridge Replacement, Route 131 over Quinebaug River:** Need design and right of way submission. Recommended pushing back to 2026.
- **Worcester #612608 – Flood Relief on Route 20:** Could potentially move up to 2024, depending on design and right of way submissions.
- **Auburn #612192 – Bridge Replacement, US 20 WB over I-395:** Still need design and right of way submissions. Might need to push back to 2026.
- **Worcester #608990 & 612011 – Chandler St Improvements Phase I & II:** Large project and a lot of right of way. Phase I recommended pushing back to 2027. Phase II could potentially move back to 2028.
- **Northbridge #609441 – Intersection Improvements at Route 122 & School St:** Municipal right of way concerns need to be resolved. Recommended pushing back to 2027. Staff would like to keep in 2026 and will schedule a meeting with the town.
- **Charlton #612181 – Bridge Replacement, US 20 over Cady Brook:** 25% design due 3/9/24 and needs hydraulic study. Recommended pushing back to 2027.
- **Shrewsbury #607764 – Intersection Improvements at US 20 & Grafton St:** MassDOT to meet on this project to find best path forward. Need to be consistent with Route 20 Corridor Plan. Recommended pushing back to 2027.
- **Auburn #612191 – Bridge Replacement, Oxford St over Kettle Brook:** Need design and right of way submissions. Recommended pushing back to 2027.
- **Grafton #612510 – Bridge Replacement, Route 140 over Railroad:** 25% design due on 5/5/24. Potentially push back to 2027.
- **East Brookfield #612629 – Route 9 Resurfacing:** Project is being deactivated and this section of Route 9 will be resurfaced under districtwide resurfacing contract.
- **Charlton/Sturbridge #611967 – Route 49 Intersection Improvements:** 25% design expected to be completed soon. Recommended to stay in 2027 but could potentially move up to 2026.
- **West Brookfield #613143 – Bridge Replacement, Long Hill Rd over Quaboag River:** Could potentially advance as soon as 2027.

- **ACTION ITEM: FFY 2029 TIP Potential Candidate Project – Performance Management Scoring -**  
Seeking recommendation concerning the ranking of FFY 2029 Projects

Kevin Krasnecky presented this item. The projects were scored based on 11 objectives with a total of 15 targets. Topics of objectives ranged from Safety (PM1), State of Good Repair (PM2), and Congestion (PM3) as primary objectives with Security, Multimodality, Sustainability, Equity, Economic, Stormwater Management, and Travel and Tourism making up secondary objectives. Each project could score up to two points per objective.

- Rutland #613655 – Intersection Improvements at Route 122 and Pleasantdale Road: Scored 8 points.
- West Brookfield #612779 – Resurfacing and Related Work on Route 9 (Phase 3): Scored 15 points.
- Westborough #613242 – Roadway Improvements on Route 30 (East Main Street): Scored 15 points.
- Worcester #613648 – Intersection Improvements at Lake Avenue and Bigelow Davis Parkway: Scored 15 points.

Mr. Krasnecky is asking for a ranking of these projects from this committee to help staff determine with of these projects will be programmed. Mr. Menard asks if there are any questions. Ms. Amoakohene asks about the recommendation process and if there is a certain number of projects that must be funded. Mr. Krasnecky responds that they will all try to be funded in 2029, though a prioritization recommendation listing would be beneficial in funding decisions. Ms. Valentine-Goins asks about the scoring and how three projects scored 15 points and a further breakdown of the categories would be helpful in determining ranking. Mr. Menard states that in the past the high scoring projects have been recommended as primary projects and lower scoring have been recommended as secondary projects. Ms. Goodrich asks if Rutland is being considered for target funding. Mr. Krasnecky responds in the affirmative. Ms. Goodrich asks about evaluation criteria and if they are listed in the current TIP. Mr. Krasnecky responds in the affirmative.

Mr. Barber asks if there are regional or state prioritized projects for target funding. Mr. Krasnecky responds that this is for regional target funding. Mr. Barber follows up asking if the Rutland project was initiated by the State, in which Mr. Krasnecky responds in the affirmative.

Mr. Payant asks how equal scoring projects are ranked. If there are criteria such as money that the committee should be taking into consideration when recommending a project. Mr. Krasnecky responds finances play a part, but so does the recency of the community's last TIP project and the input provide by the advisory committee and transportation committee. Ms. Krishnan adds geographic equity and recency as well as the initiator of the project. Ms. Amoakohene recommends that the three equal scoring projects move forward as primary with the Rutland project becoming a secondary project. Mr. Menard agrees with Ms. Amoakohene's assessment. Ms. Valentine-Goins echoes Ms. Amoakohene's recommendation and further adds that next year it would be beneficial to have an easier way to determine the ranking of projects.

Mr. Menard asks for a motion to go with Ms. Amoakohene’s recommendation of West Brookfield, Westborough, and Worcester to be Tier 1 and Rutland to be Tier 2. Mr. Payant makes the motion and it is seconded by Ms. Valentine-Goins. The motion passes unanimously.

- **TIP Design Funding Update**

Sujatha Krishnan presented TIP funding for design and engineering.

Some communities struggle to come up with design and engineering funds for projects due to lack of Chapter 90 funds. Therefore, MPOs have worked with MassDOT to create a process to make federal funding available for design and engineering usages for communities. Only new projects are available for this funding assistance and FHWA and MassDOT have provided guidance. The community would need to do a reimbursable contract with MassDOT and the local match (20%) would be the responsibility of the community. The construction project should be programmed on the TIP/STIP, there should be coordination with utility providers and rail operators, and there should be hiring of MassDOT prequalified A&E firms.

The project would need to be approved by MassDOT’s Project Review Committee (PRC). This will begin in FFY 2025 if there are available funds and will have a max total design funding cap of \$1 million per year. The project will go through the same scoring criteria as any TIP construction project.

Next steps include setting aside design funding at the March TIP workshop, finalizing CMMPO Guidance in Summer 2024, and including that guidance in the application form in FFY 2026 TIP “call for projects” packet.

### **Agenda Item #5 – TIP/UPWP Guidance Summary**

Sujatha Krishnan presented this agenda item on TIP and UPWP guidance from MassDOT/FHWA.

As part of this guidance, the CMRPC have kept up with all federal certification review findings; public participation continues to be a primary focus of our work; staff are currently working on updating the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan; staff are working on ways to spend de-obligated Metropolitan Planning (PL) funds; staff are continuing to account for all earmarks or non-FHWA/discretionary grants; and staff are planning to set our own regional greenhouse gas emission reduction targets or adopt the state targets.

There are several new focus areas, including housing coordination; TIP design funding; updating pedestrian and bicycle plan; CMMPO certification; and an update to the CMMPO Public Participation Plan.

There were no questions or comments.

### **Agenda Item #6 – Community Transportation Data/Project Services Presentation**

Rob Raymond presented on recent efforts CMRPC transportation have completed with data and project services. This included many types of data to help support MassDOT and MPO planning efforts, which

include traffic counting, pavement management, pedestrian asset inventories (sidewalks, curb ramps, crosswalks, obstructions), and bike rack inventories.

Mr. Raymond summarized numerous maps about where traffic counts are completed, where pedestrian assets have been assessed, and where bike racks have been inventoried in the region. Next, Eric Gemperline discussed the drone services the transportation staff offers and the work that has been completed with the drone.

Lastly, Mr. Raymond continued the discussion by focusing on specific projects the transportation staff have worked on. These have included the Auburn Local Sidewalk Prioritization Plan, Leicester Town Safety Concerns, Central Turnpike and Sutton Ave Corridor Profile, and others.

There were no comments or questions.

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

- Safe Streets for All Grant

Mr. Gemperline announced that staff were awarded the Safe Streets for All Grant and are currently working on completing the agreement.

- Other Federal Grants

Ms. Graxirena announced that there will be a second year of funding for the E-Bike program and the program has been expanded to more communities in the CMRPC region.

### **Agenda Item #8 – New Business**

There is no new business.

### **Agenda Item #9 – Next Meeting**

March 27, 2024, at 3:00 PM

### **Agenda Item #10 – Adjournment**

At 4:18 PM Mr. Menard entertained a motion to adjourn. Mr. Payant made the motion and was seconded by Mr. McCormack. The group voted unanimously to adjourn.

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