



## CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

The minutes of the Central Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (CMMPO) meeting held **Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024**. This meeting was held virtually using Zoom Webinar.

- **CMMPO Members Present:**

1. Derek Krevat – 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. Bob Hassinger – designee to CMRPC Commission Chair
5. Betsy Goodrich – 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. Jared Grigg – Spencer, West Subregion Alternate

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

1. Chris Klem, MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning
2. Kirstie Hostetter, Federal Transit Authority (FTA)

- **Guests:**

1. Sarah Bradbury, MassDOT District #3
2. Brian Pigeon, Worcester
3. Linda Nusum
4. Peg Dean, Southbridge
5. Zachary Kay
6. Derek Shooster, MassDOT OTP
7. Daryl Amaral, MassDOT District #2
8. Jeff Bridges, Spencer

- **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. Adam Wriggins, Assistant Planner – Transportation
7. Nathan Lewis, Public Outreach Coordinator – 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.

**Agenda Item #2 – Approval of February 21, 2024, Meeting Minutes**

Minutes from the February 21, 2024, meeting of the CMMPO were considered for approval. Bob Hassinger motioned to accept the minutes and was seconded by Josh Rickman. A roll call vote was announced, and members voted to approve the minutes with two members abstaining.

|                      |                       |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Derek Krevat – Yes   | Bob Hassinger – Yes   | Jesse Limanek – Yes   |
| Ann Sullivan – Yes   | Betsy Goodrich – Yes  | John Daniel – Abstain |
| Joshua Rickman – Yes | Shelby Marshall – Yes | Jared Grigg – Abstain |

**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 #4 to the FFY 2024 to FFY 2028 TIP Highway List

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

1. Move Project from FFY 2024 to FFY 2025: #612874 Shrewsbury-Worcester, Bridge Preservation, S-14-115 (1RA & 1RB), I-290 (EB & WB) Over Combination of Lake Quinsigamond and Lake Avenue North
2. Increase Project Cost: #606517 West Brookfield, Resurfacing & Related Work on Route 9, from Ware T.L. to 850’ West of Welcome Road (1.1 Miles – Phase 1)
  - a. New Total Project Cost - \$9,661,739
    - i. Decrease STBG funding - \$638,190
    - ii. Add TAP funding - \$648,738
    - iii. Add Statewide TAP funding - \$1,574,365

Mr. Krasnecky said a public meeting was held 3/12/24 to discuss Amendment #4, but there were no comments. Additionally, Amendment #4 was discussed with the MPO Advisory Committee and CMRPC’s Transportation Committee and both committee’s recommended approval.

There were no questions or comments regarding the proposed amendment.

Bob Hassinger made a motion and was seconded by Jesse Limanek. All members voted unanimously to approve Proposed Amendment #4 to the FFY 2024 to FFY 2028 TIP Highway List.

|                    |                      |                       |
|--------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Derek Krevat– Yes  | Joshua Rickman – Yes | Betsy Goodrich – Yes  |
| Ann Sullivan – Yes | Bob Hassinger – Yes  | Shelby Marshall – Yes |

Jesse Limanek – Yes

John Daniel – Yes

Jared Grigg – Yes

- **Potential Action:** Release Proposed Amendment #5 to the FFY 2024 to FFY 2028 TIP Highway and Transit List for 21-Day Public Review and Comment Period

Kevin Krasnecky presented this item. Proposed Amendment #5 included two changes to FFY 2024 of the highway list and one change to FFY 2024 of the transit list of the FFY 2024 to FFY 2028 TIP Highway and Transit Lists.

The Highway changes are:

1. #612098 Upton/Grafton, Resurfacing and Related Work on Route 140
  - a. Increase cost of project from \$5,000,000 to \$5,817,840. An increase of \$717,840.
2. #609528 Grafton, Millbury Street Improvements (SRTS)
  - a. Increase cost of project from \$1,931,230 to \$3,177,661. An increase of \$1,246,431.

The Transit change is:

1. Add Project: WRTA011811 – Worcester Regional Transit Authority, Buy Replacement Van (7) to FFY 2024
  - a. \$202,068 will be funded by 5307 and \$40,413 will be funded by Toll Development Credits (TDC).

There were no questions or comments regarding the proposed amendment.

Jesse Limanek made a motion and was seconded by Ann Sullivan. All members voted unanimously to approve the release of the proposed Amendment #5 to the FFY 2024 to FFY 2028 TIP Highway and Transit List for 21-day Public Review and Comment Period.

Derek Krevat – Yes

Bob Hassinger – Yes

Jesse Limanek – Yes

Ann Sullivan – Yes

Betsy Goodrich – Yes

John Daniel – Yes

Joshua Rickman – Yes

Shelby Marshall – Yes

Jared Grigg – Yes

- FFY 2029 TIP Project Candidates PM Scoring Review

Kevin Krasnecky presented a review on the FFY 2029 TIP project candidates performance management scoring. This process is completed each year for the new TIP candidate projects that are not currently programmed. Staff use performance management criteria to score all new projects. The scoring criteria is based on 10 categories, which include: safety, state of good repair, congestion, security, multimodality, sustainability, equity, economic, stormwater management, and travel and tourism. Mr. Krasnecky summarized the scoring to the group. The maximum score is 27 points The total scores for the four TIP candidate projects were:

1. Project #613655 – Rutland, Route 122 & Pleasantdale Road: **8**
2. Project #612779 – West Brookfield, Route 9 (Phase 3): **15**
3. Project #613242 – Westborough, Route 30 (East Main St): **15**
4. Project #613648 – Worcester, Lake Ave & Bigelow Davis Pkwy: **15**

The scoring was also reviewed with the CMMPO Advisory and CMRPC Transportation Committee to get their comments on the results. Both committees provided their priority recommendations as to which of the new projects should get programmed.

There were no comments or questions.

- FFY 2025 to FFY 2029 TIP Workshop
  - Review Consensus of Preferred Option for FFY 2025 to FFY 2029 TIP Highway Project Listing

Kevin Krasnecky presented this item. Mr. Krasnecky reviewed the project options for each year of the FFY 2025 to FFY 2029 TIP. Two options were presented to the members for their consideration to develop the draft FFY 2025 to FFY 2029 TIP.

Based on the two presented options, staff asked the members to decide on a preferred option which staff would use to develop the draft TIP highway project listing for April's CMMPO Meeting. Out of the two options, the staff's preferred option was Option A.

Shelby Marshall asked for an explanation between the "Current Program" and the "Current TFPCC Cost". Mr. Krasnecky said that the TFPCC column contains the current cost of the project, and the Current Program column contains the cost of the project from the 2024-2028 TIP.

Peg Dean asked if there is a separate statewide TIP listing where the Southbridge bridge project will be listed. Sujatha responded that bridges are included in the statewide project listing and what is being presented is only CMMPO target funded projects.

Jared Grigg asked why the East Brookfield Route 9 project was deactivated. Mr. Krasnecky explained that Route 9 will be resurfaced under Districtwide resurfacing contract instead of using TIP funding.

Shelby Marshall asked if projects could use the leftover funds from FFY 2028. Mr. Krasnecky replied yes, depending on how far along the projects are in their design. Ms. Marshall followed up by asking what that process would be. Sujatha Krishnan replied that staff meets with district staff regularly and have TIP Readiness Day to get updates on projects and their status.

Jesse Limanek asked about the Worcester Chandler Street project and if Worcester would have the capacity to complete both phases with Option A, and if Option B would be better. Mr. Krasnecky replied that staff met with the city and District #3, and they were okay if both phases were in the same year. Betsy Goodrich responded by saying that Worcester prefers the entire project in one programming year. Chris Klem asked what the benefit was of doing the Chandler Street project separately instead of one big project. Ann Sullivan replied that it was a big project to undertake as one altogether and it was originally difficult to program the entire project in one year due to the cost.

After much discussion, the majority of members chose the staff's recommended Option A to develop the Draft FFY 2025 to FFY 2029 TIP Highway Project Listing. Option A includes:

#### 2025

- #602659 – Charlton/Oxford: Route 20 Reconstruction, \$2.776 Million

- #608778 – Southbridge: Central St/Foster St/Hook St/Hamilton St Improvements, \$7.279 Million
- #609049 – West Brookfield: Route 9 Reconstruction (Phase II), \$7.412 Million
- #608961 – Worcester: Chandler St & May St Intersection Improvements, \$6 Million
- Micro-Project - Worcester: Purchase of New Bike Racks, \$35,000
- CMMPO TIP Design Funding Placeholder, \$1 Million

#### 2026

- #608456 – Upton: Route 140 Culvert Replacement, \$1.662 Million
- #611933 – Sturbridge: Route 20 & Route 131 Roundabout, \$6.660 Million
- #610535 – Worcester: Pleasant St Bike & Pedestrian Improvements, \$5.703 Million
- Micro-Projects Program Placeholder, \$400,000
- CMMPO TIP Design Funding Placeholder, \$1 Million

#### 2027

- #609441 – Northbridge: Rt 122/Sutton St/School St Intersection Improvements, \$4.466 Million
- #608990 – Worcester: Chandler St Improvements (Phase I), \$6.418 Million
- #612011 – Worcester: Chandler St Improvements (Phase II), \$4.541 Million
- #610931 – Uxbridge: Route 16 Rehabilitation, \$9.901 Million
- Micro-Projects Program Placeholder, \$400,000
- CMMPO TIP Design Funding Placeholder, \$1 Million

#### 2028

- #613097 – Spencer: Route 9 & Route 49 Intersection Improvements, \$11.671 Million
- #611988 – Oxford: Route 12 Roadway Improvements, \$9.564 Million
- #613655 – Rutland: Route 122& Pleasantdale Rd Intersection Improvements, \$3.376 Million
- Micro-Projects Program Placeholder, \$400,000
- CMMPO TIP Design Funding Placeholder, \$1 Million

#### 2029

- #612779 – West Brookfield: Route 9 Reconstruction (Phase III), \$13.231 Million
- #613242 – Westborough: Route 30 Improvements, \$10.237 Million
- #613648 – Worcester: Lake Ave & Bigelow Davis Pkwy Intersection Improvements, \$7.786 Million
- Micro-Projects Program Placeholder, \$400,000
- CMMPO TIP Design Funding Placeholder, \$1 Million
- Review of FFY 2025 to FFY 2029 Statewide Highway Project Listing

Mr. Krasnecky presented this item. A brief review of the projects that are on the draft FFY 2025 to FFY 2029 Statewide Highway Project Listing was provided.

There were no comments or questions.

- Review of FFY 2025 to FFY 2029 Statewide Transit Project Listing

Mr. Krasnecky presented this item. A brief review of the projects that are on the draft FFY 2025 to FFY 2029 Transit Project Listing was provided.

Shelby Marshall asked if the demand response projects are related to VIA service. Mr. Krasnecky answered that it is not.

Kirstie Hostetter introduced herself to the group and commented that the FTA will be releasing the full year apportionments within the next few weeks.

There were no other comments or questions.

#### **Agenda Item #5 – FFY 2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

- Budget and Major Task Listing

Sujatha Krishnan presented this item. Ms. Krishnan provided a brief review of the FFY 2025 UPWP budget and major task listing. The differences between FFY 2024 & FFY 2025 include a decrease in Task 2.3 (Community & Regional Technical Assistance) and the addition of Task 2.5 (Housing, Economic Development and Transportation Planning). Other changes included additional funds to Task 3.7 (LRTP Implementation) and Task 4.2 (funding coming from WRTA). In total, the budget for the FFY 2025 UPWP increased by 5% to \$1,593,595. After reviewing the budget, Ms. Krishnan reviewed the different tasks that staff anticipated to work on during FFY 2025.

There were no comments or questions.

#### **Agenda Item #6 – Active Transportation Overview**

Yahaira Graxirena presented this item. Ms. Graxirena provided a review of the staff's work regarding Active Transportation. Active Transportation includes walking, biking, trails, transit, and micromobility. Staff have completed work with Complete Streets, sidewalk condition data analysis, bicycle rack inventories, regional bicycle & pedestrian plan studies (these will be updated), bicycle compatibility index, bikesharing, walk audits, trail work (data mapping, grant support, community engagement, and more), various initiatives like the E-Bike Program, and placemaking efforts in Worcester.

Shelby Marshall asked if the 2024 E-Bike Program deadline would be extended. Ms. Graxirena replied that it is currently being discussed.

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

- Federal Grants

Ms. Krishnan announced that staff are looking at a NOFO for the Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP) for Southbridge and a potential regional application. Other grants mentioned were the Accelerating Clean Transportation for All (Act4All), DER Culvert Replacement Grant, and the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG).

#### **Agenda Item #8– New Business**

There was no new business.

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

- CMMPO Advisory Committee meeting (virtual) – March 27, 2024, at 3:00PM
- CMMPO meeting (virtual/in-person) – April 17, 2024, at 4:00PM

**Agenda Item #10 – Adjournment**

Bob Hassinger made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Shelby Marshall. The meeting concluded at 5:30 PM.

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