



CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

The minutes of the Central Massachusetts Transportation Planning Committee Hybrid meeting held Thursday, March 28, 2024 using Zoom.

T-Committee Members Present:

1. Bob Hassinger, Grafton, Committee Chairperson
2. Rick Baker, Boylston
3. Dick Williams, Rutland
4. Brian Pigeon, Worcester

CMRPC Staff Present:

1. Rich Rydant
2. Kevin Krasnecky
3. Adam Wriggins

The CMRPC fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. The CMRPC 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 CMRPC. A complaint must be filed no later than 180 calendar days after the date on which the person believes the discrimination occurred.

Around-the-Room Introductions

Committee Chairperson Bob Hassinger opened the meeting at 6:00 PM and asked for around the room introductions.

Approval of the February 29, 2024 T-Committee Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the February 29, 2024 meeting were considered for approval. Dick Williams motioned to accept the minutes and was seconded by Rick Baker. Members voted to approve the minutes, with one abstention from Brian Pigeon.

Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- **Action Item:** Seeking recommendation concerning CMMPO endorsement of the Proposed Amendment #5 to the 2024-2028 TIP Highway & Transit Project Listing.

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 2024-2028 TIP. The changes include:

Highway

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

Transit

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

Bob Hassinger asked if the changes are affecting the regional target funds. Mr. Krasnecky said they are not as the changes are for statewide projects. Mr. Hassinger also asked what the limits of the Route 140 resurfacing project are. Mr. Krasnecky said he was not sure of the project limits. (*Editor's Note:* After the meeting, staff determined the Route 140 project limits from the MassDOT "Project Info" website: "The resurfacing project begins at the Route 140 Upton/Hopedale town line, mile marker 59.45, and extends to mile marker 61.72, ending before the Elm Street intersection. The project excludes downtown Upton then resumes at

Williams Street in Upton at mile marker 63.30. It then extends into Grafton ending before the Grafton train track near the public library at mile marker 67.3. The length of the project is 32,736 feet which is 6.2 miles.”)

On a motion from Dick Williams and a second from Rick Baker, the members unanimously voted to recommend endorsement of Proposed Amendment #5 to the 2024-2028 TIP Highway & Transit project listings.

- **Action Item:** Seeking recommendation to the CMMPO Draft Options for the 2025-2029 TIP Highway target projects.

Kevin Krasnecky presented this item. Mr. Krasnecky said the 2025-2029 TIP Workshop was held during the March CMMPO meeting. At the Workshop, staff provided two programming scenarios to the CMMPO members for the regional target projects. Similar to the Workshop, Mr. Krasnecky reviewed the two programming options for the T-Committee members. The only difference between Option A and Option B is that Option A has both phases of the Worcester Chandler Street project in 2027 and Option B has the Chandler Street Phase 1 in 2027 and Phase 2 in 2028.

Dick Williams commented that the DPW Director in Rutland would prefer “Stop” signs on all four approaches of the Rutland intersection project instead of a roundabout. Rick Baker asked if MassDOT could use state money to fund the Route 9 project instead of using target funds. Rich Rydant said that section of Route 9 is maintained by the Town of West Brookfield.

On a motion from Dick Williams and a second from Rick Baker, the members unanimously voted to recommend Option A to the CMMPO for developing the draft 2025-2029 TIP Highway project list.

Option A includes:

2025

- #602659 – Charlton/Oxford: US 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: US 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: Route 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, \$500,000

- Review of 2025-2029 Statewide Highway Project Listing

Kevin Krasnecky presented this agenda item. Mr. Krasnecky summarized the current draft listing of the 2025-2029 statewide highway projects.

There were no comments or questions.

- Review of 2025-2029 Transit Project Listing

Kevin Krasnecky presented this agenda item. Mr. Krasnecky summarized the current draft listing of the 2025-2029 transit projects.

There were no comments or questions.

FFY 2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

➤ Budget and Major Task Listing

Rich Rydant presented this agenda item. Mr. Rydant provided an overview of the FFY 2025 UPWP budget and major task listing. The differences between FFY 2024 and FFY 2025 budgets 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, Mr. Rydant went over the range of different tasks that staff anticipates working on during FFY 2025.

There were no questions or comments.

Staff Updates

Rich Rydant provided updates on various federal grants. The Reconnecting Communities grant for the area between Vernon Hill and Kelley Square in Worcester was not selected. Staff is looking into the Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP) grant for the town of Southbridge as well as a potential regional application. Other notable current grant opportunities include the Accelerating Clean Transportation for All (Act4All) grant and the Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration (DER) Culvert and Small Bridge Replacement Grant.

New Business

There was no new business.

Next Meetings

- CMMPO Meeting – Wednesday, April 17, 2024 at 4:00 PM
- CMMPO Advisory Committee Meeting – April 24, 2024 at 3:00 PM
- CMTPC Meeting – Thursday, April 25, 2024 at 6:00 PM

Adjournment

Upon a motion by Dick Williams and a second from Rick Baker, the members unanimously voted to adjourn at 6:51 PM.