



CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The minutes of the CMMPO Advisory Committee held **April 24, 2024**. This meeting was held virtually through Zoom.

CMMPO Advisory Committee Members Present:

- Connor McCormack – Town of Millbury
- Karin Valentine-Goins - WalkMassachusetts
- Sandy Amoakohene – Worcester Division of Public Health
- Caleigh McLaren – Blackstone Watershed Collaborative
- Sarah Bradbury – MassDOT District 3
- Daryl Amaral – MassDOT District 2
- Joanne Clarke – AARP
- Ben Breger – MassDOT District 2 (Alt)
- Thomas Coyne – WRTA
- Matthew Benoit – Town of Douglas

Ex-Officio Members Present:

- Chris Klem – MassDOT OTP

CMRPC Staff Present:

- Yahaira Graxirena
- Kevin Krasnecky
- Eric Gemperline
- Rich Rydant
- Rob Raymond
- Nathan Lewis
- Tyler Distefano
- Adam Wriggins

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Agenda Item #1 – Around the Room Introductions

Acting Chairperson Karin Valentine-Goins opened the meeting at 3:08 PM. A roll call of CMMPO Advisory members was announced, followed by the rest of the attendees.

Agenda Item #2 – Approval of March 27, 2024, meeting minutes

Minutes for March 27, 2024, CMMPO Advisory meeting were considered for approval. Ms. Valentine-Goins entertains a motion to approve the March 27, 2024, meeting minutes. Mr. McCormack makes a motion to approve. The motion is seconded by Ms. Clarke. The vote was unanimous in favor of approval. Ms. Valentine-Goins abstained.

Agenda Item #3 – 2024 – 2028 Transportation Improvement Program

- **Action Item:** Seeking recommendation concerning CMMPO endorsement of the Proposed Amendment #7 to the 2024-2028 TIP Highway & Transit Project Listing

Kevin Krasnecky presented this item. Please see attached presentation for more information.

The changes are:

- Increase cost of Project **608171 Uxbridge – Reconstruction of Route 122 (South Main Street), from Susan Parkway to Route 16** from \$10,624,014 to \$14,232,013. It is an increase of \$3,607,999.
- Move Project **608851 Hardwick - New Braintree – Bridge Replacement, H-08-003=N-07-002, Creamery Road over Ware River** from FFY 2025 to FFY 2024 with a new total project cost of \$3,659,382. The funding source would also change from STBG-BR-Off to BROFF.
- Decrease cost of Project **608640 Sutton – Grafton – Bridge Reconstruction/Rehabilitation, S-33-004, Depot Street over the Blackstone River** from \$12,380,610 to \$9,636,255. It is a decrease of \$2,744,355.

Ms. Valentine-Goins asks about the cost increase and how it does not appear to be balanced by reduction differences in funding sources. Mr. Krasnecky responds to the increase is an adjustment to the project listing. Ms. Valentine-Goins asks for a motion; Mr. McCormack makes the motion. Ms. Bradbury seconds the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

- **ACTION ITEM:** Seeking recommendation to the CMMPO concerning endorsement of the Draft 2025-2029 TIP

Kevin Krasnecky presented this item. Projects related to the TIP were shown to CMMPO Advisory board for comment. Ms. Clarke asks about project #610535, a pedestrian and bicycle improvements on Pleasant Street and how much the improvements will cover. Mr. Krasnecky responds that the improvements will be from the Paxton town line to Tatnuck Square. Ms. Valentine-Goins adds that the design changes come after a child was hit in Airport Square.

Ms. Valentine-Goins asks for a motion to recommend the endorsement of the 2025-2029 Draft Tip. Mr. McCormack makes a motion which is seconded by Mr. Benoit. The vote is unanimous in favor of endorsing the Draft 2025 – 2029 TIP.

Agenda Item #4 – MassDOT Beyond Mobility Update

Chris Klem presented this item. MassDOT celebrates its 15th anniversary on November 1, 2024 and is commemorating this achievement by focusing on three areas:

- MassDOT’s LRTP Beyond Mobility
- MassDOT Strategic Business Plan
- Transportation Funding Task Force

These three areas will be linked together and other planning processes. Beyond Mobility will have six areas of priority. They include **Safety, Reliability, Clean Transportation, Destination Connectivity, Resiliency, and Travel Experience.**

Ms. Valentine-Goins asks about ‘green gentrification’ and if MassDOT is doing anything to be proactive regarding the topic Mr. Klem responds that based on emphasis areas, it would be included in the Beyond Mobility planning process. Both Ms. Graxirena and Ms. Clarke inquire about age-friendly aspects of Beyond Mobility, in which Mr. Klem responds that there are age friendly aspects of the plan and encouraged Ms. Clarke to leave comments on the Beyond Mobility website.

Agenda Item #5 – MassDOT Capital Investment Plan (CIP) Presentation

This item was not presented and will be moved to the May CMMPO Advisory Committee meeting.

Agenda Item #6 – CMRPC Community Snapshot Presentation

Rob Raymond presented this item. The CMRPC has recently restarted the Community Snapshot program. This program provides key data for all 40 member communities and has been updated to go along to the CMRPC’s new website. Mr. Raymond went over the website redesign, highlighting some of the many new features and organizational tools. Mr. Raymond

adds that the community snapshots are intended to provide a basic set of data in a user-friendly format that can be used for a variety of purposes. The snapshots include data relating to population & demographics, transportation, housing, open space & tourism, and the economy.

Mr. Raymond provided a live demonstration of the website to the committee. Once complete, Mr. Raymond discussed future updates to the snapshots and asked the committee if they had any datasets they would like to see reflected in the community snapshots.

Agenda Item #7 – Staff Updates

Yahaira Graxirena presented this item. Ms. Graxirena informed the members of the committee that May is bike month and CMPRC will be attending events throughout the month to promote safety through programs like Safe Routes to School and Vision Zero. Ms. Graxirena then moved to federal and state funding opportunities, and mentioned the Destination Development Capital Grant, among other grants.

Agenda Item #8 – New Business

There was no new business discussed.

Agenda Item #9 Next Meetings

Yahaira Graxirena presented this item. The next meetings will take place:

- CMMPO Advisory Committee meeting (virtual) – Wednesday, May 22, 2024 at 3:00 PM
- CMMPO Meeting (virtual) – Wednesday, May 15, 2024 at 4:00 PM

Agenda Item #10 – Adjournment

At 4:05 PM Ms. Valentine-Goins entertained a motion to adjourn. Mr. McCormack made the motion and was seconded by Ms. Clarke. The group voted unanimously to adjourn.

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