
Unified Planning Work Program

Central Massachusetts Regional
Planning Commission (CMRPC)

CMMPO Draft FFY 2025 Program Year

Drafted: May 15, 2024



Unified Planning Work Program

Federal Fiscal
Year 2025

Central Massachusetts MPO



Draft: May 15, 2024

Prepared by the transportation planning staff of the,



Prepared in cooperation with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation and the U.S. Department of Transportation – Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration. The views and opinions of the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation or the U.S. Department of Transportation.

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- Mrs. Janet Pierce, Executive Director
- Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission
- 1 Mercantile Street, Suite 520
- Worcester, MA 01608
- (508) 756-7717

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- TTY: (617) 994-6196

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Swahili: Kiingereza: Ikiwa habari hii inahitajika kwa lugha nyingine, tafadhali wasiliana na Mtaalamu wa VI wa Pili ya CMRPC / CMMPO katika (508) 756-7717.

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- Mrs. Janet Pierce, Executive Director
- Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission
- 1 Mercantile Street, Suite 520
- Worcester, MA 01608
- (508) 756-7717

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For additional copies of this document or to request it in accessible formats, contact the CMRPC Transportation Program staff:

By mail: CMRPC
 Attn: Sujatha Krishnan, Transportation Deputy Executive Director
 1 Mercantile Street, Suite 520
 Worcester, MA 01608

By phone: (508) 756-7717

By fax: (508) 792-6818

By email: sujatha@cmrpc.org

This document can be downloaded from the CMRPC website at: www.cmrpc.org

Central Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (CMMPO)

Endorsement Sheet

FFY 2025 Program Year Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

The Central Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (CMMPO) hereby endorses the FFY 2025 Program Year Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) document. The UPWP describes all transportation and transportation related air quality planning activities anticipated within the region during the upcoming program year, indicating who will perform the work; the schedule for completing it, and the products that will be produced. The FFY 2025 Program Year UPWP document was endorsed on June XX, 2024, at a meeting of the CMMPO.

June XX, 2024

Monica Tibbits-Nutt, Secretary and Chief Executive Officer
Massachusetts Department of Transportation
Chair, Central Massachusetts MPO

Central Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization

Listing of CMMPO Members

1. **Monica Tibbits-Nutt**, Secretary of Transportation, MassDOT
2. **Jonathan Gulliver**, Administrator, MassDOT-Highway
3. **Robert Hassinger**, CMRPC Chairperson
4. **Joshua Rickman**, WRTA Administrator
5. **Eric Batista**, Worcester City Manager
6. **Stephanie Mulroy**, Holden Select Board, North Subregion Representative
7. **Shelby Marshall**, Westborough Select Board, Northeast Subregion Representative
8. **Jesse Limanek**, Sutton Select Board, Southeast Subregion Representative
9. **John Daniel**, Southbridge Select Board, Southwest Subregion Representative
10. **Rich Eichacker**, Warren Select Board, West Subregion Representative

Ex-Officio Members (Non-Voting):

1. **Eric Papetti**, FTA Liaison
2. **Joshua Barber**, FHWA Liaison
3. **Adam Menard**, MPO Advisory Committee Designee

Listing of MPO Advisory Committee Members and Organizations:

1. **Daryl Amaral**, MassDOT District #2
2. **Sandy Amoakohene**, Worcester Division of Public Health
3. **Ethan Belding**, Central Mass Agency on Aging
4. **Matt Benoit**, Douglas Town Planner
5. **Sarah Bradbury**, MassDOT-H District 3 (alternate)
6. **Benjamin Breger**, MassDOT District #2 (alternate)
7. **John Charbonneau**, Rutland Town Planner
8. **Joanne Clarke**, AARP
9. **Tom Coyne**, WRTA
10. **Caleigh McClaren**, Blackstone Watershed Collaborative
11. **Adam Menard**, Auburn Town Planner
12. **Conor McCormick**, Millbury Town Planner
13. **Claudia Oliveira de Paiva**, Latino Education Institute (LEI)
14. **Chris Payant**, Westborough DPW Director
15. **Collin Reuter**, Green Hill Park Coalition
16. **Alex Salcedo**, Massbike
17. **Ann Sullivan**, Projects Engineer, MassDOT-H District 3
18. **Karen Valentine Goins**, WalkBike Worcester

Ex-Officio Members (Non-Voting):

1. **Chris Klem**, MassDOT OTP
2. **Derek Krevat**, MassDOT OTP
3. **Joshua Barber**, FHWA Liaison

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Executive Summary

The Central Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (CMMPO) 2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) briefly describes and provides budgetary information for the transportation and related air quality planning activities that are to be conducted in the region during the coming federal fiscal year (FFY). Federal law requires the conduct of baseline transportation planning activities in all metropolitan areas receiving federal transportation construction funds. Under federal regulations pertaining to the transportation planning process, the UPWP must be prepared and endorsed annually by the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) prior to the start of the planning program period. Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC), as the technical staff to the CMMPO, is responsible for preparing the UPWP each year under the terms outlined in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) dated November 2023.

UPWP **Element 1** provides for the management of the transportation planning process and the development of the annual work program. The annual Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) effort allows for the development of a prioritized listing (driven by performance measurement) of improvement projects, programmed for federal-aid funding, which are brought forth through the Management Systems as well as the proactive public outreach process. The TIP development process considers both the maintenance of existing multi-modal transportation infrastructure as well as a limited number of expansion projects (particularly in the healthy transportation modes), and is prepared in consultation with various stakeholder groups, including multi-modal and Environmental Justice (EJ)/Title VI communities.

UPWP **Element 2**: The collection and analysis of quality transportation data is integral to the CMMPO's ongoing planning efforts. Element 2 focuses, in part, on obtaining and analyzing traffic count data, conducting travel time surveys, monitoring park and ride facilities, vehicle crash research, and the assessment of pavement/sidewalk conditions. Although most of these efforts involve federal-aid roadways, study locations identified by the communities are also included, as well as data collection on transit, bike, and pedestrian modes. Additionally, this element also supports ongoing work on integrating the various mode data and performance analysis using the regional transportation network simulation model, and other data integration techniques. This section also includes technical assistance to CMRPC communities and integrates housing, economic development, and other land use factors.

UPWP **Element 3** work tasks include performance analysis of integrated Management Systems (safety, congestion, and pavement) for use in Corridor Profile and bottleneck reduction efforts as well as to assist in the development, selection and prioritization of potential TIP projects. Transportation system security, including identification of vulnerable transportation infrastructure and evacuation planning, is addressed under Safety and Security. Also, drawing on the Management Systems, this UPWP includes short and medium range management and operations implementation efforts, as recommended from previous studies. Further, this element supports continued efforts to introduce ITS technologies to the region as well as expand local awareness of freight issues - both truck and rail - and their respective impacts on highway congestion and efforts to increase Commuter Rail service. The implementation of the 2024 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) will guide projects and initiatives, most notably tracking performance management data, assisting communities in developing projects for implementation in one

of the four program areas identified in the plan, working with potential project proponents on multi-mode projects, and assisting freight partners in securing grant funds. Planning for livability, sustainability and promotion of alternative mode, including strategies for greenhouse gas reduction and health linkages, as well as, identifying gaps and solutions to fill the gaps in Access to Essential Services and making linkages to enhance travel and tourism are also included in Element 3. This section includes a eighteen month planning study for Vernon Street over I-290 to engage the public and various local and regional stakeholders to develop conceptual alternatives to reconnect historically disadvantaged communities with economic opportunities.

UPWP **Element 4** also considers intermodal planning, general public transportation planning, the transportation needs of transportation-disadvantaged populations, as well as the coordination of public transit with various human service agencies.

The work outlined in this FFY 2025 UPWP will be fully completed by CMMPO staff, except for tasks 2.5 and 3.9. The Regional Housing and Transportation Plan and Vernon St over I-290 Planning study will include Consultant and project management work by CMMPO and other CMRPC staff.

Introduction

The Central Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (CMMPO) FFY 2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) briefly describes and provides budgetary information for the transportation and related air quality planning activities that are to be conducted in the region during the coming federal fiscal year (FFY). Federal law requires the conduct of baseline transportation planning activities in all metropolitan areas receiving federal transportation construction funds. Under federal regulations pertaining to the transportation planning process, the UPWP must be prepared and endorsed annually by the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) prior to the start of the planning program period. Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC), as the technical staff to the CMMPO, is responsible for preparing the UPWP each year under the terms outlined in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) dated November 2023 and signed by the following CMMPO members:

- Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) Secretary of Transportation
- Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission
- Worcester Regional Transit Authority
- City of Worcester
- North Subregion representative
- Northeast Subregion representative
- Southeast Subregion representative
- Southwest Subregion representative
- West Subregion representative

Planning Priorities

Transportation planning tasks and activities contained in the FFY 2025 UPWP are largely shaped by past federal transportation authorizations and by the present Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). These laws set forth comprehensive transportation planning and project implementation requirements. In addition, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the Clean Air Act Amendments (CAAA) of 1990 continue to influence the transportation planning process.

The BIL continues the thrust of previous federal authorizations with its emphasis on the development of an intermodal transportation system that maximizes the efficient use of existing facilities and requires that all modes of transportation in the region be considered and evaluated under the Continuous, Cooperative, and comprehensive (3C) planning process. The BIL carries forward preexisting federal priorities for civil rights programs and requirements including Title VI, EJ, and limited English proficiency (LEP). The BIL also continues the advancement of planning activities that result in tangible products with implementation strategies where appropriate. All modes of transportation services will continue to be evaluated both individually and as a system to see how they might work more efficiently, with performance management techniques being utilized to measure this.

The Federal Planning Factors for the regional transportation planning process (supported in tasks throughout this UPWP) are:

- (1) Support the metropolitan area's economic vitality, especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency.
- (2) Increase the safety of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users.
- (3) Increase the security of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users.
- (4) Increase accessibility and mobility of people and freight.
- (5) Protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, improve the quality of life, and promote consistency between transportation improvements and State and local planned growth and economic development patterns.
- (6) Enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes, for people and freight.
- (7) Promote efficient system management and operation.
- (8) Emphasize the preservation of the existing transportation system.
- (9) Improve the resiliency and reliability of the transportation system and reduce or mitigate stormwater impacts of surface transportation. *
- (10) Enhance travel and tourism. *

* Added in The FAST Act (December 2015)

Some of these planning factors essentially have entire tasks devoted to them, while others have their intent woven throughout the fabric of various undertakings. Accomplishment of these planning objectives occurs in multiple tasks simultaneously, in several tasks independently, and in general techniques and approaches used in more than one task.

In addition to the above planning factors, this UPWP covers CMMPO work in several additional federal and state policy emphasis areas. The Planning Emphasis Areas have been updated using the new guidance for the BIL. The new emphasis areas that staff will work on during the LRTP outreach is DOD and Federal Land Management Agency (FLMA) Coordination.

Federal Planning Policy Emphasis Areas

- Tackling the Climate Crisis – Transition to a Clean Energy, Resilient Future
- Equity and Justice⁴⁰ in Transportation Planning
- Complete Streets
- Public Involvement
- Strategic Highway Network (STRAHNET)/U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) Coordination
- Federal Land Management Agency (FLMA) Coordination
- Planning and Environment Linkages (PEL)
- Data in Transportation Planning

Commonwealth of Massachusetts Policy Emphasis Areas

- Addressing climate change by reducing Greenhouse Gases (GHG)
- Advancing Transportation Equity and civic engagement
- Promoting mode choice
- Using performance-based planning to prioritize investments

MassDOT's 2024 Long-Range Transportation Plan ('Beyond Mobility') is a strategic plan that documents the most pressing transportation issues for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to address both now and in the future. As the primary steward of the Commonwealth's transportation system, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) has developed a plan that crafts a vision and a set of actions for MassDOT and the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) to take to achieve a safer and more equitable, reliable, and resilient network. The action items documented in the plan respond directly to problems identified through extensive public engagement and data analysis performed as part of the process of building Beyond Mobility.

Also on the statewide level, MassDOT has completed various multi-modal plans, such as the Statewide Bicycle Plan, Pedestrian Plan, Freight Plan, and Rail Plan.

The Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Update was completed in 2021. As part of this update, MassDOT is committed to making walking and biking a safe, comfortable, and convenient option for everyday trips. This update highlights investments MassDOT has made since releasing its Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation Plans in 2019 and planned future investments for advancing walking and biking in the Commonwealth.

The Statewide Freight Plan was completed in 2023. The plan supports safe, resilient, and secure multimodal freight movement in Massachusetts through investing in key freight assets to improve economic competitiveness, provide efficient and reliable freight mobility, and support healthy and sustainable communities.

In addition, state officials signed the Healthy Transportation Compact, and established a Healthy Transportation Compact Advisory Council, with an interagency group consisting of the MassDOT, Executive Office of Health and Human Services, and the Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, as required in recent transportation reform legislation. The purposes of the group are to 1) address transportation needs; 2) promote public health, and 3) promote a clean environment. The group developed goals that promote access to healthy transportation in various ways. The essence of these federal/state initiatives on promoting livability, addressing climate change, creating healthy environments, reducing energy demands, and establishing a performance-based transportation planning process are integrated into this UPWP.

MassDOT created the “Municipal Complete Streets Funding Program” in February 2016 to advance its commitment to increase mode shift and provide safe and accessible options for all travel modes for people of all ages and abilities. MassDOT is committed to the Complete Streets principles in policy and in practice. MassDOT is promoting Complete Streets throughout the Commonwealth through training, design guidance and funding. This UPWP emphasizes efforts that move CMRPC communities to create Complete Streets policies, prioritize locations, and finalize design and implementation of priorities.

Massachusetts developed a Clean Energy and Climate Plans (CECP). The 2025/2030 plan provides details on the actions the Commonwealth will undertake through the next decade to ensure the 2025 and 2030 emissions limits are met. The 2025/2030 CECP development is informed by the 2050 Decarbonization Roadmap such that the strategies, policies, and actions outlined in the 2025/2030 CECP will put the Commonwealth on a pathway to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. The 2050 CECP plan highlights a broad suite of specific goals, strategies, policies, and actions to reduce statewide gross GHG emissions by at least 85% below the 1990 baseline level, and conserve and enhance carbon sequestration on natural and working lands to help achieve Net Zero in 2050.

As part of the development of the 2024 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) document, *2050 Connections*, the CMMPO restated its regional transportation-related vision:

“The CMMPO believes that a safe, efficient, and well-maintained transportation system, along with prudent land use planning and economic development, is an essential component of sustainable public policy aimed at improving people’s lives. The CMMPO envisions Central Massachusetts in 2050 as a region of 40 well-connected, livable communities with minimal traffic congestion and improved air quality. Healthy, creative transportation methods that integrate active travel modes through the use of technology will safely and efficiently move people between homes, jobs, and services and move products between places of manufacture and sale.”

The work tasks selected for inclusion in the FFY 2025 UPWP document attempt to address each of the region’s identified planning priorities, in the spirit of the FAST Act and more recent federal and state emphasis areas as stated in the BIL. The following describes the four main Elements of the UPWP and

identifies the previously listed Federal Planning Factors that are heavily supported by number in parentheses (a chart is also included at the end of this section – note that each Element supports all factors, but some support other factors more heavily).

UPWP **Element 1** covers all eight Planning Emphasis Areas and provides for the management of the transportation planning process and the development of the annual work program. The annual Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) effort allows for the development of a prioritized listing (driven by performance measurement) of improvement projects, programmed for federal-aid funding, which are brought forth through the Management Systems (Factors 1,2,4,5,6,7) as well as the proactive public outreach process. The TIP development process considers both the maintenance of existing multi-modal transportation infrastructure as well as a limited number of expansion projects (particularly in the healthy transportation modes), and is prepared in consultation with various stakeholder groups, including modal and Environmental Justice (EJ)/Title VI communities (Factors 1,5,7).

UPWP **Element 2** covers all eight Planning Emphasis Areas. The collection and analysis of quality transportation data is integral to the CMMPO's ongoing planning efforts. Element 2 focuses, in part, on obtaining and analyzing traffic count data, conducting travel time surveys, monitoring park and ride facilities, vehicle crash research, and the assessment of pavement/sidewalk conditions. Although most of these efforts involve federal-aid roadways, study locations identified by the communities are also included, as well as data collection on transit, bike, and pedestrian modes (Factors 6, 7, 8). Additionally, this element also supports ongoing work on integrating the various mode data and performance analysis using the regional transportation network simulation model, and other data integration techniques. The regional housing and transportation integration plan will provide for consideration of projects and strategies that will promote consistency between transportation improvements and State and local housing patterns (Factors 1, 6).

UPWP **Element 3** covers all eight Planning Emphasis Areas and work tasks include performance analysis of integrated Management Systems (safety, congestion, and pavement) for use in Corridor Profile and bottleneck reduction efforts as well as to assist in the development, selection and prioritization of potential TIP projects (Factors 2, 3, 4, 7, 8). Transportation system security, including identification of vulnerable transportation infrastructure and evacuation planning, is addressed under Safety and Security. Also, drawing on the Management Systems, this UPWP includes short and medium range management and operations implementation efforts, as recommended from previous studies. Further, this element supports continued efforts to introduce ITS technologies to the region as well as expand local awareness of freight issues - both truck and rail - and their respective impacts on highway congestion and efforts to increase Commuter Rail service (Factors 6,7). The implementation of the 2024 LRTP will guide projects and initiatives, most notably tracking performance management data, assisting communities in developing projects for implementation in one of the four program areas identified in the plan, working with potential project proponents on multi-mode projects, and assisting freight partners in securing grant funds. Planning for livability, sustainability and promotion of alternative mode, including strategies for greenhouse gas reduction and health linkages, as well as, identifying gaps and solutions to fill the gaps in Access to Essential Services and making linkages to enhance travel and tourism are also included in Element 3 (Factors 1,4,5,6,9,10). The Vernon Planning study to engage the

public and various local and regional stakeholders to develop conceptual alternatives to reconnect historically disadvantaged communities with economic opportunities (Factors 1,2,4,6,7)

UPWP Element 4 covers all eight Planning Emphasis Areas and also considers intermodal planning (Factor 6), general public transportation planning, the transportation needs of transportation-disadvantaged populations, as well as the coordination of public transit with various human service agencies (Factor 4).

The work outlined in this FFY 2025 UPWP will be fully completed by CMMPO staff, except for tasks 2.5 and 3.9. The Regional Housing and Transportation Plan and Vernon St over I-290 Planning study will include Consultant and project management work by CMMPO and other CMRPC staff.

Again, cognizant of federal/state requirements and initiatives, the 2025 UPWP has been crafted with the intent of addressing each of the identified planning priorities for the region. For clarification purposes, the time periods made reference to in this document for the various funding sources are as follows:

Anticipated Time Periods for FFY 2025 Program Year

Funding Source

FHWA/FTA/MassDOT (PL Funds) - FFY 2025 October 2024 - September 2025

WRTA - FFY 2025 October 2024 – June 2025, FFY 2026 July 2025 – September 2025

**Table 1: CMMPO FFY 2025 UPWP:
How the UPWP Addresses the 10 Planning Factors**

#	Planning Factor				
1	Support the economic vitality of the metropolitan area, especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency.				
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Element 1</td> <td>TIP process encourages those projects that enhance economic vitality and bring efficiency to the system</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Public participation activities, and emphasizing Title VI/EJ communities supports global, balanced competitiveness</td> </tr> </table>	Element 1	TIP process encourages those projects that enhance economic vitality and bring efficiency to the system		Public participation activities, and emphasizing Title VI/EJ communities supports global, balanced competitiveness
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	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Element 2</td> <td>Collection and analysis of congestion data, model analysis, and performance management data supports identification of roadway inefficiencies related to economic development areas.</td> </tr> </table>	Element 2	Collection and analysis of congestion data, model analysis, and performance management data supports identification of roadway inefficiencies related to economic development areas.		
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	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Element 3</td> <td>Plan refinement and efforts that involve identification of projects that meet the highest need of commuters and employers are emphasized in this element</td> </tr> </table>	Element 3	Plan refinement and efforts that involve identification of projects that meet the highest need of commuters and employers are emphasized in this element		
Element 3	Plan refinement and efforts that involve identification of projects that meet the highest need of commuters and employers are emphasized in this element				
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Element 4</td> <td>Economic vitality requires multi-modal improvements and a secure system that are Element 4 emphasis areas</td> </tr> </table>	Element 4	Economic vitality requires multi-modal improvements and a secure system that are Element 4 emphasis areas		
Element 4	Economic vitality requires multi-modal improvements and a secure system that are Element 4 emphasis areas				
2	Increase the safety of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users.				
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Element 1</td> <td>The TIP programming process considers projects that most improve safety for all users</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Public participation activities aid in understanding safety from the users perspective</td> </tr> </table>	Element 1	The TIP programming process considers projects that most improve safety for all users		Public participation activities aid in understanding safety from the users perspective
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	Public participation activities aid in understanding safety from the users perspective				
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Element 2</td> <td>Element 2 contains safety data collection and analysis as well as analysis against safety performance measures</td> </tr> </table>	Element 2	Element 2 contains safety data collection and analysis as well as analysis against safety performance measures		
Element 2	Element 2 contains safety data collection and analysis as well as analysis against safety performance measures				

	Element 3	Safety is considered in project identification, operations and management efforts (including Road Safety Audits (RSA), and in ITS implementation. Project planning and implementation efforts to improve safety.
	Element 4	Safety receives multi-modal consideration, and is incorporated in security planning
3	Increase the security of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users.	
	Element 1	The security of all users is considered in planning efforts, including those traditionally underserved.
	Element 2	Security is incorporated into performance management measures
	Element 3	ITS is considered an important measure to increase security. Security is considered for all users and in climate change planning
	Element 4	Element 4 contains a specific task for umbrella security planning with local, regional, and state Homeland Security partners
4	Increase accessibility and mobility of people and freight.	
	Element 1	The TIP programming process considers projects that increase accessibility and mobility for all users
	Element 2	The data collection program aims at identifying accessibility and mobility gaps and inefficiencies
	Element 3	In addition to a specific freight task, Element 3 addresses various issues, such as pavement condition, that affect mobility
	Element 4	Mobility and accessibility are considered for all users

5	Protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, improve the quality of life, and promote consistency between transportation improvements and State and local planned growth and economic development patterns.	
	Element 1	The TIP programming process encourages projects that protect the environment and promote quality of life
	Element 2	Performance management measures encourage a balanced approach to transportation planning
		Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and sidewalk data collection and analysis identifies gaps in walk mode which inhibit quality of life
		Regional Housing and Transportation Integration Plan to identify gaps and strategies to improve access to housing and transportation.
	Element 3	In addition to a task specifically devoted to climate change and quality of life, Element 3 tasks look to promote a balanced system
	Element 4	A balanced approach to quality of life includes considering transit.
6	Enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes, for people and freight.	
	Element 1	Title VI/EJ planning ensures that all users are considered
	Element 2	Data collection and analysis is performed for all modes and products showing connectivity gaps are included
	Element 3	Projects and special studies are identified that enhance integration and connectivity for all modes, and for freight.
	Element 4	Enhanced transit services are planned to improve connectivity

7	Promote efficient system management and operation.	
	Element 1	The TIP programming process encourages projects that increase efficient system management such as ITS
	Element 2	Data collection and analysis efforts, such as RSA, identify where system lacks efficient management
	Element 3	Element 3 efforts seek to identify solutions to system management and operations issues, such as need for signal coordination
	Element 4	Efficient system management is applicable to transit and to security planning efforts
8	Emphasize the preservation of the existing transportation system.	
	Element 1	The TIP process prioritizes projects that preserve the existing system
	Element 2	Data collection and analysis efforts identify where system most needs preservation
	Element 3	Asset Management effort look to improve efficiency within the existing system and the prioritization of infrastructure maintenance
	Element 4	Transit planning seeks to preserve the existing system through preventive maintenance planning efforts
9	Improve the resiliency and reliability of the transportation system and reduce or mitigate stormwater impacts of surface transportation.	
	Element 1	The TIP process prioritizes that improve resiliency/reliability and include stormwater retrofits
	Element 2	Data collection and analysis efforts identify vulnerable infrastructure and flooding issues

	Element 3	Climate Change and Sustainability planning to understand the impacts of climate change. Environmental Consultation as part of TIP and LRTP process to include environmental concerns in the early project planning stages
	Element 4	Transit planning involves building resiliency of the fleet and reliability for its commuters
10	Enhance travel and tourism.	
	Element 1	The TIP process prioritizes projects that enhance travel and make connections
	Element 2	Data collection and analysis efforts identify opportunities to enhance travel for commuting and recreation
	Element 3	Livability/Sustainability task look at specific study/project opportunities for enhance travel and tourism such as scenic byway studies
	Element 4	Transit planning seeks to connect people to recreational opportunities

**Table 2: CMMPO FFY 2025 UPWP:
How the UPWP Addresses the 8 Planning Emphasis Areas**

#	Emphasis Areas	
1	Increase resilience to extreme weather events and other disasters from the increasing effects of climate change and help achieve national greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goals.	
	Element 1	The TIP process has performance metrics and project selection criteria to select projects that increase resilience and achieve GHG reduction goals.
	Element 2	The data collection and analysis section include culvert data collection program to assess transportation impacts due to climate change.
	Element 3	There is a task dedicated just for Climate Change and Resiliency under Element 3.
	Element 4	Multimodal planning and WRTA contract include increasing transit ridership, EV fleet and reducing GHG.
2	Support economic opportunities and advance racial equity for underserved and disadvantaged communities.	
	Element 1	Title VI is a standalone Task under Element 1 on to ensure equity and transportation justice throughout our planning process.
	Element 2	Equity analysis is performed regularly under Tasks 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3.

	Element 3	Equity considerations are a major part of all transportation planning areas and modal planning activities.
	Element 4	Benefits and burdens analysis are performed as part of WRTA transit planning efforts.
3	Provide an equitable and safe transportation network for travelers of all ages and abilities, including those from marginalized communities.	
	Element 1	The TIP process has performance metrics and project selection criteria to select projects that improve safety. Geographic equity criteria are also applied to project selection.
	Element 2	Data collection is rotated throughout the region in ensure equitable distribution of transportation planning services.
	Element 3	There is a task dedicated just for Safety Planning and safety considerations for all project planning and implementation under Element 3.
	Element 4	Multimodal planning and paratransit planning are major Tasks under Element 4.
4	Include early, effective, and continuous public involvement that brings diverse viewpoints into the decision-making process.	
	Element 1	There is a task dedicated just for Public Outreach under Element 1.
	Element 2	This Element includes community and regional technical assistance, which brings together diverse viewpoints on various plans and studies.
	Element 3	The Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) development and implementation efforts include early effective, and continuous public involvement.

	Element 4	Customer surveys are performed as regular intervals to assess the effectiveness and reliability of the WRTA transit services.
5	Coordination with U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) in the transportation planning and project programming process on infrastructure and connectivity needs for Strategic Highway Network (STRAHNET) routes and other public roads that connect to DOD facilities.	
	Element 1	Not applicable to the CMMPO region. There are no DOD facilities in the Central Massachusetts region.
	Element 2	Not applicable to the CMMPO region. There are no DOD facilities in the Central Massachusetts region.
	Element 3	Not applicable to the CMMPO region. There are no DOD facilities in the Central Massachusetts region.
	Element 4	Not applicable to the CMMPO region. There are no DOD facilities in the Central Massachusetts region.
6	Coordination with Federal Land Management Agency (FLMA) in the transportation planning and project programming process on infrastructure and connectivity needs related to access routes and other public roads and transportation services that connect to federal lands.	
	Element 1	Coordination on trail projects that are on federal land is conducted as needed for the TIP. Coordination with Nipmuc tribal group as part of regional planning activities.

	Element 2	Counts on existing trails are conducted. Regional trail mapping is underway.
	Element 3	Livability/Active Transportation is a standalone Task under this Element. Coordination with DCR and any other pertinent FLMA is conducted as part of this Task.
	Element 4	Not applicable to Element 4. There are very limited FLMA facilities in the Central Massachusetts region.
7	Encourage Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) as part of transportation planning and environmental review process.	
	Element 1	Annual Environmental Consultation is included as part of TIP development.
	Element 2	Staff represents the RPAs on the MEPA process for major land use MEPA filings in the state.
	Element 3	There is a task dedicated just for Climate Change and Resiliency under Element 3.
	Element 4	Coordination with major employers as part of the MEPA process to ensure Transportation Demand Management (TDM) considerations are being accounted for.

8	Encourage data sharing and consideration in the transportation planning process.	
	Element 1	The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Worcester UZA and the CMMPO encourages data sharing amongst all transportation stakeholders.
	Element 2	All types of data collected by CMRPC is available to the public, CMRPC communities, and private agencies. Staff leads the Statewide Data Users Group for data coordination and collaboration.
	Element 3	All planning development documents and data is published on the CMRPC website for public viewing.
	Element 4	CMRPC, WRTA, MassDOT, and other transportation stakeholders share data in a seamless fashion.

- 1.1 - Management and Support of the "3C" Process
- 1.2 - UPWP
- 1.3 - TIP
- 1.4 - Title VI/EJ/Trans. Equity
- 1.5 - Public Participation
- 2.1 - Data Collection and Analysis
- 2.2 - Regional Transportation Model
- 2.3 - Community and Regional Technical Assistance
- 2.4 - Performance Management - Targets and Reporting
- 2.5 – Housing, Economic, and Transportation Integration
- 3.1 -Corridor Profile Study

- 3.2 - Congestion Management Process (CMP) Project Development
- 3.3 - Transportation Safety and Security Project Development
- 3.4 - Asset Management
- 3.5 – Livability (Bike/Ped, Pub Health/Travel, and Tourism)
- 3.6 - Freight and Intermodal Planning
- 3.7 – LRTP Implementation
- 3.8 - Climate Change – Resiliency, Sustainability, and Vulnerability
- 3.9 – Vernon Street Bridge over I-290 Planning Study
- 4.1 - Transit/Elderly and Disabled/Rail and Other Technical Activities
- 4.2 - WRTA Technical Assistance

Development of the CMMPO FFY 2025 UPWP

The UPWP is a project-by-project description of all transportation planning and transportation-related air quality planning activities anticipated within the region during the upcoming program year. It indicates who will perform the work, as well as anticipated available funding, the schedule for completion, and the products that will be produced.

January 2024: MassDOT Office of Transportation (OTP) forwards federal Highway Planning (PL) funding levels for each MPO/RPA to be used in the development of the *2025 UPWP* document. FFY *2025 UPWP* work tasks will continue to include emphasis areas of FAST Act and MAP-21 Implementation. New emphasis areas of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will be worked on, and products will be developed as deemed appropriate. Focus areas should include Performance Management, Planning Factors, Climate Change, Certification Reviews, Civil Rights, Development of Projects, Transit Planning, Bike/Pedestrian Planning, travel/tourism, Title VI, Public Participation, and Planning Process Agreements.

February 21, 2024: CMMPO meeting. Staff provides program funding and MassDOT and FHWA program guidance for the Draft FFY 2025 UPWP document.

February 28, 2024: CMMPO Advisory Committee meeting. Staff provides program funding and MassDOT and FHWA program guidance for the Draft FFY 2025 UPWP document.

March 20, 2024: CMMPO meeting. MassDOT Office of Transportation (OTP) forwards FTA 5303 federal Transit Planning (PL) funding levels for each MPO/RPA to be used in the development of the *2025 UPWP* document. Staff provides budget and initial work task summary materials and Planning Emphasis Areas for the Draft FFY 2025 UPWP document.

March 27, 2024: CMMPO Advisory Committee meeting. Review of work tasks and funding with recommendation to CMMPO.

May 15, 2024: CMMPO meeting. MPO approves release of *Draft FFY 2025 UPWP* document for 21-day public review and comment period. Draft document subsequently posted on the CMRPC agency website. Legal advertisement appears in the *Telegram and Gazette*. Conduct region wide mailing to invite interested parties to attend public meeting.

May 22, 2024: CMMPO Advisory Committee meeting. Review of *Draft FFY 2025 UPWP* document. Recommendation concerning MPO endorsement sought.

June 3, 2024: Scheduled FFY *2025 UPWP* Virtual Public Meeting at 5:00 PM. Proceedings summarized for full consideration by the MPO.

June 5, 2024: 21-day public review and comment period on *Draft FFY 2025 UPWP* document closed. Endorsement process is now underway.

June XX, 2024: Scheduled meeting of the CMMPO. *Final FFY 2025 UPWP* work task summary reviewed; results of public meeting and MPO Advisory Committee discussed. MPO moves to endorse *Final FFY 2025 UPWP* document.

July-September 2024: *CMMPO Endorsed FFY 2025 UPWP* document finalized and submitted for MassDOT and subsequent FHWA and FTA review and approval.

October 1, 2024: FFY 2025 begins. *CMMPO Endorsed FFY 2025 UPWP* is now in effect.

UPWP Administrative Adjustment and Amendment Policy

The descriptions of the tasks to be accomplished and the budgets for these tasks are based on the best estimate of what can be accomplished within the confines of available resources. If, in the performance of this work program, it becomes apparent that certain tasks cannot be accomplished due to changing or unforeseen circumstances, the UPWP will be amended/adjusted by redefining the scope of the tasks and/or reallocating funds among tasks. These changes will be developed in cooperation with MassDOT, the FHWA, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the Worcester Regional Transit Authority (WRTA), and other concerned agencies as appropriate.

- A UPWP Amendment is the most extensive change procedure that a UPWP may undergo.
- Amendment with 21-day public comment period: 1) an addition or deletion of a UPWP task or sub-task, 2) major changes to UPWP task descriptions, activities, and other information, 3) budget revisions equal to or greater than 25% for a particular task and 3) funding increase above the originally approved UPWP overall budget.
 - Amendments include major revisions to the UPWP including the addition or removal of an UPWP task(s), changes in start/completion dates that occur beyond the originally intended federal fiscal year(s) or a significant change in project scope, cost change equal to or greater than 25%, and/or time allocation that alters from the original intent of the project or intended conclusions.
 - Amendments are presented to the CMMPO and voted on for release for a 21-day public comment period. Upon completion of the public comment period, a vote of endorsement by the CMMPO is required. A formal request to the funding or fiduciary agency is necessary to modify the UPWP with changes being carried out by CMRPC staff upon approval in conformance to the Public-Private Partnerships (PPP).
- Adjustment with an approval vote from the CMMPO and sign-off from MassDOT OTP: modification of budget less than 25% or scope to an already programmed task.
 - Administrative Adjustments include adjustments to the work task, but maintaining the original intent of the required work for that particular task.
 - Examples include, but are not limited to the reallocation of budget funds less than 25%, changes in start/completion dates within the originally intended federal fiscal year(s) or adjustments to project scope.
 - These adjustments will be made as needed throughout the program year at the discretion of the CMRPC staff and upon mutual agreement of the agencies involved.
 - Proposed adjustments will be presented to the CMMPO for immediate endorsement and carried out by CMRPC staff with approval by the funding agency and under the guidelines established in the PPP.

UPWP Equity Assessment

CMRPC conducted an equity assessment on MPO-funded UPWP work products from FFY 2020 through FFY 2025. This assessment process has previously been used on the regional TIP and identifies how regional TIPs have potentially impacted defined Regional Environmental Justice Plus (REJ+) block groups in the region. REJ+ communities include the traditional EJ environmental justice criteria, which is low-income (\$60,921), minority populations (41%), and limited English proficiency (8%). “PLUS” criteria include zero-vehicle households (14%), households with disabilities (32%), and households with persons 65 years or older (21%).

UPWP’s for program years 2020-2025 were reviewed to identify the transportation planning tasks that were completed for each of the 40 communities in the CMRPC region. The aggregate of CMMPO staff’s completed tasks during this timeframe has resulted in a robust program of studies that shed light on the needs and opportunities for the Central Massachusetts transportation system. In addition, the CMMPO staff was able to provide specific assistance to all CMMPO communities during this timeframe; both in terms of data provided, advice on specific projects, and historical knowledge of transportation problems. CMMPO staff also provided community technical assistance that resulted in customized transportation studies and work products. Examples of this assistance include and are not limited to:

- Corridor Profile studies
- RSAs
- Freight studies
- TIP Development Program Orientation Meetings
- Complete Street analyses
- Assistance with implementation of Community Shuttle programs
- Parking studies
- Grant applications for healthy communities, transit support etc.
- Traffic and Turning Movement Counts (TMCs)
- Pavement data collection

The total number of completed tasks identified during the 2020-2025 program years is 445, which include community specific and region-wide tasks. At least one task was completed for each community during this timeframe. This information is summarized in Table 3 below. Also, Figure 1 on the following pages shows each community in the CMMPO region with block groups that have EJ and/or vulnerable populations. The color for each community from dark green to red shows the number of projects/studies over the last six years, with darker green being the least number of projects to red being the most projects. As Figure 1 indicates, the distribution of projects is equitable amongst communities with REJ+ populations.

Table 3: Transportation Tasks by Community and Year

Community	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2020-2025 Total	2020 Population	# of 2020 REJ+ Block Groups
Auburn	4	0	3	2	1	2	12	16,889	1
Barre	4	0	4	2	1	1	12	5,530	0
Berlin	3	2	2	2	4	2	15	3,158	0
Blackstone	1	0	1	1	1	3	8	9,208	1
Boylston	0	1	1	0	4	3	9	4,849	0
Brookfield	3	1	2	2	1	1	10	3,439	1
Charlton	1	1	2	3	0	2	9	13,315	0
Douglas	1	0	2	3	1	1	8	8,983	0
Dudley	2	2	2	3	0	1	10	11,921	2
East Brookfield	2	1	1	2	1	1	8	2,224	0
Grafton	3	2	3	2	3	2	15	19,664	0
Hardwick	2	2	3	1	1	2	11	2,667	1
Holden	3	1	5	2	2	1	14	19,905	0
Hopedale	2	1	1	1	1	2	8	6,017	0
Leicester	3	1	2	1	1	1	9	11,087	0
Mendon	2	0	0	1	1	2	6	6,228	0
Millbury	4	1	0	1	2	1	9	13,831	3
Millville	1	0	0	1	1	2	5	3,174	0
New Braintree	2	1	1	2	1	1	8	996	0
Northborough	1	2	3	2	4	1	14	15,741	0
Northbridge	2	2	3	2	1	2	12	16,335	1
North Brookfield	4	1	1	2	1	1	10	4,735	1
Oakham	3	0	1	2	1	1	8	1,851	0
Oxford	1	2	1	1	0	2	7	13,347	2
Paxton	2	0	2	2	1	1	8	5,004	0
Princeton	2	0	2	2	1	1	8	3,495	0
Rutland	3	0	3	3	1	3	13	9,049	0
Shrewsbury	2	3	5	4	5	2	21	38,325	8
Southbridge	1	3	2	3	1	2	12	17,740	11
Spencer	3	2	3	2	1	2	13	11,992	2
Sturbridge	2	2	3	3	0	1	12	9,867	0
Sutton	1	2	2	2	1	2	10	9,357	0
Upton	1	1	1	1	1	2	7	8,000	0
Uxbridge	1	2	1	1	1	2	8	14,162	0
Warren	2	1	1	2	1	2	9	4,975	2

Webster	1	2	3	3	0	1	10	17,776	7
Westborough	4	5	3	2	5	3	22	21,567	7
West Boylston	2	0	3	0	3	2	10	7,877	0
West Brookfield	2	1	3	3	1	2	12	3,833	2
Worcester	8	5	6	4	5	5	33	206,518	107
	Regional Totals:						445	604,631	159

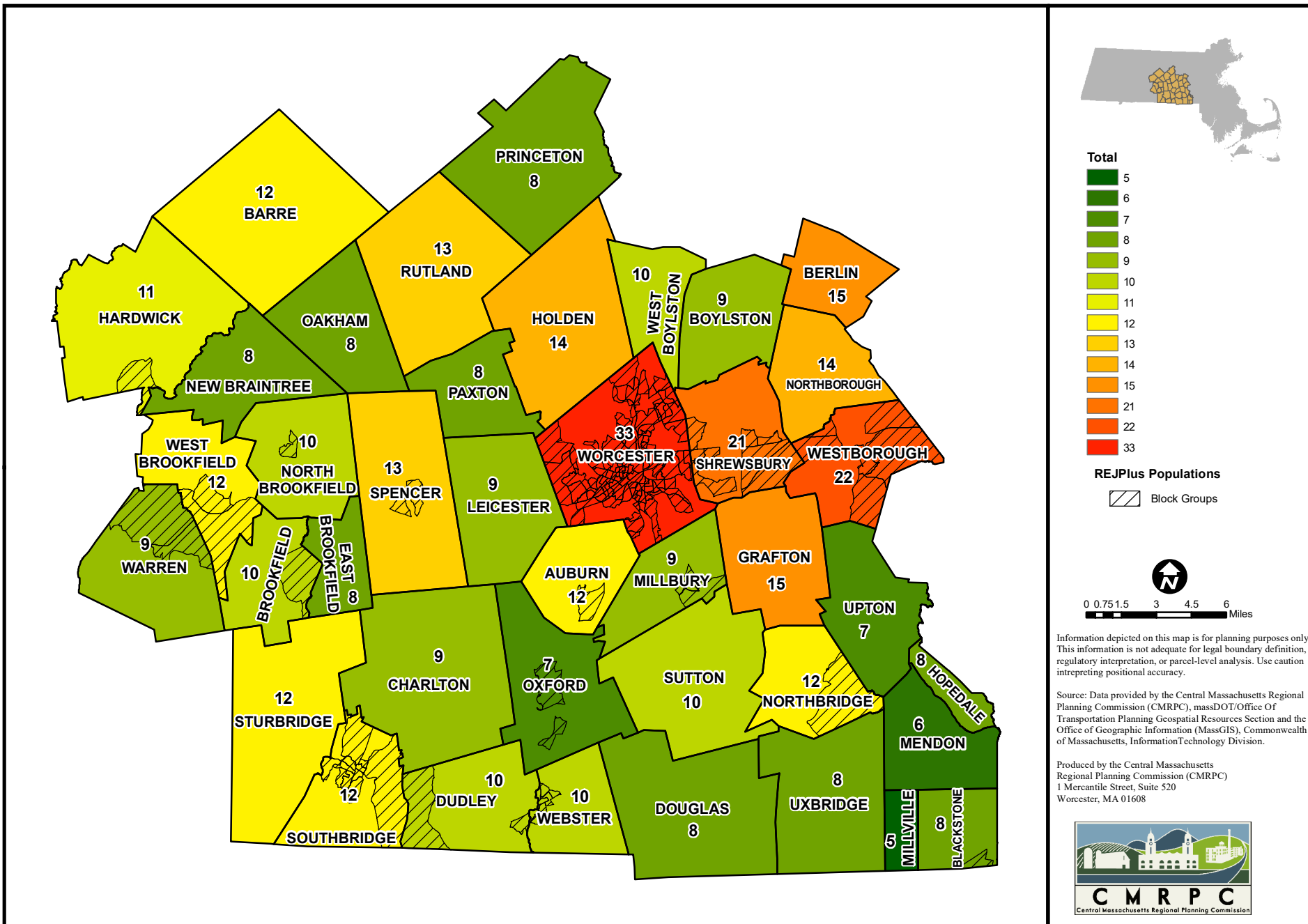


Figure 1- UPWP Transportation Tasks Equity Analysis (FFY2020 - 2025)

Previous Transportation Studies

All Communities:

- Traffic Counting
- Travel time runs
- Complete Streets Prioritization Plans
- Municipal Vulnerability Plans
- Community Snapshots
- Transportation Management Association (TMA) Analysis
- Regional Freight Plan
- Pavement, Sidewalk and ADA Compliance Summary
- Worcester-Regional Transit Authority (WRTA) Hub and M/O Facilities Planning
- WRTA Services Monitoring
- Roadway Inventory File (RIF) updates
- LRTP Development and Implementation
- Imagine2050 Regional Plan

Community Specific:

- **Auburn** – Park and Ride Study, Bottleneck Study, RSA, Complete Streets Program, Southbridge Street Corridor Profile, Master Plan Transportation Section, Culvert Assessment, Freight Study
- **Barre** – Complete Streets Program, WRTA/MART transit considerations, Transit Study, CHNA9 Rural Transit Study
- **Berlin** – Park and Ride Study, RIF Update, Culvert Assessments, Special Counts, Route 62 Corridor Study
- **Blackstone** – Freight Study
- **Boylston** – Route 140 Corridor Profile, TIP Project Development
- **Brookfield** – Park and Ride Feasibility Study, WRTA Bus Shelter Study, Municipal Vulnerability Plan (MVP), Freight Study
- **Charlton** – Bottleneck Study, Bicycle and Pedestrian Count, RSA, Complete Streets Program, Open Space and Recreation Plan Transportation (ORTP) Section, Freight Study, Traffic Signal Warrant Analysis
- **Douglas** – Bicycle and Pedestrian Count, RSA, Signal Warrant Analysis
- **Dudley** – RSA, Transportation Needs Study, Freight Study
- **East Brookfield** – Bicycle and Pedestrian Count, Freight Study
- **Grafton** – Complete Streets Program, Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, WRTA Shuttle Service, Freight Rail Study, Municipal Vulnerability Plan, Culvert Assessment
- **Hardwick** – Transportation Needs Study, Transit Study, CHNA9 Rural Transit Study
- **Holden** – Neighborhood SAFE, Bicycle and Pedestrian Count, Bottleneck Study, Complete Streets Program, COA Assistance, Community Transit Grants
- **Hopedale** – N/A
- **Leicester** – Bicycle and Pedestrian Count, Complete Streets Program, Freight Study

- **Mendon** – RSA
- **Millbury** – Freight Rail Study, Pavement Management Study, Park and Ride Study, Bicycle and Pedestrian Count, Complete Streets Program, MVP
- **Millville** – Bicycle and Pedestrian Count, Freight Rail Study, Transportation Section of the Master Plan
- **Northborough** – RSA, Bottleneck Study, Post Occupancy Monitoring and Neighborhood Walk Audit
- **Northbridge** – Shuttle Service, RSA, Complete Streets Program, MVP, Culvert Assessments
- **North Brookfield** – Freight Study
- **New Braintree** – Freight Study, Transit Study, CHNA9 Rural Transit Study
- **Oakham** – Transit Study, CHNA9 Rural Transit Study
- **Oxford** – Bicycle and Pedestrian Count, Bottleneck Study, RSA, Complete Streets Program, Freight Study, Culvert Assessments
- **Paxton** – Neighborhood SAFE, Shuttle Service, Lost Villages Scenic Byway
- **Princeton** – Bicycle and Pedestrian Count, Mount Wachusett Parking Study
- **Rutland** – Bicycle and Pedestrian Count, Complete Streets Program, Lost Villages Scenic Byway
- **Shrewsbury** - Bicycle and Pedestrian Count, Complete Streets Program, Route 140 Corridor Profile, Council on Aging (COA) Assistance, VIA shuttle service, Community Transit Grants, Culvert Assessments, Sidewalk Plan
- **Southbridge** – Walkable Communities, Route 20 Corridor Profile, Freight Study
- **Spencer** – Freight Study
- **Sturbridge** - Bicycle and Pedestrian Count, Complete Streets Program, RSA, Route 20 Corridor Profile, Park and Ride Study, Pavement Management Study, Culvert Assessments, Freight Study
- **Sutton** – Freight Rail Study, Special counts, Culvert Assessments
- **Upton** – Complete Streets Program, Transit Viability Survey
- **Uxbridge** – Complete Streets Program, Freight Rail Study, MVP
- **Warren** – Culvert Assessments, Quaboag Connector, Culvert Assessment Grant
- **Webster** – RSA, Transportation Needs Study, Freight Study
- **Westborough** – Route 30 Corridor Profile, Bottleneck Study, Bicycle and Pedestrian Count, Shuttle Service, Complete Streets Program, Airline Trail Study, Circulation Study, VIA shuttle service
- **West Boylston** – Bicycle and Pedestrian Count, Complete Streets Program, Route 140 Corridor Profile, Pavement Management Study, MVP, Special Counts
- **West Brookfield** – Bicycle and Pedestrian Count, RSA, Complete Streets Program, Master Plan Transportation Section, Freight Study, Culvert Assessments
- **Worcester** – Transportation Safety Plan, Bottleneck Study, Parking Program Assessment, Park and Ride Study, Freight Plan Analysis, Downtown Parking and Transit Analysis, Complete Streets Program, Chandler Street TIP project public involvement, Accessible Taxi Service, Worcester Now|Next Advisory Committee, Mobility Action Plan, E-Bike Pilot

Element 1: Management and Support of the Planning Process and Certification Activities

Task 1.1: Management and Support of the “3C” Process

Description

The Management and Support task includes those activities that are necessary to maintain the federally prescribed 3C transportation planning process in the Central Massachusetts region. Included are the presentation of transportation plans and programs (i.e., RTP, TIP and UPWP); the coordination of transportation planning activities with other local and state agencies; contract administration; support of the Central MA Metropolitan Planning Organization (CMMPO), the CMMPO Advisory Committee, and CMRPC Transportation Planning Committee; staff attendance at seminars and workshops; staff participation in statewide technical groups/teams; administering the extensive public outreach process as federally-required (including participation on various committees related to environmental justice and economic development); statewide funding proposal assistance; as well as the provision of technical assistance concerning various transportation topics and issues on a small scale, as-needed basis. These later tasks are shown under management and support since their limited magnitude and unpredictable occurrence make them difficult to list as planning tasks.

Previous Work

- Support of the CMMPO, the CMMPO Advisory Committee, and CMRPC Transportation Planning Committee including those established for corridor planning studies, Bike and Ped Task Force and the paratransit Transportation Planning Advisory Group (TPAG - Elderly and Disabled) Committee. Support includes outreach, development of agenda, meeting minutes, and preparation of presentation materials.
- Participation in statewide technical groups/teams including those established for air quality, safety, performance measures, ITS, statewide studies, and pavement.
- Ongoing work with numerous sub-regional and regional groups, including Blackstone Valley Heritage Corridor Stakeholders, regional public works, planners, economic development groups.
- Ongoing work with numerous local community groups, including Food and Active Living Policy Council, Mass in Motion, Worcester DPH, WalkBike Worcester, Southern Worcester County Economic Development District and neighborhood / community associations.
- Technical assistance to address community transportation concerns in the region.
- Review of ENF and EIR documents.
- Conducting of annual CMMPO Subregional representative selection process.

Procedures

The CMMPO staff will:

Facilitate and Participate in the CMMPO Federal Certification Review: Staff will attend the Federal Certification site visit in the Fall of 2025. Staff will participate in the day long on-site federal certification process to review various transportation planning programs that staff works on. The Federal Partners will then compile the Certification review document and action plan for items that staff will work on following the review.

Support CMMPO Membership Elections and Membership Participation: Staff will conduct subregional nominations and selection of CMMPO representatives for those whose terms are expiring on September 30, 2025. In addition to new member orientation, staff must also continue to assure the continuous flow of relevant information in an appropriate format on all CMMPO matters to the members. Staff members will continue to encourage joint activities for the CMMPO and its Advisory Committee.

Support CMMPO Advisory Committees: Staff will provide for and actively encourage public and private participation in the 3C planning process through the CMMPO Advisory Committee (the broad stakeholder Advisory Committee to the CMMPO) and its Technical Task Forces. The CMMPO Advisory Committee continues to elevate its capacity for reviewing CMMPO materials and making informed recommendations.

Implement a Private Sector Assistance and Complaint Resolution Procedure: Staff will facilitate ongoing communication with private sector providers as deemed appropriate. Act to facilitate resolution of private sector complaints regarding the planning process or the provision of transit service. Assist private sector providers in understanding and complying with federal requirements affecting their operations.

Participate in Federal and Statewide User Groups and Technical Teams: Staff will participate in user groups and technical teams that have been established on a statewide basis to deal with technical issues associated with air quality, pavement management, safety, ITS, enhancements, ridesharing, and GIS. Provide staff lead/assistance to the sub committees as established by the Statewide Program Managers group. Currently staff leads the Data Users Group and the UPWP PL formula funding subcommittee.

Review Federal and State Transportation Programs: Staff will review federal and state transportation programs, guidelines, circulars and manuals, including such documents as the Statewide Capital Investment Plan as well as the new regulation on Metropolitan Transportation Planning are performed under this task.

Assist with Federal and Statewide Funding Proposals: Staff will review statewide guidelines for programs such as the federal BIL grant programs, Transportation Assistance Program, CMAQ, and Community One Stop; support distribution of final statewide guidelines to local communities, the solicitation of projects from eligible applicants, and the evaluation of submitted proposals.

Prepare and Present the CMMPO UPWP, TIP and LRTP: Staff will prepare and present the UPWP, TIP, LRTP, and any other required documents and amendments to the CMMPO for appropriate action.

Distribute Required Documents: Staff will distribute the UPWP, TIP, and POP (as well as any amendments to same) to all state and federal agencies. Staff will also maintain all CMMPO documentation records and files and, in general, function as its secretary. Planning documents will be available online and in electronic format to the extent practical and feasible.

Implement Regional Models of Cooperation: Staff will continue to coordinate transportation planning with related activities and programs developed by other agencies and authorities in adjacent regions, including the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission (evacuation planning), Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MetroWest I495/I90), the Rhode Island Department of Administration (MA and RI-146 corridor and Blackstone River Greenway), Northeast Connecticut Council of Governments (I-395 corridor efforts), Pioneer Valley Regional Planning Commission (Ware/Warren Community Action Council efforts) and the Worcester Regional Transit Authority (Transit Advisory).

Perform Contract Administration: Staff will prepare applications, time sheets, progress reports, billing and perform other contract administration activities necessary to the conduct of the 3C transportation planning process.

Products and Schedule

1. Federal Certification on-site review and report – **1st Quarter, FFY 2025**
2. Election of local CMMPO members for FFY 2026 Program Year – **4th Quarter, FFY 2025**
3. Contract Administration, Staffing and Agency wide policy/budgeting – **3rd Quarter, FFY 2025**
4. Lead the Statewide Transportation Data Users Group (DUG) as part of MARPA Transportation Program Managers – **Ongoing**
5. Updated inventory of private sector providers and documentation on any Private Sector Complaint Resolution – **As necessary**
6. Continued coordination with all neighboring regional entities on projects and initiatives noted above, and others as they arise – **Ongoing**
7. Continued participation as a panelist on the NCHRP 19-20: *Interdependence of Federal, State, and Local Transportation Funding and Ownership* – **Completion CY '2025**
8. Continued coordination with the regional Transit Authority re. Transit Planning – **Ongoing**
9. Continued participation in Statewide and Regional planning efforts – **Ongoing**
10. Preparation of meeting material and meeting minutes of the CMMPO, CMMPO Advisory Committee, Transportation Program Managers and its sub-committees – **Ongoing**
11. Progress Reports: Monthly MassDOT, Annual FHWA and FTA and Certification Action plan progress reports – **Ongoing**

Task Title **Management and Support of “3C” Process**

Ref. #

1.1

Funding Program/\$					
	FHWA/FTA/ PL		FTA Section 5307 (through WRTA)		
Participants	FHWA/FTA	State	FTA	WRTA	Total
CMRPC	221,287	55,322			276,609

Task 1.2: Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Description

The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), as described in the Introduction of this document, describes all transportation planning activities anticipated to be undertaken within the region in the coming program year.

Previous Work

- Unified Planning Work Program and Associated Amendments from 1973-2024.

Procedures

- *Develop FFY 2026 Unified Planning Work Program*: CMRPC will develop the FFY 2026 UPWP for the region which describes all MassDOT-Highway/FHWA, FTA and WRTA funded transportation planning activities anticipated to be undertaken in the next program year. The document will be made available online.
- *Amend and Adjust FFY 2025 UPWP*: Performed as necessary.
- Annual update of CMMPO transportation publications for UPWP.

Products and Schedule

1. Draft FFY 2026 UPWP budget – **2nd Quarter, FFY 2025**
2. Updated Bibliography of Transportation Planning Publications – **3rd Quarter, FFY 2025**
3. Final FFY 2026 UPWP – **3rd Quarter, FFY 2025**
4. Amendments and Adjustments to FFY 2025 UPWP – **As necessary**

Task Title	Unified Planning Work Program				Ref. #	1.2
	Funding Program/\$					
	FHWA/FTA/PL		FTA Section 5307 (through WRTA)			
Participants	FHWA	State	FTA	WRTA	Total	
CMRPC	16,000	4,000			20,000	

Task 1.3: Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Description

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for a metropolitan area includes highway, bridge, transit, intermodal and discretionary projects that are proposed for funding under both Title 23 and the Federal Transit Act.

Each Massachusetts MPO updates its TIP annually. Each TIP must contain a priority list of projects and strategies for a five-year period and descriptions (type of work, limits, length, etc.) of each project as well as a financial plan demonstrating financial constraint within the regional funding targets provided annually by MassDOT OTP. The TIP has continued to evolve with the requirement for Performance-Based Planning and Programming (PBPP). The TIP is developed in accordance with the region's CMMPO Endorsed Public Participation Plan (PPP) with full consideration of Title VI and Environmental Justice (EJ) principles.

Previous Work

TIP documents, from the earliest, 1976-1978, to the most recent, 2025-2029, time frames (50+ years of projects).

Procedures

- Amend/Adjust Existing 2025-2029 TIP: Staff will amend/adjust the CMMPO Endorsed 2025-2029 TIP, as necessary.
- Develop 2026-2030 TIP: Prior to developing the Draft 2026-2030 TIP in cooperation with MassDOT, staff will update the list of all highway, transit, and air quality projects that are expected to qualify for federal transportation funds for planning, engineering, or construction during FFY 2026-2030. This list will only include projects that are consistent with the current CMMPO Endorsed LRTP, *2050 Connections*.

As part of the TIP development process, staff will consider the following:

- **LRTP:** This document represents the transportation planning vision for the region. *2050 Connections* includes highway-related Major Infrastructure (MI) projects listed in 5-year bands. The PBPP aspects of the LRTP have evolved and are included based on the federal requirements of Safety Performance Measures (PM1), Bridge and Pavement Performance Measures (PM2) and NHS System Performance, Freight and Air Quality Performance Measures (PM3). Additional information on PM1, PM2, and PM3 can be found in Task 2.4.
- **TIP Programs:** In relation to the five Programmatic Areas defined in the most recent LRTP, *2050 Connections*, established procedures are followed to allow for the use of TIP funding to pay for eligible projects within the five Programmatic Areas, listed below:
 - Major Infrastructure Projects
 - System Maintenance and Operations
 - Transit Support

- Active Transportation
- Climate Change and Resiliency

In addition to the “MicroProjects” program that is discussed in Task 3.7, another TIP program for design funding was started in FFY 2024. Staff will finalize the associated guidelines and then communities will have the ability to apply to this program to help fund the design costs of their eligible projects. Staff will continue to refine the process and procedures for this design funding program and assist communities as needed.

- **PBPP:** Reaffirmed by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), staff is continuing the evolution of applicable TIP-related Performance Measures based on the federal requirements. CMMPO staff will work with MassDOT OTP through the Transportation Managers Group to continue to identify key Performance Measure metrics, establish threshold targets and measure progress on screened and prioritized TIP projects. The primary intent is to select those transportation projects with the greatest measurable returns for the investment. These federally required performance measures are derived from a series of rules, as follows:
 - Safety Performance Measures (PM1)
 - Pavement and Bridge Condition Measures (PM2)
 - Performance on the NHS, Freight and CMAQ Measures (PM3)
 - Transit Asset Management (TAM) Plan
 - Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP)
 - Highway Safety Improvement Plan (HSIP)
 - Statewide and Non-Metropolitan Planning; Metropolitan Planning
 - Highway Asset Management Plans for NHS
- **MassDOT Capital Investment Plan (CIP):** The most recently approved MassDOT CIP will be referenced when screening, prioritizing, and selecting projects for inclusion on the CMMPO TIP.
- **eSTIP:** eSTIP is a program used to provide a standardized, statewide format to the regional TIPs while allowing for the streamlined development of the STIP, the combination of all regional TIPs. Required by MassDOT, staff will continue to use this system for both highway and transit TIP projects.
- **Visualization Techniques:** Continue the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) capabilities, aerial photography, drone imagery as well as digital photographs taken in the field to indicate project characteristics.
- **Environmental Consultation:** Through an annual meeting, engage the environmental community and other interested stakeholders in discussions regarding areas of environmental concern associated with both planned and proposed TIP projects. Continue to consider ways to avoid, minimize and mitigate anticipated impacts early in project development.
- **Title VI and EJ Compliance, Transportation Equity:** Continue developing and implementing transportation policies, programs, and projects consistent with federal and state Title VI and EJ guidance. Assess benefits and burdens of CMMPO policies and projects respective to Title VI and

EJ. Advance development of Transportation Equity measures as they relate to urban/rural areas, access to essential services, and other related considerations.

- **Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP):** Projects analytically derived through MassDOT’s ongoing “HSIP” activities will be considered for TIP programming by the CMMPO.
- **Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ):** Staff will complete required calculations and the compilation of other standard materials necessary to gain eligibility for projects programmed under the “CMAQ” funding category.
- **Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction:** Staff will complete standardized calculations and the compilation of other materials necessary to measure the GHG reduction potential of both highway and transit projects seeking TIP programming.
- **Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP):** TAP-funded projects will be considered and often include bicycle and pedestrian improvements and Safe Routes to School projects.
- **Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS):** Fully consider the potential for ITS applications, both stand-alone and project-specific, throughout the development of the TIP project listings.
- **Regional Equity:** All communities within the CMMPO region are provided with equal opportunity to directly participate in the TIP development process. Staff considers those communities that have had either none or few programmed projects as well as the total amount of federal funds allocated towards their recent projects.
- **Public Outreach:** Seek early involvement of decision makers, stakeholders, and other interested parties through the CMMPO’s Endorsed PPP.
- **Technical Assistance:** Continue ongoing series of “TIP Development Meetings”, customized when requested by a host community or group of communities that provides a comprehensive overview of TIP project development procedures including an introduction to MassDOT’s required MapIT procedures.
- **Community Project Status Updates:** Continue ongoing efforts with the host communities to obtain periodic project status updates on programmed TIP target projects.
- **Project Delivery Reliability:** Staff obtain periodic status updates on programmed TIP projects throughout the year from MassDOT OTP and the Highway Districts. As needed, staff contact or meet with project proponents to ensure that their designs are progressing and will continue to meet benchmark deadlines.
- **Relationship to TIP Target Projects:** A detailed table is compiled to correlate the regional target projects programmed on the TIP to other regional planning efforts and Performance Management.
- **Implementing Agencies:** As necessary, meet with MassDOT-Highway Division staff from the #2 and #3 District Offices and MassDOT OTP to obtain project information. MARPA also holds an

“Annual Meeting” with MassDOT during the winter months partly for this purpose. Similarly, meet with the WRTA Administrator and staff concerning future transit-related projects.

As part of the TIP development process, MassDOT OTP staff is expected to:

- Provide the CMMPO staff with regional federal-aid “funding targets” based on the estimate of funds reasonably anticipated to be available in developing the TIP’s financial plan.
- Continue staff’s work to refine applicable PBPP measures and targets required by PM 1 – 3. Standardized methods to measure the results of transportation investments will continue to evolve. Measures used by the CMMPO are related to federal transportation planning emphasis areas that include congestion, pavement, safety, as well as modal shift to public transit, bicycling, walking, stormwater management and resiliency, and travel and tourism. If needed, incorporate additional planning emphasis areas.
- As determined necessary, CMMPO staff will continue to work with MassDOT OTP and MARPA to address and resolve TIP-related challenges.

The 2026-2030 TIP will also include sections on:

- TIP document narrative: Including mention of the national Planning Factors and Emphasis Areas and the state’s GHG regulation. Also, a section discussing the current PBPP measures and targets for PM 1 - 3 that includes the PM scoring for both currently programmed and potential projects. Additionally, a summary of the relationship of regional target projects to regional planning efforts and PM is included.
- Proactive public outreach: Including TIP development schedule and all correspondence from stakeholders, the host communities, state, and federal planning partners.
- Amendment/Adjustment procedures: As reflected in the CMMPO’s Endorsed PPP.
- Federal Requirements Section: Including project listings for both highway and transit and the demonstration of financial constraint through a concise Financial Plan.
- Technical Appendices that include the TIP’s Public Outreach materials and comments, highway and transit Operations and Maintenance charts, list of Discretionary Projects, project locus maps, and EJ maps.

Products and Schedule

1. Draft highway and transit 2026-2030 TIP project listings – **2nd and 3rd Quarter, FFY 2025**
2. Preparation and hosting annual CMMPO Environmental Consultation for development of the TIP – **3rd Quarter, FFY 2025**
3. Endorsed highway and transit 2026-2030 TIP project listings and associated documentation – **3rd Quarter, FFY 2025**
 - Endorsement of the 2026-2030 TIP is anticipated to take place at a meeting of the CMMPO to be held in May 2025.

4. Amendments/Adjustments to 2025-2029 TIP – ***As necessary***
5. Send out TIP Design Funding Program information during 2026-2030 TIP development – ***1st Quarter, FFY 2025***
6. Meet with project proponents to discuss the current status of their projects – ***As necessary***
7. “TIP Development Meetings”, guidance and reference materials customized for project host communities – ***As necessary/requested***

Task Title **Transportation Improvement Program** **Ref. #** **1.3**

Funding Program/\$					
	FHWA/FTA/PL		FTA Section 5307 (through WRTA)		
Participants	FHWA	State	FTA	WRTA	Total
CMRPC	56,000	14,000			70,000

Task 1.4: Title VI/Environmental Justice/Transportation Equity

Description

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 stipulates that “no person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.” To ensure compliance with this fundamental civil rights provision, the United States Department of Justice mandates that each federal agency providing financial assistance for any program must apply Title VI provisions to each program by issuing relevant rules, regulations, or requirements for public participation.

Executive Order (EO) 12898, titled “Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations” (February 11, 1994), mandates that every Federal agency incorporates environmental justice into its mission. This entails identifying and remedying, where necessary, any disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental impacts of its programs, policies, and activities on minority and low-income populations. EO 12898 further instructs each Federal agency to formulate an agency-wide Environmental Justice (EJ) strategy to effectively execute these directives.

Executive Order 13166 (2000) broadened the scope of the 1964 Civil Rights Act to address the need for equitable participation of limited English-proficient individuals in the transportation planning process. Following this Executive Order, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) issued Policy Guidance Concerning the Recipient’s Responsibilities to Limited English Proficient (LEP) Persons, which mirrors the overarching LEP policy guidance from the U.S. Department of Justice. According to the guidance, DOT recipients are obligated to take reasonable measures to ensure that LEP individuals have meaningful access to their programs and activities. The directive extends to all recipients of DOT funding, including Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs).

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. 12101, (‘ADA’), and all other Federal and State laws and regulations prohibiting discrimination based on disability apply to the Central Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization’s activities.

Additionally, in June 2021, the U.S. DOT released Executive Order 1000.12C as part of its Title VI Program, aimed at ensuring that all DOT-assisted programs are executed per Title VI guidelines. This initiative seeks to uphold equality of opportunity for all members of the public, regardless of race, color, or national origin, including LEP populations. Specifically, it mandates that benefits and services be distributed fairly and equitably, projects refrain from denying access based on race, color, or national origin, and endeavors to prevent the perpetuation of racial or ethnic segregation. Moreover, transportation programs are expected to avoid causing disparate impacts on individuals or communities based on race, color, or national origin, including limited English proficiency.

In order to align with federal guidance, it became imperative to pinpoint low-income and minority communities or neighborhoods within the CMMPO planning region. In November 2022, the CMMPO undertook a revision and subsequent approval of the current Environmental Justice (EJ) definition to

accurately reflect regional characteristics and demographic shifts as per the decennial U.S. Census. This update resulted in the adoption of a new term: Regional Environmental Justice “Plus” (REJ+) Community. An REJ+ community is now designated to block groups characterized by a notably high proportion of residents who are particularly affected by changes to the transportation network and mobility options.

The REJ+ criteria encompass minority and low-income communities, individuals with limited English proficiency (LEP), older adults (aged 65 and above), people with disabilities, and households lacking access to a vehicle. These benchmarks serve as a standardized approach to assessing both the benefits and challenges associated with projects, overseeing the equitable allocation of transportation funds throughout the region, integrating them into planning scenarios, and identifying avenues for targeted outreach, particularly regarding language needs.

In alignment with the new U.S. DOT Justice40 Initiative, staff will continue to explore opportunities to enhance the methodologies utilized for measuring equity across all CMMPO endeavors, encompassing programs, projects, and plans alike.

Previous Work

- Updated Environmental Justice definition, including regionally derived thresholds and the identification of populations traditionally disadvantaged or underrepresented.
- Updated CMMPO Public Participation Plan.
- Completed a CMMPO Benefits and Burdens Analysis for the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).
- Completed annual reports for MassDOT’s Office of Diversity and Civil Rights (ODCR) required to demonstrate compliance with FHWA and FTA requirements.
- Led the CMRPC Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, and provided ongoing Title VI, LEP, and EJ training sessions and resources to all staff.
- New and continued work with numerous community groups, including Worcester Department of Public Health/Central Mass. Worcester Community Action Council, Centro, WRTA Riders’ Advisory Committee, and Worcester Together, among many others.
- Translations of meeting notices, forms, and other documents in other languages.
- Updated public meeting notices and splash screens.
- Completed CMRPC’s Title VI Program.
- WRTA Title VI Plan Updates for FTA*
- WRTA Public Participation Plan*

*conducted previously under separate FTA scopes of work

Procedures

- *Review Environmental Justice Outreach:* Staff will use the CMMPO PPP as a guide and an assessment tool for judging its effectiveness in engaging the region's low-income and minority populations. Staff will also continue to identify and implement work procedures that promote LEP persons' involvement. Staff will continue to participate actively with local groups concerned with EJ populations. Staff will also continue to strengthen current efforts to engage organizations that can assist in the involvement of those with LEP outside of Worcester and will also look for opportunities to expand the current network of organizations that serve minority and low-income populations within the region.
- *Staff Training:* Continue developing training opportunities for all staff to be able to comply with Title VI, EJ, and LEP and to better engage LEP persons during public outreach processes.
- *Identify and Implement Best Practices for LEP Engagement:* Work with MassDOT Office of Diversity and Civil Rights (ODCR) and other planning partners to research best practices for identifying and implementing LEP, including translation techniques, interpretation services, and engagement strategies, including virtual engagement tools and resources for LEP populations.
- *Implement Title VI Program:* As a sub-recipient of federal funding from both the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) through MassDOT, the MPO must adhere to the civil rights guidance provided by these agencies. This includes fulfilling FTA's triennial reporting obligations under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and FHWA's annual reporting obligations under its Title VI/non-discrimination program.
- *Continue refining regional equity measures and methodologies:* The CMMPO relies in a myriad of equity measures to guarantee an equitable allocation of transportation funds, measure potential benefits and burdens and measure equity across the region. Staff will continue exploring methodologies to enhance the understanding of the impacts in traditionally underserved communities in the region while incorporating these processes to the planning effort, including the LRTP, TIP and UPWP and other planning documents.

Products and Schedule

1. Review relevant MEPA filings for impacts to REJ+ communities and impacts to the transportation network – ***As necessary.***
2. Update CMRPC Staff Language Assistance Guide and agency language assists – ***As necessary.***
3. Implement public outreach standard procedures or protocols for in-person and virtual public engagement for compliance with the latest guidance on Title VI, EJ, LEP, and best practices identified by MassDOT partners – ***Ongoing.***
4. Continue ongoing involvement with Transportation Equity partners, cultivate new relationships, particularly outside of Worcester, and identify opportunities that address social vulnerabilities – ***Ongoing.***
5. Build staff capacity in Title VI/LEP guidelines and compliance – ***Ongoing.***

6. Translation of Vital Documents (i.e., LRTP, TIP, UPWP, and PPP Executive Summaries, Title VI complaint procedures/forms) into Safe Harbor languages – **As Needed**
7. Continue engagement efforts with organizations that represent Title VI/EJ/LEP populations and amplify opportunities to participate in the transportation decision-making process and CMMPO supporting committees – **Ongoing**.
8. Identify and implement best practices in areas of translation techniques, interpretation services, and engagement strategies with assistance from MassDOT ODCR – **Ongoing**
9. Attend or participate online in USDOT, MassDOT, NTI, or advocacy organization- sponsored Title VI, EJ, LEP, and Transportation Equity topic webinars and trainings – **Ongoing**.
10. Continue monitoring transit access to essential services, particularly in CMMPO-designated Environmental Justice (EJ) neighborhoods – **Ongoing**.
11. LEP Directory – Compile a comprehensive list of resources including language translations, interpreter services, and pertinent information tailored for individuals with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) – **1st Quarter, FFY 2025**
12. Develop a regional equity index to support the TIP development scoring process, including in the CMRPC Community Snapshots and the IMAGE 2050 regional plan – **2nd Quarter, FFY 2025**
13. Complete Streets Racial Equity Framework Collaboration with the City of Worcester – Partner with the Worcester Department of Health (DPH) to develop a comprehensive equity framework for Complete Streets, aimed at addressing racial injustices – **3rd Quarter, FFY 2025**
14. Preparation of Federal Certification Process for FTA and FHWA – **Ongoing**
15. Collaborate with the Data Users Group (DUG) to acquire detailed Limited English Proficiency (LEP) data for the region – **Ongoing**

Task Title	Title VI LEP		Ref. #		1.4
	Funding Program/\$				
	FHWA/FTA/PL		FTA Section 5307 (through WRTA)		
Participants	FHWA	State	FTA	WRTA	Total
CMRPC	48,000	12,000			60,000

Task 1.5: Public Participation

Description

In compliance with 23 CFR 450.316, Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) are required to conduct a metropolitan planning process that fosters public involvement, participation, and consultation throughout the development of key documents such as the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), the Unified Public Work Program (UPWP), and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). MPOs are obligated to provide:

- Sufficient public notice of public participation activities.
- Opportunities for the public to review and comment on significant decision points during the development of the LRTP, UPWP, and TIP.
- Information in various accessible formats, including electronic and in-person formats.

The [CMMPO Public Participation Plan Program \(PPP\)](#), like the CMMPO Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), is crafted collaboratively with input from the public, as well as individuals and organizations with vested interests in CMMPO activities.

Transit authorities are similarly required to administer an equivalent public participation process that is coordinated with MPO activities. The WRTA Public Participation Plan (PPP) is outlined in the 2024 WRTA Title VI Program and shares similarities with the aforementioned documents but is tailored specifically to transit needs. The WRTA PPP process informs the WRTA transit projects in the CMMPO TIP, which comprises a five-year project listing updated annually.

Previous Work

- Performed ongoing outreach with numerous local community groups, including Worcester Department of Public Health/Central Massachusetts Regional Public Health Alliance, Massachusetts Healthy Aging Collaborative, Food and Active Living Policy Council, Worcester Community Action Council, MassBike, Worcester Together, and other neighborhood and community organizations.
- Executed extensive public outreach during the implementation of the 2024 Long Range Transportation Plan, 2050 Connections and CMRPC's regional plan, IMAGINE 2050.
- Reviewed and updated the CMMPO PPP to include new metrics, tools, and techniques related to virtual public involvement.
- Collaborated with MassBike to enhance their public outreach efforts and promote their E-Bike program within the City of Worcester and surrounding towns.
- Continued collection, documentation, and incorporation of public involvement in the ongoing WRTA service planning process as it may influence CMMPO activities and projects.

- Conducted a series of stakeholder meetings in collaboration with MassDOT called ‘Meeting-in-a-Box’, during which stakeholders were invited to discuss both MassDOT’s Statewide Transportation Plan, called Beyond Mobility, and CMRPC’s Regional LRTP, 2050 Connections.
- Published articles in the CMRPC newsletter and other regional news outlets about CMMPO and WRTA activities and opportunities.

Procedures

Review and revise/update existing Public Participation Plan (PPP):

The CMMPO PPP details the CMMPO public outreach procedures used during TIP, UPWP, and LRTP development. These procedures are designed for compliance with the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and include consultations with agencies responsible for land use management, natural resources protection, historic preservation, Environmental Justice (EJ), and travel and tourism. The staff reviews the CMMPO PPP annually to ensure that its procedures are effective, and to implement lessons learned regarding traditional and non-traditional public outreach best practices and MassDOT ODCR’s guidance. Moreover, the CMMPO PPP public review process includes both traditional outreach strategies and virtual public involvement opportunities.

Review and revise/update existing WRTA Public Participation Plan (PPP):

The WRTA incorporated the WRTA Public Participation Plan into the WRTA Title VI Program. The Program was approved by the WRTA Advisory Board in April 2024, in accordance with FTA requirements. Staff will continue to administer public participation activities for the WRTA specific to its ongoing service planning process and will assist WRTA Administrative staff in other public participation activities. Virtual public involvement opportunities will be available along with other public outreach formats for the public review of the WRTA PPP.

Review and Refine Public Outreach Methods:

Staff will continue to provide maximum feasible opportunities for public participation in the transportation planning process, including virtual and hybrid public meetings. Staff will also continue to maintain and expand the network of diverse organizations that participate in CMMPO and WRTA activities.

Outreach to Traditionally Underserved and Underrepresented Communities:

Staff will continue to identify and evaluate the performance of public participation initiatives that improve overall access to essential services. Staff will continue to conduct outreach to groups and populations that are traditionally underserved or have had a more limited involvement in the transportation planning process, as identified by the CMMPO REJ+ threshold.

Preparation of Newsletter Articles and Website/Social Media Information on CMMPO and WRTA activities:

Staff will continue to publish the bi-monthly CMRPC newsletter with specific articles related to the CMMPO and WRTA projects and activities. Staff will send similar articles to regional news outlets for

further distribution. Moreover, staff will utilize social media platforms as a tool for promotion and engagement in CMMPO and WRTA opportunities.

Products and Schedule

1. Completed a Public Outreach Report with lessons learned and metrics from the outreach efforts completed during the annual report – **1st Quarter, FFY 2025**
2. Review and update stakeholders’ contact information. Identify opportunities to continue interactions with non-traditional stakeholders – **Ongoing**
3. Update the social media content calendar and the LRTP, *2050 Connections*, Hubsite with relevant content – **Ongoing**
4. Develop articles for the CMRPC monthly newsletter and local news outlets – **Ongoing**
5. Develop easy-to-understand materials and resources as a mechanism to increase the opportunities to participate in the transportation decision-making process, particularly those who have traditionally underrepresented – **Ongoing**
6. Ensure that the CMMPO creates opportunities for public involvement, participation, and consultation throughout TIP development and ongoing planning work in accordance with the PPP by allowing for 1) adequate public notice of public participation activities; 2) opportunities for review and comment at key decision points in the development of the TIP; and 3) provision of multiple, accessible participation formats, including virtually and in-person – **Ongoing**
7. Identify and implement standardized procedures or protocols for public outreach outlined by both federal regulations and MassDOT. Ensuring alignment with MassDOT’s recently established Public Participation Plan – **Ongoing**
8. Support RCCP staff in Public Outreach Activities, including the Imagine 2050 Plan and individual community Master Plans – **Ongoing**
9. Continue ongoing community involvement and increase interactions with the subregions’ ‘edge’ communities, WRTA Service Area communities, cross-RPA/RTA communities, and UZA areas – **Ongoing**
10. Attend FHWA/FTA sponsored public outreach topic webinars – **Ongoing**
11. Assisted RCCP staff in facilitating trail-related initiatives and projects, including supporting community outreach efforts for the Boston Worcester Airline Trail (BWALT) and other relevant trail-related discussions – **1st and 2nd Quarters, FFY 2025**

Task Title

Public Participation

Ref. #

1.5

Funding Program/\$					
	FHWA/FTA/PL		FTA Section 5307 (through WRTA)		
Participants	FHWA	State	FTA	WRTA	Total
CMRPC	48,000	12,000			60,000

Element 2: Data Collection and Analysis Activities

Task 2.1: Data Collection and Analysis

Description

The Data Collection and Analysis task is made up of CMRPC programs designed to collect and analyze various types of transportation planning data around the region. The portion of the road network that the CMRPC targets for data collection is the federal-aid eligible roadway network, which includes rural minor collectors while excluding Interstate Highways and ramps.

The CMRPC conducts traffic counts on a five-year rotation consisting of a northern subregion (21 communities), a southern subregion (18 communities) and a central subregion (City of Worcester). In the five-year period, the northern and southern subregions are counted twice, each time covering half of the count stations in that area. There is an average of about 20 count locations in each community except for Worcester, where about 150 counts are conducted. Beyond the scope of CMRPC scheduled counts, approximately 30 additional counts are conducted for MassDOT throughout the region. The current schedule will allow for every federal-aid eligible road segment in the region to be counted at least once every five years.

Pavement data is collected by the CMRPC, on a similar rotating schedule condensed to three years consisting of about 400 road miles of pavement per year. Pavement data is collected using a “windshield survey”. Utilizing the same schedule as pavement, staff also collect the location and condition of curb ramps, sidewalks, crosswalks and bicycle facilities on federal-aid eligible roadways using a “walking survey”. This data is then linked to previous work that mapped all sidewalks and ramp locations along federal aid-eligible roadways in the region.

In addition, travel time and delay studies are conducted along the Congestion Management Process (CMP) roadway focus segments. Peak period Turning Movement Counts (TMCs) and physical inventories are completed at identified critical intersections. Travel times and TMCs will also be used to analyze identified bottleneck locations, which can be used to support the staff’s transit planning activities in the region. In addition, a “utilization survey” is conducted at five MassDOT-Highway Division maintained Park and Ride facilities and three Commuter Rail lots in the region.

In coordination with MassDOT, bicyclist and pedestrian counts are also conducted across the region based on feedback received from the communities.

Furthermore, transit data is collected for general FTA oversight (i.e., Title VI) and specific FTA requirements (i.e., NTD) – as well as for MassDOT and CMMPO activities, which were previously conducted outside the CMMPO process, that are now integrated into this task.

Over the last couple of years, culvert and road-stream crossing assessment data has been collected. As has been noted, assessments are mainly focused on structures along the federal-aid eligible roadway network. There are over 5,000 culverts in the CMRPC region. To tackle this effort, each year staff choose a new community in a sub-region to assess culverts and road-stream crossings. To locate and assess these structures, staff utilize assessment protocols set by the North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative (NAACC), a non-profit that partners with the Massachusetts Department of Conservation (DER) to improve stream crossings and aquatic connectivity. The results of their assessments help to

prioritize vulnerable culverts and road-stream crossings in the CMRPC region. Aside from focusing on a single community to assess culverts and road-stream crossings, staff will also work with other CMRPC communities to assess specific structures in need. In addition, staff are able to train individuals to become NAACC Lead Observers, which is a requirement to assess structures and upload the data to the NAACC Data Center for assessment results. Training opportunities for individuals from our communities will arise throughout this year if there is enough interest. The proposed schedule will allow for all culverts and road-stream crossings along federal-aid roadways in the intended community to be assessed in the upcoming year, in addition to other requests that may come throughout the year.

Another part of CMRPC's efforts to expand its ability to identify and inventory critical and vulnerable infrastructure will be utilized through its in-house Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), or drone, program.

Previous Work

Mobility

- **Accessibility to Jobs:** Accessibility to Jobs dataset acquired by MassDOT through the National Accessibility Evaluation (NAE) Pooled Fund Study sponsored by the Accessibility Observatory at the University of Minnesota and Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT). Staff used MassDOT analysis guidelines and CMMPO developed analysis to determine how proposed projects might impact the transportation network. (2020 – Present)

Asset Management Data Collection

- **Pavement Data Collection**
 - Collection of condition data for town-maintained federal-aid eligible roads. (1991 – 2005)
 - Collection of pavement condition on town-maintained and state-maintained federal-aid eligible roads (excluding interstates and ramps), as well as rural, minor collectors that provide important connections within the federal-aid eligible road network. (2005 – Present)
- **Sidewalk and Curb Ramp Management – Data Collection and Analysis**
 - Sidewalk condition data for sidewalks along the federal-aid eligible roads in tandem with the pavement data collection efforts. Staff also created GIS data documenting existing sidewalks on federal-aid eligible roads in the entire region. A supplementary table was created to 'score' each sidewalk segment. This table corresponds to the GIS data for representational mapping purposes. (2013 – 2018)
 - Sidewalk, curb ramp and crosswalk data collection along federal-aid eligible roads that are undergoing pavement data collection. The data is collected using a walking survey and mobile GIS technology. Staff created a field collection guide document and associated reference sheets to help ensure uniform assessment throughout the region. These fields saw an update in 2021 to allow for more information to be collected regarding accessibility. (2019 – Present)

- Traffic Signal Data Collection
 - Staff inventoried the location and conditions for a small number of traffic signals along federal-aid eligible roads. The data collected was converted into a newly created GIS database. (2019 – Present)
 - Traffic Signal Data Collection Pilot Program. (2020 – 2023)
 - Traffic Signal Data Collection Program. (2023- Present)
- Culvert Assessment Data Collection
 - Staff completed NAACC training to become Lead Observer and Level 1/Level 2 Regional Coordinators. (2020 – 2022)
 - Staff developed a Pilot CMRPC Culvert Assessment Program. (2021)
 - CMRPC Culvert Assessment Program that is conducted on federal-aid eligible roads (excluding interstates and ramps), as well as rural minor collectors that provide important connections within the federal-aid eligible road network, and community requested locations. (2022 – present)
 - Staff trained individuals from the region to become NAACC Lead Observer’s. (2022 – present)
 - Staff created an online NAACC Field Survey Form for culvert data collection. (2023)
- Annual Traffic Counting
 - Pilot CMRPC Traffic Counting Program. (1982 – 1983)
 - Comprehensive CMRPC Traffic Counting Program conducted on federal-aid eligible roads (excluding interstates and ramps), as well as rural minor collectors that provide important connections within the federal-aid eligible road network, and smaller local roads by request. Data collected from this effort includes traffic volumes, vehicle classification and vehicle speed. (1984 – Present)
- Transit Planning
 - Service Planning – data collection for fixed-route and paratransit operations (i.e., ridership by route, stop, and trip; ridership by provider, on-time performance by route, passengers per revenue mile/hour, and related measures. (2020 – Present)
 - Asset inventories asset usage, and conditions (TERM scores) for safety (i.e., preventable accidents, or miles between), and collect data and mapping of bus stops, routes, and ridership. (2020 – Present)
- Safety
 - Mapping of the Top 100 crash locations utilizing available MassDOT datasets and tools. The data will be mapped and listed utilizing GIS techniques. (2020 – Present)

- Economic Development
 - Mapping and analysis of the locations of Priority Development Areas, 43D Priority Development Sites, and Transformative Development Initiative Districts in the region. (2020 – Present)
- Title VI and Environmental Justice (EJ)
 - Mapping and analysis of vulnerable populations in the region used to help assess potential projects funded through the TIP and LRTP. (2020 – Present)
- Affordable Housing
 - Mapping and analysis of the locations of affordable housing units in the region. (2020 – Present)
- CMP
 - Travel time and delay studies on roadways identified as having existing congestion or where congestion is projected to occur, roadways that accommodate WRTA fixed-route bus service, roadways studied as part of a Corridor Profile, identified bottleneck locations, and select monitoring locations. (1995 – Present)
 - TMCs and physical intersection inventories with field observed signal timing and phasing as needed at Corridor Profile focus intersections, identified bottleneck locations, as well as CMP identified intersections. (1996 – Present)
 - Monthly utilization surveys at the MassDOT-Highway Division Park and Ride Lot in Berlin (1995 – Present) and in Auburn, Millbury, and Sturbridge. (2013 – Present)
 - Monthly utilization surveys of Park-and-Ride lots and MBTA Commuter Rail Stations in Westborough, Southborough, and Grafton. (2022 – Present)
- Livability/Climate Change/Other Transportation Options
 - Pedestrian and bicycle counts on CMRPC recreational trails and Worcester streets, town requested locations, complete streets, safe routes to schools and other livability activities.
 - Location of bicycle facilities along all federal-aid eligible roadways collected in tandem with the pavement data collection schedule. (2016 – Present)
 - Local parking studies initial data collection of available spaces and regulations to support utilization studies. (2018 – Present)
- Data Analysis
 - Vehicle crash data was mapped and analyzed with roadway pavement data and traffic flow data using GIS software to identify critical intersections and roadway segments throughout the region.
 - WRTA bus-stop and ridership data was mapped and analyzed to help in transit planning activities.

- Traffic count data has been mapped as points and segments for use by the planning staff and all communities.
- Regional pavement condition data has been mapped in a usable format and has been used as part of different studies.
- All past, current, and potential TIP projects have been mapped and analyzed with various datasets.
- Community snapshots for all 40 communities in the CMRPC region.

Procedures

Mobility

- Accessibility to Jobs: Staff will utilize the Accessibility to Jobs dataset acquired by MassDOT through and NAE Pooled Fund Study sponsored by the Accessibility Observatory at the University of Minnesota and MnDOT. Continue to use the provided data to help assess potential projects funded through the TIP and LRTP for increasing accessibility for all modes.
- Access to Destinations: Staff will utilize the Access Observatory data, Conveyal, and Replica in tandem with locally collected datasets to help inform planning work around accessibility to destinations. Conveyal can also be used for transit route planning assistance.
- Data Analysis: Data is used to assist in the analysis of congested areas as part of the CMP.

Asset Management and Data Collection

- Pavement Data Collection
 - Data Preparation: Staff will complete collection on approximately 400 miles of data miles of road in FFY 2025. CMRPC's GIS pavement inventory and Cartegraph OMS will be utilized to prepare for field data collection of roadway segments. The list below shows the communities scheduled for data collection in FFY 2025.

▪ Sturbridge	▪ Douglas
▪ Southbridge	▪ Northbridge
▪ Charlton	▪ Uxbridge
▪ Dudley	▪ Upton
▪ Oxford	▪ Hopedale
▪ Webster	▪ Mendon
▪ Millbury	▪ Millville
▪ Sutton	▪ Blackstone

- Data Collection: Staff will use the ‘windshield survey’ data collection technique, staff will record the presence, severity, and extent of pavement distress types as defined within Cartegraph. Further, if deemed necessary, the MassDOT Road Inventory File (RIF) will be updated. Staff will also simultaneously collect the location and type of bicycle facilities along the region’s road network.
- Data Analysis: Staff will utilize Cartegraph to determine Overall Condition Index ratings and backlog numbers for the region. This information will be added to the CMRPC Regional Pavement Tracking Tool and utilized to update the regional asset management dashboard.
- Data Collaboration: Staff will share all collected data and underlying special datasets with member communities, MassDOT district staff and MassDOT OTP staff as requested.
- Sidewalk Management
 - Data Collection: Staff will collect condition data for sidewalks, curb ramps, and crosswalks along federal-aid eligible roadways utilizing mobile GIS technology and a ‘walking survey’ data collection technique. Data collection will mainly take place in the towns shown in the list below.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sturbridge ▪ Southbridge ▪ Charlton ▪ Dudley ▪ Oxford ▪ Webster ▪ Millbury ▪ Sutton 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Douglas ▪ Northbridge ▪ Uxbridge ▪ Upton ▪ Hopedale ▪ Mendon ▪ Millville ▪ Blackstone
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 - Data Mapping: Following collection staff will post process the collected data checking for errors and completeness before updating public facing GIS data sets.
 - Data Collaboration: Staff will share all collected data and underlying spatial datasets with member communities, MassDOT district staff, and MassDOT OTP staff as requested.
- Traffic Signals
 - Data Collection: Staff will collect the condition of traffic signals at locations where CMP and TMC data is collected. Data will be collected on the state of good repair, functional efficiency, and conformity with current standards. Noting whether equipment serves roadways utilized by transit, or it is Opticom-equipped for emergency vehicle use when possible.

- Data Mapping: Staff will update and maintain the CMRPC Traffic Signal Inventory with collected FFY 2025 locations and other information provided by communities.
- Data Collaboration: Staff will share all collected data and underlying spatial data with member communities, MassDOT district staff, and MassDOT OTP staff as requested.
- Culvert Management
 - Data Preparation: Staff will utilize the NAACC database to identify culverts on federal-aid eligible roadways in Boylston and Blackstone.
 - Data Collection: Staff will use the NAACC 'Non-Tidal Aquatic Connectivity Stream Crossing Survey Data Form' to assess the condition of identified culverts in Boylston and Blackstone, as well as other town requested locations as needed. Assessment data is uploaded to the NAACC Online Data Center for results. Staff will provide NAACC training to new staff members, as well as individuals and other groups from the region interested in culvert assessments as needed or requested. Staff will approve assessment uploads to the NAACC Data Center by Lead Observers in the region.
 - Data Mapping: Staff will update and maintain Culvert Assessment Program inventory, maps, and dashboards with collected assessments and their conditions.
 - Data Collaboration: Staff will share all collected data and underlying spatial datasets with member communities, MassDOT district staff, and MassDOT OTP staff as requested.
 - Data Analysis: Staff will utilize collected data to inform and help communities identify vulnerable culverts and potential projects funded through the TIP and other available grant opportunities.
- UAS (drone) Program
 - Data Collection: Staff will utilize the in-house UAS for transportation-related tasks that could benefit. Staff will also use the UAS for useful imagery of transportation projects and asset management efforts. Staff will take before and after photos of TIP and Major Infrastructure Projects.
 - Data Mapping/Imagery Organization: Staff will edit and use the images taken from drone flights to include them in maps or other means of communicating transportation projects and other information.
- Annual Traffic Counting
 - Maintain Regional Traffic Count Information Center: Staff will add all FFY 2024 count data to its extensive in-house database.

- Conduct the regularly scheduled Traffic Counting Program: The FFY 2025 program will focus on the Central traffic counting Subregion, as well as MassDOT-Highway Division requested counts and Town requested counts. Staff anticipates approximately 300 counts. The towns in the north traffic counting subregion that will be the focus of the FFY 2025 effort can be found in the list below.
 - Berlin
 - Northborough
 - Westborough
 - Boylston
 - Shrewsbury
 - West Boylston
 - Holden
 - Princeton
 - Rutland
 - Paxton
 - Leicester
 - Spencer
 - Oakham
 - Barre
 - Hardwick
 - New Braintree
 - North Brookfield
 - East Brookfield
 - Brookfield
 - West Brookfield
 - Warren
- Conduct Axle Classification Surveys: These surveys are performed at all count locations conducted in the region that utilize pneumatic tube counting devices (currently 9 of the 112 devices used) with special attention given to locations near major intermodal freight facilities on National Highway System (NHS) Connectors.
- Create Axle Classification summary information – For all completed counts in FFY 2025, axle classification data will be added to the vehicle classification database.
- Maintain link with GIS: Maintain and update the traffic count database and the traffic flow map each year. Utilize the GIS mapping to identify gaps and allocate resources to collect traffic count data as needed. Maintain and update online resources to assess traffic data including ArcGIS Online maps and tools.
- Data Submittal: Staff will upload completed count data to the Transportation Data Management System (MS2) website per MassDOT guidance.
- Extract Vehicle Speeds: Staff will extract vehicle speeds for FFY 2025 and record the information in the regional database. Vehicle speed data will be extracted for use in GIS mapping and modeling.
- Transit Planning
 - Service Planning: Data collection for fixed-route and paratransit operations (i.e., ridership by route, stop, and trip; ridership by provider, on-time performance by route, passengers per revenue mile/hour, and related measures.
 - Asset inventories, asset usage, and conditions (TERM scores) for safety (i.e. preventable accidents, or miles between), and collect data and mapping of bus stops, routes, and ridership. (2020 – Present)

- Safety
 - Identification and Mapping: The Top 100 crash locations (intersections and corridors) will be identified utilizing available MassDOT datasets and tools. The data will be mapped and listed utilizing GIS techniques.
- Economic Development
 - Identification and Mapping: Staff will update and maintain the previously created database and map of Priority Development Areas, 43D Priority Development Sites, and Transformative Development Initiative Districts in the region.
 - Data Analysis: Utilize collected data to inform and help assess potential projects funded through the TIP and LRTP.
 - Data Collaboration: Share all collected data with member communities, MassDOT district staff, and MassDOT OTP staff as requested. Coordinate transportation priorities with the CEDS plan update for Central Massachusetts.
- Title VI and Environmental Justice
 - Identification and Mapping: Staff will update and maintain the previously created database and map of REJ+ populations in the region (based on income, race, color, national origin, disability, age, and sex).
 - Data Analysis: Utilize collected data to inform and help assess potential projects funded through the TIP and LRTP.
- Affordable Housing
 - Identification and Mapping: Staff will update and maintain the previously created database and map of affordable housing units in the region.
 - Data Analysis: Utilize collected data to inform and help assess potential projects funded through the TIP and LRTP.
- CMP
 - Park and Ride Utilization Surveys: As a monthly effort, staff will continue to monitor multiple MassDOT-maintained Park and Ride lots for utilization. The lots that data will be collected are in: Auburn, Berlin, Millbury, and Sturbridge, as well as MBTA station lots in Westborough, Grafton, and Southborough. Staff will coordinate with the MassDOT Districts as needed.
 - TMCs: Will be completed at critical intersections identified in the CMP, Corridor Profile, public outreach activities for Performance Management analysis, and evaluation of recently implemented projects. Signal timing and phasing data will be observed in the field and copies of the official permits will be obtained, if needed. Bicycle and pedestrian activity will also be monitored for each TMC location.

- Travel Time and Delay Studies: These studies will be conducted on roadway segments identified by the regional travel-demand-and-forecast model and along a limited number of segments where congestion is projected to occur. These studies will also be collected along roadways before and after TIP projects are completed to determine the effectiveness of the improvements. A Global Positioning System (GPS) unit will be used to collect the travel time and delay data.
- Livability/Climate Change/Other Transportation Options
 - Work with municipalities, MassDOT and other interested parties to identify areas that would benefit from bicyclist and pedestrian counts. Coordinate with MassDOT, making sure there is no overlap of count locations.
 - Collect and update the location of bicycle facilities along federal-aid eligible roads.
 - Collect locations of parking regulations/signs and spaces utilizing ArcGIS and ArcGIS Online.
 - Use sidewalk and Americans with Disabilities (ADA) ramp data for prioritizing transit/bike/pedestrian projects.
 - Collect extreme weather/climate change information to assess potential impact on access to essential services.
 - Regional Bike Rack Inventory - Collection of bike parking locations on federal-aid eligible roads
- Data Analysis
 - Convert spreadsheets and workbooks, where system performance data is currently stored, into database format compatible with GIS applications.
 - Modify databases, as necessary, to provide compatibility with the CMRPC GIS Center.
 - Develop data dictionaries and metadata records for systems performance information.
 - Refine and/or develop data collection procedures as appropriate to optimize the ability to store the information within GIS applications.
 - Develop geographic interfaces for use in displaying and querying the transportation management system database for both internal agency uses and region-wide community use.
 - Analyze various data layers to help and support the decision-making process for the TIP development effort.
 - Provide access to all the transportation planning data available via the internet.
 - Map communities in the region that have adopted a 25-mph default speed limit and newly adopted safety zones and school zones.
 - Share all collected data with member communities, MassDOT district staff, and MassDOT OTP staff as requested.

Products and Schedule

Mobility

1. Identification and mapping of accessibility to jobs data provided by MassDOT utilizing MassDOT and regionally sensitive criteria – **1st and 2nd Quarter, FFY 2025**
2. Project Screening assistance for programmed and potential projects being considered for the TIP scoring based on the MassDOT accessibility to jobs dataset – **Ongoing**
3. Access to Destinations: Staff will utilize the Access Observatory data, Conveyal, and Replica in tandem with locally collected datasets to help inform planning work around accessibility to destinations – **Ongoing**
4. Analysis of access to jobs data for CMP – **Ongoing**

Asset Management Data Collection

- Pavement Data Collection
 1. Data collected in FFY 2024 will be entered into Cartegraph, creating updated electronic records for roads with newly collected data – **1st Quarter, FFY 2025**
 2. Solicited towns in the region for any maintenance or repair activities on the federal-aid roadways to be entered into Cartegraph – **1st Quarter, FFY 2025**
 3. Data collection on federal-aid roadways schedules for collection – **3rd and 4th Quarter, FFY 2025**
 4. Provided pavement condition data for related transportation planning activities as requested – **Ongoing**
 5. Data Collaboration: Shared all collected data and underlying spatial data sets with member communities, MassDOT district staff and MassDOT OTP staff as requested – **Ongoing**
- Sidewalks
 10. Integrated data collected during FFY 2024 with the corresponding GIS sidewalk and curb ramp inventory – **1st Quarter, FFY 2025**
 11. Sidewalks and ADA ramps condition data collection for federal-aid eligible roadways – **3rd and 4th Quarter, FFY 2025**
 12. Data Collaboration: Shared all collected data and underlying spatial data sets with member communities, MassDOT district staff and MassDOT OTP staff as requested – **Ongoing**

- Traffic Signal Inventory
 13. Integrated data collected as part of the FFY 2024 continued pilot study into the CMRPC traffic signal inventory database – **1st Quarter, FFY 2025**
 14. Traffic Signal inventory data collection in selected locations along federal-aid eligible roadways coordinating with the TMCs conducted for the CMP – **3rd and 4th Quarter, FFY 2025**
 15. Data Collaboration: Shared all collected data and underlying spatial data sets with member communities, MassDOT district staff and MassDOT OTP staff as requested – **Ongoing**
- Culvert Data Collection
 16. Identified and assessed culverts in selected locations within the Town of Boylston and Blackstone that cross federal-aid eligible roadways, as well as in town-requested locations as needed – **3rd and 4th Quarter, FFY 2025**
 17. Uploaded culvert assessment data to the NAACC database, as well as the CMRPC culvert inventory database – **3rd and 4th Quarter, FFY 2025**
 18. Hosted and trained individuals to become NAACC Non-Tidal Lead Observers – **As Requested**
 19. Approved assessment data on the NAACC Data Center by NAACC Lead Observers in the region – **As needed**
 20. Provided culvert assessment data for related transportation planning activities – **As needed**
 21. Data Collaboration: Shared all collected data and underlying spatial data sets with member communities, CMMPO members, MassDOT district staff, and MassDOT OTP staff as requested – **Ongoing**
- UAS (drone) Imagery
 22. Integration of past drone imagery and other data collected into the appropriate CMRPC transportation inventory databases – **1st Quarter, FFY 2025**
 23. Integration of new drone imagery and other data collected during flights for transportation projects into the CMRPC Drone Imagery database – **4th Quarter, FFY 2025**
 24. Data Collaboration: Shared all collected data and underlying spatial data sets with member communities, MassDOT district staff and MassDOT OTP staff as requested – **Ongoing**

- Inventory of Vulnerable Assets
 25. Utilizing the MassDOT CIP as a guide, staff will utilize collected asset management to identify and report areas that are disproportionately at risk of climate change impacts – **4th Quarter, FFY 2025**
 26. Data Collaboration: Shared all collected data and underlying spatial data sets with member communities, MassDOT district staff and MassDOT OTP staff as requested – **Ongoing**
- Annual Traffic Counting
 27. Annual update to Daily Traffic Volumes and Peak Period Turning Movement Counts, and Axle Classification database – **1st Quarter, FFY 2025**
 28. Annual Automatic Traffic Recorder calibration effort – **3rd Quarter, FFY 2025**
 29. Traffic volume and axle classification counts – **3rd and 4th Quarter, FFY 2025**
- Transit Data Collection and Mapping
 30. Mapping of Bus Stops – **Ongoing**
 31. Mapping of Bus Routes – **Ongoing**
 32. Mapping of Ridership – **Ongoing**
 33. WRTA FFY 2024 Audit – **4th Quarter, FFY 2025**
 34. NTD FY 2024 Reporting – **1st Quarter, FFY 2025**
 35. MassDOT Rail and Transit Division – **Monthly and Quarterly (Quarterly in accordance with WRTA MOU)**
- Safety
 36. Identification and mapping of the Top 100 crash location listing based on data provided by MassDOT – **3rd Quarter, FFY 2025**
 37. Utilizing crash data to help inform project selection and prioritization – **Ongoing**
- Economic Development
 38. Identification and mapping of Priority Development Areas, Chapter 43D Priority Development, and Transformative Development Initiative Districts – **1st and 2nd Quarter, FFY 2025**
 39. Utilizing mapped data to help inform project selection and prioritization – **Ongoing**
 40. Assist in the development of the Central Massachusetts CEDS plan by providing transportation infrastructure priorities – **1st and 2nd Quarter, FFY 2025**

- Title VI and EJ
 - 41. Collection and mapping of data on REJ+ populations – **1st and 2nd Quarter, FFY 2025**
 - 42. Utilizing mapped data to help inform project selection and prioritization – **Ongoing**
- Affordable Housing
 - 43. Identification and mapping of Affordable Housing units – **1st and 2nd Quarter, FFY 2025**
 - 44. Utilizing mapped data to help inform project selection and prioritization – **Ongoing**
- CMP
 - 45. Park and Ride Utilization Surveys at MassDOT-maintained Park and Ride lots – **Ongoing**
 - 46. TMCs will be completed along with observed signal timing and phasing, and bicycle and pedestrian volumes at various intersections identified in the CMP, Corridor Profiles, and Bottlenecks – **3rd and 4th Quarter, FFY 2025**
 - 47. Travel Time and Delay Studies will be completed on a number of identified roadway segments where congestion is projected to occur – **3rd and 4th Quarter, FFY 2025**
- Livability/Climate Change/Other Transportation Options
 - 48. Collection of bicycle facility locations along federal-aid eligible roads and input into the GIS inventory – **1st Quarter, FFY 2025**
 - 49. Collection of bike parking facilities along federal-aid eligible roads – **2nd and 3rd Quarter FFY 2025**
 - 50. Prioritization of transit/bike/pedestrian projects – **Ongoing**
- Data Analysis
 - 51. Maintaining the integrated database of the latest management systems information to guide future data collection activities, identification of gaps in the data, and future analysis – **Ongoing**
 - 52. Continue integrating the database and map template used for TIP maps with other products for streamlines information documentation and sharing – **1st Quarter, FFY 2025**
 - 53. Updated the Highway Management Systems Map to include other modes, and evaluated how it ties with the regional performance measures, Freight Planning, Complete Streets, Vulnerable Infrastructure and identify potential priority corridors – **Ongoing**
 - 54. Worked on various data maps and tables to assist with ongoing transportation planning activities (i.e., pavement, safety, congestion, sidewalk, ADA ramps, bike lanes, etc.) – **Ongoing**
 - 55. Integration of WRTA automatic passenger count data obtained through the ITS systems on the buses – **Ongoing**

- 56. As necessary, assisting various stakeholders with vehicle crash research/analysis/diagrams as related to safety related planning efforts for Roadway Safety Audits – **Ongoing**
- 57. Updated demographic and employment data with the most current national data from the Census, ACS, and CTPP – **Ongoing**
- 58. Provided data collection support to various parking study projects as needed – **Ongoing**
- 59. Continue mapping of communities that have adopted a 25-mph default speed limit as well as new safety zones and school zones – **Ongoing**

Task Title	Data Collection and Analysis			Ref. #	2.1
Funding Program/\$					
	FHWA/FTA/PL		FTA Section 5307 (through WRTA)		
Participants	FHWA	State	FTA	WRTA	Total
CMRPC	160,000	40,000			200,000

Task 2.2: Regional Transportation Model

Description

The Regional Travel Demand Forecast Model is an important planning tool both for the evaluation of proposed regional transportation improvements and the projection of mobile source air emissions for significant regional projects. The model is the most effective and comprehensive way to project transportation needs within a thirty-year planning horizon as required by Federal regulation.

A regional travel demand forecasting model can estimate the traffic impacts caused by socio-economic (employment, households, and population) changes, and transportation accessibility changes, in both existing and projected congested areas. As well as estimate future Vehicle-Miles Traveled (VMT) for the region as a whole as well as for sub-regions and communities.

Previous Work

CMRPC has used travel demand forecast models for highway planning purposes since 1980. CMRPC is continually updating and maintaining its regional model for project-specific work and for back-up calculations of mobile source emissions and Vehicle Miles of travel. In the past year, the model was used extensively in support of the LRTP, *2050 Connections*, and various other planning activities. The model is being used more extensively for project-specific forecasting.

Over the past few years, the model has been used to understand the demand of other modes such as transit, freight and non-motorized. The model was used to analyze the recommendations from the Comprehensive Service Analysis for the WRTA service area. The model is currently being used to assess various major infrastructure projects on the LRTP. The population, household and employment projections for the Regional Travel Demand Forecast (TDF) Model was reviewed and updated as part of the development of the 2024 LRTP update.

Procedures

The newer (2022-2023) MassDOT – Highway Road Inventory Files (RIFs) will be incorporated into the updated version of the regional model to serve as the basis for the road network and require ongoing editing of the line files to verify functionality. The base year for the model is 2020 currently (to coincide with the release of 2020 Census data), and horizon (future) years are 2030, 2040 and 2050.

Additionally, with the release of 2020 Census data, an update to the Transportation Analysis Zones (TAZs) to match 2020 Census geography has begun. The existing model is based on 2010 Census geography (Block Group sub-divisions) with the TAZ household and employment data from that same period. The 2020 Census geography has notable differences. Consequently, to use the 2020 data including the Census LODES datasets, TAZ geography must be more consistent with 2020 geography. New TAZs will be developed and attached to the new Road Inventory datasets. New TAZ household data will be developed based on 2020 Census block data. Employment patterns for the place or work data in the LODES (*Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics Origin-Destination Employment Statistics*) files will be used to create new employment distributions. New work travel patterns for the LODES data will also be used to calibrate the work trip distribution patterns in the model.

As required by MAP-21 and now continuing into BIL, staff are closely following the evolution of applicable Travel Demand Model - related Performance Measures by USDOT. MPO staff created performance metrics for the 2050 Connections plan using the model outputs. Some of the metrics include congested locations, vehicle miles travelled, vehicle hours travelled and equity analysis.

Staff were able to use the model to produce results for the public outreach and major infrastructure scenario planning for the 2024 LRTP. The model was also used to evaluate the transportation impacts to EJ vs. Non-EJ areas/populations. Also, the proposed service changes to the transit routes were also modeled to understand the mode share changes. Additionally, the recently acquired Regional Integrated Transportation Information System (RITIS) data by MassDOT will be used to assess congestion throughout the day and validate congestion computed using the model.

Products and Schedule

1. Complete the development of the new TAZs and incorporate these TAZs within the updated regional model. Accumulate new household and employment data based on the latest Census data files. Re-calibrate the work trip distribution patterns in the model – **3rd quarter, FFY 2025**
2. Review the MassDOT Statewide Travel model to adapt external-external travel patterns for possible use to inform the regional model – **Ongoing**
3. Investigate the benefits and costs associated with creating an activity-based model – **Ongoing**
4. Investigate model updates which would assist in the evaluation of transportation equity analysis – **Ongoing**
5. Improve model documentation – **Ongoing**
6. Continued modeling efforts to understand the traffic impacts due to major landuse changes and infrastructure projects in the region – **Ongoing**
7. Include WRTA service changes for the transit routes and calibrate the transit model – **Ongoing**
8. Integration of recent traffic counts and RITIS data to assist with ongoing travel demand model updates – **2nd Quarter, FFY 2025**
9. Provide growth factors for various projects in the region – **Ongoing**
10. Work on making the model more sensitive to intersection congestion and delay – **4th Quarter, FFY 2025**
11. Look for opportunities to create special generators in the model (i.e., Distribution centers) – **Ongoing**
12. Modeling analysis to produce results for truck percentages and V/C ratios (bottlenecks) for the Highway Trucking Accommodation study for the Central subregion – **1st and 2nd Quarter, FFY 2025**
13. Continued review of statewide/regional/town-level socioeconomic projections: including review of census release, land-use development and town census information – **3rd Quarter, FFY 2025**

14. Integrate various data collected as part of the Data Collection and Analysis Task (2.1) such as traffic counts, TMCs, travel time runs into the model – *Ongoing*

Task Title **Regional Transportation Model** **Ref. #** **2.2**

Funding Program/\$					
	FHWA/FTA/PL		FTA Section 5307 (through WRTA)		
Participants	FHWA	State	FTA	WRTA	Total
CMRPC	80,000	20,000			100,000

Task 2.3: Community and Regional Technical Assistance

Description

Under this Task, the CMMPO staff provides technical assistance to CMMPO member municipalities, WRTA Service Area communities, non-profit organizations, businesses, and state/federal agencies to integrate transportation, land use, health, environmental, and other planning activities. The staff realizes that member communities may not always have available staff to promote transportation planning objectives. It should be noted that efforts and products specified in this task may be interwoven with specific tasks, projects, and efforts that are listed in other UPWP tasks. This is due to the overarching nature of Community Technical Assistance and its inherent flexibility.

General transportation planning assistance includes but is not limited to: community specific access management reviews; safety and crash data screening and reviews, traffic impact analyses, development of land use and traffic growth rates, and assistance with/support of grant applications or other transportation related special studies, such as Complete Streets Prioritization Plans.

Local and regional transportation support includes working with committees, boards, and local officials regarding transportation planning issues. The staff assists with local transportation project development; prepares transportation chapters in municipal master plans, transportation related local ordinances or regulations, complete streets policies, walkability audits, Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS), or recommendations for Best Practice implementation.

Coordination with adjacent MPOs in Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island is another way the CMMPO staff conducts interagency/interregional coordination and provide technical assistance to member communities. Freight and passenger rail, interstate commerce, travel and tourism, analyses of transportation policies, transit systems, and built environment structures to assess impacts to community health and climate resiliency, and performance-based planning are but a few of the possible areas where the CMMPO can work with its partner agencies.

Previous Work

The CMMPO staff has undertaken extensive efforts related to Community and Regional Technical Assistance since the formation of the MPO. With this new, specific, work task it would be impossible to list all previous related efforts. The following bullets highlight a brief selection of work completed to assist member communities over the years.

- Comprehensive CMRPC Traffic Counting Program. (1984-Present)
 - Traffic counts conducted on non-federal aid eligible roadways.
- Collection of pavement condition on town-maintained and state-maintained federal-aid eligible roads as well as rural, minor collectors which provide important connections within the federal-aid eligible road network. (2005- Present)

- Collection of location and condition of sidewalks, curb ramps and crosswalks on town-maintained and state-maintained federal-aid eligible roads as well as rural, minor collectors who provide important connections within the federal-aid eligible road network. (2012 – Present)
- MassDOT Road Inventory File Updates
- Local Pavement Management Plans
- Transportation and Circulation Chapter for Municipal Master Plans
- Complete Streets Policy Development
- Complete Streets Tier II Prioritization Plans
- Parking Studies
- Grant Assistance
- Neighborhood walk Audits
- Post Occupancy Studies
- Local Warrants Analysis
- Worked with other MPOs, MassDOT, CMMPO municipalities, and other state and federal agencies on Population and Employment projections and growth factors for the updated Long-Range Transportation Plan. – 2019, 2022
- Community Snapshot update for all CMMPO member communities - 2023

Procedures

The CMMPO staff is committed to providing its forty member communities with a wide variety of transportation planning-related efforts and understands that flexibility is key as new opportunities are always being brought forward through innovative federal and state programs. The CMMPO staff will continue conducting special studies and providing technical assistance as needed as part of our work program to produce products that are consistent with federal requirements and support the regional transportation planning process. Staff will further develop and refine this work task in the coming years in order to provide a wide variety of projects and products that help support local, regional, state, and federal transportation initiatives.

Products and Schedule

1. Data Collection, analysis, and mapping assistance
 1. Data collection: Assist communities as needed with local data collection needs above and beyond the regional data collection efforts including but not limited to traffic counting, pavement condition surveys, Sidewalk and Ramp Surveys - **3rd and 4th Quarter, FY 2025**
 2. As requested, truck exclusion study counts – **Ongoing**

3. Continue limited technical assistance for MassDOT Roadway Inventory Database updates, as requested – **Ongoing**
 4. Assist communities with management systems data to initiate project development discussion – **Ongoing**
 5. Assist communities with data collection, application and management for the Massachusetts culvert and small bridge grant program – **3rd and 4th Quarter, FY 2024**
 6. Data Analysis and Mapping: Assist communities as needed with data analysis and mapping needs associated with local data collection efforts and with data collected as part of the regional data collection efforts – **Ongoing**
2. Complete Streets and Safe Routes to Schools
7. Tier II: Continued to assist municipalities with the development and adoption of prioritization plans.
 - a. Working to assist communities developing Complete Streets Tier II prioritization plans – **Ongoing**
 8. Tier III: As necessary and appropriate, assisted municipalities with preparing Complete Streets Tier III Construction Applications for submittal including application administration, project(s) selection, and grant-writing, and project funding requests – **Ongoing**
 9. Continued to engage “inactive” municipalities with Complete Streets development through promotion of program benefits and other municipal examples – **Ongoing**
 10. As needed, assisted municipalities and associated partner schools with developing and submitting infrastructure projects grant applications to the Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) Program – **Ongoing**
3. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Public Health Assistance
11. ADA Transition Plans: As necessary, assisted municipalities with development of and/or updates to their ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plans – **Ongoing**
 12. Healthy Aging: Continued to support healthy aging initiatives across the region by engaging communities using the Massachusetts Age- and Dementia Friendly Integration Toolkit and similar state resources – **Ongoing**
 13. Grant Assistance: Engaged communities with the AARP Age-Friendly Network, prepared applications for the AARP Community Challenge Grant Program, and provided grant administration support to the towns if awarded – **Ongoing**
 14. Continued to improve and promote the CMMPO Sidewalk and Curb Ramp Database as an available tool for municipalities and other organizations to use for a wide range of projects – **Ongoing**

4. Local and Regional Planning:
 15. Master Plans: When applicable, worked with CMMPO member municipalities to update transportation sections or chapters of municipal master plans or other related comprehensive planning efforts/contracts – **Ongoing**
 16. Regional Plans: Continue work with CMRPC staff on the ongoing IMAGINE 2050 work efforts – **Ongoing**
 17. DLTA Support: Supported the development of local projects seeking funding through the regions DLTA program – **Ongoing**
5. Special Community Studies/Project:
 18. Assist, promote, and educate CMMPO member municipalities about potential availability of state and federal funding opportunities such as TIP, Complete Streets, Safe Routes to Schools, etc. – **Ongoing**
 19. Assist CMMPO member municipalities that have limited in-house experience and/or expertise with the preparation of opportunity documents and, if awarded, assist in the timely and accurate grant required documentation to assure completeness – **Ongoing**
 20. Where Applicable, work with member Communities that have current TIP listed projects to assist in keeping the projects at their target bid year – **Ongoing**
 21. Work with CMMPO member municipalities, who historically have not participated in the TIP process, to better understand the benefits of the TIP program – **Ongoing**
 22. A sample of the member municipal projects that will be explored include (**Ongoing**):
 - West Boylston – Intersection improvements on West Boylston Street (Route12) and Franklin Street
 - Berlin – Intersection improvements on Boylston Road (Route 62) at West Street, Barnes Hill Road, and Derby Road.
 - Northbridge – Intersection improvements on Providence Road (Route 122) at Church Street
 - Charlton – Intersection improvements on Stafford Street at Center Depot Road.

Task Title

Community and Regional Technical Assistance

Ref. #

2.3

Funding Program/\$					
	FHWA/FTA/PL		FTA Section 5307 (through WRTA)		
Participants	FHWA	State	FTA	WRTA	Total
CMRPC	100,000	25,000			125,000

Task 2.4: Performance Management – Targets and Reporting

Description

The CMMPO's Performance-Based Planning and Programming (PBPP) activity was initially established as required by MAP-21, the federal transportation legislation enacted in 2012. Later, the requirement for performance management activities was reaffirmed by the FAST Act in 2015 and, most recently, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) in 2021. This national legislation prompted FHWA and the FTA to finalize rules that specified federally required performance measures for the states, MPOs and public transportation providers to track trends and develop targets.

The intent of the Performance Management Targets and Reporting work activity is to adhere to the federal PBPP requirements as well as report on regionally customized performance-based measures and targets through an Annual System Performance Report. This effort seeks to integrate materials from the Congestion Management Process (CMP), Freight Planning, Pavement Management, Transportation Safety Planning, Traffic Monitoring, and other regional programs. In-house GIS capabilities continue to be used to maintain, map, and analyze information from the Management Systems that will support TIP target project listings development, LRTP Major Infrastructure (MI) project development and implementation, as well as serve as a resource for various ongoing planning activities.

Previous Work

- Preparation of monthly Worcester Regional Transit Authority (WRTA) performance data summaries for MassDOT's Rail and Transit Division. (2014-present)
- CMRPC assistance with WRTA performance goals, measures, and targets related to assets (Transit Asset Management (TAM) Plan) and safety (Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP)). (2018-present)
- Annual System Performance Report. (2016-present)
- Refined locally derived Performance Management Measures and Targets customized to the planning region along with associated documentation. (Ongoing)
- CMMPO Performance-Based Planning and Programming Brochure. (2017)
- Performance Management Criteria Matrix and Scoring Worksheet. (2017)
- TIP 5-Year Retrospect Analysis Against Current Performance Metrics. (2016)

Procedures

- Adoption of the state targets for federally mandated performance measures (23 CFR Part 490 and 515). The CMMPO will provide information necessary to support these measures that include, but are not limited to:
 - Safety Measures (PM1) – current state measures adopted by the CMMPO on February 21, 2024; next update and anticipated adoption in February 2025.
 - Pavement and Bridge Condition Measures (PM2) – state measures presented and adopted by the CMMPO on March 15, 2023; next update in FFY 2027.

- Performance of NHS, Freight and CMAQ Measures (PM3) - state measures presented and adopted by the CMMPO on March 15, 2023; next update in FFY 2027. There is a new national GHG measure that is currently pending. If the new GHG measure becomes active, staff will follow the requirements to set targets in cooperation with MassDOT OTP.
- Incorporation of Transit Asset Management (TAM) targets from the WRTA TAM Plan (adopted by the CMMPO on November 16, 2022) into the planning process.
- Incorporation of the Public Transit Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) targets in the planning process. The CMMPO adopted targets on May 17, 2023.
- Implementation of Thresholds – Work with MassDOT OTP and WRTA for inclusion of performance measures within the ongoing planning process. The CMMPO staff will continue to be responsible for reporting data and projects for periodic statewide performance measure assessments. This methodology also applies to the WRTA with the establishment of their performance measures as required by FTA.
- With acceptable targets for performance measures identified in the FFY 2024 LRTP, *2050 Connections*, staff will continue to maintain relevant data for transportation safety, traffic operations, pavement, and congestion management, as well as provide comparison analyses before and after the implementation of TIP projects.
- Inclusion and updates to certification documents of MassDOT performance measures that have or are anticipated to be adopted by the CMMPO. Staff will ensure these targets are incorporated in documents including, but not limited to, the CMMPO TIP and LRTP, as reflected in the UPWP.
- Inclusion with Projects – Incorporate the performance measure metrics criteria for use in the review and ranking of TIP projects and LRTP-listed MI projects.
- Compilation of the Annual System Performance Report that includes the federally required measures (highway and transit) as well as the CMMPO’s regionally customized measures. As needed, refine, or incorporate additional performance measures from any new federal planning emphasis areas.

Staff will continue to participate in the ongoing evolution of PBPP, monitoring both rulemaking and guidance efforts on the federal and state levels. Further, locally derived performance measures and targets were included in the development of the new LRTP, *2050 Connections*, so that the results of transportation investments in the planning region can be measured, reviewed, and assessed.

Products and Schedule

1. As necessary or required, based on US DOT federal rulemaking monitored by staff, review/refine locally-derived, previously established performance measure criteria – ***Ongoing***
2. CMMPO annual adoption of Safety performance measures (PM1) – ***2nd Quarter, FFY 2025***

3. Updated Annual System Performance Report showing progress of the federally required and CMMPO regionally customized performance measures and targets. As needed, refine measures and targets – **3rd Quarter, FFY 2025**
4. Considered PBPP criteria, both qualitative and quantitative, in the development of CMMPO certification documents including the 2026-2030 TIP screening and selection, LRTP implementation, Corridor Profile efforts, and other transportation planning activities – **Ongoing**
5. Coordinate with the Transportation Program Manager’s Performance Management Subcommittee on Performance Management target setting efforts with MassDOT and MPO’s, as needed – **As required**
6. Continue to assist the WRTA with any related work regarding the Public Transit Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) and the Transit Asset Management (TAM) Plan. If needed, assist the CMMPO in establishing their own customized transit asset and safety targets or follow the WRTA’s targets and integrate them into the CMMPO planning process – **Ongoing**
7. Prepare and submit WRTA and related transit performance data to FTA National Transit Database annually, and to MassDOT Rail and Transit Division on a monthly, quarterly and annual basis – **Ongoing**
8. Provide WRTA transit performance data in response to public information requests or in support of WRTA fare or service planning activities – **As required**

Task Title Performance Management Analysis and Reporting Ref. # 2.4

Funding Program/\$					
	FHWA/FTA/PL		FTA Section 5307 (through WRTA)		
Participants	FHWA	State	FTA	WRTA	Total
CMRPC	44,000	11,000			55,000

Task 2.5: Housing, Economic and Transportation Integration

Description

Housing, Economic and Transportation Integration is a new task included as part of FY 25 UPWP. As part of this task CMMPO will hire a consultant to develop a Regional Housing and Transportation integration plan. This plan will include identifying and working with stakeholders e.g. Affordable housing organizations, Housing Authorities, real estate developers etc. that are responsible for providing and maintaining the housing stock in Central Mass. Also work with the Economic Development Organization to identify gaps to accessibility to economic opportunities.

The Housing and Transportation integration plan will provide for consideration of projects and strategies that will promote consistency between transportation improvements and State and local housing patterns (in addition to planned growth and economic development patterns).

Previous Work

The CMRPC staff has undertaken several Community level Housing production plans and assisted communities with the MBTA zoning requirement. Also, the CMRPC is the Economic Development Organization for the region and helps in prioritizing regional economic development projects. Also, the CMMPO has included Transportation Linkages chapter as part of the previous three Long Range Transportation Plans that include discussion about various landuse and economic development considerations as part of transportation planning.

Some of the mapping and analysis work include:

- Update of the MassBuilds database as part of the LRTP updates
- Town level Housing Production plans
- Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs 2023)
- Accessibility analysis using the Conveyal data

Procedures

The CMMPO staff is committed to taking into consideration the landuse factors such as housing and economic development while developing transportation strategies for the region. The CMMPO staff will continue supporting the landuse staff with development of the housing production plans and economic development strategies. The development of the Regional Housing and Transportation Integration plan will allow to better understand the gaps in both housing and transportation in the region and to develop strategies to mitigate the gaps and provide better access to existing landuse.

Products and Schedule

1. Release RFP and select consultant to create a Housing and Transportation Integration plan – **1st Quarter, FFY 2025**
2. Work with consultant to develop the draft Housing and Transportation Integration plan – **3rd Quarter, FFY 2025**

3. Finalize Central Mass Regional Housing and Transportation Integration Plan – *4th Quarter, FFY 2025*
4. Update of the MassBuilds database on a regular basis – *Ongoing*
5. Participate in Town level Housing Production plans – *Ongoing*
6. Participate in any updates to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS Plan) – *Ongoing*

Task Title	Housing, Economic and Transportation Integration	Ref. #	2.5
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Funding Program/\$					
Participants	FHWA/FTA/ PL*		FTA Section 5307 (through WRTA)		Total
	FHWA	State	FTA	WRTA	
CMRPC	200,000	50,000			250,000

* De-obligated PL funds from past 3 years

Element 3: Transportation Plan Refinement Activities

Task 3.1: Corridor Study

Description

A *Corridor Profile* integrates the information generated by the transportation Management Systems along a particular roadway corridor and analyzes Performance-Based Planning and Programming (PBPP) data, recommends both operational and physical improvements, and identifies project candidates or areas for further study. Utilizing the range of data and analyses produced by the various transportation Management Systems maintained by staff as well as the CMMPO's planning partners, *Corridor Profile* efforts allow for the comprehensive integration and consideration of a range of performance-based planning factors along the region's federal-aid highway system. Further, coordination with the WRTA will occur when analyzing transit-related activities along a study corridor. Ultimately, improvement options are suggested for consideration by MassDOT and the host communities. When consensus is reached, proposed improvement projects can be screened and prioritized by the CMMPO for potential future year programming in the annual TIP.

Previous Work

Corridor Profile efforts to date include:

- **FFY 2005:** Route 9 East, Shrewsbury and Westborough
- **FFY 2006:** Route 20 West, Auburn and Oxford
- **FFY 2007:** Route 9 West, Worcester, Leicester and Spencer
- **FFY 2008:** Routes 12/16/197, Dudley, Webster and Douglas (Thompson, CT)
- **FFY 2009/2010:** Route 140 Princeton (Sterling and Westminster MRPC communities)
- **FFY 2013/2014:** Route 31, Holden, Paxton and Spencer
- **FFY 2015/2016:** Route 12 and Southbridge Street, Auburn and Worcester
- **FFY 2017:** Route 140, West Boylston, Boylston and Shrewsbury
- **FFY 2019/2020:** Route 20, Sturbridge
- **FFY 2021:** Sutton Avenue and Central Turnpike, Oxford and Sutton
- **FFY 2022:** Route 62, Berlin
- **FFY 2023/2024:** Route 12 (West Boylston Street), Worcester

Procedures

CMMPO staff work efforts for FFY 2025 will include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following:

- The Rutland Route 122A *Corridor Profile* will be compiled and completed during this program year. Always evolving, *Corridor Profile* studies are presently streamlined and concise to increase accessibility. Corridor Profile work includes the analysis of data from the following Management Systems:
 - Congestion Management Process (CMP)
 - Transportation Safety Planning Program
 - Pavement Management System (PMS)

- Bridge Management System (BMS), maintained by MassDOT
- Freight Planning
- Transit Planning (coordinate with WRTA, when needed)
- Traffic Counting
- Corridor Profile components will include:
 - Basic summarization of adjacent land use and preparation of standardized “Environmental Profile” maps.
 - Formulation of short, medium and longer-term improvements, both operational and physical.
 - Preparation of report document, complete with color graphics and maps, with an accompanying Technical Appendix.
 - Meetings with host community officials, as deemed necessary.

Products and Schedule

1. Compilation of the Rutland Route 122A Corridor Profile report document with associated Technical Appendices. The completed document will summarize all data collection, analysis results, and suggested multi-modal improvement options for host community consideration – **4th Quarter, FFY 2025**
2. Hold Corridor Profile informational meetings with host community, as needed. Meetings typically focus on the corridor’s data and the suggested improvement options developed for the consideration of MassDOT and the Corridor Profile host community – **4th Quarter, FFY 2025**

Task Title	Corridor Profile Study			Ref. #	3.1
Funding Program/\$					
	FHWA/FTA/PL		FTA Section 5307 (through WRTA)		
Participants	FHWA	State	FTA	WRTA	Total
CMRPC	40,000	10,000			50,000

Task 3.2: Congestion Management Process Project Development

Description

MassDOT predecessor agencies, the RPAs, the MBTA, and the RTAs initially developed the Massachusetts Congestion Management Process (CMP) (then called a Congestion Management “System”) as a cooperative effort. CMRPC staff served on the first Congestion Technical Team established in 1994. The team was charged with the responsibility for the overall design of the Commonwealth’s CMP as well as the development and evaluation of various “strategies” or improvement options. Although considered a statewide system, CMRPC has been responsible for both developing, evolving, and maintaining the region’s customized CMP on behalf of the CMMPO within the framework established by FHWA’s CMP guidance. Participating state agencies have and are anticipated to continue providing technical support to the RPAs.

The CMP, as defined in federal regulation, is intended to serve as a systematic process that provides for safe and effective integrated management and operation of the multimodal transportation system. This process includes:

- Development of congestion management objectives.
- Establishment of measures of multimodal transportation system performance.
- Collection of data and system performance monitoring to define the extent and duration of congestion and determine the causes of congestion.
- Identification of congestion management strategies.
- Implementation activities, including identification of an implementation schedule and possible funding sources for each strategy.
- Evaluation of the effectiveness of implemented strategies.

The ongoing public outreach effort associated with the CMP will continue. The CMMPO Advisory Committee will continue providing guidance as necessary while ongoing public outreach efforts will also continue to provide opportunities for comment and suggestions.

Previous Work

- Produced Progress Reports. (1995-Present)
- Conducted Level of Service (LOS) analyses at identified critical intersections and suggested improvement options for consideration. (1998-Present)
- MassDOT-Highway maintained Park and Ride facility in Berlin on Route 62 at I-495 has been a long-term monitoring location under the region’s ongoing CMP effort (1995-Present). Four additional MassDOT Park and Ride lots located in Auburn, Millbury, and Sturbridge have also been monitored. (2013-Present)

- Refined the focus roadway network utilizing the 2020 base-year regional Travel Demand Forecasting Model to identify roadway segments where congestion currently exists or is projected to occur by 2050. (2023)
- Compiled inventory of all previously suggested, CMP-derived improvement options accompanied by subsequent development of a CMP “Toolbox” of recognized “Best Practice” roadway improvement procedures aimed at addressing identified congestion in the planning region. (2013)
- Critical intersection monitoring efforts to measure traffic growth to potentially suggest improvement options and/or assess improvement project effectiveness. (Ongoing)
- Traffic Bottleneck Reduction Program Progress Report (2011 and 2013). Bottleneck analysis is now included in the annual CMP report. (2014-Present)
- Collected bicycle and pedestrian data at all TMC intersections. (2016-Present)
- Studied on-time performance for the WRTA fixed-route buses to help determine where congestion is occurring. (2018-Present)
- Studied Access to Jobs data to determine how congestion both affects and limits access to jobs. (2020-Present)
- Used data from the National Performance Management Research Data Set (NPMRDS) and its vehicle probe-based travel time data to determine travel time reliability in the region. (2020-Present)

Procedures

CMRPC’s responsibilities for the FFY 2025 program year will include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following:

- Continue to comply with the FHWA guidelines on the CMP.
- CMP Analyses: As necessary, staff will continue to identify, screen, and prioritize strategies to alleviate measured congestion. Various types of data will be collected to identify priority areas. The data includes:
 - Turning Movement Counts: Observation of peak travel period traffic flows and signal timing and phasing data will be utilized to conduct capacity analyses (LOS) at identified critical intersections.
 - Travel Time and Delay Studies: Roadway segments observed in the field and analyzed to determine where congestion exists.
 - MassDOT-maintained Park and Ride Utilization: Park and Ride lots are checked monthly to determine the typical usage of each lot.
 - Bottlenecks: Collect field data to verify the top bottlenecks identified by the travel Demand Forecasting Model in the CMMPO region.

- Bicycle and Pedestrian Counts: Collect as part of a TMC. These field observations help determine if the intersection is a high multi-modal activity location.
 - WRTA Fixed-Route Buses: Analyze bus routes to determine those roadway segments exhibiting congestion based on on-time performance data.
 - Traffic Volumes: Consider high volume roadways as part of the criteria used to identify congestion.
 - Safety Analysis: Identify areas with a high number of crashes.
 - Accessibility to Jobs: Using data provided by MassDOT, include accessibility to jobs analysis to determine potential congested corridors. The Accessibility Observatory data could also be used to identify where congestion contributes most to decreased access to jobs across the region.
 - Regional Integrated Transportation Information System (RITIS): Provided by MassDOT, this tool is used to help determine congested corridors.
- The results of the regional Travel Demand Forecasting Model maintained by staff will continue to be used to screen all roadway segments, major intersections, and bottleneck locations in the region's federal-aid highway system. A 2020 base-year model is used to identify roadway segments where congestion currently exists or is projected to occur by 2050.
 - Collect data at TIP project locations to compare delays before and after the improvements were implemented.
 - Create an online map for CMP-related data.
 - Reaffirmed by the BIL, staff will continue to follow the evolution of applicable CMP-related Performance Measures by US DOT. Staff anticipates working with MassDOT through the Transportation Manager's Group to continue the evolution of PBPP using the nationally required measures, targets and periodic evaluations to assess the results of the region's ongoing priority CMP activities.

Products and Schedule

1. Completion of CMP data collection activities and analyses – **4th Quarter, FFY 2025**
2. Analysis of data, mapping and integration with other Management System and Performance-Based Planning and Programming data – **Ongoing**
3. Creation of online map for CMP-related data – **2nd and 3rd Quarter, FFY 2025**
4. Refine and evolve CMP Performance Measures, as necessary – **Ongoing**

Funding Program/\$					
	FHWA//FTA/PL		FTA Section 5307 (through WRTA)		
Participants	FHWA	State	FTA	WRTA	Total
CMRPC	48,000	12,000			60,000

Task 3.3: Transportation Safety and Security Project Development

Description

FHWA, FTA, and MassDOT have designated transportation safety as a top priority. The CMMPO's principal Transportation Safety Project Development goal is to recommend and program improvements that reduce or eliminate recurring crash incidents and associated fatalities, injuries, property damage, ultimately reaching zero-deaths within the transportation system.

MassDOT's Strategic Highway Safety Program (SHSP) sets policies and priorities for safety planning and projects statewide. The 2023 Massachusetts SHSP was consistent with requirements outlined in the Federal transportation legislation, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). The CMRPC was a recipient of a Safe Streets for All grant for a regional safety action plan and demonstration project in the City of Worcester. One of the goals of this plan will be to further promote SHSP goals and vision zero objectives in the region and will be an ongoing activity for the commission.

In addition, the Worcester Regional Transit Authority (WRTA) and its contractors are responsible for transit safety in accordance with Federal and MassDOT requirements. CMRPC Transit staff monitor and report transit safety performance statistics to both. Staff are responsible for assisting the WRTA with Transit Asset Management (TAM) Plan, which directly supports transportation safety, and the Public Transit Agency Safety Plan (PTASP).

Finally, the CMMPO acts as the fiduciary agent of the Central Region Homeland Security Advisory Council (CRHSAC) supporting all tasks and activities related to security planning in the region. Transportation security refers to both personal and homeland security, including the attention to vulnerability regarding intentional attack and natural disasters and associated evacuation procedures. The CMMPO's priority is to ensure that the transportation system is secure for all users.

Previous Work

- Completion of a CMMPO 2017-2019 Safety Report. The Report contained the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)-eligible crash locations for automobiles, bicycles and pedestrians. The report also highlighted the region's top crash 'corridors' and identified the top three crash locations in each CMMPO community, regardless of its status in the region's 'Top 5%' crash location listing.
- Participation in MassDOT Roadway Safety Audits for current and future year HSIP-eligible TIP projects.
- Initiation of Road Safety Audits (RSAs) on non HSIP-eligible projects to provide communities with safety recommendations that could be incorporated into annual roadway projects.
- Mapping of crash data to assist various stakeholder groups' safety improvement efforts.
- Creation of SHSP Emphasis Area Index Map for Region to identify priority road segments.
- Assistance to MassDOT staff in developing "Systemic Approaches to Low-Cost Safety Enhancements".

- Assistance with development of a Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency-funded Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan for the region.
- Assistance to WRTA with development of a Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) and periodic updates.
- Coordination of public transit providers operating in the region through CMMPO Advisory Committee activities supporting 3C transportation process.
- Assistance to WRTA with TAM Plan and PTASP development, monitoring, and reporting.
- Assistance to communities with local Neighborhood Safety Walks in areas with high truck volumes.
- Applied and received a Safe Streets for All regional safety plan and demonstration project grant.

Procedures

Related to security, staff will continue to implement the CMMPO security action plan by working with current stakeholders in security planning (i.e. WRTA and the Homeland Security Council) to assess gaps in planning for threats and to determine how they might be filled.

In March 2016, FHWA published a Final Rule establishing performance measures for State Departments of Transportation to implement Highway Safety Improvement Programs as required by MAP-21 and carried forward in provisions of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). Moreover, the CMMPO adopted the State's safety targets (PM1) and the tasks included herein contribute towards those targets. Therefore, CMMPO staff annually review the metrics included in 2050 Connections to better reflect federal guidance and State's targets. Staff will measure progress according to its goals and performance metrics by:

- **Developing 2025 CMMPO Regional Safety Report:** Staff will utilize the most up to date data from MassDOT to complete a comprehensive safety report in the region while examining motor vehicle crashes, vulnerable road user crashes, and other safety trends. Staff will work in conjunction with MassDOT to complete the report. The report will consider the 2023 SHSP and 2023 Massachusetts Vulnerable Road Users Safety Assessment. The report will use Regional Environmental Justice Plus (REJ+) data to help safety planning priorities.
- **Conducting Vehicle Crash Analysis and Monitoring Activities:** Utilizing a management systems approach, staff will analyze MassDOT crash data to update the CMMPO Safety Database. The safety database will contain a detailed list of top crash locations, regional priority corridors, fatal crash locations and clusters, and vulnerable road users crash locations and clusters in the region. Past TIP projects will be evaluated for safety improvements and will be considered for quick build improvements in coordination with regional communities and MassDOT. This will be done in coordination with the 2025 CMMPO Regional Safety Report.

- **Coordinating with the Congestion Management Process:** Staff will use the high crash location report in conjunction with congested locations derived from the travel demand model to analyze the relationship between congestion and crash rates. This will be done in coordination with the 2025 CMMPO Regional Safety Report.
- **Conducting a Transit/Pedestrian Interface Assessment:** Staff will continue working with the WRTA to analyze and incorporate ridership data into CMRPC’s management systems database. Ongoing analyses regarding stop locations near more vulnerable road user crash locations will be shared with the WRTA and the City of Worcester (and in other communities, if applicable) to implement safety measures. This will be done in coordination with the 2025 CMMPO Regional Safety Report. Staff will support MassDOT’s VRU Bus Stop Improvement Project.
- **Identifying Pedestrian/Bicyclist Activity Areas:** CMRPC continues to work with various stakeholders such as Mass in Motion, MassRIDES, Worcester Safe Routes to School Taskforce, Walk/Bike Worcester, Walk/Bike Massachusetts, and the Worcester Department of Public Health and with the City of Worcester Transportation Advisory Group to address safety and reduce vulnerable road user fatalities and serious injuries in the City of Worcester. This will be done in coordination with the 2025 CMMPO Regional Safety Report.
- **Coordinating with Massachusetts Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP):** Staff continues to participate in the implementation of the Statewide SHSP. Additionally, staff works with MassDOT in the Systemic Approaches to Low-Cost Safety Enhancements effort. This will be done in coordination with the 2025 CMMPO Regional Safety Report.
- **Supporting Education and Enforcement Activities:** Staff will continue its participation in the City of Worcester’s Transportation Advisory Group and will identify opportunities to work with the enforcement agencies to improve safety in the region’s communities. Staff will use the 2023 Massachusetts Vulnerable Road Users Safety Assessment to identify high-risk areas for VRUs and help educate the public on concerns and opportunities for intervention in collaboration with regional communities.
- **Opportunities for Transit Safety Training Activities:** Staff will continue to identify potential training activities related to safety in the transit system in coordination with CRHSAC. Some potential activities may include cyberattacks and/or active shooters in transit facilities.
- **Support for Emerging Technology and Practices:** Staff will collaborate with member communities and MassDOT to identify and implement pilot projects using emerging technologies and practices.
- **Supporting Road Safety Audits:** Staff will continue to participate in Road Safety Audits within the region and will provide organizers and participants with relevant information regarding SHSP emphasis areas and motorist and non-motorist crash data. Staff will use the 2025 CMMPO Regional Safety Report to help inform participation.

Products and Schedule

1. Analysis of past safety data and projects to identify trends and assess improvements, particularly past TIP projects that utilized HSIP funding in coordination with the development of 2025 CMMPO Regional Safety Report – **1st Quarter, FFY 2025**
2. Project Management activities for the SS4A Action Plan and Demonstration Project – **1st to 4th Quarter, FFY 2025**
3. Identification of opportunities for Demonstration Projects or the celebration of other educational events to promote safety for pedestrians through emerging technologies and practices and in coordination with the development of the 2025 CMMPO Regional Safety Report – **As needed**
4. Updated annual Performance Measure Number 1: Safety (PM1) and analyzed current safety data and trends as part of the LRTP and TIP implementation in coordination with the development of the 2025 CMMPO Regional Safety Report – **3rd Quarter, FFY 2025**
5. Conducted/Participated in Roadway Safety Audits for current and future TIP projects with high crash locations in coordination with the development of the 2025 CMMPO Regional Safety Report – **As needed**
6. Conducted/Participated in Walk and Bike Audits and identify future TIP projects and/or microprojects in coordination with the development of the 2025 CMMPO Regional Safety Report – **As needed**
7. Coordinated and participated in the implementation of the Massachusetts Strategic Highway Safety Plan in coordination with the development of the 2025 CMMPO Regional Safety Report – **Ongoing**
8. Identified safety-related projects or projects with safety components, with special attention to high priority crash locations and work with the communities or MassDOT to develop TIP projects – **Ongoing**
9. Continued participation in the Executive-level Traffic Records Coordinating Committee (ETRCC) in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Traffic Records Improvement – **Ongoing**
10. Updated the CMMPO Safety Database in coordination with the development of the 2025 CMMPO Regional Safety Report – **1st and 2nd Quarter, FFY 2025**
11. Analyzed safety data and identified opportunities for systemic safety improvements in the region in coordination with the development of the 2025 CMMPO Regional Safety Report – **2nd Quarter, FFY 2025**
12. Promoted the Safe Routes to School Program in the region and worked actively with at least one school in the implementation of the program – **Ongoing**
13. Coordinated with communities to continue to build the evacuation and mass shelter capability resource guide – **Ongoing**

- 14. Coordinated and prepared content relevant to WRTA TAM Plan, and PTASP at WRTA's direction – **Ongoing**
- 15. Utilized current safety data to aid CMMPO communities in the implementation of priorities identified in 2050 Connections and the 2025 CMMPO Regional Safety Report – **Ongoing**
- 16. Identified and mapped the top 100 crash locations in the region based on data provided by MassDOT and in coordination with other data collection efforts – **3rd Quarter, FFY 2025**
- 17. Coordinated and managed the Safe Streets for All Grant with City of Worcester – **Ongoing**
- 18. Analyzed past TIP projects for safety improvements and evaluate them for further quick build improvements to enhance safety – **Ongoing**

Task Title **Transportation Safety Project Development** **Ref. #** **3.3**

Funding Program/\$					
Participants	FHWA/FTA/PL		FTA Section 5307 (through WRTA)		Total
	FHWA	State	FTA	WRTA	
CMRPC	48,000	12,000			60,000

Task 3.4: Asset Management

Description

The CMMPO asset management program traditionally involves federal-aid eligible roadways within the region excluding interstates and highway ramps. As discussed under Task 2.1 (Data Collection and Analysis), staff has developed a data collection cycle for various assets. Trained staff are deployed in the field utilizing mobile GIS technology to assess roadways, sidewalks, curb ramps and the conditions and other assets. Other transportation assets are inventoried and inspected by MassDOT or other agencies; their data is subsequently obtained by CMRPC staff. MassDOT's Transportation Asset Management Plan (TAMP) is also used as a guide in the development of CMRPC's Asset Management Plan. The collected pavement distress data is analyzed utilizing an appropriate software package (Cartegraph) which produces condition ratings, recommended repairs, estimated repair costs, and priority rankings.

It is anticipated that the information collected for locally maintained roadways will also benefit the region's communities as they plan their local improvements and possibly apply for federal-aid funding. To provide timely pavement, sidewalk and ADA ramp condition information for the development of the LRTP, data collection is conducted on a three-year rotating schedule on the federal-aid system, as well as rural minor collectors. As the data is collected, all related inventories, listings and scenarios are refined and published as necessary. Evaluation is conducted at locations where improvements have been listed or proposed for inclusion on the CMMPO TIP to provide information for the Performance Measures Criteria process. It is anticipated that some roadway segments may need to be analyzed on an annual basis due to the fluctuation of projects on the CMMPO TIP listing.

The asset data collection and analyses performed support CMMPO project development and prioritization within specific modal plans, including the CMMPO and statewide bicycle and pedestrian plans. These activities also support the staff's transit service planning activities for the WRTA and other transit providers at the regional level, plus implementing MassDOT Rail and Transit Division policies and funding programs.

The CMMPO is now also responsible for adopting regional performance goals, measures and targets for public transit assets. Staff works closely with the WRTA and its contractors to collect and report such data and assist with preparation and updates of the WRTA Transit Asset Management Plan (TAM Plan) and WRTA Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP).

Previous Work

Since 1991, the CMRPC staff has developed and maintained a robust regional pavement management program. This program has included the development of a pavement condition inventory for all federal-aid eligible roads, providing assistance to local communities on pavement management, and meeting with colleagues at other RPA's and MassDOT to discuss regional pavement management concepts.

In recent years, staff has used regional pavement condition data to assess the region's pavement assets, determine a regional pavement preservation backlog, and identify the investment required to improve the region's pavement conditions. This analysis has included a pavement condition map, regional

condition “score,” and a percentage breakdown of road miles in each of the five condition categories: ‘excellent’, ‘good’, ‘fair’, ‘poor’, and ‘very poor’. Pavement data analysis was considered in all transportation research and concept evaluations.

Beginning in FFY 2019, CMRPC established a comprehensive asset management program, which builds upon its decades-long pavement management experience. Staff activities under this program include inventorying and analyzing various transportation infrastructures along federal-aid eligible roads in the CMRPC region.

Regional Pavement Management System (1991 – 2019)

- Town maintained federal-aid eligible roads. (1991 – 2005)
- Town and state maintained federal-aid eligible roads. (2005-2019)

Regional Asset Management System (2019 – Present)

- Pavement
 - Town and state maintained federal-aid eligible roads. (2019- Present)
- Sidewalks
 - Sidewalks along town and state maintained federal-aid eligible roads. (2019 – Present)
- Curb Ramps
 - Curb ramps along town and state maintained federal-aid eligible roads. (2019 – Present)
- Crosswalks
 - Crosswalks along town and state maintained federal-aid eligible roads. (2019 – Present)
- Traffic Signals
 - Traffic signals along town and state maintained federal-aid eligible roads. (2020 – Present)
- Bridges and Culverts
 - Bridges and culverts along town and state maintained federal-aid eligible roads. (2020 – Present)
- Developed CMRPC Asset Management Dashboard. (2019)
- Bike Facilities
 - Bike parking and maintenance facilities along town and state maintained federal-aid eligible roads. (2023 – Present)

Procedures

As required by MAP-21 and carried forward by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), staff will closely follow the evolution of applicable USDOT Performance Management Measures and MassDOT's TAMP. CMRPC staff has updated its performance metrics for inclusion in the Long Range Transportation Plan, *2050 Connections*. To measure progress according to CMMPO goals and performance metrics, this work task will include but is not limited to the following activities:

Pavement Management

- Update the regional budget and condition scenarios utilizing the Cartegraph pavement management software for the Asset Management Database.
- Analyze collected pavement distress data and calculated conditions for the Performance Measures Criteria process.
- Work with communities to review/study or design projects to address the prioritized needs in the Asset Management and System Operations program area of the 2024 Regional Asset Management Report and 2050 Connections.

Sidewalk, Curb Ramp and Crosswalk Management

- Analyze collected sidewalk, curb ramp and crosswalk data for the Performance Measures Criteria process for the TIP.
- Update and refine the sidewalk, curb ramp and crosswalk prioritization listing for the Asset Management Dashboard.
- Update the backlog and repair cost estimations utilizing the CMMPO average cost figures for the Asset Management Dashboard.

Bridge Management

- Utilize the MassDOT Bridge Inspection Management System for the Performance Measures Criteria Process for the TIP.
- Update and refine the bridge prioritization listing using the MassDOT Bridge Inspection Management System for the TIP.
- Update the backlog and repair cost estimations utilizing guidance from MassDOT and the CMMPO TIP.

Culvert Management

- Utilize the MassDOT Culvert Inventory and the North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative (NAACC) database for the Performance Measures Criteria Process for the TIP.
- Analyze collected culvert assessment data and barrier conditions for vulnerable culverts and potential projects.

- Update and maintain data, maps, and the [CMMPO Culvert Assessment Program Dashboard](#) and [CMMPO Culvert Assessment Program Hubsite](#).
- Create a town report and ArcGIS Dashboard following completion of culvert assessments in the Towns of Boylston and Blackstone.
- Integrate other assets into the culvert database.
- Provide communities with current MassDOT and NAACC culvert data to help inform potential projects.
- Encourage communities to replace and maintain vulnerable culverts to maintain the region network.
- Assist with grant opportunities to repair or replace vulnerable culverts.

Traffic Signal Management

- Analyze collected Traffic Signal data for the Performance Measures Criteria process as needed for the TIP.
- Update and refine the Traffic Signals prioritization listing for the TIP and Asset Management Dashboard.

Bike Facilities

- Maintain the Integrate integration of the Bikeability Index and the Statewide Bike Plan as a guide into the asset management process for the TIP.
- Analyze collected bike facility data for the performance Measures Criteria Process for the TIP.
- Update and refine the bike facilities prioritization listing for the TIP and Asset Management Database.

Transit

- Assist WRTA with monitoring performance according to current TAM and PTASP performance targets.
- Integrate targets into CMMPO process and evaluate/adjust as needed.

Regional Asset Management System

- Prepare 2025 CMMPO Asset Management Report utilizing information from the various tasks associated under UPWP task 3.1
- Prepare a newly updated Regional Asset Management Dashboard that will also reflect the finding of the 2025 CMMPO Asset Management Report.
- Integrate data collected as part of the CMMPO data collection program (UPWP task 2.1) into one connected and integrated asset management database.
- Utilize the CMRPC Drone Program to help inform the regional asset management database.

Products and Schedule

Pavement Management

1. Completion of the pavement analysis for the 2025 Regional Asset Management Report – **2nd Quarter, FFY 2025**
2. Maintenance of integration of other factors that impact pavement performance such as traffic counts and truck volume to improve the prioritization methodology and the ability of the regional model to predict pavement conditions – **Ongoing**
3. Maintenance of integration of other assets in the pavement condition database – **Ongoing**
4. Provided communities with current pavement survey information to help inform potential roadway projects – **3rd and 4th Quarter FFY 2025**
5. Provided MassDOT with current pavement survey information and model analysis for informational purposes and to help support their efforts to maintain the Federal-Aid highway system – **3rd and 4th Quarter FFY2025**
6. Encouraged communities to repave town level high priority federal-aid roadways to maintain the region's Overall Condition Index – **Ongoing**

Sidewalks and Curb Ramp Management

7. Refine methods for prioritizing potential gap and repair projects for sidewalks, curb ramps and crosswalks in coordination with UPWP task 3.5 and in coordination with the development of the 2025 Regional Asset Management Report – **2nd Quarter, FFY 2025**
8. Completion of sidewalk, curb ramp and crosswalk analysis for the Regional Asset Management database and 2025 Regional Asset Management Report – **2nd Quarter, FFY 2025**
9. Maintenance of integration of other assets into the sidewalk, ramps and crosswalk database – **Ongoing**
10. Provided communities with current sidewalk, curb ramp and crosswalk survey information to help inform potential projects – **3rd and 4th Quarter, FFY 2025**
11. Provided MassDOT with current sidewalk, curb ramp and crosswalk survey information to help inform potential projects – **3rd and 4th Quarter, FFY 2025**
12. Encouraged communities to replace and maintain town level high priority federal-aid sidewalks and curb ramps to maintain the region network – **Ongoing**

Bridge Management

13. Refined methods for tracking the conditions of the regions bridges and utilizing the MassDOT Bridge Inspection Management System in coordination with the development of the 2025 Regional Asset Management Report – **2nd Quarter, FFY 2025**
14. Refined methods for prioritizing Bridge projects utilizing data from MassDOT in coordination with the development of the 2025 Regional Asset Management Report – **2nd Quarter, FFY 2025**

15. Completed bridge analysis for the in coordination with the development of the 2025 Regional Asset Management Report – **2nd Quarter, FFY 2025**
16. Maintenance of integration of other assets into the bridge database – **Ongoing**
17. Provided communities with current MassDOT bridge condition information to help inform potential projects – **3rd and 4th Quarter, FFY 2025**
18. Encouraged communities to replace and maintain town level high priority federal-aid bridges to maintain the region network – **Ongoing**

Culvert Management

19. Used the MassDOT Culvert Inventory and NAACC database for the Performance Measures Criteria Process for the TIP – **As needed/requested**
20. Updated and maintained data, maps, and the CMMPO Culvert Program Dashboard and CMMPO Culvert Program Hubsite – **Ongoing**
21. Prepared a final report and ArcGIS Dashboard outlining the results of culvert assessments in the Towns of Boylston and Blackstone to share with town officials – **4th Quarter FFY 2025**
22. Maintenance of integration of other assets into the culvert database – **Ongoing**
23. Provided communities with current MassDOT and NAACC culvert data to help inform potential projects – **Ongoing**
24. Encouraged communities to replace and maintain vulnerable culverts to maintain the region network – **Ongoing**
25. Assisted communities with grants to repair or replace vulnerable culverts – **As needed/requested**

Traffic Signal Management

26. Refine methods for tracking the conditions of the region's traffic signals using the CMMPO database and the MassDOT database in coordination with the development of the 2025 Regional Asset Management Report – **2nd Quarter, FFY 2025**
27. Refine methods for prioritizing traffic signals utilizing data from MassDOT and the CMMPO data collection efforts in coordination with the development of the 2025 Regional Asset Management Report – **2nd Quarter, FFY 2025**
28. Integrated average delay and Level of Service data into the regional signal inventory to help prioritization efforts – **4th Quarter 2025**
29. Completed traffic signal analysis for the Regional Asset Management Database in coordination with the development of the 2025 Regional Asset Management Report – **2nd Quarter, FFY 2025**
30. Maintenance of integration of other assets into the traffic signal database – **Ongoing**
31. Provided communities with current traffic signal condition information to help inform potential projects – **3rd and 4th Quarter, FFY 2025**

32. Encouraged communities to replace and maintain town level high priority federal-aid traffic signal locations to maintain the region network – **Ongoing**

Bike Facilities

33. Refine methods for tracking the location and conditions of the bike facilities using the CMMPO database and the MassDOT database in coordination with the development of the 2025 Regional Asset Management Report – **2nd Quarter, FFY 2025**
34. Refine methods for prioritizing bike facility projects utilizing data from MassDOT and the CMMPO data collection efforts in coordination with the development of the 2025 Regional Asset Management Report – **2nd Quarter, FFY 2025**
35. Completed bike facility analysis for the Regional Asset Management Database in coordination with the development of the 2025 Regional Asset Management Report – **2nd Quarter, FFY 2025**
36. Maintenance of integration of other assets into the bike facility database – **3rd Quarter, FFY 2025**
37. Provided communities with bike facility condition and location information to help inform potential projects – **3rd and 4th Quarter, FFY 2025**
38. Encouraged communities to expand and maintain town level high priority federal-aid bike facility locations to maintain the region network – **Ongoing**
39. Continued to refine methods for prioritizing potential bike facility gap projects in coordination with the development of the 2025 Regional Asset Management Report – **2nd Quarter, FFY 2025**
40. Maintenance of integration of the bike ability index into the asset management process – **3rd Quarter, FFY 2025**

Transit

41. Continued assisting the WRTA with monitoring performance according to current TAM and PTASP performance targets – **Ongoing**
42. Continued Integration of WRTA targets into CMMPO project evaluation process – **Ongoing**

Asset Management Planning

43. Created a new the regional asset management map and online dashboard efforts in coordination with the development of the 2025 Regional Asset Management Report – **2nd Quarter, FFY 2025**
44. Updated the priority listing of assets efforts in coordination with the development of the 2025 Regional Asset Management Report – **2nd Quarter, FFY 2025**
45. Conducted public outreach with CMMPO communities, MassDOT and the general public to inform and educate them about the CMMPO Asset Management Database and the current state of assets – **Ongoing**

- 46. Assist WRTA with maintenance and updating of TAM, and PTASP Plans; reporting performance against existing targets to MassDOT and NTD, and integrating applicable elements into CMMPO Performance Management process – **1st and 2nd Quarters, FFY 2024**
- 47. Prepared 2025 CMMPO Asset Management Report covering all assets monitored as part of UPWP task 3.4 – **4th Quarter 2025**

Task Title	Asset Management	Ref. #	3.4
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Funding Program/\$					
Participants	FHWA/FTA/PL		FTA Section 5307 (through WRTA)		Total
	FHWA	State	FTA	WRTA	
CMRPC	48,000	12,000			60,000

Task 3.5: Livability (Bike/Pedestrian, Public Health/Travel and Tourism)

Description

Central Massachusetts is committed to making the region and its communities livable by continuing planning in areas of active transportation, public health and travel and tourism. As transportation costs and congestion increase, people look for cost effective, healthier, and environmentally conscious modes of travel. Both walking and biking are growing as recognized healthy transportation modes, both regionally and nationally. It is important to develop and support local initiatives towards safe, convenient, and equitable facilities for use by cyclists and pedestrians in the Central Massachusetts region.

The objective of this task is to integrate the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) planning priority areas with the goals, objectives, and implementation of the CMMPO long-range transportation plan, 2050 Connections. Local and regional efforts regarding the promotion of active transportation have focused on the implementation of a Complete Streets approach that has been incorporated into MassDOT and FHWA guidance documentation and programming. The CMMPO planning efforts are intended to help the Commonwealth work towards mode shift goals outlined in Complete Streets efforts, as well as promoting a complete and safe trail network and other healthy transportation options for all residents of Central Massachusetts.

During FFY2025, the CMMPO plans to: foster better connections between health and transportation; enhance access to jobs, schools, and other services; capture more short trips by walking and biking; and capitalize on the value of existing community amenities for travel and tourism.

Previous Work

- Developed the 2021 *Regional Bicycle Compatibility Index* (BCI) to further expand on the 2018 Regional Bicycle Plan as an analysis of the current condition of federal-aid roadways and their ability to incorporate bicycle accommodations.
- Partnered with MassBike to conduct public engagement activities related to the implementation of the Worcester E-Bike Pilot Program.
- Continues to participate on the MA Bicyclist and Pedestrian Advisory Board at the statewide level.
- Worked with the WalkBike Worcester and Walk Boston to pilot the Walk Audit Academy program, a community-led assessment tool to educate and inform the general public about the benefits of walking and biking and the need for accessibility improvements.
- Developed the 2021 *Exploration of Bikeshare in the CMRPC Region* which explores the potential opportunities and challenges faced within the region related to bikeshare type, the geographic and demographic characteristics of the region, and with regards to commuting, recreation, and tourism.

- Collaborated and supported the CMMPO members communities in work related to Complete Streets, developing Prioritization Plans and supporting implementation of Complete Streets projects.
- Continued discussions and planning efforts related to the development and expansion of the Boston Worcester Airline Trail (BWALT), the Massachusetts Central Rail Trail (MCRT), the Blackstone Valley Greenway, the Southern New England Trunk Trail (SNETT) and the Grand Trunk Trail, among many other local trails.
- Collaborated with RCCP staff in grant writing for funding from multiple federal and statewide grant programs, including Mass Trails grant, Reconnecting Communities and Thriving Communities, among others.
- Developed the region’s Age Friendly and Dementia Friendly Action Plan and worked with Massachusetts Healthy Aging Collaborative in the regional Age Friendly and Dementia Friendly designation.

Procedures

Building upon prior efforts noted above, staff will continue to broaden their comprehensive approach to planning for healthy transportation modes, access to essential services, and travel and tourism.

- Continue to work with WalkBike Worcester, Walk Massachusetts, MassBike, and other regional stakeholders on identifying implementable projects, initiatives, and policies related to bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Provide technical support for policy and program developments related to bicyclist and pedestrian advocacy.
- Continue to work with regional stakeholders to promote bicyclist and pedestrian infrastructure development, its connections with public transportation, and its safety through the Complete Streets, Shared Streets and Spaces, Safe Routes to School and Safe Streets for All programs. This includes identifying opportunities for pedestrian improvements, shared bicycle and transit options.
- Work with municipalities, MassDOT, and stakeholders to develop stand-alone Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) projects and MicroProjects for programming in future year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) financial scenarios.
- Work with municipalities, MassDOT, and other stakeholders to develop smaller-scaled projects that can be funded through Complete Streets, Shared Streets and Spaces, Safe Routes to School, MicroProjects and the new FHWA program, Safe Streets for All.
- Continue participation with the Massachusetts Bicyclist and Pedestrian Advisory Board (MABPAB) and other related statewide groups.
- Continue participation with the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor and the Boston-Worcester Air Line Trail (BWALT) stakeholder groups to implement trails development locally and across the region.

- Continue work with Worcester DPH, local boards of health and other organizations and stakeholders on the implementation of the Community Health Improvement Plan, and other health related efforts.
- Continue to work on broad-based community initiatives with the WRTA, WalkBike Worcester, Worcester DPH, Safe Routes to School, the WRTA Riders' Advisory Committee (RAC) and the Transportation Advisory Group (TAG) and other groups to promote livability, access to essential services, and alternative modes of travel.
- Work with municipalities to support broad-based healthy aging initiatives through engagement with AARP, Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs, Massachusetts Healthy Aging Collaborative, Massachusetts Councils on Aging, and other similar state resources.

Products and Schedule

1. Implementation of the 2050 Connections, with emphasis on the following topics: Bicycle and Pedestrian planning, trails, age-friendly, and safe routes to school – **Ongoing**
2. Continue working with statewide and regional partners and participating on related committees and working groups – MABPAB, CHIP, TAG, MassBike, WalkBike Worcester, Walk Massachusetts, etc. – **Ongoing**

Complete Streets:

3. Implementation of the 2050 Connections priorities through the identification of: - **Ongoing**
 - a. Assisted communities with the application of MassDOT's Complete Streets Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 3 and FHWA Complete Streets Grants Program.
 - b. Presented and participated in local stakeholder meeting and communities' committee meetings related to Complete Streets prioritization plans.
 - c. Developed and enhanced community engagement methods that raise awareness about the benefits of Complete Streets.
 - d. Identified opportunities for standalone project candidates for Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) funding through the TIP.
 - e. Continued working with stakeholders to identify and implement Microprojects (allocated TIP funds).
 - f. Worked closely with outreach Coordinators to promote Safe Routes to School opportunities that can leverage the implementation of Complete Streets.
 - g. Supported communities in the application process for Shared Streets and Spaces projects, with an emphasis on addressing local gaps in the complete streets network.
 - h. Continued working with the communities in grant writing for Mass Trails Grant projects and leverage opportunities for network connectivity and opportunities for on-road segments.

4. Continue to work with partner agencies and stakeholders on bicycle and pedestrian related events and planning efforts and on broad-based community initiatives to promote livability, access to essential services, and alternative modes of travel like demonstration/pop-up projects, bikeshare/micro-mobility, and Bay State Bike Month – **Ongoing**
5. Maintain an active transportation dashboard for the region that acts as an inventory to record existing and future multi-modal infrastructure, including priority segments and corridors identified on the 2050 Connections long-range transportation plan – **Ongoing**
 - a. Updated the regional bicycle facilities database and included it on the active transportation dashboard – **1st Quarter**
6. Collaborate and support the implementation of the MassBike’s E-Bike Program second phase by conducting public outreach events, engagement activities and safety education – **Ongoing**
 - a. Developed quarterly reports in collaboration with MassBike and other stakeholders that reflect ridership trends and emission reductions of the 100 selected e-bike participants, informed through regular check-ins and tracked miles traveled – **1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th Quarters**
7. Convene stakeholder meetings to identify opportunities to implement bikeshare pilots or programming in the region in relation to the *Exploration of Bikeshare in the CMRPC Region* findings – **Ongoing**

Trails:

8. Continue ongoing trail support of regional trail stakeholders like the Blackstone Heritage Corridor and Wachusett Greenways to expand and complete the MCRT, Blackstone River Bikeway, SNETT, and BWALT – **Ongoing**
9. Assessed the status of major regional trail corridors by community and prepared a gap analysis with actionable items at the local level. This analysis will provide the foundation for the Regional Trail Plan – **3rd Quarter**
10. Work with local communities to identify potential trail corridors to address the gaps in the regional trail network, support feasibility efforts, public engagement, among other local needs – **Ongoing**
11. Support RCCP staff in their facilitation of trail related work and projects, such as the *Trails Accessibility and Inclusion Toolkit* and other related trail discussions and technical capacity needs – **Ongoing**

Healthy Aging:

12. Continue to support healthy aging initiatives across the region by engaging communities with the Massachusetts Age- and Dementia Friendly Integration Toolkit and similar state resources or agencies – **Ongoing**
13. Coordinate with RCCP staff, Massachusetts Healthy Aging Collaborative, and the Age-Friendly Central Mass Action team in the implementation of the 2023 Age- and Dementia -Friendly Action Plan.
 - a. Focus on the facilitation of transportation-related action strategies and work in coordination with local transit authorities as well as individual community’s Councils on Aging and senior homes to establish increased mobility for people of all ages – **Ongoing**
 - b. Monitored the implementation of the transportation action items included in the Action Plan and prepared a work plan – **1st Quarter**
 - c. Developed an Age-Friendly Pedestrian Route Map in coordination with Massachusetts Healthy Aging Collaborative and the host communities – **2nd Quarter**

Safe Routes to School:

14. Continue to work with the Central MA Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Outreach Coordinators to increase school affiliation within the CMRPC region – **Ongoing**
15. Worked in collaboration with the Central MA Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Outreach Coordinators in at least one school identified on the SRTS Regional Priority List – **1st Quarter**
16. Work with state, regional and local stakeholders to identify and implement SRTS strategies as well as opportunities for project development and/or TIP programming activities – **Ongoing**

Travel and Tourism:

17. Support local communities in tasks related to wayfinding, walking tours, access to local destinations, including grant writing, project scoping, design guidelines, placemaking activities, and public engagement, among other initiatives that could impact positively the adoption of active transportation modes and support climate resiliency – **Ongoing**

Funding Program/\$					
	FHWA/FTA/PL		FTA Section 5307 (through WRTA)		
Participants	FHWA	State	FTA	WRTA	Total
CMRPC	61,351	15,338			76,689
Complete Streets	32,000	8,000			40,000

Task 3.6: Freight and Intermodal Planning

Description

The primary purpose of ongoing Freight Planning activities is to improve the performance and connectivity of the intermodal transportation system. Improvements in system performance increase the opportunities to move freight and interregional passengers with fewer impediments and at less cost. Freight planning aspects are fully considered by the CMMPO when establishing policy and in the screening, ranking and selection of both TIP and LRTP Major Infrastructure (MI) projects. Further, Freight Planning efforts provide useful inputs to the overall regional transportation planning process, particularly in the area of Performance Management.

The three main goals of Freight Planning in the region are as follows:

1. Improve the system performance of freight and interregional passenger intermodal corridors and terminals.
2. Work with host communities, decision makers and stakeholders, from both the public and private sectors. Continue to make available the most recent (as well as earlier) biannual Freight Planning Progress Reports on the agency website. Staff are available for questions or further information follow-up. Through ongoing public participation activities, staff will share the scope and findings of the Subregional Highway Freight Accommodation Assessment study series with the affected host communities. Staff will also continue to meet periodically with the providers of freight movement in the region, both railroad and trucking.
3. Assist the CMMPO in identifying, analyzing, and considering the impacts of freight movement when crafting policy and making project programming decisions. Major considerations include available funding, impacts to the natural environment and energy use. In particular, fully consider the impacts of freight movement on vulnerable REJ+ populations concerning intermodal network congestion, safety, and GHG emissions.

The CMMPO, following the intent of US DOT Freight Planning provisions, is required to provide the opportunity for input from the region's communities as well as interested stakeholders. The CMRPC staff has formed relationships with various modal transportation providers in the region, including the railroads, trucking industry, and intermodal transfer operators. It is critical for the CMMPO, host communities and stakeholders to understand the advantages and challenges of freight mobility when establishing regional transportation policy as well as screening potential improvement projects for inclusion in the TIP or LRTP. Accordingly, both the state's most recent Freight and Railroad Plans serve as primary references to ongoing regional freight planning efforts.

Previous Work

- Continuing regional Rural and Urban Freight Corridor monitoring efforts including the collection of daily traffic volumes and vehicle classification counts.
- PowerPoint presentations compiled and refined by staff have worked to inform and educate decision makers, stakeholders and the public about freight and passenger rail operations, economic impact, known challenges and identified needs in the greater region.
- Regional *Freight Planning Progress Report* documents. Earliest from 2008-2009 to the most recent, covering activities during 2020-2021. (*The compilation of the 2022-2023 edition was underway when this document was drafted.*)
- Subregional *Highway Freight Accommodation Assessment Studies* for the North, West, Southwest and Southeast Subregions, 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024, respectively.
- Assistance to regional rail freight providers submitting applications for MassDOT's Industrial Rail Access Program (IRAP), US DOT's Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant program as well as EPA emissions reduction grant funding.
- Staff ongoing review of rail freight periodical Rail Pace magazine and, as needed, the Massachusetts Motor Transportation Association e-newsletter.
- Hosted MassDOT OTP meetings for development of both the Massachusetts State Freight and Railroad Plans as well as passenger rail efforts in the greater region.

Procedures

As the CMMPO must carry out, as necessary, the Freight Planning provisions of US DOT, this work activity includes:

- CMMPO Advisory Committee activities:
 - Continue to support the freight-related efforts of the CMMPO Advisory Committee. The Committee consists of a broad membership with a wide range of expertise and experience.
 - As necessary, the staff informs the Advisory Committee about freight planning activities in the greater region, including existing operations, identified challenges and proposed/planned improvements, seeking both feedback and general guidance.
- Compilation of a "Highway Freight Accommodation Assessment Study for State Numbered Routes" that focuses on the Central transportation planning subregion, the city of Worcester. The assessment study would consider both existing and anticipated future freight movement in this subregion. The regional Travel Demand Forecasting Model will be utilized to estimate both existing and future benchmark year Vehicle Miles of Travel (VMT), network-wide Volume-to-Capacity (V/C) ratios and potential Bottleneck locations based on Origin-Destination (O-D) pairs.

The study will likely suggest several roadway improvements options to assure the continued flow of freight while mitigating identified local impacts, including vulnerable REJ+ populations. The study will include, but not be limited to, state numbered Routes 9, 12, 70, 122, 122A, 146, and US Route 20. MassDOT's most recent State Freight Plan will also serve as a reference to this effort.

- Utilize the regional Travel Demand Forecasting Model, which produces estimates of both existing and future benchmark year Vehicle Miles of Travel (VMT), to assess the general GHG impacts to defined REJ+ populations in the region, initially in the city of Worcester as a supplemental activity within the scope of the city's Highway Freight Accommodation Assessment Study for State Numbered Routes.
- Continue ongoing monitoring efforts by conducting traffic volume and vehicle classification counts on the region's established Critical Rural and Urban Freight Corridors. *Where warranted, identify other highway freight corridors that may benefit from either a Rural or Urban Freight Corridor designation.* Continue to refine heavy vehicle monitoring procedures.
- Continue to assist MassDOT, as appropriate, with ongoing efforts associated with increasing the supply of safe parking for long-distance truck drivers in the greater region. Currently, within the CMRPC planning region, sites for potential new truck parking are being considered and further analyzed by MassDOT. Further, on a local basis, existing or permissible land uses should also be considered for safe truck parking, including available nearby "big box" retail or warehousing parking opportunities.
- Assist regional rail freight providers seeking MassDOT IRAP funding, US DOT FRA CRISI, and EPA air quality improvement grants, as appropriate.
- Host and/or attend meetings (including virtual) of significance with providers of freight and/or interregional passenger service, stakeholders and other interested parties allowing the opportunity for education, information sharing and strategy building, seeking to identify both existing and future challenges and advantages.
- Host, attend and participate in meetings of significance in the region and elsewhere (including virtual), including New England Regional Freight (NERF) meetings and the 495/MetroWest Partnership's Transportation Committee. Attend US DOT "Talking Freight" webinar training series as pertinent.
- Review various periodicals, documents and research pertaining to freight and/or passenger issues, including Rail Pace magazine and the Massachusetts Motor Transportation Association e-newsletter.
- Address unanticipated Freight Planning-related requests from MassDOT OTP and/or FHWA.

Products and Schedule

1. Compilation of text, tables, maps, graphics, and other materials for the “Highway Freight Accommodation Assessment Study for State Numbered Routes” that focuses on the Central (city of Worcester) transportation planning subregion – **4th Quarter, FFY 2025**
2. Assess the general GHG impacts to defined REJ+ populations in the region, initially in the city of Worcester within the scope of the city’s Highway Freight Accommodation Assessment Study – **4th Quarter, FFY 2025**
3. Continue to assist MassDOT OTP, as appropriate, with the planning and successful implementation of targeted increases in the supply of safe parking for long-distance truck drivers in the greater region – **Ongoing**
4. Continue participation as appropriate with ongoing activities concerning the current implementation effort for *Compass Passenger Rail* in the Commonwealth. Similarly, continue to monitor progress concerning the *Northern Tier Passenger Rail Feasibility* study. Attend and participate in meetings (including virtual) in the greater region as necessary – **Ongoing**
5. Conduct traffic volume and vehicle classification counts on the region’s Critical Rural and Urban Freight Corridors – **Ongoing**
6. As necessary, staff will continue to document the Freight Planning-related proceedings of the CMMPO Advisory Committee for consideration and reference by the CMMPO – **Ongoing**
7. Host, attend and participate at meetings (including virtual) concerning freight and/or interregional passenger activities for MassDOT and other CMMPO planning partners as well as private freight transportation providers serving the greater region’s railroad and trucking needs – **Ongoing**
8. Attend various Freight Planning meetings in the region and elsewhere (including virtual), including New England Regional Freight (NERF) and the 495/MetroWest Partnership’s Transportation Committee. Attend US DOT “Talking Freight” webinar training series as pertinent – **Ongoing**
9. Staff will continue the ongoing review of rail freight periodical Rail Pace magazine and the Massachusetts Motor Transportation Association e-newsletter – **Ongoing**
10. Address any unanticipated Freight Planning-related requests from MassDOT OTP and/or FHWA – **As Necessary**

Task Title

Freight and Intermodal Planning

Ref. #

3.6

Funding Program/\$					
	FHWA/FTA/PL		FTA Section 5307 (through WRTA)		
Participants	FHWA	State	FTA	WRTA	Total
CMRPC	40,000	10,000			50,000

Task 3.7: Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Implementation

Description

The recently updated Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) for the planning region, *2050 Connections*, contains transportation *policy*, evolving *programs* and crafted listings of multi-modal infrastructure improvement *projects* sought over the next +20-year period. The document also features CMMPO-suggested *initiatives* for both advancement and continued study. As reaffirmed by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) national transportation legislation, *2050 Connections* fully reflects the CMMPO's Performance-Based Planning and Programming (PBPandP) efforts.

A number of topics in *2050 Connections* have been identified for further study. The LRTP provides a comprehensive listing of a broad range of *Needs* for each major transportation mode and major planning areas, examples being safety and congestion. Addressing these Needs in an efficient, systematic manner allows the CMMPO to further their long-standing Vision and Goals for the regional transportation planning process. Accordingly, staff will work to address the Needs summarized in *2050 Connections* in an evolving, programmatic manner.

The five Programmatic Areas featured in *2050 Connections* were originally established in order to address LRTP-identified Needs and associated priorities, based on input received from the proactive public outreach process as well as Management Systems data integration analysis results. The five recently refined LRTP Programmatic Areas are:

1. Major Infrastructure (MI) projects (*highway-related*)
2. System Maintenance and Operations
3. Active Transportation (*bicycle and pedestrian*)
4. Climate Change and Resiliency
5. Transit Support

The five Programmatic Areas were originally structured so as to advance the intended performance-based outcomes for the region. *2050 Connections* includes the specific performance-based objectives, measures and targets that fulfill the requirements of PM1, PM2 and PM3. In addition, CMMPO-derived and customized performance management factors are also considered. This has allowed the CMMPO staff to address all ten previously established US DOT transportation planning *Factors* as well as the BIL's Eight transportation planning *Emphasis Areas*. The region's long-established and periodically evolving PM criteria allow for the screening, prioritization and selection of candidate projects for inclusion in both the TIP and the LRTP's Major Infrastructure (MI) project listings.

Previous Work

LRTP document series from 1993 under ISTEA to the latest CMMPO Endorsed *2050 Connections*, compiled under the BIL. The CMMPO staff will continue to pursue the development of longer-term studies, initiatives and projects that evolve under the five Programmatic Areas featured in *2050 Connections*.

Procedures

Anticipated work activities that seek to implement the recommendations of *2050 Connections* may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- CMMPO staff, through the ongoing proactive public outreach process, will continue to work with federal, state, regional and local stakeholders to facilitate the implementation of longer-term *2050 Connections* recommendations through the five Programmatic Areas, which includes the advancement of CMMPO-supported Major Infrastructure (MI) projects.
- The CMMPO staff will work to address the range of CMMPO-prioritized Needs summarized in *2050 Connections* through the five Programmatic Areas. Each of the five Programmatic Areas may involve studies, initiatives and projects and could also potentially include activities covered by the Community Technical Assistance work task. The Programmatic Areas are supported by other staff activities that include Transportation Equity, Complete Streets, Data Collection and Analysis and Management Systems data integration.
- Continue the now-established annual process to select, screen and prioritize eligible projects, reflected in the LRTP, to be implemented through the CMMPO's "MicroProjects" Program using available CMAQ funding. Solicitation for eligible projects now occurs on an annual basis through a broad public outreach process.
- Continue the integration of the priorities identified in *2050 Connections*, the CMMPO TIP and the UPWP by monitoring the allocation of regional target funds to each of the five established Programmatic Areas.
- As deemed necessary, staff will continue to work with MassDOT OTP through the Transportation Managers Group to continue the evolution and refinement of PBPP planning procedures.
- CMMPO staff will continue participation in other LRTP implementation efforts and/or various studies being conducted within the region that are not part of direct UPWP tasks and/or MassDOT is not the lead agency.

Products and Schedule

1. Endorsed by the CMMPO in July 2023, adjust/amend the *2050 Connections* document as determined necessary by the CMMPO – ***Ongoing, as appropriate***
2. Through the ongoing proactive public outreach process, continue work with federal, state, regional and local stakeholders to facilitate implementation of *2050 Connections* recommendations through the five established Programmatic Areas, which includes the advancement of CMMPO-supported Major Infrastructure (MI) projects – ***Ongoing, as appropriate***
3. Staff will work to address the range of CMMPO-prioritized Needs summarized in *2050 Connections* through the five Programmatic Areas. Efforts to advance each of the five Areas may involve studies, initiatives and projects as well as continued monitoring and the integration of the priorities. Each of the Programmatic Areas has the potential to advance multiple performance-related goals simultaneously while also improving cost-effectiveness – ***Ongoing, as appropriate***
4. Continue to promote the CMMPO’s established “MicroProjects” Program and support communities and organizations with eligible projects from the conceptual phase through successful implementation. Continue to broaden the public outreach process on an annual basis for the solicitation of eligible projects that can be funded under the CMAQ program – ***1st Quarter, FFY 2025***
5. Continue periodic outreach to the member communities to determine potential opportunities for the “MicroProjects” program in the region. Seek to obtain information about the range of transportation studies, initiatives and projects that the communities have been actively working on, or are interested in pursuing, related to active transportation, climate change and transit/paratransit service. This input will be used to help staff evolve the “MicroProjects” program – ***4th Quarter, FFY 2025***
6. Continued evolution of PBPP using nationally required measurements, targets and periodic evaluation to assess regional progress. Also, continue the periodic review, assessment, and refinement of CMMPO-customized performance-based objectives, measures and targets, in conjunction with both the LRTP and TIP project screening/scoring processes – ***3rd Quarter FFY 2025***
7. As necessary, update various LRTP analyses, including updates of the Management Systems Integration effort that allows for the “tiered” grouping of potential future improvements subsequently assigned to one of the five Programmatic Areas. Further, as needed, conduct new research and pursue staff-derived studies pertinent to the identified regional Needs and associated priorities listed in *2050 Connections* – ***Ongoing, as appropriate***
8. Continue ongoing efforts to strengthen the relationship between the LRTP and the TIP by linking the LRTP project listings and the five Programmatic Areas, including updates of funding allocation by Area in the TIP document – ***2nd Quarter FFY 2025***

9. Participate in various other pertinent MassDOT-led studies being conducted in the CMMPO region. Similarly, CMMPO staff will continue participation in other LRTP implementation efforts and/or various studies being conducted within the region that are not part of direct UPWP tasks and/or MassDOT is not the lead agency – ***Ongoing, as appropriate***
10. Identify and pursue pertinent Federal and State grant programs that can potentially advance the priorities recommended within each of the five Programmatic Areas. Work closely with partners at the federal, state, regional and local host community levels including elected officials throughout the early planning stages of Major Infrastructure Projects, scoping study needs and supporting local initiatives – ***Ongoing***
- a. Pursue federal and statewide funds for planning studies related to Worcester’s Route 122A (Vernon Street) Bridge over I-290 as well as the Blackstone Valley Greenway in coordination and collaboration with project-related stakeholders – ***1st Quarter FFY 2025***

Task Title **Long Range Transportation Plan Implementation** **Ref. #** **3.7**

Funding Program/\$					
	FHWA/FTA/PL		FTA Section 5307 (through WRTA)		
Participants	FHWA	State	FTA	WRTA	Total
CMRPC	109,589	27,397			136,986

Task 3.8: Climate Change – Resiliency, Sustainability, Vulnerability

Description

The Climate Change – Resiliency, Sustainability, Vulnerability Task is focused on encouraging host communities to adopt climate change resiliency strategies for critical and vulnerable transportation infrastructure, as well as adopting sustainable transportation initiatives to transition to electric vehicles (EVs), reduce dependence on automobile travel, reduce single-occupancy vehicle trips, and more efforts. The framework of this Task is supported by federal and state level initiatives that promote sustainability, reduce Greenhouse Gases (GHGs), address climate change, and promote resiliency in transportation planning. For example, the national FAST Act, and reaffirmed by the new Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), introduced factors related to enhancing the environment and promoting energy conservation. Similarly, Massachusetts has aimed to address climate change by reducing GHGs, promoting alternative mode choices, and using Performance Based Planning and Programming (PBPP) to assist in prioritizing transportation investments. As seen under the Performance Management task in this document, the CMMPO staff has fully incorporated the required federal pavement and bridge performance management (PM2) criteria that includes bridge and pavement condition into the regional planning process. Further, the federal transportation planning emphasis areas are also considered through other regionally customized performance measures, including Stormwater Management and Resiliency.

While Climate Change and Asset Management are distinct areas of emphasis, these Tasks (Task 3.4 and Task. 3.8) overlap in several ways. All planning regions in the Commonwealth experience the impacts of climate change and have a variance of existing inventories of vulnerable infrastructure. Conducting vulnerability assessments while also developing strategies and tools to adapt programs to address climate change impacts can help inform regional transportation planning activities. To help with that, major efforts are being targeted to help identify and assess culverts and small bridges in the region. From these efforts, customized adaptation and mitigation strategies can be developed for eventual implementation. Further, relevant grants can be pursued to replace or retrofit identified vulnerable infrastructure. These ongoing planning efforts can help improve the resiliency of the planning region's transportation infrastructure while also minimizing the level of vulnerability.

Previous Work

- Assisted WRTA staff with securing funds for, and implementing, Low-or No-Emissions vehicle technologies in fleet expansion/replacement activities as well as programmed funds in the Transit element of the CMMPO TIP for implementation of renewable energy technologies at both the WRTA Hub and Maintenance and Operations facilities.
- Assisted the Grafton and Upton Railroad with a Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Grant to update their locomotives to clean diesel.
- Participated in the development of the MARPA-sponsored Rural Plan (FFY 2019), including its Transportation Subcommittee – prepared comments for Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) Small Bridges and Culverts Working Group.

- Worked with the WRTA to encourage large employers and educational institutions to promote employee use of transit as a “green” effort and to save money. CMRPC provided geo-coding of employee addresses and matched them with bus route schedules.
- Used data from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Alternative Fuels Data Center (AFDC) to identify, map, and research electric vehicle (EV) charging station infrastructure in the CMRPC region.
- Developed a [Water Module](#) for the CMMPO Environmental Toolbox Series. The Module focused on the topic of culverts and helped lay the foundation of the CMMPO Culvert Assessment Program.
- Developed an [Air Quality Module](#) for the CMMPO Environmental Toolbox Series. The Module focused on the current state of EV charging infrastructure in the CMRPC region, and how communities can begin identifying ways to expand their charging infrastructure.
- Created an [ArcGIS Online Dashboard for AFDC EV charging infrastructure](#) to be used as a tool for CMRPC communities. Integrated Massachusetts Vehicle Census Data into the Dashboard to show EV ownership totals in the region.
- Released an EV Charging Survey to community officials in the CMRPC region and compiled results to understand community experience with EV charging infrastructure and interest in expanding EV charging infrastructure in their community.
- Created a set of [EV Fact Sheets](#) that briefly review essential topics.
- Researched the operation and maintenance of EV charging infrastructure, site selection, grant opportunities, and State and Federal planning initiatives.
- Developed a program to assess culverts in the planning region by working with MA-DER and the North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative (NAACC), following guidance included in the “Massachusetts Stream Crossing Handbook” by the MA-DER. Staff also pursued training to continue this effort, including a “Lead Observer” and a “Level 1/Level 2 Regional Coordinator”.
- Worked with the CMRPC Regional Collaboration and Community Planning (RCCP) staff to host several Municipal Vulnerability Program workshops, and develop community strategies in resiliency, adaptation, and mitigation (i.e., culverts).

Analyzed MVP and HMP maps to identify vulnerable infrastructure and transportation-related issues throughout the planning region.

Procedures

Building upon the prior work efforts listed above, staff will continue to broaden this comprehensive approach to planning for climate change, resiliency and adaptation.

- Continue evolving the regional CMMPO Culvert Assessment Program and identify climate change-related (i.e., flood zones) data to prioritize vulnerable culverts to help improve the

resiliency of the transportation network. Create a listing of community-identified vulnerable culverts in the region.

- Continue to provide the planning region’s communities with information regarding culvert repair and replacement grant opportunities, for example the MA Division of Ecological Restoration (DER) Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance (CRMA) Grant Program.
- Continue maintaining and evolving EV charging infrastructure ArcGIS Online dashboards with up-to-date AFDC and Massachusetts Vehicle Census data. Identify potential EV charging infrastructure locations in the region and assist interested communities in funding opportunities for EV charging infrastructure.
- Develop a guidebook for communities to use for the site selection, installation, and maintenance of EV charging infrastructure.
- Continue to provide the planning region’s communities with information about the FHWA Alternative Fuel Corridor (AFC) Program and other relevant EV charging infrastructure grant opportunities, and other potential funding opportunities.
- Work with CMRPC Regional Collaboration and Community Planning (RCCP) to incorporate appropriate efforts to identify opportunities to create sustainable cross-collaboration between regional development and transportation infrastructure – particularly in the development of MVP and HMP, EV charging infrastructure, climate change, and culvert assessment data.
- Participate in statewide meetings, webinars, and working groups related to climate change, EV’s, culverts, grant opportunities, and other pertinent topics.
- Continue working with the WRTA to secure funding for new, or the reconditioning of existing, Low-or-No Emissions Vehicles and associated equipment, and to fund renewable energy technology retrofits (i.e., solar-powered bus shelter lighting).

Products and Schedule

1. Continued the CMMPO Culvert Assessment Program and used climate change-related data (i.e., flood-zones) to prioritize vulnerable culverts to improve the resiliency of the transportation planning network. Created a listing of community-identified vulnerable culverts in the region – **Ongoing**
2. Continued identifying and providing information regarding opportunities for culvert repair and replacement grants to communities – **Ongoing**
3. Maintained the EV charging stations inventory and ArcGIS Online dashboard to improve the identification of potential EV charging infrastructure locations – **Ongoing**
4. Developed a guidebook for communities to use for the site selection, installation, and maintenance of EV charging infrastructure – **2nd Quarter, FFY 2025**
5. Continued to provide information and technical assistance to communities regarding grant opportunities and other funding sources for EV charging infrastructure to the region – **Ongoing**

6. Continued collaboration with RCCP staff in the development of MVP/HMP plans and grants, EV charging infrastructure, climate change, and culvert assessment data – ***As necessary***
7. Continued participation in statewide meetings, webinars, and working groups related to climate change, EV’s, culverts, grant opportunities, and other pertinent topics – ***Ongoing***
8. Assisted the WRTA to identify, apply, and secure funding for long-range facility and service planning that maintains an existing level of service and promotes future sustainability capabilities – ***Ongoing***

Task Title **Climate Change – Resiliency and Sustainability** **Ref. #** **3.8**

Funding Program/\$					
	FHWA/FTA/PL		FTA Section 5307 (through WRTA)		
Participants	FHWA	State	FTA	WRTA	Total
CMRPC	60,000	15,000			75,000

Task 3.9: Vernon Street Bridge over I-290 Planning Study

Description

Planning study to engage the public and various local and regional stakeholders to develop conceptual alternatives to reconnect historically disadvantaged communities with economic opportunities. The study looks at increasing accessibility options while improving the safety, air quality, mobility and health outcomes of Vernon and Union Hill neighborhoods. The current facility (Vernon St/I-290 Interchange) is inadequate to serve the current economic and housing growth and transportation needs.

Previous Work

The construction of I-290 required demolition of countless homes and businesses and erected a significant historical divide between the neighborhoods adjacent to the interchange. The generational gaps in access to opportunities and social mobility are shown in the myriad of socio-demographic and economic indicators that characterize the neighborhoods of Union Hill and Vernon Hill included in the planning study area.

CMRPC will lead a community-centered planning study to capture the vision of those that have been historically impacted by the I-290 interchange. Our study will investigate bold ideas developed and vetted in partnership with and supported by a diverse group of stakeholders as well as study area residents and businesses. The planning study would cast a wide net with respect to the scope of alternatives to consider. We seek to fundamentally change the cohesion, connectivity, and character of the interchange in a way that allows for improved access, mobility options, climate resiliency and health benefits for everyone who lives and works in the area, while laying the foundation for equitable development and social mobility.

Procedures

The planning study will be conducted for a period of 18 months spanning FY '25 – '26 and will include the following phases:

Phase 1: Goals and Objectives, and Public Participation

During this phase the team will develop the framework to conduct the study. That includes mapping activities, identification of the study area stakeholders, and website development. The Goals and Objectives will define the purpose of the study and its guiding principles. A Public Involvement Plan will be developed. The plan will include specific strategies to provide continuous and meaningful opportunities for involvement by the public throughout the study process.

Phase 2: Existing Conditions and Data Collection

During this phase the transportation existing conditions along this corridor will be collected and analyzed. Data related to safety, congestion, traffic volumes, transit ridership, among other types of datasets will be used to demonstrate trends and properly assess the existing conditions within the study area. Moreover, land use, environmental and public health data will be reviewed. Also, current local,

regional and statewide planning documents relevant to the study area will be reviewed. This will inform the existing land use and economic development goals in the study area.

Phase 3: Evaluation of Issues and Opportunities

The existing conditions analysis will be used to identify, quantify, and evaluate a comprehensive catalog of current and future transportation and environmental deficiencies and issues in the study area.

Phase 4: Alternatives Development

Various alternatives will be developed in close collaboration and coordination with local and regional stakeholders. The alternatives must align with the study's goals and alleviate the transportation deficiencies identified in the previous phases. A no-build alternative scenario will be included to forecast future impacts and for comparison purposes.

Phase 5: Alternatives Analysis

An impact analysis of the previously developed alternatives will be conducted. Among the impacts to be analyzed are: safety, environmental effects, public health impacts, land use and economic development impacts, community effects on minority and low-income populations and other transportation disadvantaged populations.

Phase 6: Recommendations and Implementation Plan

Based on the previous analysis, a set of recommendations will be produced in consultation with the local and regional stakeholders. Moreover, an implementation plan will include short-, medium- and long-term strategies to implement the recommendations resulting from this study. Recommendations from this study will help advance the implementation of future phases including preliminary design and construction.

The CMMPO staff is committed to taking into consideration the landuse factors such as housing and economic development while developing transportation strategies for the region. The CMMPO staff will continue supporting the landuse staff with development of the housing production plans and economic development strategies. The development of the Regional Housing and Transportation Integration plan will allow to better understand the gaps in both housing and transportation in the region and to develop strategies to mitigate the gaps and provide better access to existing landuse.

Products and Schedule

1. Request for Proposals and consultant selection – **1st and 2nd Quarter, FFY 2025**
2. Goals and Objectives, and Public Participation – **3rd Quarter, FFY 2025**
3. Existing Conditions and Data Collection – **3rd and 4th Quarter, FFY 2025**
4. Evaluation of Issues and Opportunities – **4th Quarter, FFY 2025**

Task Title **Vernon St. Bridge over I-290 Planning Study**

Ref. #

3.9

Funding Program/\$					
	FHWA/FTA/ PL*		FTA Section 5307 (through WRTA)		
Participants	FHWA/FTA	State	FTA	WRTA	Total
CMRPC	325,000	81,250			406,250

* De-obligated PL funds from past 3 years

Element 4: Other Technical Activities

Task 4.1: Transit/Elderly and Disabled/Rail and Other Technical Activities

Description

The CMRPC staff coordinates its work with the operators of several different transportation modes, including public (i.e., MBTA, WRTA) and private transportation. Particular to transit, the CMRPC staff provides technical assistance under contract to the WRTA and operators of its funded services. Staff also assist non-WRTA communities/service providers within the CMMPO region. The staff devotes extra effort to planning public transportation services that older adults, individuals with disabilities, and transit-dependent populations can use effectively. Staff monitors emergent rideshare services, microtransit, and automated/electric connected vehicles as these innovations are part of the region's future transportation network. Also, CMRPC staff coordinates with major employers and institutions to develop first/last mile commuting solutions for their employees or students.

Previous Work

- Coordination of and assistance to private non-profits applying for FTA Sections 5310/5316/5317 Program funds.
- Technical assistance to CMMPO region non-WRTA communities and non-WRTA funded transit service providers.
- Technical assistance to agencies, communities, and other constituents in coordinating WRTA and non-WRTA services.
- Development of integrated MBTA/private bus schedules from Worcester to Boston.
- Coordination of grant funded WRTA services including Via-WRTA service in Westborough and Shrewsbury.
- Technical assistance for development of the WRTA Hub facility at Worcester Union Station to better integrate public and private bus, commuter rail, and taxi modes.
- Active participation in organizations whose members or constituents are Environmental Justice populations to identify and develop transit resources.
- Assistance with the Massachusetts RideMatch database and website.
- Development of a CMMPO region-wide Coordinated Public Transportation – Human Services Transportation (CPT-HST) Plan (Latest Update: June 2024).
- Development of WRTA's Title VI Program (Latest Update: May 2024).

Procedures

- Ongoing FTA Section 5310 and Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) assistance to applicants with transit planning and service coordination.
- Continuing review/evaluation of the role of private for-profit and non-profit operators in providing both paratransit and other alternative transportation services, including those for persons with disabilities and older adults, within the CMMPO region.
- Assisting persons with low incomes, older adults, persons with disabilities and agencies that serve these populations in locating and obtaining appropriate transportation services to meet their needs.
- Providing a reasonable level of technical assistance to non-WRTA funded providers of transportation services. Assist them in identifying ways to improve the operation and management of their services.
- Providing assistance to local communities in assessing their needs for local services and in-town shuttles to connect with WRTA services.
- Assisting with the coordination of existing and proposed transit and paratransit services for maximum vehicle utilization and operating efficiency.
- Reviewing ITS coordination and integration opportunities with area entities and WRTA.
- Participate in the Statewide MicroTransit Learning Collaborative.
- Monitoring the impacts of rideshare and microtransit companies and services, within the CMMPO region, based on annual data as provided by the TNC Division of the Department of Public Utilities.

Products and Schedule

1. Provide eligible organizations with application assistance, guidance, and coordination of services for the MassDOT Community Transit Grant Program – **3rd Quarter, FFY 2025**
2. Analysis of anticipated annual datasets of TNC activity within CMMPO, and WRTA regions as produced by the TNC Division of the Department of Public Utilities – **4th Quarter, FFY 2025**
3. Analysis of parking utilization rates of MBTA commuter rail parking lots within the CMMPO region – **1st and 4th Quarter FFY 2025**

4. Provide regional transit datasets such as: route on-time performance data into annual Congestion Management Process efforts; air quality analysis needed for transit TIP projects; and other transit-specific data for Regional Transportation Model – **2nd and 3rd Quarter FFY 2025**
5. Work with City of Worcester to explore TMA formation – **1st and 2nd Quarter FFY 2025**
6. Identify best practices implemented nationwide and develop a list of suitable performance metrics that could be applicable for rural transit and microtransit options – **3rd Quarter FFY 2025**
7. Develop a progress report for the recommendations from the 2024 Coordination Human Services Plan – **4th Quarter FFY2025**
8. Provide reasonable level of technical, and transit planning assistance to CMMPO member communities and non-RTA funded providers of transportation services. Potential products include assessment of transportation needs, analysis of potential membership in a Regional Transit Authority, assistance with grant applications, etc. – **Ongoing**
9. Attend and/or provide administrative support to formal and ad hoc committees (i.e. Transportation Planning Advisory Group, Quaboag Region Coordinating Council, Transportation Advisory Committee, Transportation Advocacy Coalition, and others) that share interests in promoting coordinated transit and paratransit service for older adults, persons with disabilities, and other human services organizations – **Ongoing**
10. Participate in the West-East “Compass” passenger rail study – **Ongoing**
11. Review, maintain, and prepare updates to CPT-HST Plan, if necessary – **Ongoing**
12. Assistance to local communities, employers, and advocacy organizations for local transit services connecting with WRTA, MBTA, and private transportation services – **Ongoing**
13. Assistance to communities to identify transit needs and incorporation of transit options and/or mobility hubs into their master plans – **Ongoing**
14. Assistance to communities about best practice designs for transit accommodations into urban design/development review procedures – **Ongoing**
15. Active participation in MassDOT design planning for regional projects to ensure transit accommodations – **Ongoing**

Funding Program/\$					
	FHWA/FTA/PL		FTA Section 5307 (through WRTA)		
Participants	FHWA	State	FTA	WRTA	Total
CMRPC	48,000	12,000			60,000

Task 4.2 – WRTA Technical Assistance

Description

CMRPC Transit staff will conduct or assist the WRTA in conducting a wide range of recurring operational planning activities as well as specific analyses and other studies. The work itemized in this Task will be performed in accordance with various reporting requirements and in conformity with the WRTA's adopted budget and contracts between the WRTA and CMRPC that are effective during the period covered by this UPWP.

Prior Work

- ADA Transportation Eligibility and Service Policy assistance
- CMMPO Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation (CHST) Plans
- WRTA Comprehensive Service Analysis, 2020 (CSA)
- Customer Surveys (fixed-route and paratransit)
- Development of a Title VI Program and coordination of Title VI activities among WRTA Administration, Operations, Customer Service, and Marketing staff at the administrator's direction. (Completed April 2024) Employer database geocoding.
- General fixed-route and paratransit service planning
- ITS Tasks including APC Calibration, Ridecheck/Clever Devices data monitoring and quality control maintenance
- Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Analyses / Language Assistance Plans (LAPs), later became part of an overall Title VI Program
- MassDOT Rail and Transit Division Performance Reporting (monthly and quarterly)
- National Transit Database (monthly and yearly reporting)
- Public participation (Regional Coordinating Council, Riders' Advisory Committee, Transportation Advisory Council, TPAG, etc.)
- Service Changes Administration and Tracking (3-4 times per year)
- Transit Asset Management (TAM) Plan

Procedures

Federal and State Reporting Requirements

Staff prepares various reports detailing ridership and operational data as well as ongoing federal/state compliance efforts. Staff prepare these reports as part of ongoing data management activities for specific time periods. Staff handles requests for clarification of monthly and yearly data from FTA, and

MassDOT. The reporting function is tied to the Data Management function described further below. Activities associated with this task include:

- Assistance with annual audit for WRTA-provided fixed route services operated during FY 2024.
- Assistance with preparation and evaluation of WRTA FY 2024 fixed route and paratransit operating data as required for National Transit Database (NTD) reporting.
- Provision of monthly and quarterly data to the WRTA for reporting to MassDOT Rail and Transit Division.
- Contribute toward development of a Sub-recipient Oversight and Monitoring plan and assistance with implementation.
- Coordinate with WRTA regarding target updates for WRTA TAM Plan and Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) as required by FTA Performance Management regulations, and
- Coordination with the CMMPO, development of Performance Management targets in the areas of Safety and Asset Management, and integration of those targets into the TIP and Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

Data Management

Staff will manage ridership and operational data used for both federal and state reporting requirements and for service planning analyses. Data is managed by month, fiscal year, and service period. Activities associated with this task include:

- Maintenance of a system of documentation delineating the operating characteristics of the WRTA's fixed route system including route mileage, number of daily trips, and dates of changes due to implemented service changes
- Maintenance of a system delineating the operating characteristics of the WRTA's paratransit systems, including documentation of system changes, and
- ITS database management: Validation/calibration (including spot manual counts) of Automated Passenger Counts (APC), data mining for service planning, and determining optimal data presentation including GIS mapping.

Paratransit System Monitoring/Assistance

Staff will assist the WRTA with contract management for its third-party paratransit providers SCM Elderbus and the ten Councils on Aging (CoAs). In addition, staff will work with the WRTA's paratransit contractor (PBSTM) to manage compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Title VI, and the monitoring of WRTA's Mobility Management Model. This task includes extensive hands-on support to SCM Elderbus and the Councils on Aging in the areas of ADA compliance, operational efficiencies, Federal Drug and Alcohol testing compliance, advising on driver issues (including training/retraining needs), notifications about driver training sessions, monitoring budget adherence, and determining optimal vehicle needs. Activities associated with this task include:

- Continuous monitoring/evaluation of paratransit operations within the WRTA Service Area, including overall performance, providing assistance to transit operators with day-to-day operational and policy issues faced
- Assisting the WRTA in maintaining compliance with the fixed route/paratransit requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- Facilitating and coordinating the WRTA ADA Appeal Process and provision of staff support to the Appeal Panel
- Assisting WRTA, local CoAs, communities, and non-profit organizations with project applications for the annual MassDOT Community Transit Grant Program (CTGP), and other funding opportunities as they become available.

Project Development/Service Planning

Staff will coordinate WRTA project development and service planning functions. Work can include new or modified service concept development, grant applications (if appropriate), development of detailed scopes of services, coordinating implementation, and ongoing service monitoring. Activities associated with this task include:

- Fixed route operations monitoring/evaluation on a continuous basis, with revisions as necessary throughout FFY 2025 to conform to WRTA plans, service standards, and adopted budget
- Ongoing review of the fixed route service model (or select routes) with the goal of determining a more sustainable system using GIS mapped data and development of plans to adjust or modify the system accordingly
- Assistance in ongoing WRTA Title VI, Environmental Justice (EJ), public participation, and limited English proficiency (LEP) efforts
- Assistance with data analysis and integration with other WRTA IT technologies
- Assistance with stakeholder meetings and outreach as it relates to WRTA current and future service including community efforts to integrate transit and efforts to begin or increase transit options

Resource Coordination

Staff will function as the lead coordinator for major cross-functional, cross-agency project implementations, including:

- Service changes
- Transit Asset Management Plan
- WRTA Title VI Program
- Coordinated Public Transit - Human Services Transportation Plan
- Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan
- Various stakeholders

The staff's coordination function is typically an intensive process of identifying tasks, roles, and responsibilities, and ensuring communication among all affected staff. Typically, weekly or bi-weekly coordination meetings are used to monitor progress, raise concerns that involve multiple WRTA departments, and ensure that all parties are up to date with upcoming tasks. Activities under this task will be determined on an as-needed basis. Assistance with potential grant applications typically involves coordination of resources, as does contingency planning.

Review of Federal/State/Local Requests/Materials

Staff will assist the WRTA Administrator in responding to unanticipated issues, information requests, geo-coding of databases, or quick analysis of federal and state actions on regional transit authority subject matters. Such issues are likely to include:

- Monitoring of federal guidance on Title VI, Performance Management (Asset Management and Safety).
- Assistance with those studies which may be conducted by outside consultants for the WRTA as requested.
- Provision of technical assistance to WRTA providers in maintaining a drug/alcohol-free workplace and a compliant drug/alcohol testing program. This assistance will include identification of regulatory changes and recommendation for implementation strategy.
- Provision of other technical assistance to the WRTA as the WRTA may reasonably request.

Products and Schedule

1. FFY 2025 fixed route cost and revenue allocation and paratransit operating data for yearly audit – **4th Quarter, FFY 2025**
2. FFY 2024 fixed route and paratransit non-financial, asset management, and other operational data for National Transit Database (NTD) Annual Report and follow-up dialogue with FTA – **1st and 2nd Quarters, FFY 2025**
3. Continued assistance with data compilation and analyses as part of the quarterly reporting requirements to the biennial Memorandum of Understanding between MassDOT and WRTA – **All Quarters, FFY 2025**
4. Other technical assistance, including weekly ridership reporting, monthly NTD data collection and analysis – **Ongoing**
5. Technical assistance for developing or updating required transit planning documents, including but not limited to: APC Certification, Coordinated Public Transit - Human Services Transportation Plan, and target updates for Transit Asset Management Plan and Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan – **Ongoing**
6. ADA compliance assistance – **Ongoing**
7. Technical assistance in maintaining a drug/alcohol-free workplace and compliant drug/alcohol testing program, particularly related to paratransit providers – **Ongoing**

8. Fixed route planning technical assistance, including monitoring of current services with members of the WRTA Transit Advisory Group (TAG). Staff provides data for committee analysis on a bi-weekly basis – **Ongoing**
9. Paratransit service planning and monitoring, including a) policy development and modification; b) service development and modifications; c) financial and statistical analyses/reporting on service providers – **Ongoing**
10. Assistance with Public Participation, Title VI/LEP-LAP and EJ activities and customer satisfaction surveys – **Ongoing**
11. Coordination of ADA Appeal Process assistance – **Ongoing**
12. Monitoring the VIA on-demand transit service and associated commuter rail parking lots utilization – **Ongoing**
13. Assistance with service change/expansion strategies – **Ongoing**
14. Continued WRTA - MBTA Commuter Rail service coordination at CMMPO region MBTA Commuter Rail stations – **Ongoing**
15. Review major roadway and larger regional development projects for transit accommodations – **Ongoing**
16. Annual Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) capital projects presentation and public outreach requirements; amendments as they occur – **Ongoing**
17. Coordination and distribution of paper schedules to key transit locations in the region – **Ongoing**
18. Calibration of APC system during mandatory reporting year and informal monitoring during non-mandatory year – **Ongoing**
19. Update to individual route maps and systemwide maps as required during scheduled service changes and other times as needed – **Ongoing**
20. WRTA Bus Shelter Inventory update to include all WRTA owned bus shelters – **2nd Quarter FFY 2025**

Task Title	WRTA Technical Assistance			Ref. #	4.2
Funding Program/\$					
	FHWA/FTA/PL		FTA Section 5307 (through WRTA)		
Participants	FHWA	State	FTA	WRTA	Total
CMRPC			300,000	75,000	375,000

Task Summary by Funding Source

The overall budget increase for FFY 2025 as compared to FFY 2024 is 42%. This increase is three separate categories: 1. The PL funding increase is 5.4% to account for 2020 UZA population distribution, 2. WRTA funding increase of 15% to bring funding levels back to FFY 2023 levels to support staffing capacity and 3. Additional funding for special studies utilizing de-obligated funds from FY 21-23 PL funds totalling \$656,250.

FFY 2025 Program Year Unified Planning Work Program

Task #	Description	FHWA/PL (thru DOT)	State Match	FTA 5307 (through WRTA)	WRTA Match	Totals
<i>Element 1: Management & Support of the Planning Process and Certification Activities</i>						
1.1	Management & Support of "3C" Process	221,287	55,322			276,609
1.2	Unified Planning Work Program	16,000	4,000			20,000
1.3	Transportation Improvement Program	56,000	14,000			70,000
1.4	Title VI - LEP	48,000	12,000			60,000
1.5	Public Participation	48,000	12,000			60,000
Subtotals:		389,287	97,322	0	0	486,609
<i>Element 2: Data Collection and Analysis Activities</i>						
2.1	Data Collection and Analysis	160,000	40,000			200,000
2.2	Regional Transportation Model	80,000	20,000			100,000
2.3	Community and Regional Technical Assistance	100,000	25,000			125,000
2.4	Performance Management Analysis and Reporting	44,000	11,000			55,000
*2.5	Regional Housing and Transportation Plan	200,000	50,000			250,000
Subtotals:		584,000	146,000	0	0	730,000
<i>Element 3: Transportation Plan Refinement Activities</i>						
3.1	Corridor Study	40,000	10,000			50,000
3.2	Congestion Mgt Process Project Development	48,000	12,000			60,000
3.3	Safety and Security Project Development	48,000	12,000			60,000
3.4	Asset Management	48,000	12,000			60,000
3.5	Livability (Bike/Ped, Public Health, Travel&Tourism)	61,351	15,338			76,689
	Complete Streets	32,000	8,000			40,000
3.6	Freight and Intermodal Planning	40,000	10,000			50,000
3.7	Long-term RTP Implementation	109,589	27,397			136,986
3.8	Climate Change - Resiliency, Sustainability, and Vulnerabil	60,000	15,000			75,000
*3.9	Vernon St. over I-290 Planning Study	325,000	81,250			406,250
Subtotals:		811,940	202,985	0	0	1,014,925
<i>Element 4: Other Technical Activities</i>						
4.1	Transit /Paratransit / Rail & Technical Activities	48,000	12,000			60,000
4.2	WRTA Technical Assistance			300,000	75,000	375,000
Subtotals:		48,000	12,000	300,000	75,000	435,000
Totals:		1,833,227	458,307	300,000	75,000	2,666,534

*Tasks 2.5 and 3.9 are one time planning studies availing the FY 21-23 de-obligated PL funds.

Expenditure Category by Transportation Funding Source

<u>Expenditure Category</u>	<u>Contract / Funding Source¹</u>		<u>TOTAL</u>
	FHWA/FTA MassDOT PL	FTA WRTA 5307	
Direct Salary	\$1,068,785	\$190,095	\$1,258,880
Overhead Costs	\$1,011,499	\$179,905	\$1,191,404
Consultant Services	\$556,250	\$0	\$556,250
Direct Costs	<u>\$30,000</u>	<u>\$5,000</u>	<u>\$35,000</u>
Total	\$2,666,534	\$375,000	\$3,041,534

¹As reflected in '25 UPWP

CMRPC Funding Summary FFY 2025 Program Year

Transportation Funding

Source	Value (\$)	% of Total
FHWA/FTA/MassDOT-PL ^{1 2}	\$1,635,284	61.3
FTA/WRTA ³	\$375,000	14.1
De-Obligated FY21-23 PL funds ⁴	\$656,250	24.6
<i>Transportation Funding Total:</i>	2,666,534	75.4

Other Funding ⁵

Source	Value (\$)	% of Total
Federal Grants	\$440,000	11.4
State Grants	\$1,570,000	40.8
Community Contract Work	\$1,600,000	41.6
Interest Income	\$24,077	0.6
Local Assessments	\$190,894	5.0
Retiree Health Ins Trust Fund	\$22,000	0.6
<i>Total:</i>	\$3,846,971	100.0

Overall Funding

Source	Value (\$)	% of Total
FHWA/MHD-PL ¹	\$1,635,284	25.1
FTA/WRTA ²	\$375,000	5.8
De-Obligated FY21-23 PL funds ⁴	\$656,250	10.1
Local Assessments	\$190,894	2.9
Federal Grants	\$440,000	6.8
Community Contract Work	\$1,600,000	24.6
State Grants	\$1,570,000	24.1
Interest Income	\$24,077	0.4
Retiree Health Ins Trust Fund	\$22,000	0.3
<i>Total:</i>	\$6,513,505	100.0

¹ As reflected in '25 UPWP

² Includes 20% local/state match

³ FTA 5307 and WRTA match

⁴ De-obligated funds FY 21-23 including MassDOT state match

⁵ As reflected in FY '25 CMRPC Proposed Annual Budget

Allocation of Direct Staff Time to UPWP Identified Contracts

Staff Member	Category	% of Time to UPWP Identified Contracts
Rydant	Full Time	100
Krishnan	Full Time	100
Howland	Full Time	90
Krasnecky	Full Time	100
Mellis	Full Time	100
Distefano	Full Time	100
Gemperline	Full Time	100
Blais	Full Time	100
Graxirena	Full Time	100
Lewis	Full Time	100
Raymond	Full Time	100
Wriggins	Full Time	100
Sangkagalo	Full Time	100
Patel	Part Time	100
Franz ¹	Full Time	10
Bromage ¹	Part Time	40
Brennan ¹	Part Time	20
2 Trans Technicians ¹	Part Time	82
Land Use Staff ¹	Full Time	5

*Maximum of three Land Use Staff will work a max of 5% - topics that cross-over transportation and land use

¹Based on one full time equivalent

Other Regional Stakeholders Engaged in Cooperative Transportation Planning Efforts

To ensure that duplicative transportation planning efforts are not occurring within the CMRPC region, this section of the UPWP lists known regional transportation stakeholders as well as some example studies and projects being conducted by their respective agencies. The CMMPO staff is aware of the below efforts, and others, those agencies are currently working on.

- **Andrew B. Davis, Airport Director, Massachusetts Port Authority:** Worcester Regional Airport
- **Barry Lorion, District Highway Director (DHD) MassDOT-Highway District #3:** I-495/Route 9, I-495/I-90 (MassPike) Interchange, Route 20 Shrewsbury, Pleasant Street Worcester, Route 146 Sutton
- **Craig Blais, President, Worcester Business Development Corporation (WBDC):** Centech Park Grafton/Shrewsbury, redevelopment of St. Gobain site
- **Devon Kurtz, Executive Director of the JHCBRVNHCC:** Blackstone River Bikeway Connectivity
- **David Mohler, Executive Director, MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning:** Quinebaug River Rail Trail, Blackstone River Bikeway, Grand Trunk Trail
- **Galen Mook and Alex Salcedo, MassBike:** Worcester eBike project phase 2
- **Jay J. Fink, P.E., Commissioner of Public Works and Parks, City of Worcester:** Route 20, and potential other projects
- **Joshua Rickman, WRTA:** Mobile Fare Payment System, Service Changes/Expansion, Fare Policy
- **Keith Beecher, Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE):** Federal Flood Control Property Stewards
- **MassDOT Aeronautics Division:** Southbridge Municipal Airport, Hopedale, Spencer, Tanner-Hiller Airports
- **Nipmuck Nation:** Tribal Interaction Leadership
- **Steve Rolle, Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility, Worcester:** Complete Streets Prioritization Plan, Worcester Now|Next City Master Plan, Mobility Action Plan, Chandler Street TIP Projects
- **Stefanie Covino, Program Manager, Blackstone Watershed Collaborative:** Culvert assessment and training, Regional culvert data coordinator
- **Melissa Fales, Executive Director, Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation:** Quaboag Connector, Rural Transit Dialogue, Microtransit Learning Collaborative
- **Chelsey Patriss, Executive Director, Health Equity Partnership of North Central Mass (CHNA9):** Quabbin Region Transit viability study, Transit grant applications.

Listing of Previous Technical Studies Completed by CMRPC

- WRTA Service Contingency Plan, 2010
- WRTA Comprehensive Service Analysis, 2014/2015, 2020
- Transportation Needs Survey: Town of Clinton, MA, 2016
- WRTA Fixed-Route Passenger Satisfaction Survey, 2016, 2018
- WRTA Paratransit Passenger Satisfaction Survey, 2000, 2004, 2017, 2019
- Transportation Needs Survey: Northeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (NECCOG), 2017
- WRTA Transit Asset Management (TAM) Plan, 2018, 2022
- WRTA Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP), 2020, 2022
- Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation (CPT-HST) Plan, 2019, 2024
- WRTA Title VI Program, 2021, 2024
- Transportation Needs Survey Blackstone Valley, 2024
- Transportation Needs Survey Town of Blackstone, 2024
- Millbury Local Pavement Management Program Report, 2011
- West Boylston Local Pavement Management Program Report, 2008, 2017 update
- Regional Pavement Report 2017
- Sturbridge Local Pavement Management Program Report, 2016, 2018, 2019 update
- Regional Asset Management Report, 2020 and 2021
- West Brookfield Culvert Assessment Report, 2021
- Sturbridge Culvert Assessment Report, 2023
- MA-9 West Corridor Profile (Worcester, Leicester, Spencer), 2010
- MA Routes 12/16/197 Corridor Profile (Douglas, Webster, Dudley, Thompson-CT), 2010
- MA-140 Corridor Profile (Sterling, Princeton, Westminster), 2010
- MA-31 Corridor Profile (Holden, Paxton, Spencer), 2014
- Southbridge Street Corridor Profile (Worcester, Auburn), 2017
- MA-140 Corridor Profile (West Boylston, Boylston, Shrewsbury), 2018
- MA-20 Corridor Profile (Sturbridge), 2019
- Sutton Avenue and Central Turnpike Corridor Profile (Oxford, Sutton), 2021
- Route 62 Corridor Profile (Berlin), 2022
- Westborough Access Management Plan (MA-9, MA-135 to MA-30), 2011
- Holden Access Management Plan (MA-122A, Shrewsbury St. to Mt. Pleasant Ave.), 2011
- Boylston Access Management Plan (MA-140, MA-70 to I-290), 2013
- Freight Rail Pilot Study and Feasibility Analysis: Management System Community Profiles for Towns of Auburn and Oxford, 2014
- Blackstone Valley Freight Rail Study and Feasibility Analysis, 2015
- Freight Planning Progress Report, 2013 and 2014/2015, 2016/2017, 2018/2019, 2020/2021
- North Subregion Highway Freight Accommodation Study, 2021
- West Subregion Highway Freight Accommodation Study, 2022

- Southwest Subregion Highway Freight Accommodation Study, 2023
- Southeast Subregion Highway Freight Accommodation Study, 2024
- 2009 to 2011 Regional Safety Report, 2014
- 2011 to 2013 Regional Safety Report, 2015
- 2013 to 2015 Regional Safety Report, 2018
- 2015 to 2017 Regional Safety Report, 2020
- 2017 to 2019 Regional Safety Report, 2022
- Complete Streets Tier II: Prioritization Plans (Spencer and West Boylston), 2017
- Complete Streets Tier II Prioritization Plans (Barre and Rutland), 2018
- Complete Streets Tier II Prioritization Plans (Berlin, Brookfield, Millbury, Shrewsbury and Sturbridge), 2019
- Complete Street Tier II Prioritization Plans (Auburn and North Brookfield), 2020
- Complete Street Tier II Prioritization Plans (Dudley), 2021
- Sidewalk Prioritization Plan (Shrewsbury), 2022
- Local Sidewalk Prioritization Plan (Auburn), 2023
- Complete Street Tier II Prioritization Plan (Grafton), 2023
- Neighborhood Safe Report (Holden and Paxton), 2014
- Central Massachusetts Regional Bicycle Plan, 2011 and 2018
- Central Massachusetts Regional Pedestrian Plan, 2011 and 2018
- Regional Trails and Bicycle Lane Count Report, 2019
- Bicycle Compatibility Index, 2021
- Northborough Road Safety Report, 2021
- Northborough 330/350 Bartlett Street Post Occupancy Study, 2021
- Worcester Regional Mobility Study, 2011
- Worcester area TDM/TMA Feasibility Assessment, 2016
- CMMPO Regional Transportation Plans: 2000, 2003, 2007, 2012, 2016, 2020, 2023
- Regional Traffic Count Volume Summaries, 2000-2023
- Congestion Management Process Progress Report, 2000-2023
- Worcester Parking Study, 2020
- Westborough Parking Study, 2021
- Spencer AARP Park Enhancements, 2020

Please refer to earlier UPWP documents to view information for CMRPC technical studies completed prior to 2010.

MassDOT Guidance: Unified Planning Work Program FFY 2025

Guidance

General Guidelines

- **Narrative Structure:** Please make sure document has ease of flow to the narrative and all tables and figures are legible and properly annotated. Prioritize concise task descriptions and other narrative elements for greater readability and comprehension to the public. If additional information is available online, please include hyperlinks and only brief summaries in the document as necessary.
- **Amendment/Adjustment Procedures:** Please provide a section clearly outlining amendment/adjustment procedures for the UPWP as consistent with federal guidance on this topic.
- **3C Connections:** Please demonstrate the ways in which relevant UPWP tasks connect to the goals, objectives, and strategies identified in the 2024 RTP. Analyze previous UPWP tasks for past utilization to inform task budgets and planning efforts. If the development of a discretionary TIP program has been or is imagined to be implemented, please include a summary of that program and make sure to budget for administrative work and staff time accordingly.
- **Municipal, Regional, and Statewide Connections:** Please coordinate and connect planning efforts and capital investments to municipal plans and priorities (i.e. Master Plans), regional plans (i.e. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy; Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan, etc.), and statewide modal plans where appropriate ([Statewide Plans | Mass.gov](#)).

Administrative Items

- **Task Structure:** Please ensure individual tasks include detailed scopes, budgets, and schedules (including begin/completion dates and whether they are multi-year tasks), and the anticipated community beneficiaries.
- **Financial Narrative:** Include a description of how the amount of funding reasonably expected to be made available was developed for both highway and transit revenues.
- **Direct Cost Budget:** As part of the UPWP's financial tables, please break out a direct cost budget and organize by expected category of expenditure.
- **Staff Specification:** Please ensure individual tasks anticipate staff hours or consulting resources required. A summary of available staff hours should be included for comparison. Additionally, please ensure all staff members and their position titles intended to work on tasks funded under the UPWP contract are listed within the UPWP document.

Task-Specific Guidelines

- **Safety:**
 - Consider incorporating strategies and initiatives identified in the [2023 Strategic Highway Safety Plan \(SHSP\)](#) and [2023 Massachusetts Vulnerable Road User Safety Assessment](#) in your safety planning practices.
 - Prioritize efforts to analyze disparities in safety among vulnerable [REJ+ populations](#) in your region.
 - Collaborate with municipalities and MassDOT to pilot systemic safety improvements using emerging technologies and practices.
 - Evaluate TIP projects for quick-build improvements to advance safety, focusing on projects completed in the last 10 years with defensible ROW plans.
 - Proactively identify high-risk areas for VRUs and help educate the public on concerns and opportunities for intervention. Support local outreach and data collection on state and municipal roadways to assist MassDOT's VRU Bus Stop Improvement Project.
- **Multimodal:**
 - Begin updating regional bicycle and pedestrian plans if either is more than five years old. Consider opportunities to utilize MassDOT's Next Gen Bike/Ped Vision Map (coming Spring 2024) to identify gaps in bike/ped infrastructure and prioritize projects in line with findings from 2024 RTPs.
 - You may coordinate with MassDOT's GIS Services Team for updates to the sidewalk and road inventory expected in 2024.
 - Prioritize opportunities to implement strategies identified in CHST Plans to bridge gaps in transportation services, primarily for [REJ+ populations](#) and to essential services like health facilities. Review FHWA's [Pedestrian and Bicycle Funding Opportunities](#) resource to analyze new opportunities to use highway, transit, and safety funds. Prioritize analyses in REJ+ communities and share updates with your respective MassDOT Highway District and MPO Liaison.
- **Freight:**
 - Review the 2023 Massachusetts Freight Plan and consider the integration of freight, distribution, and loading into planning and decision-making processes.
 - Evaluate opportunities to educate the public about freight and good movement at a local level, including its economic impact and safety considerations.
 - Identify potential multimodal freight corridors that may benefit from Critical Urban Freight Corridor or Critical Rural Freight Corridor designation.

- Collect and map data on freight and goods movement within your regions and share any spatial data with MassDOT.
- Analyze the impacts of freight on safety and GHG emission among vulnerable [REJ+ populations](#) in your region.
- **Housing, Economic, Development, and Land Use:**
 - In line with language in the [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#) (BIL) (Sec. 30002) please consider the integration of land use, economic development, and housing affordability goals as part of spatial transportation analyses.
 - Consider performing analyses that could help communities advance housing production goals, as well as transit-oriented development, as described in [Section 3A of the Zoning Act](#).
 - You may collaborate with and/or encourage municipalities to collaborate with the Massachusetts Housing Partnership to determine if you or your member communities are eligible for technical assistance and pre-development activities in programs such as the [Complete Neighborhoods Initiative](#).
 - RPA staff may be asked to assist with planning activities when developments of regional impact are planned and serve as ombudsman when multiple municipalities have difficulty reaching a consensus.
- **Other Data Resources and Activities:**
 - Please take advantage of additional data resources and tools provided by MassDOT in your planning activities. [RITIS](#), [Replica](#), [Conveyal](#), and [MS2](#) may be utilized when analyzing or examining traffic/travel patterns, multimodal mobility and accessibility, economic development and land use, and when preparing materials to aid in public outreach and education efforts.
 - Continue to collaborate with MassDOT's GIS Services Team and leverage data available through the [Open Data Portal](#) and [Accessibility Observatory](#).
 - Please contact your MPO Liaison if you are interested in an automated TIP project scoring application with region-specific evaluation criteria.
- **Equity Analyses and Public Engagement:**
 - If your respective Public Participation Plan (PPP) is due for an update, please include a task to perform this update in line with MassDOT's PPP update.
 - Provide a geographic equity distribution table of past (2020-2024) and current UPWP-funded studies by municipality and number of tasks.
 - Provide a social equity distribution table of past (2020-2024) and current UPWP-funded studies considering environmental justice populations and language access. Measurement should be based on your regionally developed policies.

- **Performance-Based Planning:**
 - Include a task on Performance-Based Planning to allow sufficient staff time to coordinate with MassDOT, RTAs, and neighboring RPAs on relevant performance targets.

Title VI Compliance

Final documents should be available in all relevant languages per your Title VI Language Assistance Plan. Digital files should be legible to a screen reader, designed to accessible standards, and should have linked tables of contents for ease of use. The World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) has a series of web content accessibility guidelines should you need assistance: <https://www.w3.org/TR/WCAG21/>. Public involvement and comment should be documented to ensure involvement activities are in line with your MPO Public Participation Plans' standards.

Timeframe for UPWP Endorsement

All FFY 2025 UPWPs should be endorsed by each MPO (and signed by Chair) no later than June 30, 2024. If there are concerns with meeting this target date, please coordinate with your MPO Liaison.

Listing of Transportation-Related Acronyms

AASHTO:	American Assoc. of State Highway and Transportation Officials
ABP:	Accelerated Bridge Program
AC	Advanced Construction
ADA:	Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990
ADT:	Average Daily Traffic
AFC:	Automated Fare Collection
AICP:	American Institute of Certified Planners
APC:	Automatic Passenger Counter
APTA:	American Public Transit Association
ARRA:	American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
ATJ:	Access to Jobs
ATR:	Automatic Traffic Recorder
BIL:	Bipartisan Infrastructure Law
BMS:	Bridge Management System
BRT:	Bus Rapid Transit
BVCC:	Blackstone Valley Chamber of Commerce
CAAA:	Clean Air Act Amendments
CBD:	Central Business District
CDAG:	Community Development Action Grant
CDBG:	Community Development Block Grant
CFR:	Code of Federal Regulations
CIP:	Capital Investment Plan
CMAA:	Central Massachusetts Agency on Aging
CMAQ:	Congestion Mitigation Air Quality
CMMPO:	Central Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization
CMP:	Congestion Management Process
CMRPC:	Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission
CMRPD:	Central Massachusetts Regional Planning District
CO:	Carbon Monoxide
COA:	Council On Aging
COG:	Council of Governments
CP:	Corridor Profile
CTPS:	Central Transportation Planning Staff
CY:	Calendar Year
DCR:	Department of Conservation and Recreation
DEP:	Department of Environmental Protection
DET:	Department of Education and Training
DHCD:	Department of Housing and Community Development
DLTA:	District Local Technical Assistance
DOT:	Department of Transportation

DPH:	Department of Public Health
DTA:	Division of Transitional Assistance
EDA:	Economic Development Administration
EIR:	Environmental Impact Report
EIS:	Environmental Impact Statement
EJ:	Environmental Justice
ENF:	Environmental Notification Form
EOEEA:	Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
EOT:	Executive Office of Transportation
EPA:	Environmental Protection Agency
EPDO:	Equivalent Property Damage Only
eSTIP:	Electronic STIP
EV:	Electric Vehicle
FAA:	Federal Aviation Administration
FAPRO:	Federal Aid Programming Reimbursement Office
FAST ACT	Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act
FFY	Federal Fiscal Year
FHWA:	Federal Highway Administration
FRA:	Federal Railroad Administration
FTA:	Federal Transit Administration
FY:	Fiscal Year
GANs:	Grant Anticipation Notes
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GIS:	Geographic Information System
GPS:	Global Positioning System
GWSA:	Global Warming Solutions Act
HCM:	Highway Capacity Manual
HIP:	Highway Infrastructure Program
HOV:	High Occupancy Vehicle
HPMS:	Highway Performance Monitoring System
HPP:	High Priority Project
HSIP:	Highway Safety Improvement Program
landM:	Inspection and Maintenance
IIJA:	Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
IM:	Interstate Maintenance
IRI:	International Roughness Index
ITE:	Institute of Transportation Engineers
ITS:	Intelligent Transportation Systems
ISTEA:	Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991
JARC:	Job Access Reverse Commute
JHCBRVNHCC:	John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission
LEP:	Limited English Proficiency

LOS:	Level of Service
LOTTR:	Level of Travel Time Reliability
LPA:	Local Planning Assistance
LPMS:	Local Pavement Management System
MAC:	Massachusetts Aeronautics Commission
MAP:	Mobility Assistance Program
MAP-21:	Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21 st Century Act
MARPA:	Massachusetts Association of Regional Planning Agencies
MARTA:	Massachusetts Association of Regional Transit Authorities
MassDOT:	Massachusetts Department of Transportation
MassGIS:	Massachusetts Geographic Information System
MassPort:	Massachusetts Port Authority
MBTA:	Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority
MCAD:	Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination
MEMA:	Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency
MEPA:	Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act
MHC:	Massachusetts Historical Commission
MISER:	Massachusetts Institute for Social and Environmental Research
MOU:	Memorandum of Understanding
MPO:	Metropolitan Planning Organization
MTA:	Massachusetts Turnpike Authority
MUTCD:	Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices
MWRA:	Massachusetts Water Resources Authority
NAACC:	North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative
NAAQS:	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NBIS:	National Bridge Inventory Standards
NEPA:	National Environmental Policy Act
NFA:	Non Federal-Aid
NHFP	National Highway Freight Program
NHFN:	National Highway Freight Network
NHPP:	National Highway Performance Program
NHS:	National Highway System
NOx:	Any of the Oxides of Nitrogen
NPMRDS:	National Performance Management Research Dataset
NSP:	National Public Transportation Safety Plan
NTD:	National Transit Database
NTS:	National Transportation System
NTSB:	National Transportation Safety Board
OA:	Obligation Authority
OCI:	Overall Condition Index (used with pavement)
ODCR:	Office of Diversity and Civil Rights
O3:	Ozone

OTP	Office of Transportation Planning
PCI:	Pavement Condition Index
PHED:	Peak Hour Excessive Delay
PL:	Metropolitan Planning funds (federal)
PM:	Performance Measures
PMS:	Pavement Management System
PMUG:	Pavement Management User's Group
PPP:	Public Participation Program
PRC:	Project Review Committee
PRWORA:	Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act
PSAC:	Project Selection Advisory Council
PTASP:	Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan
REJ+:	Regional Environmental Justice "Plus"
RIF:	Roadway Inventory Files
RFP:	Request for Proposal
RFQ:	Request for Qualifications
ROW:	Right of Way
RPA:	Regional Planning Agency
RSA:	Roadway Safety Audit
RTA:	Regional Transit Authority
RTACAP	Regional Transit Authority Capitol Assistance
RTP:	Regional Transportation Plan
SAFETEA-LU:	Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act
SCA:	State Contract Assistance
SD:	Structurally Deficient
SGR:	State of Good Repair
SHSP	Strategic Highway Safety Plan
SIP:	State Implementation Plan (for Air Quality)
SMS:	Safety Management System
SOV:	Single Occupancy Vehicle
SPR:	Statewide Planning and Research
SRTS	Safe Routes to School
STIP:	State Transportation Improvement Program
STBG:	Surface Transportation Block Grant Program
TAM:	Transit Asset Management Plan
TAMP:	Transportation Asset Management Plan (Highway)
TAP:	Transportation Alternative Program
TAZ:	Transportation Analysis Zone
TDC:	Transportation Development Credits
TDM:	Travel Demand Management
TEA-21:	Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century
TEC:	Transportation Evaluation Criteria

TERM:	Transit Economic Requirements Model
TFPCC	Total Federal Participating Construction Cost
TI:	Transportation Improvement (in SAFETEA-LU)
TIP:	Transportation Improvement Program
Title VI	Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
TMA:	Transportation Management Association
TMC:	Turning Movement Count
TRB:	Transportation Research Board
TSM:	Transportation Systems Management
TTTR:	Truck Travel Time Reliability
ULB:	Useful Life Benchmark
UPWP:	Unified Planning Work Program
USDOT:	US Department of Transportation
UZA:	Urbanized Area
VMT:	Vehicle Miles of Travel
VOC:	Volatile Organic Compounds
WBDC:	Worcester Business Development Corporation
WEOEA:	Worcester Executive Office of Elder Affairs
WRA:	Worcester Redevelopment Authority
WRCC:	Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce
WRTA:	Worcester Regional Transit Authority
YOE:	Year of Expenditure
3C:	Continuing, Comprehensive and Cooperative (planning process)

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