



## CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

The minutes of the Central Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (CMMPO) meeting held **Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024**. This meeting was held virtually using Zoom Webinar.

- **CMMPO Members Present:**

1. Steve Woelfel – MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning, designee to MassDOT Secretary Monica Tibbits-Nutt
2. Ann Sullivan – MassDOT Highway Division District #3, designee to MassDOT Highway Division Administrator Jonathon Gulliver
3. Joshua Rickman – WRTA Administrator
4. Bob Hassinger – designee to CMRPC Commission Chair
5. Betsy Goodrich – designee to City Manager Eric Batista
6. Jesse Limanek – Sutton, Southeast Subregion Representative
7. John Daniel – Southbridge, Southwest Subregion Representative
8. Stephanie Mulroy – Holden, North Subregion Representative

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

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

- **Guests:**

1. Sarah Bradbury, MassDOT District #3
2. Ben Breger (MassDOT District #2)
3. Brian Pigeon, City of Worcester
4. Keith Baldinger, Shrewsbury
5. Andy Truman, Shrewsbury

- **CMRPC Staff**

1. Sujatha Krishnan, Deputy Director – Transportation
2. Kevin Krasnecky, Project Manager – Transportation
3. Zack Blais, Associate Planner – Transportation
4. Rich Rydant, Project Manager – Transportation
5. Yahaira Graxirena, Project Manager – Transportation
6. Connie Mellis, Project Manager – Transportation
7. Tyler Distefano, Assistant Planner – Transportation
8. Adam Wriggins, Assistant Planner – Transportation
9. Jeff Howland, Planning Engineer - Transportation

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**Agenda Item #1 – Introductions**

CMMPO Chair Steve Woelfel opened the meeting at 4:00 PM. A roll call of CMMPO members was announced.

**Agenda Item #2 – Approval of April 17, 2024, Meeting Minutes**

Minutes from the April 17, 2024, meeting of the CMMPO were considered for approval. Bob Hassinger motioned to accept the minutes and was seconded by Jesse Limanek. A roll call vote was announced, and members voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

Steve Woelfel – Yes

Betsy Goodrich – Yes

Ann Sullivan – Yes

Jesse Limanek – Yes

Joshua Rickman – Yes

John Daniel – Yes

Bob Hassinger – Yes

Stephanie Mulroy – Yes

**Agenda Item #3 – Opportunity for Public Comment**

There were no comments from the public.

**Agenda Item #4 – Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

- **Potential Action:** Approval of Proposed Amendment #7 to the FFY 2024 to FFY 2028 TIP Highway List

Kevin Krasnecky presented this item. CMMPO members were asked to approve the proposed Amendment #7 to the FFY 2024 to FFY 2028 TIP Highway List. Amendment #7 included the following three changes:

- (FFY 2024) Project #608171, Uxbridge – Reconstruction of Route 122 (South Main St.)
  - Increase cost of project from \$10,624,014 to \$14,232,013.
- Project #608851, Hardwick & New Braintree – Bridge Replacement, H-08-003=N-07-002, Creamery Rd. over Ware River
  - Move project from FFY 2025 to FFY 2024
  - Funding source changed from STBG-BR-Off to BROFF
  - New total project cost of \$3,659,382
  - **MassDOT Comments: During the comment period an additional cost Increase of \$841,042 occurred – the updated new Total Project Cost is \$4,500,424**
- (FFY 2024) Project #608640, Sutton & Grafton – Bridge Reconstruction/Rehabilitation, S-33-004, Depot St. over Blackstone River
  - Decrease Total Project Cost from \$12,380,610 to \$9,636,255.

Bob Hassinger asked if the additional cost increase of the New Braintree/Hardwick bridge project was presented at the April Transportation Committee meeting. Mr. Krasnecky said no, the updated cost was not known at that time. Mr. Hassinger also asked how the additional cost increase would impact overall

regional target funds. Mr. Krasnecky answered that the additional cost increase was for a statewide project so it would not impact regional target funds. There were no further comments or questions.

Ann Sullivan made a motion and was seconded by John Daniel to approve Proposed Amendment #7 to the FFY 2024 to FFY 2028 TIP Highway List. All members present voted unanimously to approve Proposed Amendment #7.

Steve Woelfel – Yes

Ann Sullivan – Yes

Joshua Rickman – Yes

Bob Hassinger – Yes

Betsy Goodrich – Yes

Jesse Limanek – Yes

John Daniel – Yes

Stephanie Mulroy – Yes

- **Potential Action:** Approval of FFY 2025 to FFY 2029 TIP

Kevin Krasnecky presented this item. Members were asked to approve the FFY 2025 to FFY 2029 TIP. Mr. Krasnecky said a public meeting was held for the Draft 2025-2029 TIP, but there were no comments or questions. Mr. Krasnecky also noted that a comment letter was received from the 495/MetroWest Partnership, supporting the projects within their region and concern for the projects within their region that were pushed back to a later year. Mr. Krasnecky said that MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning (OTP) also reviewed the TIP and provided comments which included minor text edits within the TIP document and a few project changes to the highway project listing. The highway changes were:

- MassDOT was awarded a PROTECT Discretionary Grant for Project 612608 – Worcester – Flood Relief on Route 20 (Grafton Street). Most of the project costs are now being funded with the grant.
- The interregional statewide Project 608491 – Hardwick – New Braintree – Ware – West Brookfield – Resurfacing of Route 32 was added to FFY 2024.
- Project 612190 – Holden – Salisbury Bridge Replacement description was changed from PW Railroad to G&W Railroad.
- Project 610825 – Shrewsbury – Rehabilitation & Widening on Route 20 was reallocated from 28/29 to now being funding in 2026 through 2028.
- Project 608490 – Upton – Route 140 Resurfacing & Roundabout Construction was reallocated from 2026 to 2029.

There were no comments or questions.

Ann Sullivan made a motion and was seconded by Betsy Goodrich to approve the FFY 2025 to FFY 2029 TIP. All members present voted unanimously to approve the FFY 2025 to FFY 2029 TIP.

Steve Woelfel – Yes

Ann Sullivan – Yes

Joshua Rickman – Yes

Bob Hassinger – Yes

Betsy Goodrich – Yes

Jesse Limanek – Yes

John Daniel – Yes

Stephanie Mulroy – Yes

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

- **Potential Action:** Release of Draft FFY 2025 UPWP for 21-Day Public Review and Comment Period

Sujatha Krishnan presented this item. Members were asked to release the Draft FFY 2025 UPWP for the 21-Day Public Review and Comment Period. Ms. Krishnan briefly reviewed the highlights and some new focus areas in the FFY 2025 UPWP, which included housing coordination, TIP Design Funding, a pedestrian and bicycle plan, CMMPO certification, and updating the public participation plan, among others. Ms. Krishnan also reviewed the FFY 2025 UPWP budget, which included changes from what was presented at a previous CMMPO meeting. The changes were dedicated tasks for a Regional Housing & Transportation Plan and the Vernon Street over I-290 Planning Study. Next, Ms. Krishnan reviewed some details of both the Regional Housing and Transportation Integration Plan Vernon Street over I-290 Planning Study. To finish the presentation, Ms. Krishnan announced the next steps after the release for public review and comment period. These include a public meeting on June 3<sup>rd</sup> and the CMMPO approval of the FFY 2025 UPWP at the June CMMPO meeting.

There were no questions or comments following the presentation.

Bob Hassinger made a motion and was seconded by Josh Rickman to release the Draft FFY 2025 UPWP for 21-Day Public Review and Comment Period. All members present voted unanimously.

Steve Woelfel – Yes

Betsy Goodrich – Yes

Ann Sullivan – Yes

Jesse Limanek – Yes

Joshua Rickman – Yes

John Daniel – Yes

Bob Hassinger – Yes

Stephanie Mulroy – Yes

**Agenda Item #6 – Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan**

- **Potential Action:** Release of Draft Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan for 21-Day Public Review and Comment Period

Tyler Distefano presented this item. Members were asked to release the Draft Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan for 21-Day Public Review and Comment Period. Mr. Distefano provided a brief presentation on the Plan, which consisted of an overview, changes since the last updates in 2019, an overview of each section, and Plan recommendations. The Plan considers several recommendations related to transportation and coordination, including service changes, information access, improved transit planning, fare and service equity, transit partnerships, and more.

Mr. Distefano explained that after being endorsed by the CMMPO at the June Meeting, the Plan will go into effect for the next four years (until 2028), in which the Plan will be updated again.

There were no comments or questions following the presentation.

Bob Hassinger made a motion and was seconded by Ann Sullivan to release the Draft Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan for 21-Day Public Review and Comment Period. All members present voted unanimously to release the Plan for 21-Day Day Public Review and Comment Period.

Steve Woelfel – Yes

Ann Sullivan – Yes

Joshua Rickman – Yes

Bob Hassinger – Yes

Betsy Goodrich – Yes

Jesse Limanek – Yes

John Daniel – Yes

Stephanie Mulroy – Yes

#### **Agenda Item #7 – June CMMPO Meeting Date Discussion**

Sujatha Krishnan said that the June CMMPO meeting is on June 19<sup>th</sup>, which is the Juneteenth holiday. Ms. Krishnan said that June 20<sup>th</sup> and June 27<sup>th</sup> are potential alternative dates. After some discussion, the members concluded that June 20<sup>th</sup> would be the best option to hold the June CMMPO Meeting.

#### **Agenda Item #8 – Staff Updates**

- Federal Grants

Ms. Krishnan announced that CMRPC staff are working with the federal government to finalize the agreement on Safe Streets for All grant. Staff are also working on Community One-Stop Grants (also known as MassWorks) for the Vernon Street (I-290) study and a grant in Gardner.

- Bike Month Activities

Yahaira Graxirena provided some brief updates about upcoming May bike month planning activities and activities that were recently completed. Activities included a bike sway and breakfast, bike art exhibit, E-Bike celebration, bike ride, and documentary at the Public Library.

#### **Agenda Item #9– New Business**

There was no new business announced.

#### **Agenda Item #10 – Next Meetings**

- CMMPO Advisory Committee meeting (virtual) – May 22, 2024, at 3:00PM
- CMMPO meeting (virtual) – June 20, 2024, at 4:00PM

#### **Agenda Item #11 – Adjournment**

Bob Hassinger made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Ann Sullivan. The meeting concluded at 4:45 PM.

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