



## CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The minutes of the CMMPO Advisory Committee held **June 26, 2024**. This meeting was held virtually through Zoom.

### **CMMPO Advisory Committee Members Present:**

- Chris Payant, Town of Westborough
- Connor McCormack – Town of Millbury
- Daryl Amaral – MassDOT District 2
- Claudia Paiva – Latino Education Institute
- Joanne Clarke – AARP
- Matt Benoit – Town of Douglas
- Karin Valentine-Goins – WalkBike Worcester
- Sarah Bradbury - MassDOT

### **Ex-Officio Members Present:**

- Chris Klem – MassDOT OTP

### **CMRPC Staff Present:**

- Yahaira Graxirena
- Rich Rydant
- Kevin Krasnecky
- Eric Gemperline
- Connie Mellis
- Adam Wriggins
- Jeff Howland

### **Guest**

- Sarah Cannamela, MassDOT

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### **Agenda Item #1 – Around the Room Introductions**

Vicechair Chris Payant opened the meeting at 3:04 PM. A roll call of CMMPO Advisory members was announced, followed by the rest of the attendees.

### **Agenda Item #2 – Approval of April 24, 2024, meeting minutes**

Minutes for May 22, 2024, CMMPO Advisory meeting were considered for approval. Vicechair Payant entertains a motion to approve the May 22, 2024, meeting minutes. Mr. McCormack makes a motion to approve. The motion is seconded by Ms. Clarke. The vote was unanimous in favor of approval.

### **Agenda Item #3 – Community Transit Grant Program and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

Connie Mellis started the with a presentation of the Community Transit Grant Program.

The Community Transit Grant Program (CTGP) is meant to help communities meet the mobility needs of older adults and individuals with disabilities by providing funds for the purchase of vehicles, mobility management activities, and operating cost. There are three types of eligible project types that can be applied for: operating cost, mobility management, and capital expenses. Eligible agencies include transit authorities, municipalities, councils on aging, non-profits, and private operators of public transit.

For capital projects, MassDOT procures wheelchair-accessible vehicles for transit services. MassDOT covers 80% of the cost and requires a 20% match. In addition to capital projects, operating projects can be funded up to 50% and types of operating projects include things such as a community shuttle or volunteer driver program. Lastly, funds can be used to pay the salart of a staff member who helps older adults and people with disabilities learn about and learn to use local community transportation services.

Operating projects currently funded in the CMRPC include the WRTA SCM Elderbus – ReadyBus service, WRTA SCM Elderbus – Midday Service, WRTA Holden to Worcester service, Town of Rutland COA Transportation program, and the Town of Shrewsbury COA transportation operations. After the presentation, the discussion was moved to the TIP discussion.

- **Action Item:** Seeking recommendation concerning CMMPO endorsement of the Proposed 2024-2028 TIP Transit Amendment #8.

Kevin Krasnecky presented this item. Proposed Amendment #8 includes adding two Community Transit Grants Program Vehicle Awards to the transit project listing:

- Add **WRTA011875** – WRTA – Purchase of Type E (6) Vans to FFY 2024 and FFY 2025

- Total Project Cost: \$661,440
- \$505,072 – 5310 funds programmed in FFY 2024
- \$156,368 – GOBOND funds programmed in FFY 2025
- Add **WRTA011876** – Town of Millbury COA – Purchase of Type A-EV Van (1) to FFY 2024 and FFY 2025
  - Total Project Cost: \$109,926
  - \$21,985 – LF funds programmed in FFY 2024
  - \$87,941 – GOBOND funds programmed in FFY 2025

There were no comments or questions.

Vicechair Payant entertains a motion to endorse TIP Transit Amendment #8. Mr. McCormack makes a motion to endorse the TIP Transit Amendment #8. The motion is seconded by Mr. Benoit. The motion passed unanimously.

**Agenda Item #4 – Active Transportation Updates Presentation**

Yahaira Graxirena presented this item. Ms. Graxirena provided updates on Active Transportation planning. These updates included Complete Streets, Walking, Healthy Aging, Biking, and Trails.

For Complete Streets, staff have completed a Complete Streets policy with the Town of Hardwick and are currently working towards a policy with the Town of Warren.

For Walking, staff have made considerable efforts, including Walk Audits at Woodland Academy and South High Community School, attending Jeff Speck’s Lecture on a walkable Worcester and participation in Worcester’s Vision Zero Committee, attending a placemaking event for Worcester’s Vision Zero at the Vernon Hill School, and attending the WalkMassachusetts Annual Bob Sloane Walk at Union Station.

For Healthy Aging, staff have created a Pedestrian Route Map for the Town of Auburn.

For Biking, staff have also made considerable efforts, including many Bike Month events and rides, a MassBike E-Bike Program Celebration, E-Bike deployments for phase 2, and a “Bike Rodeo” at the Vernon Hill School.

Finally, for Trails, staff have participated in planning efforts at the 7-Arches Bridge in Blackstone, the Charles River Headwaters trail, and the Blackstone River Greenway. Staff have also helped complete the BWALT ArcGIS Online StoryMap and attended the public meeting with abutters. Moreover, staff have also been active in improving trails that are also accessible to schools, playgrounds, and open space within the region’s municipalities.

There were no comments or questions.

#### **Agenda Item #5 – Data Collection Update Presentation**

Mr. Gemperline presented this item. Mr. Gemperline provided a brief run down of what services the CMRPC offers for data collection. Services include traffic counting, culverts, pavement, pedestrian and bike facilities, and drone services. Mr. Gemperline highlighted three projects which included beaver activity tracking in Westborough, tactical urbanism in Worcester, and Auburn sidewalk plan and walkability tool.

There were no comments or questions.

#### **Agenda Item #6 – Staff Updates**

There were no staff updates.

#### **Agenda Item #8 – New Business**

There was no new business.

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

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

- CMMPO Advisory Committee meeting (virtual) – Wednesday, July 24, 2024, at 3:00 PM
- CMMPO Meeting (virtual) – Wednesday, May 17, 2024, at 4:00 PM

#### **Agenda Item #10 – Adjournment**

At 3:39 PM Vicechair Payant entertained a motion to adjourn. Mr. McCormack made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Benoit. The group voted unanimously to adjourn.

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