



CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

The minutes of the Central Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (CMMPO) meeting held **Wednesday, July 17th, 2024**. This meeting was held virtually using Zoom Webinar.

- **CMMPO Members Present:**

1. Derek Krevat – 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. Jared Grigg – Spencer, West Subregion Alternate

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

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

- **Guests:**

1. Sarah Bradbury, MassDOT District #3
2. Daryl Amaral, MassDOT District #2
3. Eleanor
4. Bill Scully

- **CMRPC Staff**

1. Sujatha Krishnan, Deputy Director – Transportation
2. Kevin Krasnecky, Project Manager – Transportation
3. Zack Blais, Principal Planner – Transportation
4. Yahaira Graxirena, Project Manager – Transportation
5. Connie Mellis, Project Manager – Transportation
6. Adam Wriggins, Associate Planner – Transportation

7. Jeff Howland, Senior Planning Engineer – Transportation
8. Nathan Lewis, Assistant Planner – Transportation

The CMMPO fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. The CMMPO does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, English proficiency, income, religious creed, ancestry, disability, age, gender, sexual orientation, military service, or gender identity or expression. Any person who believes himself/herself or any specific class of persons have been subjected to discrimination prohibited by Title VI or related statutes or regulations may, himself/herself or via a representative, file a complaint with the CMMPO. A complaint must be filed no later than 180 calendar days after the date on which the person believes the discrimination occurred. Contact the CMMPO Title VI Coordinator at (508) 459-3313 or titleVIcoordinator@cmrpc.org, to obtain a copy of the CMMPO Complaint Procedure and forms, or visit <http://cmrpc.org/title-vi-policy> to review online.

Agenda Item #1 – Introductions

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

Agenda Item #2 – Approval of June 20, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the June 20, 2024, meeting of the CMMPO were considered for approval. Bob Hassinger motioned to accept the minutes and was seconded by Ann Sullivan. A roll call vote was announced, and members voted to approve the minutes.

Derek Krevat – Yes	Betsy Goodrich – Abstain
Ann Sullivan – Yes	Jesse Limanek – Abstain
Joshua Rickman – Yes	John Daniel – Yes
Bob Hassinger – Yes	Jared Grigg – 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 #8 to the FFY 2024 to FFY 2028 TIP Transit Project Listing

Kevin Krasnecky presented this item. Amendment #8 includes two additions for Community Transit Grants Program Vehicle Awards to FFY 2024 and FFY 2025. These are:

- Add **Project WRTA011875 – WRTA – Purchase Type E (6) Vans** to FFY 2024 and FFY 2025
 - Total Project Cost: \$661,440
 - \$505,072 of 5310 funds programmed in FFY 2024
 - \$156,368 of GOBOND funds programmed in FFY 2025
- Add Project 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 of LF funds programmed in FFY 2024
 - \$87,941 of GOBOND funds programmed in FFY 2025

Mr. Krasnecky noted that staff held a virtual public meeting on Tuesday, July 9th, but no one attended. Also, both the CMMPO Advisory Committee and CMRPC’s Transportation Committee recommended approval of Amendment #8.

There were no comments or questions.

Bob Hassinger made a motion and was seconded by Ann Sullivan to approve the Proposed Amendment #8. All members voted unanimously to approve the Proposed Amendment #8 to the FFY 2024 to FFY 2028 TIP Transit Project Listing.

Derek Krevat – Yes
Ann Sullivan – Yes
Joshua Rickman – Yes
Bob Hassinger – Yes

Betsy Goodrich – Yes
Jesse Limanek – Yes
John Daniel – Yes
Jared Grigg – Yes

Agenda Item #5 – Title VI Program

- **Potential Action:** Release of Title VI Program for 45-Day Public Review and Comment Period

Yahaira Graxirena presented this item. The Title VI Program will tie in all the components already included in different areas under CMRPC’s Title VI work. Beyond this, the purpose of the program is to focus on the Title VI policy, compliance requirements, protected populations, processes and procedures, and methodologies and analyses. Ms. Graxirena then briefly explained each component to the members. Further, Ms. Graxirena said the CMMPO’s Transportation Equity goal is to ensure that all people in the Central Massachusetts region receive comparable benefits from, and are not disproportionately burdened by, CMMPO investments, regardless of race, color, national origin, age, income, ability, sex or gender.

Next steps for the Title VI Program include the release of the program for public comments and review, a Title VI Program Quick Guide, translated versions of the program, a hybrid public meeting on August 13, 2024 at noon, and future approval by the CMMPO following the public and comment period.

Following the presentation, Jared Grigg asked what equity populations are. Ms. Graxirena answered that equity populations are minority, limited-English proficiency (LEP), low-income, older adults (75 and up), disabilities, and zero-vehicle households. These were adopted from MassDOT’s REJ+ thresholds for the Central Massachusetts Region.

There were no other comments or questions.

Bob Hassinger made a motion and was seconded by Josh Rickman to approve the Release of the Title VI Program for 45-Day Public Review and Comment Period. All members present voted unanimously to approve the Release of the Title VI Program for 45-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
Jared Grigg – Yes

Agenda Item #6 – Access to Housing in the Central Massachusetts Region Scope of Work

Sujatha Krishnan presented this item. Ms. Krishnan explained the purpose of the plan is to analyze the gaps between transportation and housing access by identifying the regional housing inventory while also considering climate change, economic development, demographic shifts, and more. This plan will help provide strategies to improve access to housing and transportation at both the regional and local levels. A consultant will be used to help create the plan, work with stakeholders, identify gaps, and provide strategies and action items. Existing work will be used to help guide this plan, including Master Plans,

Corridor Profile Studies, 2050 Connections (LRTP), Complete Street and Active Transportation Plans, Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies, and more. Some of the deliverables from the plan will include an existing housing and transportation inventory, a gap analysis of current housing and transportation, future demand for regional housing, local and regional recommendations, strategies and actionable items, and transportation access strategies guide.

Next steps for the plan include an RFP and consultant selection by October 2024, bi-monthly deliverables, community engagement in Spring 2025, a Draft Plan by Summer 2025, and a Final Plan by September 2025.

Jared Grigg asked if this plan would make changes that impact existing communities zoning efforts. Ms. Krishnan answered that it would not.

Derek Krevat asked if discussions are happening with communities early on in the planning process and what that community engagement will look like. Ms. Krishnan answered that staff haven't reached out yet, but an Advisory Committee will be formed to begin community engagement early in the process, hopefully in the Fall.

Bob Hassinger asked what brought this project forward into the transportation realm of planning. Ms. Krishnan answered that MassDOT has suggested RPAs tie economic development and transportation together in some way. Other RPAs are doing something different and CMRPC staff have decided to create this plan. Mr. Krevat added that federal and state priorities are focused on the intersection between housing and transportation.

Agenda Item #7 – Staff Updates

- User Interface Updates – Asset Management Data

Adam Wriggins announced that staff are working on updating CMRPC's asset management GIS resources including Turning Movement Counts (TMC), traffic counting, culverts, and others to create a more user-friendly and interactive GIS maps and Asset Management dashboard.

There were no comments or questions.

- Worcester Route 12 (West Boylston St) Corridor Profile

Mr. Krasnecky announced that staff are currently working on a Corridor Profile study along Route 12 (West Boylston Street) in Worcester. A Corridor Profile Study examines all aspects of the corridor, both transportation and environmental. Staff is collecting and analyzing various transportation data and working on writing the chapters for the document.

There were no comments or questions.

- Culvert Assessments

Mr. Krasnecky announced that staff are working on culvert assessments in Berlin and Boylston. Once all culvert assessments have been completed along federal aid eligible roadways staff will complete an assessment report and a GIS Dashboard for the town.

Jared Grigg asked what community is next for culvert assessments. Zack Blais said that the town of Blackstone is next.

There were no other comments or questions.

- Freight Accommodation Assessment Series

Mr. Krasnecky announced that the staff has been working on a series of Highway Freight Accommodations Assessment Studies for each of the six subregions. The studies focus on the State Numbered Routes in each subregion and various types of transportation and environmental data are analyzed. Additionally, the staff provides suggested improvements for consideration by the host communities. The North, West, Southwest, and Southeast subregions have been completed and staff are currently working on the Northeast subregion study. The City of Worcester study will be completed next year.

There were no comments or questions.

- Southern New England Trunk Trail (SNETT) Coordination

Ms. Graxirena announced that staff are collaborating with MAPC on the SNETT between Franklin and Blackstone to upgrade different parcels along the trail. The 7-arch bridge is a part of those upgrades. A visit to the bridge is planned. Meetings are also planned soon.

There were no comments or questions.

- WRTA Riders Forum

Ms. Graxirena announced that there is an initiative by Josh Rickman and the WRTA, which includes CMRPC Transit staff participation. The initiative is to get public feedback on WRTA performance, cleanliness, and drivers. The feedback will be used to improve ridership experience.

There were no comments or questions.

Agenda Item #8 – New Business

- CMRPC Legislative Affairs Breakfast (7/23/24 “Food Insecurity”)

Ms. Krishnan reminded the group to register for the upcoming CMRPC Legislative Affairs Breakfast on July 23, 2024. The topic is to discuss Food Insecurity in Central Massachusetts. It is at 8:30am at the Rutland Public Library.

Agenda Item #9 – Next Meetings

- CMMPO Advisory Committee meeting (virtual) – TBD
- CMMPO meeting (virtual) – TBD

Agenda Item #10 – Adjournment

Bob Hassinger made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Ann Sullivan. The meeting concluded at 5:00 PM.

Meeting Minutes prepared by: Zack Blais, Transportation Principal Planner