



CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

The minutes of the Central Massachusetts Transportation Planning Committee Hybrid meeting held Thursday, July 25, 2024 using Zoom.

T-Committee Members Present:

1. Bob Hassinger, Grafton, Committee Chairperson
2. Brian Pigeon, Worcester
3. Rick Baker, Boylston
4. Otto Lies, Holden

CMRPC Staff Present:

1. Kevin Krasnecky
2. Sujatha Krishnan
3. Yahaira Graxirena

The CMRPC fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. The CMRPC 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 CMRPC. A complaint must be filed no later than 180 calendar days after the date on which the person believes the discrimination occurred.

Around-the-Room Introductions

Committee Chairperson Bob Hassinger opened the meeting at 6:00 PM and asked for around the room introductions.

Approval of the June 27, 2024 T-Committee Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the June 27, 2024 meeting were considered for approval. Brian Pigeon motioned to accept the minutes and was seconded by Rick Baker. All Members voted to approve the minutes.

Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Title VI Program

- **Action Item:** Seeking recommendation concerning CMMPO endorsement of the Title VI Program.

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 review and comment (released by the CMMPO at their July 17th meeting), a Title VI Program "Quick Guide", translated versions of the program, a hybrid public meeting to be held August 13, 2024 at noon, and future approval consideration by the CMMPO following the public review and comment period.

There were no comments or questions.

On a motion from Otto Lies and a second from Rick Baker, the members unanimously voted to recommend endorsement of the Title VI Program.

Access to Housing in the Central Massachusetts Region Scope of Work Presentation

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 also 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 a transportation access strategies guide.

Next steps for the plan include a Request For Proposals (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.

There were no comments or questions.

Staff Updates

Kevin Krasnecky provided the following updates:

- Staff are working to upgrade many of the asset management GIS resources including Turning Movement Count (TMC) data, traffic counts, pedestrian inventories, and culvert layers. Many of these databases are old and do not work well with today's online mapping software. Staff are updating and, in some cases, recreating these databases so that they can be better integrated online, improving both functionality and the user experience. Following this work, staff will be able to develop more user-friendly and self-service products featuring an updated asset management dashboard.
- Staff are working on a Corridor Profile study along Route 12 (West Boylston Street) in Worcester. A Corridor Profile examines a range of aspects of the corridor, both transportation and environmental. Staff are continuing to collect and analyze various transportation data and are also working on writing the chapters for the CP document.
- Staff are assessing culverts on federal-aid roadways in the towns of Berlin and Boylston. About 35 culverts have been assessed so far this summer. Once all culvert assessments have been completed, staff will compile an assessment report and a GIS dashboard for both host communities.
- Staff have been working on a series of Highway Freight Accommodation 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 improvement options 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.

New Business

Ms. Graxirena mentioned that the City of Gardner successfully competed and received a US DOT RAISE grant to design a parking garage. The CMRPC staff assisted with the writing and submission of the grant application. Last week the City of Gardner was visited by US Senator Ed Markey highlighting the RAISE funds destined for the city.

Next Meetings

- CMMPO Meeting – TBD
- CMMPO Advisory Committee Meeting – TBD
- CMTPC Meeting – TBD

Adjournment

Upon a motion by Rick Baker and a second from Otto Lies, the members unanimously voted to adjourn at 6:27 PM.