



CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

The minutes of the Central Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (CMMPO) meeting held **Wednesday, November 20th, 2024**. This meeting was held virtually using Zoom Webinar.

- **CMMPO Members Present:**

1. David Mohler – 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. Michelle Conlin – Shrewsbury, Northeast Subregion Representative
7. Jesse Limanek – Sutton, Southeast Subregion Representative
8. John Daniel – Southbridge, Southwest Subregion Representative
9. Jared Grigg – Warren, West Subregion Representative

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

1. Derek Shooster, MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning
2. Joshua Barber, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
3. Kirstie Hostetter, Federal Transit Administration (FTA)

- **Guests:**

1. Sarah Bradbury, MassDOT District #3
2. Bill Filsinger, Boylston, Northeast Subregion Alternate
3. Daryl Amaral (MassDOT)

- **CMRPC Staff**

1. Sujatha Krishnan, Deputy Director – Transportation
2. Kevin Krasnecky, Project Manager – Transportation
3. Rich Rydant, Director of MPO Activities – Transportation
4. Zack Blais, Principal Planner – Transportation
5. Connie Mellis, Project Manager – Transportation

6. Jeff Howland, Senior Transportation and Planning Engineer – Transportation
7. Yahaira Graxirena, Project Manager – Transportation
8. Adam Wriggins, Assistant Planner – Transportation
9. Kerrie Salwa, Director of Economic Development – Regional Collaboration & Community Planning

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Agenda Item #1 – Introductions

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

Agenda Item #2 – Approval of October 16, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the October 16, 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.

David Mohler – Yes

Michelle Conlin – Yes

Ann Sullivan – Yes

Jesse Limanek - Yes

Joshua Rickman – Yes

John Daniel – Yes

Bob Hassinger – Yes

Jared Grigg – Yes

Betsy Goodrich – 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 Adjustment #1 to the FFY 2025 to FFY 2029 TIP Highway Project Listing

Kevin Krasnecky presented the Proposed Adjustment #1 to the FFY 2025 to FFY 2029 TIP Highway Project Listing. Adjustment #1 included the following changes:

- Cost increase for MicroProject #S12936 – Worcester – Purchase of New Bicycle in the amount of \$8,750. The new total project cost is now **\$43,750**.
- Change project description of #613208 Worcester – Cleaning & Painting of Bridges on I-190: W-44-124 (1XF,1XG), W-44-126 (1XJ,1XK), W-44-127 (1XL), W-44-132 (1XN,1XP), and W-44-133 (1XQ,1XR) to **Worcester – Bridge Preservation of 11 Structures on I-190 and Ramps** in FFY 2025.
- Change project description of #612608 Worcester – Flood Relief on Route 20, Grafton Street (Route 122) Interchange to Flint Pond in FFY 2025 to include the town of **Shrewsbury**.
- Change project description of #610825 Shrewsbury – Rehabilitation & Box Widening on Route 20, from Route 9 to South Street in FFY 2026, 2027, & 2028 to include the town of **Northborough**.
- Add project #613606 District 1 – District 2 – District 3 VRU Systemic Safety Project Near Bus Stops in FFY 2025.
 - This project was one of three projects created from a placeholder included on the Statewide Highway Projects List #S12890 “VRU Systemic Safety Near Bus Stops-2025”, which was included in the CMMPO FFY 2025-2029 TIP Technical Appendix, and needs to be reflected in the regional TIP.

There were no comments or questions regarding the updates.

Mr. Krasnecky noted that the proposed changes do not need a public comment period and asked members to vote to approve Proposed Adjustment #1. Michelle Conlin motioned to approve the Proposed Adjustment #1 and was seconded by Ann Sullivan. All members voted unanimously to approve the Proposed Adjustment #1 to the FFY 2025 to FFY 2029 TIP Highway Project Listing.

David Mohler – Yes
Ann Sullivan – Yes
Josh Rickman – Yes
Bob Hassinger – Yes
Betsy Goodrich – Yes

Michelle Conlin – Yes
Jesse Limanek – Yes
John Daniel – Yes
Jared Grigg – Yes

- **Potential Action:** Release Proposed Amendment #2 to the FFY 2025 to FFY 2029 TIP Highway Project Listing for 21-Day Public Review and Comment Period

Kevin Krasnecky presented Proposed Amendment #2 to the FFY 2025 to FFY 2029 TIP Highway Project Listing. Amendment #2 included the following changes:

- In FFY 2025, change description of regional target project #S12938 CMMPO Project Design Funding Program to Worcester – Intersection Improvements at Lake Avenue and Bigelow Davis Parkway (Formerly Hamilton Street) (Design Only, Ref 61364). Also, reduce the funding amount from \$1,000,000 to \$500,000.
- Add project #S13102 – Worcester – Mill Street Planning & Design Earmark to FFY 2025 in the amount of \$2,500,000 of HPP funding.
- Add project #S13118 – Worcester – SS4A Action Plan and Worcester Main Street South Demonstration Project to FFY 2025 in the amount of \$600,000 of SS4A funding.

There were no comments or questions regarding the changes.

Mr. Krasnecky asked members to vote to release the Proposed Amendment #2 Project for 21-Day Public Review and Comment Period. All members voted unanimously to release the Proposed Amendment #2 to the FFY 2025 to FFY 2029 TIP Highway Project Listing for 21-Day Public Review and Comment Period.

David Mohler – Yes
Ann Sullivan – Yes
Josh Rickman – Yes
Bob Hassinger – Yes
Betsy Goodrich – Yes

Michelle Conlin – Yes
Jesse Limanek – Yes
John Daniel – Yes
Jared Grigg – Yes

- FFY 2026 to FFY 2030 TIP Development Timeline

Kevin Krasnecky discussed the FFY 2026 to FFY 2030 TIP Development Timeline. Mr. Krasnecky noted the Annual TIP Development letter, which included the Development Schedule, was emailed to various town officials, committee members, legislators, and other interested stakeholders. Mr. Krasnecky then summarized the schedule for the 2026 to 2030 TIP.

There were no comments or questions

- TIP Design Funding Application

Mr. Krasnecky said that the staff have completed the application for the TIP Design Funding. The application was included in the TIP development email and the deadline to apply for TIP Design Funding for FFY 2026 is December 31, 2024.

There were no comments or questions.

- MicroProjects Application

Yahaira Graxirena announced that the application package for the upcoming round of MicroProjects was released and posted on the CMRPC website and the communities were also notified of where it is located on the website. The deadline to apply for a MicroProject in the upcoming round is February 14, 2025.

There were no comments or questions.

Agenda Item #5 – Economic Impact of Trails in the CMRPC Region Presentation

Kerrie Salwa presented on the Economic Impact of Trails in the CMRPC Region.

Through a formal slide presentation, numerous trails throughout the region were displayed and Ms. Salwa discussed their status, priorities, and benefits. These trails included the Twin Cities Rail Trail; the Trail Network in the North Brookfield Downtown Strategic Plan; French River Walk; Quinebaug River Bikeway; Quinebaug Valley Rail Trail; Blackstone River Greenway; Proposed Blackstone River Walk; Charles River Headway Greenway; Boston-Worcester Air Line Trail (BWALT); and Massachusetts Central Rail Trail (MCRT). A map was displayed that showed all of the trails together, highlighting the regional connections these trails create.

There were no comments or questions following the presentation.

Agenda Item #6 – Federal Certification Update

Joshua Barber (FHWA) and Kirstie Hostetter (FTA) provided a summary of their Federal Certification Review of the CMMPO. Overall, the review found that the planning process fully meets all federal planning requirements and there were no Corrective Actions. However, there were several recommendations that warrant close attention and follow-up. There was a total of nice recommendations within the various topic areas discussed during the federal certification review. Additionally, the CMMPO was also commended on their technical assistance programs aiding municipalities in development of ADA transition plans.

There were no comments or questions following the summary.

Agenda Item #7 – Staff Updates

- MassTrails Conference – Panel Discussion Debrief

Yahaira Graxirena announced that CMRPC staff were invited to participate in this panel discussion on October 25/26th and spoke with many people about different topics related to trails.

- State Housing Plan – Central Mass Feedback

Sujatha Krishnan said that the state is currently in the process of completing the State Housing Plan. At CMRPC's Quarterly meeting, four housing-related questions were discussed, and comments were provided. Based on the comments and the State Housing Plan, CMRPC staff can use them in the creation of the CMRPC regional housing plan.

- Grant Awards/Applications

Ms. Krishnan announced the federal grants for PROTECT and RAISE are currently available. Also, the Mass Trails state grant is now open, with a deadline in mid-February.

Agenda Item #8 – New Business

There was no new business announced.

Agenda Item #9 – Next Meetings

- CMMPO Advisory Committee meeting (virtual) – Wednesday, December 11, 2024, at 3:00 PM
- CMMPO meeting (virtual) – Wednesday, December 18, 2024, at 4:00 PM

Agenda Item #10 – Adjournment

Jared Grigg made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Michelle Conlin. The meeting concluded at 5:00 PM.

Meeting Minutes prepared by: Zack Blais, Transportation Principal Planner