



## CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

The minutes of the Central Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (CMMPO) meeting, on **Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025**. 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. Michelle Conlin – Shrewsbury, Northeast Subregion Representative
7. Jesse Limanek – Sutton, Southeast Subregion Representative
8. John Daniel – Southbridge, Southwest Subregion Representative
9. Brad Kadelski – Brookfield, West Subregion Alternate

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

There were no CMMPO Ex-Officio Members present.

- **Guests:**

1. Chris Klem, MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning
2. Andrew Wang, MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning
3. Bill Filsinger – Boylston, Northeast Subregion Alternate
4. Jessica Revis
5. Robin Grimm, Sturbridge
6. Sarah Bradbury, MassDOT District #3
7. Daryl Amaral, MassDOT District #2
8. Steven Tyler, HSH
9. Pedro Hernandez, MassDOT
10. Michelle Scott, 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, Manager – Transit Planning
6. Yahaira Graxirena, Project Manager – Transportation
7. Nate Lewis, Assistant Planner – Transportation
8. Ryan Hurley, 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](mailto: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 Steve Woelfel opened the meeting at 4:00 PM. A roll call of CMMPO members was announced.

### **Agenda Item #2 – Approval of January 15, 2025 Meeting Minutes**

Bob Hassinger made a motion and was seconded by Jesse Limanek to approve the January 15, 2025 meeting minutes. All members present voted to approve the January 15, 2025 meeting minutes.

Steve Woelfel – Yes

Betsy Goodrich – Yes

Ann Sullivan – Yes

Bill Filsinger – Yes

Josh Rickman – Yes

Jesse Limanek – Yes

Bob Hassinger – Yes

John Daniel – Abstain

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

There were no comments from the public.

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

- **Potential Action:** Release Proposed Amendment #3 to the FFY 2025 to FFY 2029 TIP Transit and Highway Project Listings for 21-Day Public Review and Comment Period

Kevin Krasnecky presented the Proposed Amendment #3. Mr. Krasnecky noted that the Highway Amendment was not ready for this meeting and will be pushed back to a future CMMPO meeting.

For the Transit Project Listing, there were three proposed changes for Amendment #3. They include:

- Cost increase of Project RD0010857 – WRTA – Purchase Support Equipment for Fixed Route and Demand Response.
  - 5307 increase from \$1,771,900 to \$5,771,900
  - Toll Development Credit (TDC) increase from \$200,000 to \$1,000,000
  - Funding increases will be used to purchase charging equipment and switchgear for the 7 battery-electric buses WRTA purchased that will be coming sometime this calendar year, and for the systemwide CAD/AVL replacement project that will upgrade all existing ITS hardware on all WRTA vehicles.
- Cost increase of Project RTD0010863 – WRTA – Renovations and Maintenance to WRTA Hub.
  - 5307 increase from \$20,000 to \$820,000
  - Toll Development Credits (TDC) added in the amount of \$160,000
  - Funding increases will be used to fund the renovation of the WRTA Hub Lobby. The project is soon nearing 90% design, with construction to take place later this calendar year.

- Cost increase of Project RTD011648 – WRTA Engineering and Design of WRTA Facilities
  - 5307 increase from \$80,000 to \$280,000
  - Toll Development Credits (TDC) added in the amount of \$40,000
  - Funding increases will be used for OPM services related to both the Hub Lobby Renovation and BeB Infrastructure Improvements at the M&O.

There were no questions following the announcements of the proposed changes.

John Daniel voted to approve the Proposed Amendment #3 and was seconded by Ann Sullivan. All members voted unanimously to approve the Proposed Amendment #3 to the FFY 2025 to FFY 2029 TIP Transit Project Listing for 21-Day Public Review and Comment Period.

Steve Woelfel – Yes

Betsy Goodrich – Yes

Ann Sullivan – Yes

Bill Filsinger – Yes

Josh Rickman – Yes

Jesse Limanek – Yes

Bob Hassinger – Yes

John Daniel – Yes

- FFY 2026 to FFY 2030 TIP Readiness Day Updates

Kevin Krasnecky presented the FFY 2026 to FFY 2030 TIP Readiness Day updates, these included the following projects:

#### FFY 2025

- **608961 – Worcester – Intersection Improvements on Chandler St. and May St.**
  - 25% design. 75% design is due soon.
  - Design not progressing quickly enough to address the ROW concerns before end of FFY 2025
  - City must resolve drainage design
  - Recommended pushing back to FFY 2026
- **610769 – Sutton – Superstructure Replacement, Manchaug Rd. over Rumford River**
  - 25% design, 75% design due in April
  - The current schedule shows a May 2026 Advertisement date.
  - Recommended pushing back to FFY 2026
- **612195 – Worcester – Superstructure Replacement, I-290 over East Central St.**
  - 25% design, 75% design due in April
  - The current schedule shows a January 2026 Advertisement date
  - Recommended pushing back to FFY 2026

#### FFY 2026

- **611933 – Sturbridge – Roundabout Construction at Route 20 and Route 131**
  - Pre-25% design, 25% design due July 2025
  - ROW submission needed

- Potential Chapter 91 permitting needed for Cedar Pond impacts
- Recommended pushing back to FFY 2027
- **612084 – Barre – Bridge Replacement, Old Coldbrook Rd. over Prince River**
  - Pre-25% design, 25% design due June 2025
  - The current schedule shows the March 2027 Advertisement date
  - Still need ROW plan and potential A97
  - Will likely need wetlands permits
  - Recommended pushing back to FFY 2027
- **612092 – Uxbridge – Bridge Replacement, Homeward Ave. over PW Railroad**
  - Still need ROW and updated schedule submission
  - Recommended pushing back to FFY 2027
- **609186 – Dudley - Bridge Replacement, Route 131 over Quinebaug River**
  - Delays with preliminary design, 25% design due April 2025
  - Still need ROW submission
  - Will likely need environmental permits
  - Recommended pushing back to FFY 2027
- **612893 – Sturbridge – Improvements at Burgess Elementary School (SRTS)**
  - Pre-25% design
  - Determining impacts of boardwalk and environmental impacts
  - Potential re-scoping or revisiting appropriateness for SRTS funding
  - Designer to investigate other alternatives further
  - Recommendation to push back to unknown year at this time

#### FFY 2027

- **608990 – Worcester – Intersection Improvements on Chandler St., from Main St. to Park Ave.**
  - Combined back into one project with 612011
  - Pre-25% design, 25% design due March 2025
  - Still on track for FFY 2027
  - Likely to be AC'd due to high cost
- **611967 – Sturbridge/Charlton – Intersection Improvements on Route 49 at Putnam Rd., Walker Pond Rd. and Route 20**
  - Pre-25% design, 25% design due March 2025
  - Updated project schedule needed
  - Recommended pushing back to FFY 2028
- **613367 – Westborough – Fisher St. Improvements (SRTS)**
  - Pre-25% design, 25% design due March 2025

- Current design schedule shows FFY 2028 Advertisement date
- Recommended pushing back to FFY 2028

#### FFY 2029

- **608490 – Upton – Resurfacing and Related work on Route 140 and Roundabout Construction at Route 140, Church St. and Grove St.**
  - Pre-25 design, 75% design due February 2025
  - Project could potentially be moved up to FFY 2028

There were no questions following the Readiness Day updates.

- **MicroProjects Update**

Yahaira Graxirena provided the MicroProjects update, which included two applications that were received. These were:

- Millbury – Transit Access Enhancements – Elm Street and Main Street
  - Total Project Cost: \$6,150
- Westborough – Bicycle Parking – Multiple Locations
  - Total Project Cost: \$15,165.20

There were no comments or questions following the updates.

- **New Project Candidate Presentation**

- **613311: Worcester – Millbury Street – Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements**

Pedro Hernandez, MassDOT, provided the presentation of TIP Project 613311. The project included bicycle and pedestrian improvements in Worcester on Millbury Street, from Harding Street to Vernon Street.

The project location was identified as a top 5% bicycle and pedestrian need statewide. It was also identified as a roadway that would benefit from improved pedestrian facilities and the addition of bicycle accommodation. Additionally, a WRTA bus route utilizes the project location, and the bus stops lack amenities, signage, and roadway striping. Some existing curb ramps are not ADA compliant and there is a lack of marked crossings at several intersections and bus stops.

Other than the WRTA utilizing the project location, it is also an REJ+ community and provides a link between Millbury Street (west of I-290) and the pedestrian bridge spanning Route 146. Improvements from the project will help provide connections to the Blackstone Heritage Corridor, Visitor Center, Middle River Park, College of Holy Cross, Blackstone River Bikeway, Walmart shopping area, and more.

The work will include improvements to bus stop amenities and infrastructure, sidewalk repair, ADA compliant curb ramps, and bicycle facilities. It will retain existing curb to curb widths except where it is necessary to expand sidewalks to incorporate bus stop

amenities and bicycle facilities. Additional work includes improved pavement markings, signage, and possible speed calming measures.

The project is at 25% design stage and surveys have been completed. The ROW acquisitions or easements and environmental permitting are still being determined. Utility relocations, except for some light poles, are not required. The current project cost estimate is \$3,475,000.

Betsy Goodrich noted the City's support for this project. There were additional questions or comments.

#### **Agenda Item #5 – CY 2025 Safety Performance Measures (PM1)**

- **Potential Action:** Adopt State Safety Targets

Kevin Krasnecky presented this agenda item. As the CY 2025 Safety Performance Measures (PM1) was presented at the January CMMPO Meeting, Mr. Krasnecky just reviewed the five statewide safety targets.

The PM1 MassDOT targets for CY 2025 are:

- Total Fatalities: **365**
- Fatality Rate per 100 million VMT: **0.58**
- Total Serious Injuries: **2,622**
- Serious Injury Rate per 100 million VMT: **4.17**
- Total Combined Non-Motorist Injuries + Fatalities: **497**

Mr. Krasnecky said that the CY 2025 safety targets were presented to the CMMPO Advisory Committee and CMRPC's Transportation Committee and both had recommended the adoption of the State's targets.

Jesse Limanek made a motion and was seconded by Ann Sullivan to approve the adoption of the state safety targets for the CY 2025 Safety Performance Measures (PM1). All members present voted unanimously to approve the adoption of the state safety targets for the CY 2025 Safety Performance Measures (PM1).

Steve Woelfel – Yes

Ann Sullivan – Yes

Josh Rickman – Yes

Bob Hassinger – Yes

Betsy Goodrich – Yes

Michelle Conlin – Yes

Jesse Limanek – Yes

John Daniel – Yes

Brad Kadelski – Yes

#### **Agenda Item #6 – TIP/UPWP Guidance Summary**

- FFY 2025 UPWP Administrative Modification

Sujatha Krishnan reviewed the TIP and UPWP guidance from MassDOT and USDOT. These included guidance regarding public participation, programming of earmarks, and coordination of

planning process activities. These also included a listing of key regulations that are required to be following for developing STIPS, TIPS, Public Participation processes, and UPWPs; as well as other additional applicable guidance for planning emphasis areas, UPWP reporting, UPWP Amendments and administrative modifications, inflation rates in the STIPs and TIPS, and advance construction (AC).

Ms. Krishan also informed the members that staff did an Administrative Modification to the current FFY 2025 UPWP budget. Element 3.5 (Livability/Complete Street) funding was modified to show the 2.5% funding for Complete Street as required by FHWA. The total funding for this element stayed the same but the funding split between Element 3.5 and Complete Streets was changed.

There were no comments or questions.

#### **Agenda Item #7 – Staff Updates**

- Vernon Street Study RFP

Yahaira Graxirena updated the group that the RFP for the Vernon Street Study was released at the end of January. A proposal meeting was recently held and more than 20 firms attended. The deadline for applying for the RFP is February 28<sup>th</sup> and the chosen firm will be announced on March 19 (the next MPO Meeting).

- E-Bike for Transit MassCEC Grant Award

Ms. Graxirena updated the group that MetroMobility received a MassCEC grant award for E-Bikes to address first and last mile connections with transit, for example bikesharing facilities. They are currently looking for places to install facilities in Worcester. They could also work with other cities on similar projects.

- PROTECT Grant Update

Zack Blais updated the group that staff have been working with the Town of Northbridge on a PROTECT Resilience Grant. However, the FHWA placed the grant program on a freeze to review the program. If or when the program returns, changes to the NOFO will be made, in which staff will consider when continuing work with the Town of Northbridge on the PROTECT Resilience Grant.

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

John Daniel and other members asked for a copy of the TIP Readiness Day sheet. Mr. Krasnecky said the project listing used during the Readiness Day updates will be sent to all the CMMPO members.

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

- CMMPO Advisory Committee meeting (virtual) – Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 3:00 PM
- CMMPO Committee meeting (virtual) – Wednesday, March 19, 2025, at 4:00 PM

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



Bob Hassinger made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Ann Sullivan. The meeting concluded at 4:40 PM.

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