



CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

The minutes of the Central Massachusetts Transportation Planning Committee Virtual meeting held Thursday, February 27, 2025, 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. Rich Rydant

Other Attendees:

1. Ella Moreau
2. Michaela Russel, STV
3. Dustin Kerkisiek, STV

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Around-the-Room Introductions

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

Approval of January 30, 2025, T-Committee Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the January 30, 2025, 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.

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- **Action Item:** Seeking recommendation concerning CMMPO endorsement of the Proposed Amendment #3 to the 2025-2029 TIP Transit Project Listing.

Kevin Krasnecky presented the Proposed Amendment #3. 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 increased from \$1,771,900 to \$5,771,900
 - Toll Development Credit (TDC) increased from \$200,000 to \$1,000,000
 - Funding increases will be used to purchase charging equipment and switchgear for the seven 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 increased 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 increased 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.

Bob Hassinger asked where the extra money was coming from and if it would impact the region. Mr. Krasnecky said that these changes should not impact the region, and that the extra money is from carryover funds that the WRTA has available.

On a motion from Otto Lies and a second from Rick Baker, the members unanimously voted to recommend to the CMMPO endorsement of Proposed Amendment #3 to the 2025-2029 TIP Transit Project Listing.

➤ 2026-2030 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.**
 - Currently at 25% design
 - Design is 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**
 - Currently at 25% design and 75% 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.**
 - Currently at 25% design and 75% 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**
 - Currently at Pre-25% design and 25% 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**

- Currently at Pre-25% design and 25% due June 2025
- The current schedule shows a 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% 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)**
 - Currently at 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
 - Currently at Pre-25% design and 25% due March 2025
 - Still on track for FFY 2027
 - Likely to be Advance Construction due to high cost
- **611967 – Sturbridge/Charlton – Intersection Improvements on Route 49 at Putnam Rd., Walker Pond Rd. and Route 20**
 - Currently at Pre-25% design and 25% due March 2025
 - Updated project schedule needed
 - Recommended pushing back to FFY 2028
- **613367 – Westborough – Fisher St. Improvements (SRTS)**
 - Currently at Pre-25% design and 25% 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.**
 - Currently at 25% design and 75% design due February 2025
 - Project could potentially be moved up to FFY 2028

There were no questions following the Readiness Day updates.

➤ New Project Candidate Presentation Summary

#613311: Worcester – Bike & Pedestrian Improvements on Millbury Street: The project includes 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 accommodations. 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.

The project is within 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.

There were no comments or questions.

➤ FFY 2030 TIP Potential Candidate Projects – Performance Management Scoring Review

- **Action Item:** Seeking recommendation to the CMMPO concerning the ranking of the FFY 2030 projects.

Kevin Krasnecky presented this agenda item. Mr. Krasnecky told the group that the annual scoring process was completed for four (4) FFY 2030 candidate projects which were Auburn/Worcester(Route 20), Sturbridge (Route 20), Worcester (Lincoln Street), and Worcester (Millbury Street).

Next, Mr. Krasnecky summarized the scoring criteria for all the candidate projects. Once finished, Mr. Krasnecky pointed out that the two Worcester projects on Lincoln Street and Millbury Street scored the highest with a total of 15 out of 27 points. The two Route 20 projects scored 13 and 12 respectively. Mr. Krasnecky then asked the group to provide their rankings of the candidate projects to determine which ones should be programmed in FFY 2030 as all four projects would likely not be programmed.

Bob Hassinger questioned whether a weighing factor should be applied in some manner, something that should perhaps be considered in the future. Rick Baker commented that it is a good thing to just use the scoring of the projects as the priority as staff worked hard on developing the current scoring and the criteria.

On a motion from Brian Pigeon and a second from Otto Lies, the members unanimously voted to recommend to the CMMPO to rank the candidate projects according to the PM scoring results.

➤ **Micro-Projects Update**

Kevin Krasnecky presented this agenda item. Mr. Krasnecky said staff received two Micro-Projects applications for programming in FFY 2026. The two applications were from Millbury and Westborough. The following is a summary of each project.

Millbury – WRTA Bus Stop Enhancements: The proposed project includes installation of a bench and awning to support transit riders utilizing the WRTA Route 4 bus in Downtown Millbury at Main Street and Elm Street. This project replaces a bus shelter that was removed at this location several years ago. The town is also coordinating with the WRTA to install a bus stop sign at the project location. For this project, Millbury is asking for a total of \$6,150 in funding.

Westborough – Bike Parking Project: Some of the bike parking goals of this project are to encourage more biking, provide safe and secure locations to park, and to create visibility within the community that highlights the efforts being made to improve pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure. There are various plans completed by the town that support pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure improvements such as the Complete Streets Prioritization Plan, Master Plan, Climate Action Plan, and the Downtown Development Plan. Westborough is asking for a total of \$15,165.20 in funding for the purchase of seven Circular Racks and 13 Inverted U Racks

for installation at various locations. The locations include the Town Library, Town Hall, West Main Street, Arcade Building, South Street, Community Center/Senior Center, Town Beach, Lake Chauncy Trail entrance, and Haskell Field.

Bob Hassinger commented that he had never seen the circular bike racks before and was curious how they worked. Brian Pigeon commented that they work similarly to the U-shaped racks and that they hold two bicycles.

TIP/UPWP Guidance Summary

Rich Rydant presented this agenda item. Mr. Rydant 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. The guidance also included a listing of key regulations that are required when developing the 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).

There were no comments or questions.

Staff Updates

Rich Rydant provided the following updates:

- Vernon Street Study RFP: 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 28th and the chosen firm will be announced on March 19th following review team documentation screening and subsequent consultant interviews.
- E-Bike for Transit MassCEC Grant Award: MetroMobility received a MassCEC grant award for E-Bikes bikeshare facilities to address first and last mile connections with transit. They are currently looking for places to install facilities in Worcester and could also work with other cities on similar efforts.
- US DOT PROTECT Grant: Staff have been working with the town of Northbridge on a PROTECT Resilience Grant. However, the FHWA placed the grant program on pause so they can review the program. If or when the program returns, staff will continue to assist Northbridge with the grant. Staff has also been in consultation with the MassDOT D3 bridge section concerning this potential grant application.

New Business

There was no new business.

Next Meetings

- CMMPO Meeting – Wednesday, March 19, 2025, at 4:00 PM.

- CMMPO Advisory Committee Meeting – Wednesday, March 26, 2025, at 3:00 PM.
- CMTPC Meeting – Thursday, March 27, 2025, at 6:00 PM.

Adjournment

Upon a motion by Brian Pigeon and a second from Rick Baker, the members unanimously voted to adjourn at 6:55 PM.