



## CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

The minutes of the Central Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (CMMPO) meeting, on **Wednesday, March 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. Jared Grigg – Spencer, West Subregion Representative

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

- Derek Shooster – MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning
- Joshua Barber – Federal Highway Administration

- **Guests:**

1. Bill Filsinger – Boylston, Northeast Subregion Alternate
2. Sarah Bradbury, MassDOT District #3
3. Daryl Amaral, MassDOT District #2
4. Stephanie Abundo, MassDOT
5. Kevin Barry
6. Dan Lamere
7. Eleanor

- **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. Yahaira Graxirena, Project Manager – Transportation
6. Jeff Howland, Senior Transportation Planning Engineer – 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 February 19, 2025 Meeting Minutes**

Jesse Limanek made a motion and was seconded by Michelle Conlin to approve the February 19, 2025 meeting minutes. All members present voted to approve the February 19, 2025 meeting minutes.

Steve Woelfel – Yes

Betsy Goodrich – Yes

Ann Sullivan – Yes

Michelle Conlin – Yes

Josh Rickman – Yes

Jesse Limanek – Yes

Bob Hassinger – Yes

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

There were no comments from the public.

### **Agenda Item #4 – CMRPC Vernon Street/I-290 Interchange Transportation Study Presentation**

Yahaira Graxirena announced that the Steering Committee for the Vernon Street/I-290 Transportation Study recently interviewed various consultants regarding the Request for Proposals (RFP) and a decision was made. The Committee will be notifying the consultants of the decision and contacting the chosen consultant to say that they will be moving forward with the project with their firm. The contract will be completed before the announcement of the winning firm.

There were no comments or questions.

### **Agenda Item #5 – Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

- **Potential Action:** Approval of Proposed Amendment #3 to the FFY 2025 to FFY 2029 TIP Transit Project Listing

Kevin Krasnecky presented this agenda item. Amendment #3 included three changes to the FFY 2025 to FFY 2029 TIP Transit Project Listing. These include:

- **Project RTD0010857** – WRTA – Purchase Support Equipment for Fixed Route and Demand Response **(COST INCREASE)**
  - 5307 funding increased by \$4 million (\$1,771,900 to \$5,771,900)
  - Toll Development Credits (TDC) funding increased \$800,000 (\$200,000 to \$1 million)
  - Funding to be used to purchase charging equipment and switchgear for 7 battery-electric buses, and also for systemwide CAD/AVL replacement project to upgrade all existing ITS hardware on all WRTA vehicles
- **Project RTD0010863** – WRTA – Renovations and Maintenance to WRTA Hub **(COST INCREASE)**
  - 5307 funding increased by \$800,000 (\$20,000 to \$820,000)
  - TDC added in amount of \$160,000

- Funding to be used for the renovation of the WRTA Hub Lobby. The project is nearing 90% design state. Construction is to take place later this 2025 calendar year.
- **Project RTD011648** – WRTA – Engineering and Design of WRTA Facilities (COST INCREASE)
  - 5307 funding increased by \$200,000 (\$80,000 to \$280,000)
  - TDC added in the amount of \$40,000
  - Funding to be used for OPM services related to WRTA Hub Lobby Renovation and BeB Infrastructure Improvements at the M&O.

There were no comments or questions.

Ann Sullivan made a motion and was seconded by Betsy Goodrich to approve the Proposed Amendment #3. All members present voted unanimously to approve the Proposed Amendment #3 to the FFY 2025 to FFY 2029 TIP Transit Project Listing.

Steve Woelfel – Yes  
 Ann Sullivan – Yes  
 Josh Rickman – Yes  
 Bob Hassinger – Yes

Betsy Goodrich – Yes  
 Michelle Conlin – Yes  
 Jesse Limanek – Yes  
 Jared Grigg – Yes

- **Potential Action:** Approval of Proposed Adjustment #4 to the FFY 2025 to FFY 2029 TIP Transit Project Listing

Kevin Krasnecky presented this agenda item. Adjustment #4 included five FFY 2025 Community Transit Grant Awards to the FFY 2025 Transit project listing. The FY 2025 Community Transit Grant Awards were:

- **Project WRTA012026** – Rutland Council on Aging – Extended Transportation
  - Total Project Cost - \$50,000
  - 5310 Funding - \$16,883
  - Education and Transportation Funding (ETF) - \$33,117
- **Project WRTA012027** – WRTA – Expansion of WRTA Travel Training Program
  - Total Project Cost - \$115,275
  - 5310 Funding - \$92,220
  - SCA Funding - \$23,055
- **Project WRTA012028** – WRTA – Holden to Worcester – Extended Service Hours
  - Total Project Cost - \$20,000
  - 5310 Funding - \$10,000
  - SCA Funding – \$10,000
- **Project WRTA012029** – WRTA – SCM Elderbus – ReadyBus Service
  - Total Project Cost - \$90,000
  - 5310 Funding - \$45,000
  - SCA Funding - \$45,000

- **Project WRTA012030** – WRTA – SCM Elderbus Midday Shuttle
  - Total Project Cost - \$40,000
  - 5310 Funding - \$20,000
  - SCA Funding - \$20,000

Following the updates, Jared Grigg asked what a travel training program was. Josh Rickman answered it is a WRTA program that helps people who want to learn to travel independently using the WRTA's regular bus system. WRTA offers it to anyone and reaches out to different groups, like schools and senior centers.

There were no further comments or questions.

Bob Hassinger made a motion and was seconded by Betsy Goodrich to approve the Proposed Adjustment #4. All members present voted unanimously to approve the Proposed Adjustment #4 to the FFY 2025 to FFY 2029 TIP Transit Project Listing.

Steve Woelfel  
Ann Sullivan  
Josh Rickman  
Bob Hassinger

Betsy Goodrich  
Michelle Conlin  
Jesse Limanek  
Jared Grigg

- **Potential Action:** Release Proposed Amendment #5 to the FFY 2025 to FFY 2029 TIP Highway Project Listing for 21-Day Public Review and Comment Period

Kevin Krasnecky presented this agenda item. Proposed Amendment #5 included several changes to the FFY 2025 to FFY 2029 TIP Highway Project Listing. These included:

- **Project 608961** – Worcester – Intersection Improvements on Chandler Street and May Street **(REMOVE PROJECT FROM FFY 2025)**
  - This project will be programmed in FFY 2026 of the Draft FFY 2026 to FFY 2030 TIP.
- **Project 608778** – Southbridge – Intersection Improvements at Central Street, Foster Street, Hook Street and Hamilton Street **(COST INCREASE)**
  - Cost Increase - \$914,202 (added to STBG funding source)
  - New Total Project Cost - \$8,193,645
  - Cost increases due to off-site hazardous materials issues and unanticipated utility agreement costs.
- **Project 610769** – Sutton – Superstructure Replacement, S-33-002, Manchaug Road over Mumford River **(REMOVE PROJECT FROM FFY 2025)**
  - This project will be programmed in FFY 2026 of the Draft FFY 2026 to FFY 2030 TIP.
- **Project 612195** – Worcester – Superstructure Replacement, W-44-091, I-290 over East Central Street **(REMOVE PROJECT FROM FFY 2025)**
  - This project will be programmed in FFY 2026 of the Draft FFY 2026 to FFY 2030 TIP.

Jared Grigg asked why the projects that were being removed from FFY 2025 were not ready. Kevin Krasnecky replied that at TIP Readiness Day staff were told that the three projects being pushed back were not ready to be advertised in FFY 2025 and therefore, they had to be pushed back. Ann Sullivan added details for the Worcester project, noting that delays are due to issues with the water line and work with degrading is necessary. Also, the Right of Way (ROW) was not going to be completed in time to advertise in FFY 2025.

There were no further comments or questions.

Jared Grigg made a motion and was seconded by Jesse Limanek to approve the release of the Proposed Amendment #5 for public comment. All members present voted unanimously to approve the release of Proposed Amendment #5 to the FFY 2025 to FFY 2029 TIP Highway Project Listing for 21-Day Public Review and Comment Period.

Steve Woelfel  
Ann Sullivan  
Josh Rickman  
Bob Hassinger

Betsy Goodrich  
Michelle Conlin  
Jesse Limanek  
Jared Grigg

- FFY 2030 TIP Project Candidates PM Scoring Review

Kevin Krasnecky presented this agenda item. The FFY 2030 TIP Project Candidates that were scored included:

- **Project #613875** – Auburn/Worcester – Improvements on Route 20 (Washington Street), from 1,000' east of Commerce Drive to the Auburn/Worcester TL, **\$6,512,940**
- **Project #613873** – Sturbridge – Improvements on Route 20 (Charlton Road), from 1,000' east of Hall Road to east of the I-84 Ramps, **\$6,559,461**
- **Project #613261** – Worcester – Lincoln Street Transit Infrastructure Improvements, **\$3,335,000**
- **Project #613311** – Worcester – Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements on Millbury Street, **\$3,322,634**

The Categories for project scoring include:

- |                              |                         |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| ○ Safety (PM1)               | ○ Sustainability        |
| ○ State of Good Repair (PM2) | ○ Equity                |
| ○ Congestion (PM3)           | ○ Economics             |
| ○ Security                   | ○ Stormwater Management |
| ○ Multimodality              | ○ Travel and Tourism    |

Mr. Krasnecky summarized the scoring criteria for all candidate projects. The scoring results from highest to lowest are:

- **Project #613261** – Worcester – Lincoln Street: **15 points**
- **Project #613311** – Worcester – Millbury Street: **15 points**
- **Project #613873** – Sturbridge – Route 20: **13 points**

- **Project #613875** – Auburn/Worcester – Route 20: 12 points

Following the presentation, Michelle Conlin asked how a roadway is determined to be unreliable. Mr. Krasnecky replied that there is a dataset that staff used to determine reliability. There is a formula that is used based travel time during multiple time periods each day. If the results are above a define ratio then the segment is considered unreliable.

- FFY 2026 to FFY 2030 TIP Workshop
  - Review and Consensus of Preferred Option for FFY 2026 to FFY 2030 TIP Highway Project Listing

Kevin Krasnecky presented this agenda item. Mr. Krasnecky reviewed the four funding options (Options A-D) for the FFY 2026 to FFY 2030 TIP Highway Project Listing. CMMPO members present were asked to provide a consensus of the option they preferred so staff can develop the draft TIP highway project listing. The funding options were based on the updates from TIP Readiness Days, which provided status updates for all target projects.

Jared Grigg asked why the Spencer Route 9 & 49 project was not included in FFY 2028 in any of the scenarios and pushed back to FFY 2029. Mr. Krasnecky replied that it did not financially fit under a few options and staff decided to fund the entirety of the Worcester Chandler Street project in FFY 2028 for Option D. Sujatha Krishnan also replied that there is not enough money for all current projects to be funded in FFY 2028, therefore some projects needed to be pushed back to be in fiscal constraint. Ann Sullivan added that at TIP Readiness Day, this project had design issues, showing that it may not be ready for FFY 2028.

After much discussion, the CMMPO members chose Option D for staff to develop the draft TIP, although a couple members wanted additional time to review the Options. Option D includes the following projects:

#### FFY 2026

- #610535 – Worcester: Pleasant Street Bicycle & Pedestrian Improvements, \$6.009 Million
- #608456 – Upton: Route 140 Culvert Replacement, \$2.554 Million
- #608961 – Worcester: Chandler Street & May Street Intersection Improvements, \$8.475 Million
- Micro-Project – Millbury: Elm Street & Main Street Transit Access Improvements, \$6,150
- Micro-Project – Westborough: Purchase of Bike Racks, \$8,207
- CMMPO TIP Design Funding Placeholder, \$1 Million

#### FFY 2027

- #610931 – Uxbridge: Route 16 Rehabilitation, \$15.358 Million

- #609441 – Northbridge: Route 122/Sutton St/School St/Upton St Intersection Improvements, \$4.886 Million
- #611933 – Sturbridge: Route 20 & Route 131 Roundabout, \$8.067 Million
- Micro-Projects Program Placeholder, \$400,000
- CMMPO TIP Design Funding Placeholder, \$1 Million

#### FFY 2028

- #613655 – Rutland: Route 122 & Pleasantdale Road Intersection Improvements, \$3.255 Million
- #611988 – Oxford: Route 12 Rehabilitation, \$5.500 Million
- #608990 – Worcester: Chandler Street Resurfacing & Intersection Improvements, \$23.246 Million
- Micro-Projects Program Placeholder, \$75,000

#### FFY 2029

- #611988 – Oxford: Route 12 Rehabilitation, \$17.053 Million
- #613097 – Spencer: Route 9 & Route 49 Intersection Improvements, \$13.787 Million
- Micro-Projects Program Placeholder, \$400,000
- CMMPO TIP Design Funding Placeholder, \$500,000

#### FFY 2030

- #612779 – West Brookfield: Route 9 Improvements (Phase III), \$13.231 Million
- #613242 – Westborough: Route 30 Improvements, \$10.237 Million
- #613648 – Worcester: Lake Avenue & Bigelow Davis Parkway Intersection Improvements, \$7.786 Million
- Micro-Projects Program Placeholder, \$400,000
- CMMPO TIP Design Funding Placeholder, \$500,000
- Review of FFY 2026 to FFY 2030 Statewide Highway Project Listing

Kevin Krasnecky presented this agenda item. Mr. Krasnecky summarized the current draft 2026-2030 statewide highway projects for the members.

There were no comments or questions.

- Review of FFY 2026 to FFY 2030 Transit Project Listing

Kevin Krasnecky presented this agenda item. Mr. Krasnecky summarized the current draft 2026-2030 TIP transit projects for the members.

There were no comments or questions.

#### **Agenda Item #6 – FFY 2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

- Budget and Major Task Listing



Sujatha Krishnan presented this agenda item. Ms. Krishnan reviewed the budget and major tasks for the FFY 2026 UPWP. Regarding the FFY 2026 UPWP Budget, each UPWP Element sees funding changes from the FFY 2025 UPWP:

- FFY 2026 Element 1 Total: \$457,323
  - Increases by \$714
- FFY 2026 Element 2 Total: \$465,000
  - Decreases by \$15,000
- FFY 2026 Element 3 Total: \$643,161
  - Increases by \$34,486
- FFY 2026 Element 4 Total: \$404,926
  - Decreases by \$30,074
- FFY 2026 Element 5 Total: \$35,000
  - Increases by \$5,000
- FFY 2026 Deobligated UPWP Funds Total: \$650,000
  - Increases by \$300,000
- FFY 2026 BIL Discretionary Grant Total: \$375,000
  - Increases by \$225,000

The overall FFY 2026 UPWP Budget increases by \$580,200 and the total FFY 2026 UPWP Budget is \$2,685,484.

Next, Ms. Krishnan summarized some of the major tasks that staff will be working on as part of the FFY 2026 UPWP. This includes the new Bicycle Count Program as well as the continuation of the data collection programs, TIP Development, EV Planning, and many more exciting planning efforts in the next year.

There were no comments or questions.

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

- Environmental Consultation: The 2025 CMMPO Environmental Consultation will be hosted by staff on April 3, 2025, at 10:00am.
- Safe Streets for All (SS4A): Staff is currently finalizing the contract with MassDOT and FHWA is currently reviewing the Request for Proposals (RFP).
- Housing: The RFP was recently released and a preproposal meeting for interested consulting teams is scheduled for Friday, March 28<sup>th</sup>. The deadline to submit proposals is mid April.
- DPW Regional Forum – March 26<sup>th</sup>: Staff announced there would be a DPW Regional Forum on March 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Status of Remote Meetings: Staff announced that the status of remote meetings extension is currently being reviewed for its continuance by the state legislation.

**Agenda Item #8 – New Business**

Staff announced that an updated version of the CMRPC EV Dashboard has been released to the public.

**Agenda Item #9 – Next Meetings**

- CMMPO Advisory Committee meeting (virtual) – Wednesday, March 26, 2025, at 3:00 PM
- CMMPO Committee meeting (virtual) – Wednesday, April 16, 2025, at 4:00 PM

**Agenda Item #10 – Adjournment**

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

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