



CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

The minutes of the Central Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (CMMPO) meeting, on **Wednesday, June 18th, 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. Sarah Bradbury – 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. Brian Pigeon – 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:**

1. Derek Shooster – MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning

- **Guests:**

1. Jeff Bridges, Spencer
2. Noah Harper, MassDOT
3. Bill

- **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, Director of Access and Mobility – Transportation
6. Nate Lewis, Assistant Planner – Transportation
7. Evan Karcasinas, Transportation Intern

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 people has 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, 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 May 21, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Jared Grigg made a motion and was seconded by Josh Rickman to approve the May 21, 2025 meeting minutes. With two abstentions, the remaining members present voted to approve of the May 21, 2025 meeting minutes.

Steve Woelfel – Yes

Brian Pigeon – Yes

Sarah Bradbury – Yes

Michelle Conlin – Yes

Josh Rickman – Yes

Jesse Limanek – Abstain

Bob Hassinger – Abstain

Jared Grigg – Yes

Agenda Item #3 – Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no comments from the public at this meeting.

Agenda Item #4 – Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- **Potential Action:** Release of Proposed Amendment #8 to the FFY 2025 to FFY 2029 TIP Highway Project Listing for 21-Day Public Review and Comment Period

Kevin Krasnecky presented this item. Amendment #8 includes two changes to FFY 2025 of the highway list. These changes include:

- Project #612874 – Shrewsbury – Worcester – Bridge Preservation, S-14-021=W-44-115 (1RA & 1RB), I-290 (EB & WB) over Combination of Lake Quinsigamond and Lake Avenue North
 - Change funding source from HIP-BR to NFA (Fair Share) funding.
 - Total project cost is \$23,098,070
 - The project will not be shown on the TIP because there is no longer a federal funding source.
- Project #612608 – Worcester – Shrewsbury – Flood Relief on Route 20, Grafton Street (Route 122) Interchange to Flint Pond
 - Discretionary Grant funding (other FA) is being removed, and all funding is being switched to formula PROTECT funding.
 - The new project cost is \$7,320,880 (increase of \$1,711,127).

Michelle Conlin asked about the reasoning behind the price increase for Project #612608. Derek Shooster answered that the increase is due to additional resurfacing and catch basins added to the scope and increases in unit pricing. There were no other comments or questions.

Jared Grigg made a motion and was seconded by Michelle Conlin to release the Proposed Amendment #8 for 21-Day Public Review and Comment Period. All members present voted

unanimously to release the Proposed Amendment #8 for 21-Day Public Review and Comment Period.

Steve Woelfel – Yes
Sarah Bradbury – Yes
Josh Rickman – Yes
Bob Hassinger – Yes

Brian Pigeon – Yes
Michelle Conlin – Yes
Jesse Limanek – Yes
Jared Grigg – Yes

Agenda Item #5 – Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

- **Potential Action:** Approval of FFY 2026 UPWP

Sujatha Krishnan presented this item. Ms. Krishnan mentioned that there were minimal comments from MassDOT on the Draft document and CMRPC staff made edits to the Endorsed document while following US DOT and MassDOT guidance.

Bob Hassinger made a motion and was seconded by Jesse Limanek to approve the endorsement of the FFY 2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). All members present voted unanimously to approve the endorsement of the FFY 2026 UPWP.

Steve Woelfel – Yes
Sarah Bradbury – Yes
Josh Rickman – Yes
Bob Hassinger – Yes

Brian Pigeon – Yes
Michelle Conlin – Yes
Jesse Limanek – Yes
Jared Grigg – Yes

Agenda Item #6 – I-290/Vernon Street Transportation Study Presentation

Yahaira Graxirena presented this item. Ms. Graxirena summarized the project team for the I-290/Vernon Street Transportation Study and the timeline is from June 2025 to July 2026. As part of the study, major phases and tasks include:

- Community Stakeholder and Engagement
 - Public involvement plan
 - Project website
 - Social media
 - StoryMaps
 - Public Workshops
 - CMMPO updates
 - Steering Committee
 - Advisory Committee meetings
 - Tabling
- Existing Conditions
 - Reviewing plans and studies
 - Trip generation
 - Datasets and data reviews
 - Issues and opportunities

- Constraints
- Review of CMMPO LRTP, MassDOT Congestion in the Commonwealth, Worcester Now/Next Master Plan, Worcester Mobility Action Plan, Worcester Vision Zero Action Plan, and Worcester Heat Risk Assessment plans
- Future No-Build Conditions
- Development of Alternatives
 - Assumptions
 - Community involvement
 - Scenarios
 - Conceptual alternatives
- Alternative Analysis
 - Mobility
 - Accessibility
 - Safety
 - Environmental effects
 - Health effects
 - Land Use
 - Economic Development
 - Costs
- Recommendations and Implementation Plan
 - List of recommendations
 - Priority matrix
 - Implementation plan
 - Final public meeting
- Draft/Final Report

There were no comments or questions following the presentation.

Agenda Item #7 – CMRPC Bike Audit Presentation

Nate Lewis presented this item. The June bike audits included a Walking Bike Audit and an On-Bike Audit. CMRPC and MassBike partnered for the audits to promote bicycle safety and pilot audit methods. The audit methodology followed the AARP Bike Audit Toolkit. MassBike and CMRPC plan to enhance the worksheets. Participants included MassBike E-Bike participants, DTM staff, WalkBike Worcester, and CMRPC staff.

The Walking Bike Audit took place in Worcester on the Main Street Corridor on June 5th. The route started at Main South YMCA towards City Hall to the Hanover Theatre (about 1 mile). The purpose of the audit was to observe bike infrastructure, road conditions, and traffic interactions, as well as discuss connectivity gaps and improvement ideas.

The On-Bike Audit also took place in Worcester on the Millbury Street Corridor on June 17th. The route started at the Blackstone Heritage Corridor Visitor Center and ended at Crompton Park (about 2 miles). The purpose of the audit was to note existing infrastructure and challenges. Part of the route included the pedestrian bridge that crosses Route 146. On the onward route, the audit noted the sidewalk as rideable on one side. On the return route, the audit noted limited shoulder space, which required strategic group riding or bike-walking where necessary.

There were no comments or questions following the presentation.

Agenda Item #8 – Staff Updates

- MetroMobility E-Bike Sharing

Yahaira Graxirena announced that MetroMobility is currently scouting locations in the city to install e-bike sharing stations. Two locations have already been chosen, one at Billings Square (Grafton St/Hamilton St) and one at the WRTA Hub. Electricity for these locations is currently being discussed.

- Housing Transportation Study

Sujatha Krishnan announced that a kick-off meeting with the project consultant was held, with a timeline of 12 months for the study. Currently, the project is in the data collection stage. More information will be shared at future meetings.

- Safe Streets for All (SS4A)

Sujatha Krishnan announced that the deadline for proposal submittals has closed. The reviewal process is ongoing, and interviews will be scheduled soon. More information will be shared at future meetings.

Agenda Item #9 – New Business

There was no new business.

Agenda Item # 10 – Next Meetings

- CMMPO Advisory Committee meeting (virtual) – TBD
- CMMPO Committee meeting (virtual) – Wednesday, July 16, 2025, at 4:00 PM

Agenda Item #11 – Adjournment

Bob Hassinger made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Jared Grigg. The meeting concluded at 4:30 PM.

Meeting Minutes prepared by: Zack Blais, Transportation Principal Planner