



CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The minutes of the CMMPO Advisory Committee meeting held **May 28th, 2025**. The meeting was held virtually through Zoom.

CMMPO Advisory Committee Members Present:

- Adam Menard – Town of Auburn
- Conor McCormack – Town of Millbury
- Alex Salcedo – MassBike
- Karin Valentine Goins - WalkBike
- Joanne Clarke – AARP
- Feanna Jattan Singh - MAWOCC
- Liz Myska – Visions Consulting L3C
- Sarah Bradbury – MassDOT District 3
- Daryl Amaral – MassDOT District 2

Ex-Officio Members Present:

- N/A

CMRPC Staff Present:

- Sujatha Krishnan
- Nathan Lewis
- Dani Marini-king
- Taru
- Rich Rydant
- Kevin Krasnecky
- Yahaira Graxirena
- Jordan Hollinger

- Sandy Amoakohene
- Jeff Howland

Guest:

- N/A

Agenda Item #1 – Around the Room Introductions

Chair Adam Menard opened the meeting at 3:01 PM. A roll-call of the CMMPO Advisory members was announced, followed by the rest of the attendees.

Agenda Item #2 – Approval of April 23rd, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Minutes for April 23rd, 2025, CMMPO Advisory meeting were considered for approval. Chair Menard entertains a motion to approve the April 23rd, 2025, meeting minutes. Conor McCormack makes a motion to approve. The motion is seconded by Joanne Clarke. The vote was unanimous in favor of approval.

Agenda Item #3 – FFY 2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Action Item: Seeking recommendation to the CMMPO concerning endorsement of FFY 2026 Draft UPWP.

Sujatha Krishnan presented this item. The FFY 2026 UPWP Table of Contents and funding table were briefly reviewed. As explained, there is a 3.3% increase in the budget from the FFY 2025 UPWP. These budget increases are seen in:

- PL funding up 2%
- WRTA funding down 44% to account for staffing capacity reduction
- Extension of additional funding for special studies utilizing de-obligated funds from FY 21-23 PL funds
- Anticipated second year funding for the Safe Streets for All grant funding

Ms. Myska asked how much experience consultants have with issues of accessibility for people with disabilities.

Ms. Krishnan stated that CMRPC follows state procurement laws, state and federal and since this project is state funded, so CMRPC is required to follow the correct processes including ADA accessibility.

Chair Menard motioned to recommend approval of the FFY 2026 Draft Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Conor McCormack moved, and Karin Valentine Goins seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #4 – Baystate Bike Month Updates

CMRPC staff Nathan Lewis presented this item. Mr. Lewis provided an update on all of the Bike Month events that occurred throughout May and the activities that CMRPC staff participated in.

A highlight of Bike Month included the City of Worcester declaring May as Bike Month through an official proclamation.

One of the CMRPC activities included the “Bike Breakfast” on May 12th. The event helped to encourage bike commuting and raise awareness about the importance of bike-friendly infrastructure.

Another notable highlight during Bike Month included the “Worcester Earn-A-Bike”. This is a shop that hosts open hours to help give community members a chance to earn a bike or get a free tune up, regardless of income or experience. The shop will provide open hours throughout the summer on Thursdays and Saturdays.

There were no comments or questions.

Agenda Item #5 – CMRPC Oxford Food Access Study

Sandy Amoakohene presented this item. The goal of this study was to identify transportation barriers to food resources for vulnerable populations, specifically for older adults and people with disabilities in Oxford. For the study, priority destinations considered included food pantries, farmers markets, supermarkets and grocery stores, convenience stores, and other essential destinations. The project scope included quantitative data (i.e., active transportation network, demographics, transit access); partners interviews with Oxford FoodShelf, Oxford Senior Center, Tri-Valley, Inc., and Oxford Housing Authority; study findings; and recommendations including recommended activities and possible funding resources.

During the interviews, themes included limited funding to support food delivery/transport programs; older adults that can’t afford groceries; concerns on limitations to SNAP

benefits and other safety-net services; and bag limits on fixed routes for those using transit services for grocery shopping.

Several study findings included a strong dependence on cars over walking/biking or transit; the pedestrian network and fixed route bus routes focus mainly on Route 12 (Main Street) and Route 20; majority of identified food resources are focused along Main Street and Route 20; majority of identified food resources are convenience stores; and COA van services and Senior Center van services do not align with Food Pantry hours due to an impact of driver shortage. 6

Per these findings, the study recommended:

- First-and-Last-Mile Connections Prioritize gap between an individual and/or destination and the existing transportation network along Main Street and Route 20.
- Partnerships with Private Transportation Providers Partner with on-demand private transit service to allow service to be available to qualifying Oxford residents.
- Food Pantry/Van Service Alignment Use funding opportunities to expand the capacity of Senior Center or COA transport services.
- Mobilizing Food Resources Partner with grocers, farmers markets, or other food resources to provide food delivery and mobile van services.
- Pedestrian Network Improvements Improve 'fair' or 'poor' sidewalk segments in central and southern Oxford.

There were no comments or questions.

Agenda Item #6 – MVP 2.0 Mumford River Watershed

CMRPC staff, Dani Marini King, presented this item. Ms. Marini King provided a presentation on the Mumford River Watershed Pilot Municipality Vulnerability Preparedness 2.0 program.

Ms. Marini King provided an overview of the MVP 1.0 program starting with the planning grants. Towns and municipalities identify where they are at risk for climate vulnerabilities and what CMRPC can do about it. Once they go through a designated process they become an MVP community. Which then in turn makes them eligible to apply for action grants to implement those actions.

The program focused on three key focus areas:

- Infrastructure
- Society
- Environmental

There were only four communities that are focused on for seed selection: Douglas, Northbridge, Sutton, and Uxbridge. All four of these towns have reset resilience priorities that are taken into consideration when selecting a seed project.

Next Steps:

- Create a survey to vet resilience priorities and the list of seed projects.
- Survey will be posted online via social media, town websites, and other online groups.
- Each member of the core team will share the resilience priorities and seed project lists to at least 3-5 members within their networks.
- Return to as many community nodes to post the poster/share the survey.
- The core team will analyze the survey results and key findings from the vetting process to pick the seed project. The rest of the projects will be integrated into the MVP 2.0 deliverables.

There were no comments or questions.

Agenda Item #8 Staff Updates

- Vernon Street/I-290 Transportation Study

Ms. Graxirena announced that this project/study proposal contract has been signed with the consultant. A press release has been put together and the consulting team will be led by Stantec. The first kickoff meeting will be within the next week.

- Housing and Transportation Study

Ms. Krishnan announced that they are in the process of negotiations with the consultant and in the next two or three weeks there will be a contract.

- Safe Streets for All

RFP was released, and the proposals were due, so the next steps are a review of all proposals and conduct interviews.

- Bike Month

Ms. Salcedo mentioned the success of Baystate Bike Month and the tremendous partnership between CMRPC and the rest of the bike community. Stating that it's not just about bikes but also about people.

Agenda Item #9 Next Meetings

Chair Menard announced the schedule for the next meeting:

- CMMPO Advisory Committee meeting (virtual) - TBD
- CMMPO Meeting (virtual) – Wednesday, May 21st, 2025, at 4:00 PM

Agenda Item #10 – Adjournment

At 4:30 PM Chair Menard called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. McCormack made the motion, which Ms. Jattan-Singh seconded. The group voted unanimously to adjourn.

Meeting minutes prepared: Nathan Lewis, Public Outreach Coordinator

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