



CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

The minutes of the Central Massachusetts Transportation Planning Committee In-Person/Virtual meeting held Thursday, June 26, 2025, using Zoom.

T-Committee Members Present:

1. Bob Hassinger, Grafton, Committee Chairperson
2. Brian Pigeon, Worcester
3. Otto Lies, Holden
4. Rick Baker, Boylston

CMRPC Staff Present:

1. Kevin Krasnecky
2. Rich Rydant

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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 May 29, 2025, T-Committee Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the May 29, 2025, meeting was 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 a recommendation concerning CMMPO endorsement of the Proposed Amendment #8 to the 2025-2029 TIP Highway Project Listing.

Kevin Krasnecky presented this agenda 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).

Mr. Krasnecky noted that staff received comments from MassDOT during the comment period indicating that MassDOT decided to preserve and program the PROTECT discretionary award for \$4,627,660 for Project 612608. Therefore, the only change to this project is the cost increase of PROTECT formula funding, increasing from \$982,093 to \$2,639,068.

Bob Hassinger asked about the proposed change concerning the use of discretionary grant funding. Mr. Krasnecky said that MassDOT was not going to use the grant funding due to a

disagreement about the discretionary grant agreement language for the project. However, MassDOT decided to preserve the grant funding for this project and will leave it programmed on the TIP.

On a motion from Brian Pigeon and a second from Rick Baker, the members unanimously voted to recommend CMMPO endorsement of the Proposed Amendment #8 to the 2025-2029 TIP Highway Project Listing with the additional changes.

I-290/Vernon Street Transportation Study Presentation

Rich Rydant presented this agenda item. Mr. Rydant provided details about the study scope and then provided an overview about the consultant project team. The timeline for the project 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

Bob Hassinger asked how much the study costs. Mr. Rydant said it will cost \$650K.

CMRPC Bike Audit Presentation

Rich Rydant presented this agenda 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. It should be noted that MassBike and CMRPC plan to enhance the AARP worksheets, adding regional customization. Audit participants included MassBike E-Bike participants, Worcester Department of Transportation & Mobility (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 the 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, multi-modal traffic interactions, as well as to discuss connectivity gaps and practical 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 over 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.

Brian Pigeon commented that both events were great and that he is looking forward to additional audits in the future.

Staff Updates

Rich Rydant provided the following updates:

- MetroMobility E-Bike Sharing: 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 Street/Hamilton Street) and the other at the WRTA Hub. Electricity for these locations is currently being discussed. Initially, 20 E-Bikes will be brought to Worcester by MetroMobility.
- Safe Streets for All (SS4A): The deadline for proposal submittals has closed. The review process is ongoing, and consultant interviews were recently held. More information will be shared at future meetings. The study will be data driven, focusing on the safe travel of vulnerable road users, such as pedestrians and bicyclists, and on proactively addressing areas of deficiencies for all road users before injuries and deaths occur.
- Regional Housing Study: A kick-off meeting with the project consultant was held and the timeline for the study is 12 months. Currently, the project is in the data collection stage. More information will be provided at future meetings. The total cost of the study is \$200K.

New Business

There was no new business.

Next Meetings

- CMMPO Meeting – Wednesday, July 16, 2025, at 4:00 PM.
- CMMPO Advisory Committee Meeting – TBD
- CMTPC Meeting – TBD

Adjournment

Upon a motion by Rick Baker and a second from Brian Pigeon, the members unanimously voted to adjourn at 6:35 PM.