



CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

The minutes of the Central Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (CMMPO) meeting, on **Wednesday, October 15th, 2025**. This meeting was held virtually using Zoom Webinar.

- **CMMPO Members Present:**

1. Derek Shooster – 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. Bob Hassinger – designee to CMRPC Commission Chair
4. Betsy Goodrich – designee to City Manager Eric Batista
5. Michelle Conlin – Shrewsbury, Northeast Subregion Representative
6. Jesse Limanek – Sutton, Southeast Subregion Representative
7. John Daniel – Southbridge, Southwest Subregion Representative
8. Jared Grigg – Spencer, West Subregion Representative
9. Leah Whiteman – Rutland, North Subregion Alternate

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

There were no Ex-Officio members present.

- **Guests:**

1. Sarah Bradbury, MassDOT D3
2. Bill Filsinger – Boylston, Northeast Subregion Alternate
3. Noah Harper – MassDOT
4. Daryl Amaral – MassDOT D2
5. Erin Quaiel – DPH
6. Eleanor

- **CMRPC Staff**

1. Sujatha Krishnan, Deputy Director – Transportation
2. Kevin Krasnecky, Project Manager – Transportation
3. Zack Blais, Principal Planner – Transportation
4. Adam Wriggins, Associate Planner – Transportation

5. Jordan Hollinger, Research – Planning and Transportation
6. Jeff Howland, Senior Transportation and Planning Engineer – Transportation
7. Yahaira Graxirena, Director of Access and Mobility – Transportation

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Agenda Item #1 – Introductions

CMMPO Chair Derek Shooster opened the meeting at 4:00 PM. A roll call of CMMPO members was announced.

Agenda Item #2 – Approval of July 16, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Bob Hassinger made a motion and was seconded by Ann Sullivan to approve the July 16, 2025 meeting minutes. The members present voted to approve of the July 16, 2025 meeting minutes.

Derek Shooster – Yes
Ann Sullivan – Yes
Bob Hassinger – Yes
Betsy Goodrich – Yes
Michelle Conlin – Yes

Jesse Limanek – Yes
John Daniel – Yes
Jared Grigg – Yes
Leah Whiteman – Abstain

Agenda Item #3 – Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no comments from the public at this meeting.

Agenda Item #4 – CMMPO North Subregion Representative Election Meeting Results

CMRPC staff, Kevin Krasnecky, presented this item. A representative election for the North subregion was held virtually on September 23rd. Following a general overview of the CMMPO to the attendees and a self-selection process, Kristina Pedone (West Boylston) was voted to be the North subregion Representative and Leah Whitemen (Rutland) was voted to be the North subregion Alternate.

There were no comments or questions regarding these results.

Agenda Item #5 – Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- **Potential Action:** Approval of Proposed Adjustment #1 to the FFY 2026-2030 TIP Highway Project Listing

CMRPC staff, Kevin Krasnecy, presented this action item. Proposed Adjustment #1 included changes to four projects:

- **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)
 - Project is funded in 2026, 2027 and 2028.
 - Total Project Programmed Cost = \$23,098,070
 - Project is no longer federally funded and will not be included on the TIP
- **Project #S13283** – Westborough – Purchase of New Bicycle Racks
 - Cost increase of \$7,488
 - New Total Project Cost = \$15,695

- **Project #S13348** – Worcester – SS4A Action Plan and Worcester Main Street South Demonstration Project
 - Add discretionary grant to FFY 2026 in the amount of \$600,000 of SS4A funding under Section 1B (Earmark or Discretionary Grant Funded Projects)
- **Project #608961** – Worcester Intersection Improvements on Chandler Street and May Street
 - In FFY 2026, shift \$354,855 of STBG funding to an Earmark funding (HPP-100) and add under Section 1B (Earmark or Discretionary Grant Funded Projects)
 - Total project cost will remain the same = \$8,475,278

Michelle Conlin asked about the reason for the increased cost of bike racks. Mr. Krasnecky replied that this was due to the project being initially under budgeted. The cost increase is what is needed to complete the project now. Jared Grigg asked why the bridge preservation project is being removed from the TIP. Derek Shooster replied that it will not be necessary to show on the TIP as it will not be federally funded, but it is still moving forward with state funding.

Michelle Conlin made a motion and was seconded by Jared Grigg to approve the Proposed Adjustment #1 to the FFY 2026-2030 TIP Highway Project Listing. All members voted unanimously to approve the Proposed Adjustment #1.

Derek Shooster – Yes
 Ann Sullivan – Yes
 Michelle Conlin - Yes
 Bob Hassinger – Yes
 Jesse Limanek - Yes

Betsy Goodrich – Yes
 Leah Whiteman – Yes
 John Daniel – Yes
 Jared Grigg – Yes

Agenda Item #6 – Preliminary Findings from Housing and Transportation Study Presentation

CMRPC staff, Jordan Hollinger, presented this item. The presentation provided a brief review of the project’s purpose, objectives, and preliminary findings thus far.

The purpose of the study is to provide a strong framework of data to address housing and transportation challenges and support coordinated planning efforts across municipalities. The study will analyze existing housing and transportation conditions, identify regional housing challenges and barriers to development, assess the intersection of housing and transportation affordability, conduct a housing development suitability analysis, develop regional housing and transportation strategies, and create a toolkit for municipalities.

Key findings thus far have found that the region’s growth has been uneven, with faster growth in the east and slower growth and decline in the west. It has also been found that the region is home to fewer families with children and more small households and seniors. In addition to this, region is also experiencing a range of changing demographics, which may increase the need for a different mix of housing types and sizes. Housing affordability is also a very clear issue, as it has become much less affordable than it was 5-10 years ago. As this impacts all residents, market pressures put the most vulnerable populations at risk of displacement. Moreover, transportation also impacts the region. As

access to cars is generally required in the CMRPC region, transportation costs tend to escalate the cost of household expenses, especially for those without alternatives to cars.

Moving forward, this study will look deeper into these initial considerations and develop a suitability analysis that considers land factors (areas eligible for development), accessibility factors (high access areas), and development and cost factors (lower-cost areas).

Following the presentation, Mr. Shooster applauded the study and looks forward to further presentations at CMMPO meetings. A suggestion was given to show more data related to each subregion and communities and overlaying the data with transportation infrastructure/TIP projects.

Jared Grigg asked if the study is looking into community housing and production plans. Mr. Hollinger replied at this stage no, but this will come into play during the future stakeholder engagement. Mr. Grigg also asked about other data involvement, like conservation data. Mr. Hollinger replied that yes, those types of data will be included as a means of identifying areas that are non-developmental.

Leah Whiteman asked about the consideration of multi-modal development and its impact on communities in a negative way, for example congestion. Sujatha Krishnan replied that at this point, the study is not considering it, but this will come at a future stage in which the data can better inform projects, especially considering subregion and community needs.

There were no further comments or questions.

Agenda Item #7 – 2025 Bicycle Plan Presentation

CMRPC staff, Adam Wriggins, presented this item. The presentation provided a brief review of the bicycle plan, its goals, tasks, community engagement, analysis, and results.

The goals of the 2025 Bicycle Plan are to continue the development of a safe regional bicycle network that encourages mode shift; identify a prioritized list of potential improvements; and support member communities in the implementation of bicycle projects while addressing connectivity gaps in the regional network.

Key tasks of the Bicycle Plan included outreach and community engagement; data collection, assembly, and analysis (i.e. Bicycle Level of Traffic Street (LTS) from MassDOT); an Access to Destinations Analysis; and a Safety Analysis.

Mr. Wriggins presented several maps that displayed Bicycle Level of Traffic Stress, the results of the Access to Destinations Analysis, priority locations, and the off-road regional network (i.e. shared-use paths).

Mr. Shooster asked if the destinations considerations only considered main streets or were employment areas and medical areas considered. Mr. Wriggins replied that at this stage it only explored the four categories (schools, food stores, libraries, town halls) discussed in the presentation, but it could include those areas in the future.

Mr. Grigg asked if the figures from the survey meant those people would ride bikes as a primary means of transport if they felt safer. Mr. Wriggins replied that the survey was very general, and the numbers were from a national survey. The survey results are also just being used as a helpful way to consider

areas for improvement. Mr. Hollinger also replied that the survey implies that the respondents would ride a bike at some points if they felt safer, not making it their primary mode of travel.

There were no further comments or questions.

Agenda Item #8 – Staff Updates

- Vernon Connected Transportation Study

Yahaira Graxirena updated the group about the Vernon Connected Transportation Study. The consultant is currently examining the Existing Conditions and working on community engagement, such as, popups, workshops, and coffee hours. A future update will come regarding the vision of the corridor as part of the project with feedback from community engagement.

- Safe Streets for All (SS4A)

Mr. Krishnan updated the group about the SS4A grant. The project has kicked off with Beta Group being chosen as the consultant. Crash data is currently being assembled and analyzed, and a public engagement process is also being developed. A demonstration project will be done on Beacon Street in Worcester, and it is currently being designed. Updates will be made for the group at future meetings.

Agenda Item #9 – New Business

Mr. Grigg asked about how much consideration goes into emergency management/response vehicles when transportation roadway projects are designed. Ann Sullivan replied that MassDOT considers the Project Development & Design Guide for all its projects, which includes lane widths. For town projects it is important that emergency responders are included in the designs. Mr. Grigg followed up by asking if there is a set-width for roadway designs. Ms. Sullivan replied that there are standards at state and federal planning, which is 11' lanes. The type of traffic is also considered for road design and lane sizing.

There were no further new business announcements.

Agenda Item # 10 – Next Meetings

- CMMPO Advisory Committee meeting (virtual) – October 22, 2025 at 3:00 PM
- CMMPO Committee meeting (virtual) – November 19, 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 5:30 PM.

Meeting Minutes prepared by: Zack Blais, Transportation Principal Planner