



## **CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

The minutes of the Central Massachusetts Transportation Planning Committee Virtual meeting held Thursday, October 30, 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
3. Jordan Hollinger

The CMRPC fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes and regulations in all programs and activities. The CMRPC 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 CMRPC. A complaint must be filed no later than 180 calendar days after the date on which the person believes the discrimination occurred.

### **Around-the-Room Introductions**

Committee Chairperson Bob Hassinger opened the meeting at 6:00 PM and asked for around the room introductions.

### **Approval of June 26, 2025, T-Committee Meeting Minutes**

Minutes from June 26, 2025, meeting were 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.

### **Preliminary Findings from Housing and Transportation Study Presentation**

Jordan Hollinger presented this agenda item. The presentation provided a review of the project's purpose, objectives, and some of the 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. The 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. Transportation also impacts the region and as access to cars is generally required in the CMRPC region, transportation costs tend to escalate 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).

Bob Hassinger asked if Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) will make a difference in the analyses. Mr. Hollinger said the suitability analysis will look at various housing types, including ADUs.

### **Staff Updates**

Kevin Krasnecky provided the following updates:

- Safe Streets for All (SS4A): 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. Turning Movement Counts (TMCs) and traffic counts are in the process of being completed. Additional updates for this project will be provided at future meetings.
- Vernon Connected Transportation Study: The consultant is currently examining the existing conditions and working on community engagement, such as, popups, workshops, and coffee hours. Future updates will come regarding the vision of the corridor as part of the project with feedback from community engagement.

#### **New Business**

There was no new business.

#### **Next Meetings**

- CMMPO Meeting – Wednesday, November 19, 2025, at 4:00 PM.
- CMMPO Advisory Committee Meeting – TBD
- CMTPC Meeting – Thursday, November 20, 2025, at 6:00 PM.

Mr. Krasnecky told the group that because of the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays in November and December the T-Committee meetings will be held one week earlier for those months.

#### **Adjournment**

Upon a motion by Rick Baker and a second from Brian Pigeon, the members unanimously voted to adjourn at 6:32 PM.