



## **CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

The minutes of the Central Massachusetts Transportation Planning Committee Virtual meeting held Thursday, January 29, 2026, 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 December 18, 2025, T-Committee Meeting Minutes**

Minutes from December 18, 2025 meeting were considered for approval. Otto Lies 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.

### **CY 2026 Safety Performance Measures (PM1)**

- **Action Item:** Seeking recommendation to the CMMPO concerning adoption of the State's safety targets.

Kevin Krasnecky presented this item. Safety Performance Measures (PM1) require annual coordination of target setting with MPOs. MPOs must establish their own set of performance targets each year or adopt the state's performance targets (for the entire Commonwealth) and the performance targets must be incorporated into the federal Certification Documents. Regarding PM1, MassDOT's goal is towards zero deaths. The Performance Measures are presented in 5-year rolling averages, and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) requires the targets to demonstrate constant or improved performance. Additionally, MassDOT also developed a 2024-2028 projection to forecast current trends further into the future.

For CY26, the five statewide (MassDOT) safety targets are:

- Total Fatalities: 357
- Fatality Rate per 100 Million VMT: 0.56
- Total Serious Injuries: 2,562
- Serious Injury Rate per 100 Million VMT: 4.03
- Total Combined Non-Motorist Injuries + Fatalities: 512

Mr. Krasnecky then described MassDOT's methodology in setting their safety targets for the above categories. Graphics were displayed for each category showing the historical data and projected targets for the 5-year rolling averages for both the state and the CMMPO region.

For comparison, the CY26 CMMPO safety targets were projected to be:

- Total Fatalities: 39
- Fatality Rate per 100 Million VMT: 0.67

- Total Serious Injuries: 283
- Serious Injury Rate per 100 Million VMT: 4.84
- Total Combined Non-Motorist Injuries + Fatalities: 53

The state targets are realistic targets, and short incremental steps must be taken to achieve the Commonwealth's goal of zero fatalities and serious injuries. The CMMPO must set their own safety targets or adopt the MassDOT safety targets by February 28, 2026. The safety targets must also be included in the FFY 2027 to FFY 2031 TIPs.

**On a motion from Brian Pigeon and a second from Otto Lies, the members unanimously voted to recommend to the CMMPO the adoption of the State's safety targets.**

### **Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

- FFY 2031 TIP Candidate Project Presentations Summary

**613875: Auburn/Worcester – Route 20 Improvements:** Kevin Krasnecky summarized this project. The project limits are from just east of Commerce Drive in Auburn to just west of the Greenwood Street intersection in Worcester. The project intent is to improve bicycle and pedestrian accommodations to provide safe multimodal access between the housing and commercial sites on Route 20. The project will include the construction of a shared use path and a sidewalk along Route 20; it will reallocate the existing cross-section with some widening; it may necessitate the construction of retaining walls and modifications to the existing bridge cross-section; it will improve pavement makings and signage; and it will strive to minimize impacts to driveways and parking areas of the abutting businesses.

The project is at pre-25% design stage. A design consultant has been assigned, and a survey has been completed. Required environmental permits and ROW acquisition/easements are not yet determined and utility relocations will likely be required. The current cost estimate is \$6,527,690.

**613873: Sturbridge – Route 20 Improvements:** Mr. Krasnecky summarized this project. The project limits are from just east of Hall Road to before the I-84 ramps. There was a 2017-2019 HSIP crash cluster in the project area and recent commercial growth in the area has increased the number of left-hand turns, increasing the potential for serious crashes. The long-term goal of MassDOT Highway Division District 3 is to median divide Route 20 to provide strategic locations for vehicles to reverse direction, therefore this project could potentially include a roundabout at Hall Road to allow vehicles to reverse direction without having to make left turn maneuvers. Potential safety improvements to access properties east of Hall Road will also be investigated.

The project is at the pre-25% design stage. A design consultant has been assigned, and a survey has been completed. The required design requirements and ROW acquisition/easements are

being determined, and some utility relocations will likely be required. The current cost estimate is \$6,579,155.

**613261: Worcester – Lincoln Street Transit Infrastructure Improvements:** Mr. Krasnecky summarized this project. The project limits are from Burncoat Street to Catherine Street. The project goal is to improve transit service reliability and user experience, ADA compliance, and provide bicycle facilities along the project limits. Three WRTA bus routes utilize the corridor, and each route experiences recurring delays due to congestion, especially in the PM peak. The existing bus stop spacing and locations are not ideal, and many locations lack amenities, signage, or roadway striping. The roadway lacks marked pedestrian crossings at several intersections and bus stops and also lacks bicycle facilities.

The corridor contains a Top 200 Crash Cluster and a Top 5% Intersection Crash Cluster for the crash years 2017-2020 (statewide), a Top 5% Bicycle Crash Cluster for 2010-2019 (statewide), and three locations that are Top 5% MPO Crash Locations for Fatal and Serious Injuries.

The proposed work will include transit signal priority, reconstruction of bus stops and amenities, sidewalk repair, the construction of ADA compliant curb ramps, and new bicycle facilities. Existing curb to curb roadway widths will be retained where possible and new pavement markings and signage will be included. The pre-25% design process will evaluate cross-section alternatives and potential parking impacts.

The project is at the pre-25% design state. A design consultant (VHB) has been assigned and received Notice to Proceed in November 2025. Traffic counts and signal phasing plans have been obtained, and the survey field work is mostly complete while the survey plans are being prepared. Crash records are also being compiled. The required environmental permits and ROW acquisition/easements are being determined, and utility relocations may be required. The current cost estimate is \$3,335,000.

**613311: Worcester – Millbury Street Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements:** The project includes bicycle and pedestrian improvements in Worcester on Millbury Street, from Harding Street to Vernon Street. The project location was identified as a top 5% bicycle and pedestrian need statewide. It was also identified as a roadway that would benefit from improved pedestrian facilities and the addition of bicycle accommodations. Further, a WRTA bus route utilizes the project location, and the bus stops lack amenities, signage, and roadway striping. Some existing curb ramps are not ADA compliant and there is a lack of marked crossings at several intersections and bus stops.

The project is within an REJ+ community and provides a link between Millbury Street (west of I-290) and the pedestrian bridge spanning Route 146. Improvements from the project will help provide connections to the Blackstone Heritage Corridor & Visitor Center, Middle River Park, College of Holy Cross, Blackstone River Bikeway, Walmart shopping area, and more.

The work will include improvements to bus stop amenities and infrastructure, sidewalk repair, ADA compliant curb ramps, and bicycle facilities. It will retain existing curb-to-curb widths except where it is necessary to expand sidewalks to incorporate bus stop amenities and bicycle facilities. Additional work includes improved pavement markings, signage, and possible speed calming measures.

The project is at Pre-25% design stage, and The Engineering Corporation (TEC) has been hired as the design consultant. The Pre-25% plans have been prepared and are being revised based on feedback received from the City in December 2025. The ROW acquisitions or easements and environmental permitting are still being determined. Utility relocations, except for some light poles, are not required. The current project cost estimate is \$3,475,000.

Rick Baker asked how the consultants determine the cost of a project. Mr. Krasnecky said that during the initiation of a project the communities/consultants work with MassDOT filling out the required information needed for the project to be approved. During that time, a preliminary cost estimate is determined based on the scope of the project. As the design progresses the project costs will likely change based on the scope, construction materials, and any other items associated with the project. Over the last several years project costs have increased significantly.

### **Staff Updates**

Rich Rydant provided the following updates:

- **Vernon Connected:** Public outreach is still ongoing and the website for the project contains various information about the project. On March 4<sup>th</sup>, a local historian from Clark University will lead a discussion at the Worcester Senior Center about I-290 and the impacts of its initial construction.
- **Housing and Transportation Study:** The subregional meetings have all been completed. Next up is the planned suitability analysis and formulation of a future vision.
- **Safe Streets for All (SS4A):** Staff officially kicked off the public outreach for this effort at the recent Quarterly Commission meeting. Staff will be hosting various public meetings in February, and a survey is now open to the public. A regionwide email has been sent out and information about the study is also on the CMRPC website.
- **Grant Opportunities:** Staff have recently assisted various communities with grants such as Mass Trails, DER culverts, Community One Stop, MVP, Healthy Aging, and AARP Community Challenge grants.

### **New Business**

There was no new business.

### **Next Meetings**

- CMMPO Meeting – Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at 4:00 PM.
- CMMPO Advisory Committee Meeting – Wednesday, February 25, 2026, at 3:00 PM.
- CMTPC Meeting – Thursday, February 26, 2026, at 6:00 PM.

### **Adjournment**

Upon a motion by Ott Lies and a second from Rick Baker, the members unanimously voted to adjourn at 6:37 PM.