



CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

The minutes of the Central Massachusetts Transportation Planning Committee Virtual meeting held Thursday, February 26, 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 January 29, 2026, T-Committee Meeting Minutes

Rick Baker motioned to accept the minutes from January 29, 2026 meeting and was seconded by Otto Lies. All members voted to approve the minutes.

Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- **Action Item:** Seeking recommendation to the CMMPO concerning endorsement of the Proposed Amendment #4 to the 2026-2030 TIP Highway Project Listing.

Kevin Krasnecky presented this agenda item. Amendment #4 has two proposed changes to the TIP highway project listing. These changes include:

- **612190 – Holden – Bridge Replacement, H-18-004, Salisbury Street over G&W Railroad:** In FFY 2026, the total project cost is increasing from \$6,897,436 to \$8,825,098, which is an increase of \$1,927,662.
- **S13417 – Worcester – Mill Street Planning and Design (Federal Earmark For Design – MA296):** This project will be added to FFY 2026 under Section 1B (Earmark or Discretionary Grant Funded Projects) in the amount of \$2,500,000. This Earmark was originally programmed in FFY 2025 but was inexpedient to obligate, so it needs to be re-programmed into the active TIP.

On a motion from Brian Pigeon and a second from Rick Baker, the members unanimously voted to recommend to the CMMPO the endorsement of the proposed Amendment #4.

- 2027-2031 TIP Readiness Day Updates

Kevin Krasnecky presented the FFY 2027 to FFY 2031 TIP Readiness Day updates, these included the following projects:

FFY 2026

- **608961 – Worcester – Intersection Improvements on Chandler St. and May St.**
 - Currently at 75% design and 100% due this spring.
 - There is a risk to 2026 due to Right of Way (ROW) concerns.
 - Project is staying in 2026 for now.
- **610535 – Worcester – Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvements on Pleasant Street.**
 - Currently at 25% design and the 75/100% design are under review.

- Need revised Notice of Intent (NOI).
- Recommended to stay in 2026 but there is a risk.
- **610769 – Sutton – Superstructure Replacement, Manchaug Road. over Mumford River**
 - The revised 25% design and ROW plans are currently under review.
 - The ROW could be complicated, and it is recommended pushing back to 2028.

FFY 2027

- **609441 – Northbridge – Intersection Improvements at Route 122, School Street, Sutton Street, and Upton Street.**
 - Currently at 25% design and 75% plans are due in April.
 - Some risk to 2027 but still recommended staying in 2027.
- **610931 – Uxbridge – Rehabilitation of Route 16, from Taft Hill Road to 200 FT west of Main Street.**
 - Currently at 75% design and 100% plans are due in September.
 - Significant ROW and still need town meeting approval.
 - Some risk but still recommended staying in 2027.
- **611933 – Sturbridge – Roundabout Construction at Route 20 & Route 131.**
 - Currently at 25% design.
 - Design Public Hearing is likely to be scheduled soon.
 - Recommended pushing back to 2028.
- **612084 – Barre – Bridge Replacement, Old Coldbrook Road over Prince River.**
 - Currently at 25% design and 75% plans are due in May.
 - There are risks to ROW and environmental permitting.
 - Recommended pushing back to 2028.
- **609186 – Dudley – Bridge Replacement, Route 131 over Quinebaug River.**
 - Currently at Pre-25% design and 25% plans are due in June.
 - ROW submission is still needed.
 - Recommended pushing back to 2029.
- **612181 – Charlton – Bridge Replacement, US 20 over Cady Brook.**
 - Currently at Pre-25% design.
 - Updated project schedule and ROW submission needed.
 - Recommended pushing back to 2029.
- **612089 – Dudley/Southbridge – Resurfacing & Related Work on Route 131.**

- Currently at 100% design and PS&E expected in May.
- There is no ROW for this project.
- Project could move up to 2026 if funding is available.
- **612092 – Uxbridge – Bridge Replacement, Homeward Avenue over Providence Worcester Railroad.**
 - Currently at 25% design.
 - Need revised sketch plans.
 - Recommended pushing back to 2028.
- **612192 – Auburn – Bridge Replacement, US 20 over I-395.**
 - Currently at 25% design and 75% plans are due in April.
 - There is no ROW for this project.
 - There is a risk but still recommended to stay in 2027.

FFY 2028

- **608990 – Worcester – Intersection Improvements on Chandler Street, from Main Street to Park Avenue.**
 - Currently at 25% design but needs a revised 25% plan submission.
 - Still needs a Design Public Hearing and approved ROW plans.
 - Recommended pushing back to 2029.
- **613655 – Rutland – Intersection Improvements at Route 122 and Pleasantdale Road.**
 - Currently at Pre-25% design and waiting on 25% plan submission.
 - Environmental permitting for this project might be challenging.
 - High risk but recommended staying in 2028.
- **613126 – East Brookfield – Bridge Replacement, Cove Street over Seven Mile River.**
 - Currently at Pre-25% design and waiting on 25% plan submission.
 - Still need ROW plans and town meeting approval.
 - Recommending pushing back to 2029.
- **611967 – Sturbridge/Charlton – Intersection Improvements on Route 49 at Putnam Road, Walker Pond Road, and Route 20.**
 - Currently at Pre-25% design and 75% plans are due in September.
 - Public Design Hearing is still needed.
 - Risk due to ROW but still recommended to stay in 2028.
- **608490 – Upton – Resurfacing & Related work on Route 140 and Roundabout Construction at Route 140, Church Street and Grove Street.**

- Currently at 75% design and 100% plans are due in March.
- Project design is changing and will have less ROW but will now address some drainage issues.
- Recommended pushing back to 2029.

➤ MicroProjects Update

Rich Rydant presented this agenda item. Mr. Rydant presented the Grafton MicroProject that has applied for funding on the TIP. The project was for bicycle education and outreach activities. The purpose of this project is to:

- Strengthen the support for bicycle safety, infrastructure expansion, and equitable access across Grafton.
- Use resident input and on the ground observations to guide planning, policy, and future investments.
- Increase transportation choices for elderly, youth, Environmental Justice neighborhoods, and residents with limited access.
- Promote active transportation to reduce congestion, improve public health, and enhance environmental outcomes.
- Identify connectivity gaps and advance policies and funding that support safe, accessible bicycle facilities town-wide.

Over the year-long project, activities include:

- Classes, clinics, pop-ups, group rides, and safety training for all ages and abilities.
- Events across Grafton while also engaging underserved populations.
- Leveraging town and MassBike volunteers, outreach, and equipment.
- Events hosted in accessible locations and group rides coordinated with the Grafton Police for safety.

For the riding events, data will be collected to track trips and usage, calculate the emissions impact, health benefits, and potential cost savings.

The total cost of the project is \$7,161.60. \$5,600 will be covered by federal funding while the remaining required local match of 20% will be funded by the town of Grafton. Mr. Rydant also noted that MassBike previously accomplished something similar to this project in the city of Worcester.

➤ FFY 2031 TIP Candidate Projects – PM Scoring Review

Kevin Krasnecky presented this agenda item. Mr. Krasnecky told the group that the annual scoring process was completed for four (4) FFY 2031 candidate projects which were Auburn/Worcester (Route 20), Sturbridge (Route 20), Worcester (Lincoln Street), and Worcester (Millbury Street).

Next, Mr. Krasnecky summarized the scoring criteria for all the candidate projects. Once finished, Mr. Krasnecky pointed out that the two Worcester projects on Lincoln Street and Millbury Street scored the highest with a total of 15 out of 27 points. The two US Route 20 projects scored 13 and 12 respectively. Mr. Krasnecky noted that these projects were also discussed during TIP Readiness Day. MassDOT commented that the Worcester Lincoln Street project would be better suited for 2032. MassDOT also said that they would also like to see more design plans for the two US Route 20 projects to have a better idea of the programming year. MassDOT did give support for programming Worcester's Millbury Street project in 2031.

Since the Worcester Millbury Street project was the only project to potentially program in 2031, Mr. Krasnecky asked for a consensus for programming this project in 2031, if funding is available. The members provided their approval for the potential programming of the Millbury Street project.

Rick Baker asked what are the average scores of other previously programmed TIP target projects. Mr. Krasnecky said that most projects score somewhere between 12 and 18 points. Very rarely do projects score over 20 points, although there have been a couple. There have also been projects that have scored less than 10 points, often the more rural projects.

TIP/UPWP Guidance Summary

Rich Rydant presented this agenda item. Mr. Rydant first provided a summary of the guidance for the TIP. In the narrative there should be a description of the project programming rationale and the reliability of project delivery. Public outreach best practices should be used during TIP development. Performance measures should also be incorporated into the development of the TIP. A creative use of regional target funds is also suggested, such as the MicroProjects program. The regional target funding for all five years is between \$31 million and \$32 million annually.

The UPWP narrative should include a summary of the Amendment/Adjustment procedures as well as municipal, regional, and statewide connections. The narrative should also include a direct cost budget and staff specification of work activities. Task specific activities should include safety, multimodal, freight, housing, economic development, and various other topics. Funding for FFY 2027 is \$1,695,590, which is a 2% increase from FFY 2026. Staff are also waiting on the FTA 5303 planning funding amount. Further, 2.5% of the budget must be spent on Complete Streets, which is \$28,724.

As for the timeline of the two documents, the TIP draft will be released for public comment in April and endorsed in May while the UPWP will be released in May and endorsed in June.

Staff Updates

Rich Rydant provided the following updates:

- **Vernon Connected:** There are three upcoming events during the month of March. On March 4th there is a presentation from local historians at the Worcester Senior Center. On March 19th, author Jeff Speck will be presenting about walking through the past, present, and future of the study area at the Brick Box Theatre. Lastly, on March 25th, there will be a workshop about envisioning a new future along I-290 and Vernon Street at Girls Inc in Worcester.
- FHWA will be meeting with transportation staff on March 10th to discuss the UPWP.
- Staff are still assisting a few communities with pursuing culvert grants, both new and ongoing.

New Business

There was no new business.

Next Meetings

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

Adjournment

Upon a motion by Rick Baker and a second from Brian Pigeon, the members unanimously voted to adjourn at 6:53 PM.