



CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

The minutes of the Central Massachusetts Transportation Planning Committee Virtual meeting held Thursday, April 30, 2026, using Zoom.

T-Committee Members Present:

1. Bob Hassinger, Grafton, Committee Chairperson
2. Otto Lies, Holden
3. Rick Baker, Boylston
4. Matt Stencel, Millbury

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 March 26, 2026, T-Committee Meeting Minutes

Rick Baker motioned to accept the minutes from March 26, 2026 meeting and was seconded by Matt Stencil. 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 Draft 2027-2031 TIP.

Kevin Krasnecky presented this agenda item. Both the FFY 2027-2031 TIP highway and transit project listings were reviewed with the attendees. Mr. Krasnecky also noted that staff compiled a TIP document and Technical Appendix that contains other required TIP-related information. The documents are located on the CMRPC website. Further, a virtual public meeting will be held on 5/4/26 so the public can comment on the draft TIP.

There were no comments or questions.

On a motion from Matt Stencil and a second from Rick Baker, the members unanimously voted to recommend to the CMMPO the endorsement of the Draft 2027-2031 TIP.

Environmental Consultation Presentation

Rich Rydant and Kevin Krasnecky presented this agenda item. Mr. Rydant said that the Environmental Consultation meeting is held annually during the development of the TIP but also includes work activities from the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). An overview of the environmental consultation process and a summary of the various GIS data layers that staff uses was provided. The data layers are culverts, open space, flood zones, wetlands, and endangered species. The Massachusetts Project Intake Tool (MAPIT) was then discussed and how it is used to initiate TIP projects.

As an example, the Route 9 / Route 49 TIP project in Spencer and East Brookfield was discussed. The project goals, existing conditions, and proposed improvements were summarized. A locus map of the project area was displayed on each of the environmental layers that were previously shown. As part of the TIP, an environmental-related funding source is Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ). It is a funding source used for projects that reduce congestion and vehicle emissions. Kevin Krasnecky then talked about the various examples of CMAQ eligible projects

and noted numerous projects that have been funded with CMAQ since 2017 and the corresponding amount of potential emission savings.

Next, Mr. Krasnecky provided an update on the CMRPC Culvert Assessment Program. Staff continue to make updates to the CMMPO Culvert Assessment Program Hub and the Dashboard. This year staff will finish culvert assessments in Blackstone and conduct assessments in both Oakham and New Braintree. Since last year's Environmental Consultation, 394 culverts have been assessed in the region. Of the 5,000+ culverts in the CMMPO region, there are currently 1,168 culverts that have been assessed.

In addition to the culvert assessments, staff have assisted the towns of Leicester, Rutland, Warren, and West Brookfield in applying for culvert grants as well as providing a letter of support for the town of Grafton. CMRPC has also applied for a US EDA grant (\$200,000) to conduct an inventory of dams in the CMRPC region. The grant would include an existing conditions report and a final project report.

As for the LRTP, Mr. Krasnecky provided updates about the EV Charging Stations Dashboard. Mr. Krasnecky said that the Dashboard has recently been updated to version 2.1. The update included a new homepage, a redesigned logo, and a modernized design. Additional datasets and functionality enhancements were also added. Version 2.2 and other future updates will be coming soon.

Lastly, Mr. Krasnecky mentioned that the guest presentation for the meeting was Mark Scribner, from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs (EEA). Mr. Scribner talked about the Massachusetts EV charging programs and initiatives for 2026.

Bob Hassinger asked if there is a specific amount of emission savings that a project must meet before it is approved for CMAQ funding. Mr. Krasnecky said as long as a project shows some savings then it would be eligible. Mr. Hassinger also asked what percentage of projects show emission savings. Mr. Krasnecky said that most of the projects that are calculated show at least some level of potential air quality improvement.

Staff Updates

- **CMMPO 50th Anniversary:** Mr. Rydant announced the 50th anniversary of the CMMPO and provided an overview of its history.
- **Vernon Connected:** Mr. Rydant said there have been a number of events over the last couple of months and more events being planned over the next few months. Also, the Travel Demand Forecast Model is currently being used for various analyses.
- **SS4A:** Mr. Rydant said staff are currently doing one-on-one meetings with communities to discuss the data and receive feedback. The demonstration project (Beacon Street in Worcester) is currently being reviewed by MEPA, and the draft report is planned for November or December.

- **Housing and Transportation:** Mr. Rydant said the consultant has recently shared 20+ strategies for the plan and the suitability analysis was completed. A presentation is planned for the CMMPO with the draft recommendations in the coming months.

New Business

There was no new business.

Next Meetings

- CMMPO Meeting – Wednesday, May 20, 2026, at 4:00 PM.
- CMMPO Advisory Committee Meeting – Wednesday, May 27, 2026, at 3:00 PM.
- CMTPC Meeting – Thursday, May 28, 2026, at 6:00 PM.

Adjournment

Upon a motion by Otto Lies and a second from Matt Stencel, the members unanimously voted to adjourn at 6:51 PM.