



CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

The minutes of the Central Massachusetts Transportation Planning Committee Virtual meeting held Thursday, May 28, 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
5. Brian Pigeon, Worcester

CMRPC Staff Present:

1. Kevin Krasnecky
2. Rich Rydant

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 April 30, 2026, T-Committee Meeting Minutes

Matt Stencel motioned to accept the minutes from April 30, 2026 meeting and was seconded by Rick Baker. Members voted to approve the minutes, with one abstention from Brian Pigeon.

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 #7 to the 2026-2030 TIP Highway Project Listing.

Kevin Krasnecky presented this agenda item. Proposed Amendment #7 includes the following changes:

- *612195 – Worcester – Superstructure Replacement, W-44-091, I-290 over East Central Street* will be removed from FFY 2026. This project will be programmed in FFY 2027 of the new 2027-2031 TIP.
- *614241 – District 2 & District 3 – VRU Crosswalk Installation at State Signals at Multiple Locations* will be added to FFY 2026. The Total Project Cost is \$622,383.

Mr. Krasnecky noted that a virtual public meeting to discuss the proposed Amendment #7 will be held on 6/9/26.

There were no comments or questions.

On a motion from Matt Stencel and a second from Rick Baker, the members unanimously voted to recommend to the CMMPO the endorsement of Proposed 2026-2030 TIP Amendment #7.

Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

- **Action Item:** Seeking recommendation to the CMMPO concerning endorsement of the Draft FFY 2027 UPWP.

Rich Rydant presented this agenda item. Mr. Rydant reviewed the table of contents and the budget table from the draft document. Mr. Rydant also noted that the public meeting to discuss the Draft UPWP will be held along with the TIP Amendment #7 on 6/9/26.

There were no comments or questions.

On a motion from Matt Stencel and a second from Rick Baker, the members unanimously voted to recommend to the CMMPO the endorsement of the Draft FFY 2027 UPWP.

Public Participation Plan (PPP) Updates Presentation

Rich Rydant presented this item. Mr. Rydant provided an overview of changes, new sections, and staff review items for the FY 2026 update. Staff are updating the PPP to reflect new federal guidance, changing technology, and best practices. There are four entirely new sections or appendices, over nine sections updated or expanded, and over 15 items flagged and reviewed.

For Section 2 (Background), the regulatory tables have been updated, and additional law and regulation citations have been added. In Section 4 (Goals), a new 9th goal has been added. The new goal is to provide opportunities to build trust and compromise. In Section 5 (Self-Evaluation & Plan Modification), staff formalized the CMMPO's commitment to reviewing and improving its public participation practices. In Section 6 (Tools), new tools were added and the previous tools were reviewed and removed, if no longer needed. In Section 7 (Methods), three new formal engagement methods were added and they were one-on-one interactions, Public Involvement Plan (PIP), and scenario planning exercises. Staff also reviewed the current committee and platform information. Additionally, a new Section 10 (Using Artificial Intelligence for Community Engagement) was added to the document.

Under the appendices, a new Appendix A (Planning Document Public Participation Guidelines) was added to show minimum public participation standards for every planning document type. A new Appendix B (Staff Guide to Planning Public Engagement) was also added that shows a 7-step internal protocol for meeting Title VI and ADA requirements in all public outreach activities. The new Appendices C & D (Public-Facing Guides) were added that contain frequently asked questions and how to access virtual meetings. Lastly, a new Appendix E (Municipality Demographic Data) was added to help the CMMPO understand their communities better before starting a project.

The next steps will be for the CMMPO to release the FY 2026 Draft PPP at their June meeting for a 45-day public review and comment period. The FFY 2026 PPP would likely be endorsed by the CMMPO at their August or September meeting.

There were no comments or questions.

CMRPC Transportation Committee Bylaws Discussion

Rich Rydant presented this agenda item. Mr. Rydant said that the CMRPC bylaws are currently being updated and that effort also includes the Physical Development, Legislative Affairs, and Transportation Committees. The purpose of the T-Committee is to serve as the transportation advisory group for the Commission. The functions of the Committee are to:

- Advise the Commission vote on the CMMPO matters and bring forth the Commission view on CMMPO matters.

- Provide technical feedback to the Commission transportation staff on internal planning efforts related to transportation planning, including the integration of economic development and land use concerns.
- Direct the Commission transportation staff on non-CMMPO planning efforts.
- Advise the Commission transportation staff on review of transportation impacts associated with proposed major regional developments.
- Become a point of reference with local communities dealing with transportation planning issues.

Next, Mr. Rydant discussed the proposed T-Committee membership, which includes:

- Proposed one (1) Commission member per each of the six (6) long established transportation planning subregions (6).
- Proposed maximum two (2) Technical members (ex. – Town DPW staff, engineers) in place of Commission membership.
- Proposed one (1) “At-Large” member to allow for a seven (7) person committee.
- Proposed quorum for virtual, hybrid or in-person meetings would be a total of four (4) Commission and Technical members in attendance.

In addition to the membership, staff are looking at the potential to incorporate language that has been reiterated for decades at the Commission’s Annual Meeting into the bylaws. The first question is, do you agree:

- Assign the Commission’s review and voting privileges to its standing T-Committee on significant CMMPO business.
- This includes endorsements of major documents (LRTP, TIP, UPWP) and other significant matters and actions for which motions are made.
- Further, the Commission Chairperson or his/her designee shall represent the Commission’s interest at the CMMPO meetings.
- (Example: CMRPC Chair can appoint the Chair of the T-Committee to attend/participate/vote at the monthly CMMPO meeting.)

The second question is, do you agree:

- In the event that the Commission is unable to convene to direct the Chairperson’s actions on the CMMPO questions,
- Do you authorize the Chairperson, or his/her designee from the T-Committee,
- To act on the Commission’s behalf on matters requiring a CMMPO vote in a manner consistent with the recommendation(s) of the T-Committee?

The members discussed the proposed changes. Regarding the proposed membership, Bob Hassinger said it might be difficult to fill the membership with all subregions. Matt Stencil also stated that the proposed membership might make it more difficult to fill vacancies.

Staff Updates

- **SS4A:** Mr. Rydant said staff have completed all public and community meetings. The survey has closed and staff has received over 1,000 responses. The consultant, Beta Group, is now in the process of analyzing all the survey results.
- **Bike Month:** Mr. Rydant said that staff along with MassBike held a bike breakfast in the City of Worcester. The town of Westborough was going to hold a bicycle party but due to some staff turnover, it was postponed.
- **MassDOT Capital Investment Plan (CIP):** Mr. Rydant said that the MassDOT CIP public meeting for the Central Massachusetts region will be held virtually on Monday, June 1st at 6:00 PM. *(A link to the meeting will be forwarded to the T-Committee members.)*

New Business

There was no new business.

Next Meetings

- CMMPO Meeting – Wednesday, June 17, 2026, at 4:00 PM.
- CMMPO Advisory Committee Meeting – Wednesday, June 24, 2026, at 3:00 PM.
- CMTPC Meeting – Thursday, June 25, 2026, at 6:00 PM.

Adjournment

Upon a motion by Matt Stencel and a second from Otto Lies, the members unanimously voted to adjourn at 6:55 PM.