CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

The minutes of the Central Massachusetts Transportation Planning Committee Virtual meeting held Thursday, October 29, 2026, using Zoom.

T-Committee Members Present:

1. Bob Hassinger, Grafton, Committee Chairperson
2. Otto Lies, Holden
3. Brian Pigeon, Worcester

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 June 25, 2026, T-Committee Meeting Minutes

Brian Pigeon motioned to accept the minutes of the June 25, 2026, meeting and was seconded by Otto Lies. All members voted to approve the minutes.

Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no public comments.

SS4A Vision Zero Draft Action Plan Presentation

Rich Rydant presented this agenda item. The plan was funded through a Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant from FHWA. The grant was for CMRPC to develop a Regional Vision Zero Action Plan as well as a Demonstration Project for Beacon Street in Worcester.

Public engagement activities included a Vision Zero Action Committee (VZAC) meeting to help develop strategies and recommendations. Numerous stakeholder meetings with communities were also held to help identify ongoing roadway projects and identify safety improvement priorities. Some of the common issues were speeding, heavy vehicles in downtown areas, and roadway departure crashes in rural areas.

For project development, the plan prioritizes projects by combining crash history trends, a risk-based analysis of roadway attributes, and public engagement to help identify and prioritize traffic safety countermeasures for key roadway segments and intersections regionwide. The Safe System approach was also used to build vision zero and safe system concepts into CMRPC's transportation policy and ongoing decision making.

A demonstration project on Beacon Street in the city of Worcester was also included to allow the city to install safety measures temporarily and to then evaluate their effectiveness. The demonstration project will install temporary countermeasures (including curb extensions, a raised crosswalk, rapid flashing beacons, and a chicane on Hammond Street) for one year evaluation period. FHWA has approved moving to final design, with bidding and installation expected in the spring of '27. The draft plan will be released for public review soon, with final approval anticipated in January of '27.

Bob Hassinger asked if the plan was a report or is the data interactive. Mr. Rydant noted there will likely be a dashboard associated with the report to assess progress and that the report will also be used as a tool for future improvements for the locations targeted within each of the region's 40 communities.

Active Transportation Program Updates Presentation

Kevin Krasnecky presented this agenda item. Highlights from the staff work over the past year include:

- Recently completed the Regional Pedestrian and Bicycle Plans.
- Recently completed an Engagement Toolkit for Complete Streets projects. With the help from CMRPC staff, Northborough and Uxbridge received FY26 Round 1 Awards. Staff also helped Hardwick with its Complete Streets Prioritization Plan.
- A walk audit was held in the Green Island/Vernon Hill area (I-290 underpasses), which was part of the Vernon Connected recommendations. Also, staff received DLTA funds to conduct "Walk Audit Train the Trainer" activities in partnership with Walk Massachusetts in Westborough, Grafton, Shrewsbury, and Northborough.
- The Metro Mobility E-Bike share at the WRTA Hub has drawn 800+ users and 7,000+ miles traveled in under a year. The E-Bike service provides transit connections in the City of Worcester.
- Staff collected condition data on various assets. Bicycle and pedestrian counts are also done on various corridors. Currently, staff is developing a schedule of monitoring locations, and the data is available on the CMRPC website.
- Trail work includes the Charles River Headwaters Feasibility Study (Blackstone, Mendon, Bellingham) and looking at the Blackstone River Greenway as a resiliency Corridor.
- Staff recently completed an application for the town of Auburn to look at age friendly paths in the town. Also, staff received funds from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to work on a Home Sharing Program, which is a 3-year pilot program.
- Staff completed a Maple Avenue transit corridor assessment in the town of Shrewsbury. Staff looked at how to improve the corridor and made several recommendations to both MassDOT and the WRTA. A transportation assessment was also completed for several towns in the Blackstone Valley which do not currently belong to any transit authority. Staff are looking into what options are potentially available.
- Staff completed the first phase of the Vernon Connected study. The final report will be uploaded to the project website, and staff are currently looking at next steps for a potential subsequent study.

There were no comments or questions.

Staff Updates

- **TIP**: Mr. Krasnecky reported that our federal partners have approved the new FFY 2027-2031 TIPs and STIP, which are now active. Amendments and adjustments are expected over the coming months as project costs are finalized, particularly for first-year projects

nearing advertisement. Staff will send the TIP annual development letter for the 2028-2032 TIP in early November to the TIP distribution list (town officials, committee members, legislators, and other interested parties). The annual letter includes information on the TIP process, design funding, and the MicroProjects program.

- **Vernon Connected Planning Study – Final Report**: Mr. Rydant told the group that the first phase, an 18-month study led by Stantec, is complete and includes short-, mid-, and long-term recommendations. As mentioned, the final report will be posted to the Vernon Connected website, and staff are evaluating potential next steps for this project.
- **Housing and Transportation Study – Final Report**: Mr. Rydant reported that the study is complete and on the CMRPC website, which includes a study, mapping, and a dashboard. Mr. Rydant described it as one of very few studies that connect housing and transportation. Mr. Rydant noted that Sujatha Krishnan and Jordan Hollinger presented the study at last month's AMPO annual meeting, where it was well received. Staff plan to use the study's findings in the next upcoming UPWP, the Longe Range Transportation Plan, as well as community master planning efforts.

New Business

Bob Hassinger mentioned the opposition for the Worcester May Street / Chandler Street TIP project and that members of the public attended the October CMMPO meeting to provide their comments in support or opposition concerning the project. At some point in the future the project is anticipated to come before the CMMPO again for TIP programming and the CMMPO will need to decide how it can potentially be accommodated.

Next Meetings

- CMMPO Meeting – Wednesday, November 18, 2026, at 4:00 PM.
- CMMPO Advisory Committee Meeting – Wednesday, November 25, 2026, at 3:00 PM.
- CMTPC Meeting – Thursday, November 19, 2026, at 6:00 PM.

Adjournment

Upon a motion by Otto Lies and a second from Brian Pigeon, the members unanimously voted to adjourn at 6:41 PM.