

MEETING MINUTES OF THE NORTHERN MIDDLESEX METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION MARCH 23, 2022

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

In light of the COVID-19 emergency executive order authorizing virtual public meetings, the meeting was called to order at 2:00 P.M. via videoconference headquartered at the office of the Northern Middlesex Council of Governments (NMCOG), 40 Church Street, Suite 200, Lowell, MA. Attendees included:

Voting Members:

- David Mohler, MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning (Representing MassDOT Secretary Jamey Tesler)
- Frank Suszynski, MassDOT District 4 (Representing MassDOT Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver)
- Tom Bomil, Lowell Regional Transit Authority Board Chair
- Kevin O'Connor, Lowell Regional Transit Authority Board Representative to the MPO
- Pat Wojtas, Chelmsford Select Board, NMCOG MPO Representative

Voting Members Absent:

- Andrew Deslaurier, Billerica Select Board, NMCOG Chair
- Daniel Rourke, Lowell City Councilor, MPO Representative

Stakeholders and Other Attendees:

- Chris Timmel, FHWA
- Timothy Paris, MassDOT District 4
- Derek Krevat, MassDOT Planning
- Michelle Ho, MassDOT Planning
- Brian Fallon, MassDOT Projects Engineer
- Sarah Bradbury, MassDOT Planning
- Chris Klem, MassDOT Planning
- Andrew Wang, MassDOT Planning
- Dave Bradley, LRTA Administrator
- Meaghan O'Brien, LRTA
- Ali Bent, LRTA
- Andrew Jennings, Billerica LRTA Board Member
- Nathan Klosowski, UML Transportation Services
- Deb Leary, Lowell Transitional Living Services

NMMPO Staff:

- Justin Howard, Chris Curry, Carlin Andrus and David Tilton, Northern Middlesex Council of Governments

2. APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 23, 2022 NMMPO MEETING MINUTES

NMMPO members were provided with copies of the February 23, 2022 minutes prior to the meeting. Based on a motion by Pat Wojtas and seconded by Tom Bomil, the February 23, 2022 meeting minutes were approved.

3. STATUS REPORT ON TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) PROJECTS UNDER DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

Tim Paris updated the NMMPO regarding project information changes since the February 23, 2022 meeting:

- **Westford – Interstate Maintenance and Related Work on I-495** – Updated project cost.
- **Burlington to Tyngsborough – Pavement Preservation on Route 3** – Updated project cost.
- **Burlington – Billerica – Resurfacing and Related Work on Route 3A** – Ad date changed.
- **Westford – Bridge Rehabilitation Beaver Brook Road Over Beaver Brook** – TIP cost updated.
- **Lowell – Dracut – Methuen – Resurfacing and Related Work on Route 110** – New project manager.
- **Billerica – Rehabilitation on Boston Road (Route 3A) from Billerica Town Center to Floyd Street** – Advertised and update to estimate.

4. OPEN FORUM – OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMENTS FROM MPO MEMBERS, COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS, AND THE PUBLIC

There were none.

5. BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW PRESENTATION

Derek Krevat provided a presentation on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and its effects on transportation facilities in Massachusetts and the Northern Middlesex region. The BIL is a federal infrastructure bill passed in the fall of 2021 and has made new funding available for transportation improvements nationwide. Derek provided information on the Highway Formula Programs including Reauthorized Programs, Additional Highway Trust Fund Programs and New Programs Funded with General Revenue, as well as Transit Formula Programs and Discretionary Programming through FFY 2026. Following the presentation Derek answered questions and stated that he will provide a copy of the presentation for distribution to members of the NMMPO.

6. FFY 2023-2027 TIP DEVELOPMENT

Justin Howard presented two regional target programming scenarios for consideration by the MPO. The scenarios focus on additional funding in FFY 2023 and programming in FFY 2027 considering financial allocations to the region. Scenario 1 involves improvements on Chelmsford Street (Route 110) in Chelmsford, and intersection improvements at the Town Center in Tewksbury being programmed in FFY 2027, prioritizing the highest scoring project and fiscal constraint. Scenario 2 is identical to Scenario 1

except for the inclusion of FTA Flex Funding in FFY 2023 for ADA Access Improvements at LRTA's Gallagher Terminal.

Based on a motion by Pat Wojtas and seconded by Kevin O'Connor, the NMMPO voted to approve Scenario 2.

Justin Howard also presented a preliminary list of regional transportation improvement projects funded through Statewide programs as well as preliminary transit project programming to be included in the FFY 2023-2027 TIP. At the April 27, 2022 meeting, the NMMPO will consider releasing the draft FFY 2023-2027 TIP for a public comment period.

7. 2021 ANNUAL TRAFFIC VOLUME REPORT

David Tilton presented the annual traffic volume report for the 2021 counting season. He informed the group that the focus has remained on COVID-19 conditions and its effects on regional traffic volumes, which are showing a rebound as the region heads back to pre-COVID-19 activity. A copy of the report was provided ahead of the meeting and will be available on the NMCOG website.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Based on a motion made by Pat Wojtas and seconded by Tom Bomil, the MPO voted unanimously to adjourn at 3:57 PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 27, 2022, 2:00 PM.