

# MEETING MINUTES OF THE NORTHERN MIDDLESEX METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION JULY 28, 2021

## 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:

- Stephen Woelfel, MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning (Representing MassDOT Secretary Jamey Tesler)
- Brian Fallon, MassDOT District 4 (Representing MassDOT Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver)
- Pat Wojtas, Chelmsford Select Board, NMCOG MPO Representative
- Kevin O'Connor, Lowell Regional Transit Authority Board Representative to the MPO

### Voting Members Absent:

- Andrew Deslaurier, Billerica Select Board, NMCOG Chair
- Daniel Rourke, Lowell City Councilor, MPO Representative
- Tom Bomil, Lowell Regional Transit Authority Board Chair

### Stakeholders and Other Attendees:

- Chris Timmel, Federal Highway Administration
- Timothy Paris, MassDOT District 4
- Derek Krevat, MassDOT Planning
- Gus Norrbom, MassDOT Planning
- Wesley Lickus, MassDOT Regional Planning CO-OP
- Nathan Klosowski, UML Transportation Services
- Josh Trearchis, VHB Project Manager

### NMMPO Staff:

- Beverly Woods, Justin Howard, David Tilton, Eric Molinari, and Katrina Garavanian, Northern Middlesex Council of Governments

## 2. APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 23, 2021 NMMPO MEETING MINUTES

NMMPO members were provided with copies of the June 23, 2021 minutes prior to the meeting. Based on a motion by Kevin O'Connor and seconded by Pat Wojtas, the June 23, 2021 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 June 23, 2021 meeting:

- **Andover-Tewksbury – Highway Lighting System Rehabilitation and Repair at the Interchange of Interstate Routes 93 and 495** – Bids were opened May 11, 2021 and awarded to Coviello Electric & General Contractors.
- **Dracut – Improvements on Nashua Road** – Cost increased from \$6.3M to \$6.8M.
- **Westford – Bridge Rehabilitation Beaver Brook Road over Beaver Brook** – Cost increased from \$1.9M to \$2.1M.
- **Bedford – Billerica – Middlesex Turnpike Improvements, from Crosby Drive North to Manning Road** – Slight change in total construction cost.

Justin Howard inquired as to whether the bridge type study for the Rourke Bridge has been submitted in June and if a public meeting had been scheduled. Tim Paris stated that he will seek an update and report back. Justin also ask for a status update on the Route 113 in Dunstable, particularly on any issues that may affect the proposed TIP amendment. Brian Fallon responded that the project is currently on track to be advertised by the end of September.

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

There were no comments provided.

### 5. FFY 2021-2025 DRAFT TIP AMENDMENT 2 – POTENTIAL ACTION TO RELEASE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Justin Howard provided a summary of the proposed Amendment 2 to the FFY 2021-2025 Northern Middlesex Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The amendment involves programming a cost increase for the Route 113 Improvement project in Dunstable, and needs to be endorsed by the MPO to ensure that the project is fully funded for construction. He explained that the Route 113 Improvement Project in Dunstable is currently at final design, with a scheduled advertisement date of September 25, 2021. The total federal participating cost estimate for the project has increased from its currently programmed amount of \$4,500,531 to \$5,211,383, an increase of \$710,852. To cover this cost increase, more regional target funds will be allocated under the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) program funding category. Justin requested that the proposed amendment be released for a twenty-one day public comment period.

Based on a motion by Kevin O’Connor and seconded by Pat Wojtas, the MPO voted to release the FFY 2021-2025 Draft TIP Amendment 2 for a twenty-one day public comment period.

### 6. OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

## 7. ADJOURNMENT

Based on a motion made by Pat Wojtas and seconded by Kevin O'Connor, the MPO voted unanimously to adjourn at 2:14 PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 25, 2021, 2:00 PM.