

MEETING MINUTES OF THE NORTHERN MIDDLESEX METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION APRIL 26, 2023

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

In light of the COVID-19 emergency executive order authorizing virtual public meetings, the Northern Middlesex Metropolitan Planning Organization (NMMPO) 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 in Attendance:

- David Mohler, MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning (Representing MassDOT Secretary and CEO Gina Fiandaca)
- Brian Fallon, MassDOT District 4 (Representing MassDOT Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver)
- Pat Wojtas, Chelmsford Select Board, NMCOG NMMPO Representative
- Tom Bomil, LRTA Board Chair
- Karyn Puleo, LRTA MPO Representative

Stakeholders and Other Attendees:

- Derek Shooster, MassDOT
- Ethan Yang, Resident
- Timothy Paris, MassDOT District 4
- Ali Bent, LRTA
- Meaghan O'Brien, LRTA
- Nandi Munson, Pepperell COA Director
- Andrew Wang, MassDOT Planning
- April Nicholas, Office of Rep. Margaret Scarsdale
- Frank Suszynski, MassDOT District 4
- Chris Timmel, FHWA
- Josh Levin, MassDOT District 4

NMMPO Staff:

- Justin Howard, Shrvanthi Gopalan Narayanan, and Jessica Boulanger, NMCOG

2. APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 22, 2023 NMMPO MEETING MINUTES

NMMPO members were provided with copies of the March 22, 2023 NMMPO minutes prior to the meeting. Based on a motion by Pat Wojtas and seconded by Brian Fallon, the March 22, 2023 NMMPO meeting minutes were approved unanimously, while Tom Bomil abstained.

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

Timothy Paris updated the NMMPO regarding project information changes since the March 22, 2023 meeting.

- **Project 608861 Westford- Bridge Rehabilitation, Stony Brook Road over the Stony Brook** – Project has a new ad date December 7, 2024.
- **Project 609510 Dracut- Improvements At George Englesby Elementary School (SRTS)** – Project has a new ad date February 15, 2025 and a new Project Manager.
- **Project 604694 Lowell- Connector Reconstruction, From Thorndike Street to Gorham Street** – Project has a new ad date December 4, 2027.
- **Project 609250 Billerica- Intersection Improvements at Boston Road (Route 3A), Lexington Street and Glad Valley Road** – Project has a new ad date April 5, 2025.
- **Project 610704 Burlington – Billerica – resurfacing and related work on Route 3A** - Project has a new ad date July 22, 2023.
- **Project 608774 Lowell – Tewksbury – Route 38 Intersection Improvements** – Project has an updated ad date August 5, 2023.
- **Project 612096 Westford- Interstate Maintenance And Related Work On I-495** – Project has a new Project Manager.

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

There were no comments.

5. FFY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Development

a. Presentation of preliminary task list

Jessica Boulanger provided an overview of the Unified Planning Work Program for FFY 2024. The presentation included information on UPWP Financials, USDOT’s Equity Action Plan, continuing planning activities and various new proposed studies. New proposed projects include a Regional Electric Vehicle Study, Aiken Avenue and Bridge Street Intersection Study in Dracut, and Westford Age and Dementia Friendly Plan. She also provided an overview of the timeline for UPWP development.

6. FFY 2023-2027 TIP Amendment 4 – Action Item to release for public comment

Justin Howard provided a summary narrative of Amendment 4 to the FFY 2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program for the Northern Middlesex region. Amendment 4 involves several changes to the existing LRTA projects, addition of new projects, as well as removal of a rehabilitation of a fixed route bus fueling station. The proposed project amendment includes: (1) Terminal Building and Maintenance; (2) IT Equipment and Maintenance; (3) Purchase Capital Spare Parts; (4) Rehab Fixed Route Fueling station; (5) S&B Fare Collection Upgrades; (6) LRTA Facilities, Equipment, Spare Parts and IT Equipment. Based on a motion by Tom Bomil and seconded by Pat Wojtas, the FFY 2023-2027 TIP Amendment 4 was released for a public comment period.

7. FFY 2024-2028 TIP Development

a. Presentation of draft document – Action Item to release for public comment

Shravanthi Gopalan Narayanan presented the Draft FFY 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) document to the NMMPO for their consideration to release the document for a 21-day comment period. Her presentation included: (1) an overview of the TIP; (2) the timeline of the development of the TIP; (3) financial summary from MassDOT; (4) recommendations for programming; (5) list of TIP project for both regional and state program highway projects; (6) list of TIP transit projects; and (7) USDOT's Equity Action Plan and how that relates to the development of TIP; (8) Transportation Evaluation Criteria (TEC) scoring summary for each of the TIP project; (9) Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Analysis results for TIP highway and transit projects; (10) Equity Analysis to understand TIP funding in Environmental Justice (EJ) areas;

Based on a motion by Tom Bomil and seconded by Karyn Puleo, the FFY 2024-2028 Draft TIP document was released for a 21-day comment period from April 28 – May 19, 2023. A public meeting will be held on May 9, 2023.

8. FFY 2023 Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Plan Development

a. Presentation of project scope and timeline

Jessica Boulanger provided an overview of the Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation (CPT-HST) Plan for the Northern Middlesex Region. The presentation also included information on engagement activities, project timeline and next steps.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

The next MPO meeting will be on May 24, 2023 at 2:00 PM.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Based on a motion made by Tom Bomil and seconded by Pat Wojtas, the MPO voted unanimously to adjourn at 2:42 PM.