



Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Franklin County Transportation Planning Organization

Date:	February 3, 2015
Time:	1:30 p.m.
Location:	12 Olive Street, Greenfield, MA
Duration:	1.5 hours
Facilitator:	Clinton Bench, Chair

FCTPO Members in Attendance:

Clinton Bench, MassDOT and representing Secretary and CEO Richard Davey
Al Stegemann, MassDOT Highway Division, and representing Administrator Francis DePaola
Linda Dunlavy, Representing Ann Banash, Chair of the FRCOG Executive Committee
Robert Dean, Western County Representative
Michael Perreault, FRTA
Sara Campbell, Representing Mayor Martin
Jonathan Edwards, Central County Representative

Guests:

Peter Frieri, MassDOT District 1
Mark Moore, MassDOT District 1
Trey Wadworth MassDOT
Rich Masse, MassDOT District 2
Laura Hanson, MassDOT District 2
Tom Miner, FRPB NVM

Staff:

Maureen Mullaney, Transportation & GIS Program Manager
Elizabeth Giannini, Senior Transportation Planner
Gretchen Johnson, Planning Grant Administrator
Megan Rhodes, Land Use and Transportation Planner
Laurie Scarbrough, Transportation Planning Engineer
Ian Kolesinskas, Transportation Assistant

1 – Welcome and Introductions: Clinton Bench (Chair)

The meeting was called to order at 1:32 pm by Chair, Clinton Bench. A round of introductions followed.

2 – Review and Approval of June 18, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Linda Dunlavy MOVED to approve the June 18, 2014 minutes. Bob Dean SECONDED. The motion was UNANIMOUSLY approved.

3 – Review Draft 2015-2018 TIP Amendment and release for 30-day public comment period: Laurie Scarbrough, FRCOG

Laurie stated that the proposed amendment affects two projects for the highway section of the TIP. The first project is the Route 5/10 and Cheapside Street in Greenfield. The District reviewed the design and altered it to make air quality improvements. The realignment at the intersection will be more perpendicular which will reduce emissions. The changes will increase the cost of the project to \$599,331. The increase is eligible to be covered by CMAQ funds. There is a public information meeting for this project on February 12, 2015 at 7pm at GCC. Sara Campbell stated that she will do some outreach for the meeting. Laurie stated that this change does not affect the regional target.

The second project changed under this amendment is the 2016 Erving Streetscape and Pedestrian Improvement Project. This project is being funded through and earmark. MassDOT decided to do the design in house. This has freed additional funds for the construction of the project. This change will not affect the regional target as well. Linda Dunlavy suggested that the project can be scaled down rather than requesting any additional funding if future estimates raise the project estimate further. Maureen Mullaney replied that the project includes the installation of sidewalks and some right of way adjustments. Rich Masse stated that the project is near the Senior Center and may require a retaining wall new some wetlands. Rich Masse suggested that the project may want to be moved to 2017. Linda suggested keeping the project in 2016 and moving it if necessary.

Laurie passed out a handout outlining the transit changes to the TIP needed in the amendment. The changes are clarifications of previously listed projects or the removal of a project because the security equipment for the rail platform were purchased under alternate funding. Clinton Bench asked for a breakdown of the changes in a table for the next meeting. Maureen asked if these changes are enough to constitute an amendment or an administrative adjustment. Discussion ensued. Clinton stated that an administrative adjustment would be adequate for the Transit changes. Bob Dean MOVED to perform an administrative adjustment to the Transit changes to the TIP. Al Stegemann SECONDED. The motion was UNANIMOUSLY approved.

Bob Dean MOVED to release the proposed TIP Amendment as presented. Michael Perreault SECONDED. The motion passed UNANIMOUSLY.

Jonathan Edwards asked why the Erving project was approved at an amount that is not thought to be realistic. Maureen explained that the design funding was added to the project construction because MassDOT is going to do the design in house. It is believed to be enough at this time for the project construction. Clinton replied that he prefers that design is at 25% design before it is programmed on the TIP, this project design is further along than 25%. It is often a judgment call to weigh the benefit of listing a project early to show constituents commitment to the project and the towns that are required to pay for the design. Often project costs are adjusted to reflect wet lands issues, fuel costs, etc. Linda stated that

she sits on a State Board that is discussing this issue. Maureen stated that the TIP is a 4-5 year listing of projects. It is necessary to prioritize project based on cost and project readiness years in advance. Al stated that it is sometimes necessary when project costs become increased to a point that the project is removed from the TIP or broken into phases.

4 – Review Draft Coordinated Public Transit: Human Services Transportation Plan Update and release for 30-day public comment period: Megan Rhodes, FRCOG

Megan stated that a copy of the Coordinated Public Transit Plan was included in the meeting packet. Megan explained that the Plan was updated to reflect the MAP 21 requirements. The FRCOG coordinated with the FRTA and received some comments from the Regional Coordinating Council. Clinton stated that the Plan examines barriers to transportation and key areas that need transportation. Megan stated that the biggest issue for this region is that there is not enough transit service available. Currently there is not evening or weekend service available. Bob Dean asked if there were any cost analysis to expand service done. Megan stated that isn't within the purview of this plan but that the Comprehensive Service Analysis is underway. Clinton stated that this plan is to identify the gaps in this region. Then the TIP projects listed should address solutions or improvements to the identified gaps. Once the plan is approved the FRTA will be eligible to apply for 5310 funds. Lind Dunlavy MOVED to release the Draft Coordinated Public Transit Plan for a 30-day public comment period. Al Stegemann SECONDED. The motion was approved UNANIMOUSLY.

Clinton apologized that he and some of the MassDOT staff had to leave to attend another meeting. Clinton asked Al Stegemann to chair the rest of the meeting.

5 – Discussion of the Regional Transportation Plan: Megan Rhodes, FRCOG

M. Rhodes gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Long Range Transportation Plan Update. She stated that the FRCOG is in the process of updating the Franklin County Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The last update was completed in 2011. The RTP looks at needs and issues in the region, the financial situation and makes recommendations for the next twenty years. A handout was circulated listing the top 20 recommendations from the 2012 Regional Transportation Plan. Seven of the projects have been completed and six more are in progress.

The goals of the RTP include:

- Enhance Mobility
- Improve Safety and Security
- Encourage Sustainable Development
- Promote Economic Development
- Maintain Rural Character
- Conserve Energy
- Reduce Vehicle Emissions/Promote Alternatives to the Automobile
- Have an Inclusive Participatory Transportation Planning Process

Some examples of recent projects include:

- Amtrak passenger rail has returned to this area
- Park and Ride lots in Whately, Greenfield and Sunderland

- Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan (Rte. 116)
- Complete Streets Plan
- Wider Shoulders on Greenfield Mountain for slower moving vehicles
- Roundabout at Greenfield Community College
- Scenic Byways Marketing Plan
- Tri-State Bikeway Map

Current and Upcoming Projects include:

- Connecticut River Scenic Byway Corridor Plan Update
- Erving Streetscape and pedestrian improvements
- Charlemont Traffic Calming
- Intersection improvements at Rte. 5/10 & Cheapside Street
- Replacement of Schell Bridge in Northfield

The Plan development schedule is:

- Public Outreach and Plan preparation from January to April
- Full Draft Report for Public Review in May
- Metropolitan Planning Organization endorsement of Plan and final plan published in June 2015

Public Outreach efforts will include:

- Two Public Open Houses
- Meeting with Municipal Officials
- Meeting with State Agencies
- Survey (available on the FRCOG website, www.frcog.org)
- Presentation at meetings throughout the County
 - FRPB Meeting
 - CEDS meeting
 - FRTA TAC/RCC meeting...
- Partnering with FRTA for transit outreach

6 – Updates from the MassDOT District 1 and District 2

Maureen Mullaney gave the MassDOT District 1 update.

Laura Hanson stated that the public 25% design meeting for the Route 5/10 and Cheapside Street will be held on February 12, 2015 at 7pm at GCC. The Montague Canalside Bikepath and pedestrian improvement project was advertised in September. The bid opening will be in March.

Linda asked if there are any issues with the at grade railroad crossings. Al replied that only Damon Road in Northampton is having an issues with motorvehicle traffic. Rich Masse stated that MassDOT is working with the city and the Rail Division to address the traffic light timing issues. A dedicated left turn lane is being discussed. There is also a future Damon Road Project that will revamp the intersection at King Street listed on the 2016 PVPC TIP.

Bob Dean asked about the status of the Orange Main Street project. Rich replied that the Orange project design is moving forward.

7 – Report of the Franklin Regional Planning Board: Tom Miner, FRPB

Tom Miner stated that the FRPB has been discussing the proposed pipeline project. The FRPB is bringing representatives throughout the county together to discuss how to best address the pipeline. The FRPB has been working with the Woodlands Partnership to discuss how to improve economics, community development and preservation issues. The FRCOG was approved for another Brownfields Grant that can assess both petroleum sites and traditional brownfield sites. The FRPB has been addressing issues related to the Northfield Pump Storage relicensing application. The FRPB has been very active.

8 – Update from FRCOG

Linda stated that the FRCOG updates were covered earlier in the meeting.

9 – Update from FRTA

Michael stated that the Comprehensive Service Analysis mentioned earlier is expected to be completed in June. The FRTA will coordinate with the FRCOG to discuss future projects. Michael stated that there have been complaints that train tickets can't be purchased at the Transit Center. The FRTA is looking into solving that problem.

Rich stated that additional signage to direct public to the train station will be installed this summer.

Sara Campbell asked if MassDOT or the City of Greenfield is responsible to replacing the signs on Route 2A about the height restrictions for the underpass on Bank Row. Al stated that the city is responsible.

Tom Miner stated that the roundabout near GCC offers little provision for pedestrians. Al stated that shoulder line painting will help. The line painting will be done this Spring.

10 – Additional Business not reasonably anticipated within 48 hours

No additional business was discussed at this time.

11 – Next Meeting/Adjourn

The next FCTPO meeting will be March 12th at 2 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m.