



Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Franklin County Transportation Planning Organization

Date:	June 23, 2015
Time:	12:30 p.m.
Location:	12 Olive Street, Greenfield, MA
Duration:	1.5 hours
Facilitator:	David Mohler, Chair

FCTPO Members in Attendance:

David Mohler, MassDOT and representing Secretary and CEO Richard Davey
Rich Masse, MassDOT Highway Division, and representing Administrator Francis DePaola
Linda Dunlavy, Representing John Paciorek, Regionally Elected Representative
Robert Dean, Western County Representative
Lance Fritz, FRTA Advisory
Don Ouellette, Representing Mayor Martin

Guests:

Peter Frieri, MassDOT District 1
Mark Moore, MassDOT District 1
Laura Hanson, MassDOT District 2
Trey Wadsworth, MassDOT
Kevin Fox, Town of Colrain
Paula Simmons, MassDOT District 2
Kevin Wright, FHWA
Don Ouellette, Greenfield DPW
Michael Perreault, FRTA

Staff:

Maureen Mullaney, Transportation and GIS Program Manager
Gretchen Johnson, Planning Grant Administrator
Laurie Scarbrough, Transportation Planning Engineer
Megan Rhodes, Senior Transportation Planner

1 – Welcome and Introductions: David Mohler (Chair)

The meeting was called to order at 12:32 pm by Chair, David Mohler. A round of introductions followed.

2 – Review and Approval of April 15, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Linda Dunlavy MOVED to approve the April 15, 2015 minutes. Rich Masse SECONDED. meeting. The motion was approved.

3 – Review and Vote to Release for a 30-day Public Review the 2016 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Plan and notice of TIP Adjustment: Laurie Scarbrough, FRCOG

Laurie Scarbrough stated that the Hawley Bridge replacement 75% design cost estimate was reduced from \$2,692,422 to \$1,344,144. Peter Frieri explained that the savings is due to less costly design changes. Laurie clarified that this change does not affect the regional target and therefore is just informational.

Laurie stated that the TIP is a four year fiscally constrained list of projects that are eligible to receive federal funding. The FRCOG attended TIP day with MassDOT staff in March. The TIP was then reviewed with the FCTPO in April. Laurie reviewed the minor changes since the April meeting. Kevin Fox stated that he will advocate for allowing the advanced construction on the North Main Street project in Orange since it no longer exceeds the annual regional target. David Mohler suggested looking to FRTA for a CMAQ project that will fit in the remaining CMAQ target. Don Ouellette expressed concern for the poor condition of the General Pierce Bridge. Rich Masse explained that bridge funding is competitive statewide but MassDOT will continue to make repairs to the General Peirce bridge until funding can be identified.

Linda voiced concern regarding the safety of pedestrians if the Buckland project near the Mohawk Regional High School does not incorporate a sidewalk. Widening the road will cause traffic to speed up. It would be better if the snowplowing issue could be addressed. Discussion followed.

Laurie reviewed the transit elements of the TIP. Linda Dunlavy MOVED to release the 2016 TIP Plan for a 30-day public review. Lance Fritz SECONDED. UNANIMOUSLY approved.

4 – Review and Vote to Release for a 30-day Public Review the 2016 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)Development: Maureen Mullaney, FRCOG

Maureen Mullaney stated that the UPWP is the list of work tasks for the FRCOG transportation staff for the Federal Fiscal Year running from October 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016. Tasks in Group 1 are administrative tasks. Tasks in Group 2 are state mandated. Tasks in Group 3 are regionally selected. Tasks in Group 4 are long term regional projects. Maureen reviewed the tasks in Group 3.

- Outdoor recreation and access study
- Transit outreach to increase ridership
- Feasibility study for extending transit services into Wendell
- Hazardous intersection Analysis
- Study on bicycle and pedestrian facilities
- Bicycle tourism promotion

Lance Fritz stated that education for bicyclists to obey the rules of the road would be helpful. Laurie replied that the State is conducting a pilot program in the Eastern part of the State that is concentrating on bike lane design and enforcement.

Bob Dean MOVED to release the 2016 Unified Planning Work Program for a 30-day Public Review. Linda Dunlavy SECONDED. The motion passed UNANIMOUSLY.

5 – Review and Vote to Release for a 30-day Public Review the Regional Transportation Plan Update: Megan Rhodes, FRCOG

Megan Rhodes stated that the draft plan is available on the FRCOG website, www.frcog.org. Public outreach efforts were done through surveys, public forums, data collection and analysis. Megan stated that the list of the top 25 Transportation Recommendations for Franklin County was included in the meeting packet. Discussion ensued.

Linda Dunlavy MOVED to release the Regional Transportation Update for a 30-day Public Review. Rich Masse SECONDED. The motion was UNANIMOUSLY approved.

Megan announced that there will be two public meetings to discuss the Plan on July 15th. Flyers were passed out.

6 – Updates from the MassDOT District 1 and District 2

Peter Frieri gave the update from District 1. He stated that FFY15 lists two bridge replacements, one in Hawley and one in Colrain. FFY16 lists a bridge replacement in Heath. The Heath bridge design is at pre-25%.

Laura Hanson gave the update for District 2. The Greenfield intersection improvements at Route 5/10 and Cheapside Street will be advertised soon. The Gill/Greenfield bridge replacement project construction is 95% completed. The Montague resurfacing and related work from Turners Falls Road to the future bike/pedestrian bridge over B&M railroad is 30% complete. The Greenfield sign and intersection improvements at Route 2A, Shelburne Road and River Street project was awarded the Notice to Proceed on June 3rd.

7 – Update from FRCOG

Linda Dunlavy stated that she served on the Project Selection Advisory Council. The Council was asked to study transportation projects in Massachusetts. All types of transportation projects were looked at using a uniform set of criteria. It was understood that projects are competing for a limited amount of funding. The Council was asked to stay active for three more years in order to evaluate and adjust the criteria.

The FRCOG is continuing to monitor the pipeline project. A committee has been formed of the impacted communities and the Western Mass RPAs, and neighboring state RPAs. The FRCOG staff is working on the Broadband project, completing the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Plan, helping to develop a statewide food systems plan and beginning the next Brownfields grant.

8 – Update from FRTA

Michael Perreault stated that the FRTA is hosting the final Steering Committee meeting this week for the Comprehensive Service Analysis Plan. Once the public comment period is completed and any necessary changes are made the changes to the fixed route system will be announced.

Michael stated that a property in Greenfield has been identified as the desired lot of the new FRTA maintenance facility. The FRTA is working closely with MassDOT. The FRTA has begun to look for funding to construct the new facility.

Michael announced that the wooded property between the Transit Center and the next building on Olive Street has been purchased and will be converted into additional visitor parking spaces.

9 – Update from Franklin Regional Planning Board: Tom Miner, FRPB

There was no update from the FRPB.

10 – Additional Business not reasonably anticipated within 48 hours

No business unforeseen was discussed.

11 – *Next Meeting/Adjourn*

The next FCTPO meeting will be July 28th at 12:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 1:46 p.m.