



Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Franklin County Transportation Planning Organization

Date:	March 23, 2016
Time:	1:00 p.m.
Location:	12 Olive Street, Greenfield, MA
Duration:	1.5 hours
Facilitator:	Stephen Woelfel, Chair

FCTPO Members in Attendance:

Stephen Woelfel, MassDOT and representing Secretary Stephanie Pollack

Patrick Paul, MassDOT District 2 Highway Director and representing Administrator Thomas Tinlin

Bill Perlman, FRCOG Executive Committee

Linda Dunlavy, Representing John Paciorek, Regionally Elected Representative

Lance Fritz, FRTA

Robert Dean, Western County Representative

Tom Miner, FRPB NVM Member

Guests:

Peter Frieri, MassDOT District 1

Sonja Gray, MassDOT District 1

Michael Perreault, Franklin Regional Transit Authority

Richard Masse, MassDOT District 2

Jeff Hoynoski, MassDOT District 2

Donald Ouellette, Town of Greenfield

Chris Stoddard, Town of Greenfield

Bryan Pounds, MassDOT – OTP

Joshua Knechtel, Town of Orange

Staff:

Maureen Mullaney, Transportation and GIS Program Manager II

Laurie Scarbrough, Transportation Planning Engineer

Megan Rhodes, Senior Transportation Planner

Jessica McMillin, Public Health Planner/Transportation Planner

Elizabeth Giannini, Senior Transportation Planner II

Peggy Sloan, Director of Planning and Development

1 – Welcome and Introductions: Stephen Woelfel (Chair)

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by Chair, Stephen Woelfel. A round of introductions followed.

2 – Review and Approval of February 3, 2016 Meeting Minutes

Linda Dunlavy MOVED to approve the February 3, 2016 minutes. Bob Dean SECONDED. Lance Fritz abstained. The motion was approved.

3 – Review and vote to endorse the update to the FCTPO Public Participation Plan: Megan Rhodes, FRCOG

Megan Rhodes stated that the FCTPO Public Participation Plan (PPP) draft was released 45 days ago for public comment, with the comment period ending March 23, 2016. Megan reviewed the comments received and incorporated changes to the PPP which include:

- Clarifying the role of the PPP to the public in less technical terms (pg. 1)
- A list of techniques the TPO uses to conduct public outreach (pg. 7)
- Modification of public review requirements for “Transportation Planning Studies (pg. 9)
 - The update proposes that Staff assess and document outreach needs and then plan public outreach accordingly on a project-by-project basis.
- Increase length of time that public meetings will be posted for the PPP from 10 days to 21 days (pg. 10)
- Addition of a section outlining Title VI (civil rights) and ADA (accessibility) protocols, policies, and resources (pgs. 11-72)
 - This section is from MassDOT’s PPP Chapter 3 and has been adapted to the Franklin County region.
 - This section was moved from the appendix into the body of the FCTPO PPP, per MassDOT feedback.
- Expansion of the FCTPO mailing list to include additional community organizations, particularly those that serve Title VI/Environmental Justice populations (pgs. 72-73)

Linda Dunlavy stated that Franklin County Home Care has changed to LifePath. Megan stated that she will change the FCTPO mailing list accordingly.

Bill Perlman asked if staff have looked into including more organizations on the mailing list that have not been regular participants. Megan Rhodes stated that we have added several new organizations, and that we are always seeking input from new organizations. Stephen Woelfel stated that as staff adds more names to the list, they will share it with the TPO. They expect the list to continue to grow.

Linda Dunlavy MOVED to endorse the update to the FCTPO PPP. Bob Dean SECONDED. The motion was UNANIMOUSLY approved.

Maureen Mullaney distributed the endorsement sheet to be signed by the signatories present.

4 – Review and Vote to release for a 30-day public comment period an Amendment to 2016-19 TIP: Laurie Scarborough, FRCOG

Laurie Scarborough stated that the summary of the TIP amendment was included in the meeting packet. The amendment will affect two highway projects:

- The Deerfield-Bridge (Preservation) Replacement Project on McClellan Farm Road over the B&M Railroad estimate has increased from \$6,477,190 to \$7,363,753 to reflect utility adjustments for FY2016.
 - The project description was updated from “Preservation” to “Replacement.”
- The Deerfield-Bernardston-Greenfield interstate maintenance and related work on Route I-91 project description was updated to include Deerfield, and remove mile-marker locations for FY2018.

Laurie stated that the amendment will be released for a 30-day public review period.

Linda Dunlavy asked what the specific utility adjustments were taken into account for the increased funds. Rich Masse stated that utility adjustments include utility poles, railroad signal wires, and others.

Linda Dunlavy MOVED to release the 2016-2019 TIP Amendment for a 30-day public comment period. Bill Perlman SECONDED. The motion was UNANIMOUSLY approved.

5 – Discussion of upcoming draft 2017-2021 Transportation Improvement Program: Laurie Scarborough, FRCOG

Laurie Scarborough stated that the new TIP will go into effect on October 1, 2016. Every year we review the status of projects and add projects to the later years. This year, we will be releasing a 5 year TIP to reflect the same time period used to develop the State Capital Investment Plan (CIP). Laurie discussed the annual Tip development effort with the “Universe of Projects” list, the TIP development schedule, and the Transportation Evaluation Criteria (TEC) used to score projects.

Laurie discussed the targets for each year. Linda Dunlavy asked why the targets have shifted from CMAQ into non-CMAQ/HSIP. Bryan Pounds stated that they have been doing a lot of programming in CMAQ recently. Bryan also stated that the targets are “highly recommended.” They expect us to strive for the targets, although they do not necessarily have to be met.

Michael Perrault asked about the process and timeline for Transit TIP projects. Stephen Woelfel stated that the process and timeline are the same. Bryan Pounds stated that there may be small changes to overall target amounts that may need to be made.

Bill Perlman stated that the FRTA is always in need of additional funding. Stephen Woelfel stated that they will keep this in mind.

Laurie stated that three new projects are being considered for 2020 and 2021: resurfacing and drainage on Route 47 (North Main Street) in Sunderland, rehabilitation of Haydenville

Road in Whatley and Williamsburg, and installation of bicycle and pedestrian facilities along Route 112 in Buckland near Mohawk Trail Regional School. The Sunderland and Buckland projects are in the preliminary design phase. Maureen Mullaney stated that there has been no recent activity with the Haydenville Road project.

Laurie stated that the FRCOG will present a recommended DRAFT TIP for discussion and release for 30-day public review at the next FCTPO meeting.

6 – Review and vote to release for a 30-day public comment period an Amendment to the 2016 Unified Planning Work Program for public comment: Maureen Mullaney, FRCOG

Maureen Mullaney stated that the proposed project to conduct a parking needs inventory and analysis in Turners Falls was slated to begin in the Spring, 2016. However, unbeknownst to the FRCOG, the town of Montague received a grant to conduct the inventory and analysis, and has already completed the work. Therefore we are proposing to amend the UPWP to remove the parking needs inventory and replace it with a new project to update the sidewalk inventory in Turners Falls. The sidewalk inventory would be very beneficial in regards to Complete Streets, healthy transportation for Mass in Motion, and several other initiatives. The budget for the task will remain the same.

Maureen asked if this was the proper manner in which to handle the situation, as this was the first time this has happened at the FRCOG. Stephen Woelfel stated that this was the correct procedure.

Bill Perlman MOVED to release the 2016 Unified Planning Work Program Amendment for a 30-day public comment period. Linda Dunlavy SECONDED. The motion was UNANIMOUSLY approved.

7 – Updates from MassDOT District 1 & District 2

Peter Frieri gave the update from District 1. Peter reported that the Hawley bridge replacement on Savoy Road over the Chickley River bid was awarded to Clayton Davenport Construction. The Colrain bridge replacement on Route 112 over the East branch of the North River bid opened on March 22nd. The apparent low bidder was ET&L. The Shelburne intersection improvements at Route 2 and Colrain/Shelburne Road project 25% design public hearing was held on February 23rd. The public hearing was well received, and they are working on addressing the comments received at the hearing. The current 25% design estimate is \$1.3 million and they will be addressing cost at a later meeting. For the Heath Bridge replacement on Sadoga Road over the Burrington Brook design, MassDOT's 25% Design review comments were received by designer on February 23, 2015. The Charlemont resurfacing and traffic calming on Route 2 over Rice Brook is being designed by MassDOT District 1. The 25% design was submitted. The 25% Design Public Hearing is planned for Spring 2016. There is a meeting with town and MassDOT Landscape Section scheduled for March 31st.

Jeff Hoynoski gave the update for District 2. The Deerfield bridge project is moving along. The Erving intersection improvements at Route 2 and 2A bids were opened and they are awaiting the award date. The contract for the Greenfield intersection improvements at Routes 5/10 and Cheapside Street preconstruction meeting was held in January 2016. The Montague Canalside Bikepath project received Notice to Proceed on February 11th, 2016. Construction will begin once the weather improves. The Montague Greenfield Road project is 60% complete, and construction will begin once the weather improves.

Linda Dunlavy stated that the work on I-91 seems to be going well and asked when they expect to be done. Rich Masse stated that the project should be completed this spring or summer. Linda commented that it was a beautifully done project.

Maureen Mullaney stated that they continue to receive calls asking about the General Pierce Bridge. She asked if there were any updates on the design and time table. Rich Masse answered that it will depend on the CIP.

8 – Update from FRCOG

Linda Dunlavy reported that a meeting was held with the founder of Bridj, a company that is currently working in Washington D.C. and Kansas City, Missouri on a hybrid demand response transit system. They are currently looking for a rural pilot. Greening Greenfield first discovered the company and reached out to the FRCOG. Staff are now working with the FRTA as well to determine if our area could serve as a rural pilot. Linda reported that the Hilltown CDC is conducting a transit survey in rural Hampshire and Hampden counties. The FRCOG is helping them with survey analysis.

Linda reported that Senator McGee and Representative Strauss established a special commission to look at the role of MPOs in Massachusetts. At previous meetings we have discussed concern about combining all the western MA MPOs into one, and we would not support this. The commission has released a survey. A laptop was made available for members to complete the survey.

Linda stated that FRCOG Homeland Security staff successfully held an active shooter symposium on March 16th, 2016. There were 600 participants and we received positive feedback on the presentation and organization of the symposium.

9 – Update from FRTA

Michael Perreault reported that the last advisory board meeting involved discussions on upcoming route changes. The intention is to roll out changes in late July or early August 2016. Michael reported that the FRTA is still working on finding a location for the new maintenance facility. They have applied for grants, and are hoping to move forward in 2017.

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

Tom Miner stated that there were no additional updates aside from that which had already been reported by others.

11 – Additional business not reasonably anticipated within 48 hours

Linda Dunlavy stated that Gretchen Johnson took a job at UMass Amherst. Linda also commended Stephen Woelfel on the work that he has done on the CIP and Project Selection Advisory Council.

Stephen Woelfel gave a presentation on the 2017-2021 Capital Investment Program which covered: the CIP process, the new CIP approach, CIP priorities, division programs by priority, the development of program sizes, as well as highway, rail, transit, aeronautics, and IT highlights. Discussion followed.

11 – *Next Meeting/Adjourn*

The next FCTPO meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 17th at 12:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.