



Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Franklin County Transportation Planning Organization

Date:	March 28, 2017
Time:	03:07 p.m.
Location:	12 Olive Street, Greenfield, MA
Duration:	38 minutes
Facilitator:	Steve Woelfel, Chair

FCTPO Members in Attendance:

Steve Woelfel, MassDOT and representing Secretary Stephanie Pollack

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

Linda Dunlavy, Representing Jay Dipucchio, Regionally Elected Representative

Robert Dean, Western County Representative

Lance Fritz, Franklin Regional Transit Authority, Chair

Guests:

Mark Moore, MassDOT – District 1

Peter Frieri, MassDOT – District 1

Richard Masse, MassDOT – District 2

Jeff Hoynoski, MassDOT – District 2

Bryan Pounds, MassDOT – OTP

Brandon Wilcox, FHWA

Michael Perreault, Franklin Regional Transit Authority

Don Ouellette, DPW-Greenfield

Nic Reutgel, Greenfield

Josh Knechtel, Orange

Kevin Fox, Colrain

Sherry Patch, Sunderland

Ranley Caine, FTM, Inc.

Staff:

Maureen Mullaney, Transportation and GIS Program Manager II

Beth Giannini, Senior Transportation Planner II

Laurie Scarbrough, Transportation Planning Engineer

Megan Rhodes, Senior Transportation/Land Use Planner

Jessica McMillin, Public Health/Transportation Planner

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1 – Welcome and Introductions: Steve Woelfel (Chair)

The meeting was called to order at 3:10 pm by Chair, Steve Woelfel. A round of introductions followed.

2 – Review of potential 2018-2022 TIP Projects and Potential Scenarios: Laurie Scarbrough, FRCOG

As representatives from the FRTA were not yet present, the agenda order was modified. Agenda item 6, review of potential 2018-2022 TIP projects, was discussed first.

Laurie presented a review of potential 2018-2020 TIP projects. FRCOG staff completed scoring for two new projects from the waiting list, reviewed the universe of projects, and selected new projects for FY 21-22. Status updates were solicited on all current and planned projects for MPO readiness day on Feb. 16, 2017. There were no significant changes for FY 18-21.

After receiving funding targets from Boston, FRCOG staff developed the draft project list.

FY18

- The new target for FY18 consists primarily of the Route 2 repaving project in Charlemont, and the pilot program to operate additional passenger rail service along the Knowledge Corridor 4 times per day from Springfield to Greenfield.
- Steve Woelfel asked if STP funds are available for the rail project. Linda Dunlavy stated that the plan was to use either CMAQ or STP funds. Steve stated that it is not allowed to use for STP funds. Maureen Mullaney stated that we will allocate CMAQ funding instead. CMAQ consultation is April 12.
- The Erving Streetscape project is programmed for FY18. FRCOG staff feel strongly that it should stay in this year. It is originally a 2004 earmark.
- Details about the bridge replacement on Nash's Mill Rd, and the Charlemont Route 2 project were discussed.

FY19

- Laurie noted that we would designate the funding for the rail project to be CMAQ rather than STP in this year and all subsequent years.
- Other projects include the Orange reconstruction of North Main St. and interstate maintenance on I91.

FY20

- Colrain intersection improvements, Deerfield-Whately resurfacing on Routes 5 & 10, Sunderland resurfacing, and bridge replacements in Charlemont, Leverett, Orange, and Bernardston were discussed.

FY21

- The Buckland Conway St. reconstruction, Deerfield bridge preservation, and Northfield Bike/Ped bridge replacement were discussed.

FY22

- For FY22, 2 new roadway projects are proposed: intersection improvements at Route 2 and Colrain Road, and at Route 2 and the Big Y entrance. These are high crash locations.
- The Whately rehabilitation of Haydenville Road and bridge replacement projects in Leverett, Rowe, and Charlemont were discussed.

Steve stated that CMAQ funding cannot exceed 5 years of continuous operating. You may use it for 3 years up front, and then use a tapering approach. Linda stated that Tim Doherty from MassDOT indicated that another project had used CMAQ funding for 8 years. Brandon stated that this is incorrect. The point of CMAQ funded projects is that they should be self-sustaining after 3 years. Linda stated that a staff person at MassDOT told them we could use it for 5 years.

Michael asked for more information about the passenger rail pilot program. Linda gave a presentation about the proposed project. Seventy-three (\$73) million dollars in federal and \$50 million in state funds have been spent to return passenger rail to Springfield, Holyoke, Northampton, and Greenfield. There has been a 75% increase in ridership on one roundtrip per day (The Vermonter). HDR (the consultant who completed the Knowledge Corridor study) estimated that there would be a 212% increase in ridership if service could be expanded to include 2 trips in the morning and 2 trips in the evening every day, and have rides from Greenfield to New York and back in one day. To begin the pilot, MassDOT has said that the regions (FRCOG and PVPC) must fund it with regional funds. The FRCOG and PVPC feel that this is a good use of CMAQ funds, and are working together to initiate additional service. There will be more information on this at the next meeting.

Michael asked if the Greenfield Complete Streets program has been taken into account for the TIP planning. Laurie stated that it has not been taken into account yet because they are still working on their plan. The project will take into account Complete Street principles.

Rich stated that the funds for the Erving streetscape in FY18 must be changed. For FY20, the Deerfield-Whately resurfacing project HSIP number is yet to be settled. If there aren't enough elements in total, the cost will need to be offset with other funds. For the FY20 Leveret bridge project, the Town may need to fund the project themselves.

Peter stated that the FY18 Charlemont traffic calming project may not be eligible for all of CMAQ. They may focus on addressing existing sidewalk rather than new construction.

Steve stated that we will need to let people know that there will be changes to this list.

Michael Perreault from the FRTA joined the meeting. The order of the original agenda was resumed.

3 – Review and approval of the January 31, 2017 Minutes

Linda Dunlavy *MOVED* to approve the January 31, 2017 minutes. Bob Dean *SECONDED*.

The motion was UNANIMOUSLY approved.

4 – Review and vote to endorse Amendment #1 to the 2017-2020 TIP: Laurie Scarbrough, FRCOG

Laurie Scarbrough stated that the Amendment was released in February for a 30-day public review and comment period. No comments were received. Lance Fritz MOVED to endorse the Amendment as presented. Bob Dean SECONDED. The motion was UNANIMOUSLY approved.

5 – Review and vote to endorse an amendment to the 2017 United Planning Work program: Maureen Mullaney, FRCOG

Maureen Mullaney stated that no comments were received over the course of the 30 day public review period. FRCOG staff corrected a math error in Section 2 which contained an incorrectly summed total amount. Task 3.4 has been modified to look at transit planning in the region more broadly. Staff are looking at many initiatives, such as social service organizations in need of vans and van sharing services and offerings through the FRTA. To broaden the scope of this task, the task for Complete Streets assessment of bus stops has been reduced from 5 to 3 sites. Similarly, the green infrastructure task has reduced the number of assessment locations to fund this additional transit study.

Bob Dean MOVED to endorse the Amendment as presented. Lance Fritz SECONDED. The motion was UNANIMOUSLY approved.

6 – Review and Vote to endorse an update to the FCTPO Public Participation Plan: Megan Rhodes, FRCOG

Megan Rhodes stated that the updated FCTPO Public Participation Plan was released for a 45-day public review and comment period. No comments were received. The review period in the Plan for documents such as the TIP, UPWP, and Regional Transportation Plan has been shortened from 31 to 21 days. The public review and comment period for changes to the Public Participation Plan will remain 45 days. This will align with the FCTPO meeting schedule and will allow members to receive comments on an earlier timeframe.

Lance Fritz MOVED to endorse the update as presented. Linda Dunlavy SECONDED. The motion was UNANIMOUSLY approved.

7 – Discussion of Potential 2018 UPWP Projects: Maureen Mullaney, FRCOG

Maureen stated that it is time to begin thinking about updating the Regional Transportation Plan. It may be appropriate to begin data collection and some preliminary work, but the bulk of the work will not happen until the 2019 UPWP.

Other projects may include continuing to look at green infrastructure projects. Staff are looking at updating information about hazardous materials transported through the county.

This is difficult, but fieldwork and site work can be done to find out what hazardous materials are moving through the region.

Maureen asked about the status of the focus on healthy transportation. Steve Woelfel stated that nothing has changed in terms of focus. The Success of the Complete Streets program helps underscore this. Brandon Wilcox stated that from the federal perspective, travel and tourism is an area of emphasis. Additionally, they encourage us to consider climate adaptation – what infrastructure is vulnerable to the effects of climate change?

8 – Updates from MassDOT District 1 & District 2

Peter Frieri gave the update from District 1.

FY16

- The notice to proceed was issued to Baltazar Contractors Inc. on March 17, 2017 on the FY16 intersection improvements on Route 2 Colrain-Shelburne Road.
- The bid for the bridge replacement in Heath was awarded to NTP Clayton Davenport Trucking Inc.

FY17 Projects are all underway:

- Buckland Bridge Maintenance Route 112 over Route 2 and PAN AM RR., the design is at the PS&E stage. ENV and ROW clearance obtained.
- Buckland-Charlemont resurfacing & related work on route 2, from MM (R.R Bridge) to MM (Buckland/Shelburne T.L) was advertised - BO 4/4/17.
- Colrain BR Replacement – Heath Rd over West Branch North River – is at PS&E stage and is ready to be advertised.
- Heath BR Replacement – Route 8A over Mill Brook – was advertised on Jan. 21, 2017. Bid Opening scheduled for Aug. 8, 2017
- Shelburne BR Replacement Bardwell Ferry RD – Jan. 12, 2017 DPH HELD

FY18 Projects

- Charlemont – Resurface and traffic calming at Bardwell Ferry Rd over Dragon Brook. 75% design completion is anticipated by June 2017

Jeff Hoynoski gave the update from District 2.

FY17 Projects:

- Orange: Holtshire Rd over Millers River Bridge is at PS&E. They are addressing comments and the project is moving along.

Linda Dunlavy commented that the restriping of Damon Road is remarkably effective.

9 – Update from FRCOG: Maureen Mullaney, FRCOG

Maureen reported that the UPWP Task 3.1 to promote bicycle tourism in Franklin County is underway. The main goal is to collectively bring together many bicycling interests in the region. By the end of the task, FRCOG staff will have quantifiable documentation of what is happening economically regarding bicycle tourism, and generate ideas to help further promote bicycling. This task is receiving a lot of interest and excitement from around the region.

10 – Update from FRTA: Michael Perreault

Michael reported that the FRTA sent a request to the Joint Ways and Means Committee for \$180,000 in funding to begin weekend service for next year. They hope that this will be incorporated into next year's budget to pilot weekend service that could lead to long term weekend service.

11 – Update from Franklin Regional Planning Board

None

12 – Additional business not reasonably anticipated within 48 hours

None

13 – Next Meeting/Adjourn

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 25, 2017 at 12:30pm at 12 Olive Street, Greenfield, MA.

Lance Fritz MOVED to adjourn the meeting. Bob Dean SECONDED. The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.