



Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Franklin County Transportation Planning Organization

Date:	Tuesday, April 23, 2019
Time:	12:30 PM
Location:	12 Olive Street, Greenfield, MA
Duration:	1 hour, 5 minutes
Facilitator:	Bryan, MassDOT OTP

FCTPO Members in Attendance:

- Steve Woelfel, MassDOT (representing MassDOT Secretary Stephanie Pollack)
- Richard Masse, MassDOT– District 2 (representing Jonathan Gulliver, MassDOT Highway Administrator)
- Bill Perlman, FRCOG Regionally Elected Representative
- Kevin Fox, FRCOG Executive Committee
- Lance Fritz, FRTA Chair
- Tina Cote, FRTA Administrator
- Bob Dean, Western County Representative
- Jane Peirce, Eastern County Representative
- William Martin, Mayor, City of Greenfield

Guests:

- Mark Moore, MassDOT District 1
- Jeffrey Hoynoski, MassDOT – District 2
- Derek Krevat, MassDOT OTP
- John Lozada, MassDOT, Civil Rights
- Diana Szynal, Franklin County Chamber of Commerce
- Marlo Warner II, DPW Director, City of Greenfield

Staff:

- Maureen Mullaney, Transportation & GIS Program Manager II
- Megan Rhodes, Senior Transportation/Land Use Planner
- Laurie Scarbrough, Transportation Planning Engineer
- Liz Jacobson-Carroll, Assistant Planner

1 – Welcome and Introductions: Steve Woelfel

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m., and was followed by a round of introductions.

2 – Review and Approval of the March 26, 2019 Meeting Minutes: Steve Woelfel

B. Dean moved to approve the March 26, 2019 minutes, Bill Perlman seconded the motion, and the

motion was approved unanimously with 1 abstention. (L. Fritz)

3 – Review and Vote to Release for a 21-day Public Comment Period Amendment #1 to the 2019 TIP: Laurie Scarbrough

L. Scarbrough reviewed Amendment #1, which included changes to both the FFY 2019 Highway Project List and the FFY 2019-2023 TIP narrative. The former included an increase in the project cost of reconstruction and traffic calming on Route 2 in Charlemont’s center, and scheduling the replacement of the I-91 bridge over the B&M Railroad project in Greenfield in FFY 2019 instead of FFY 2022. The latter added language describing three performance measures (TAM, PM2, and PM3.)

L. Fritz made a motion to release for a 21-day comment period Amendment #1 to the 2019 TIP, Bill Perlman seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously with 1 abstention. (M. Martin)

4 – Review and vote to accept 2019 TIP Adjustment #2 for the Transit Project List: Laurie Scarbrough

L. Scarbrough reviewed Adjustment #2, which included 5 cost changes to the FFY 2019 Transit Project List: a reduction in the cost of the maintenance facility project (due to delay of some work to FFY 2020); an increase in cost of bus station equipment; an increase in cost to acquire additional office support equipment; an increase in cost to acquire additional furnishings/graphics equipment; and an additional cost of acquiring ADP software.

L. Fritz made a motion to release for a 21-day comment period Adjustment #2 to the 2019 TIP, B. Dean seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

5 – Review and Vote to Release for a 21-day Public Comment Period the Draft 2020-2024 TIP: Laurie Scarbrough

L. Scarbrough summarized, by year, recent changes to schedules and funding of the 2020 - 2024 TIP highway projects, including those prioritized by the region and by the state, including bridge and intersection improvements.

She then reviewed recent changes to schedules and funding of the 2020 - 2024 TIP transit projects. These pertained to construction of the FRTA maintenance facility (2020-2021), the replacement of mini-buses (2022), and purchasing of support equipment and capital maintenance items, and the rehab/reno of shop equipment (2023-2024.) (See attached document, distributed previously.)

In response to a question from Mayor Martin, S. Woelfel indicated that non-federal funds in the TIP are state bonds issued to match the federal funds. The mayor said that Franklin County’s share of the state transportation bond is unacceptable, that the TPO should not rubber stamp it, and that he cannot support it. Impacts on Greenfield are significant, he continued, mentioning the Wisdom Way project – currently currently under design, and urgently needed due to a dangerous situation that might result in road closure. He would like to see the TIP revisited.

S. Woelfel and L. Dunlavy explained that the amount of funding received by Franklin County is determined by a formula agreed upon by the Massachusetts Regional Planning Association (MARPA) based on road miles and population, not MassDOT. S. Woelfel explained the TPO’s options pertaining to the vote and a potential motion to replace the proposed 2024 Haydenville Road project with the Wisdom Way project (currently on the waiting list), noting that no additional public comment period would be necessary.

M. Martin explained that Wisdom Way is used as a bus route, and provides access to both the Franklin County Fairgrounds and the transfer station, while providing a second means of egress from corporate center/industrial park. Due to the potential danger of further landslides affecting six homes, the City is racing to find funding, he said. The cost of the two projects is comparable, he noted.

B. Perlman mentioned that towns sometimes forgo applying for inclusion on TIP because it is difficult for them to pay for design services then have to wait until the projects is scheduled on the TIP.

W. Martin made a motion to replace the Whately Haydenville Road project in the 2024 TIP with the Wisdom Way project, K. Fox seconded the motion, and the motion passed with five in favor and two opposed.

B. Dean made a motion to release for a 21-day public comment period the Draft 2020-2024 TIP, L. Fritz seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

6 – Presentation and vote to endorse the Performance Based Planning Agreement: Maureen Mullaney

M. Mullaney summarized recent efforts, required by MassDOT as of 2016, to streamline decision-making regarding the financing of transportation projects. The resulting Performance-Based Planning Agreement outlines how data will be shared, benchmarks identified, and progress reported by MPOs, TPOs and RTAs. Once the regional organizations have endorsed it, Secretary Pollack will sign it on behalf of all.

B. Perlman shared his concern regarding the potential cost of implementing the agreement and other mandates from the state. D. Krevat and S. Woelfel explained that the figure would be difficult to calculate, as this work is part of MassDOT employees’ ongoing work.

L. Fritz made a motion to endorse the Performance-Based Planning Agreement, R. Masse seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

7 – Final Input Sought from the TPO on the Update to the Regional Transportation Plan: Maureen Mullaney

M. Mullaney reported that the FRCOG is in the final stages of preparing an update to the RPT, and that they will discuss the financial implications at the May meeting before putting the draft document out for public review in June. The FRCOG has received many comments from the public regarding the lack of evening and weekend service, and about bicycle routes, roads in need of repair, and problematic sidewalks. She invited additional feedback from those present. While projects in the region do not meet the standard of “major” projects statewide, it is important for our elected representative to weigh-in on their merit, she concluded.

8 – Updates from MassDOT District 1 & District 2: Mark Moore, Jeff Hoynosi

For District 1, M. Moore noted that construction on the FFY2018 resurfacing of Route 2 in Shelburne will begin soon, and that the PS&E for the FFY19 resurfacing and traffic calming on Route 2 in Charlemont is anticipated by 5/29/19.

For District 2, J. Hoynoski said that the Greenfield I-91 Bridges project that is being amended to FY19 is at the PS&E stage. R. Masse will send L. Dunlavy advance notice of lane closures for public announcement. Physical work on the Erving Streetscape project began on 3/26/19. The Nash's Mill Road over the Green River Bridge project in Greenfield is 40% complete, and the drilled shafts are being tested.

9 – Updates from FRCOG: L. Dunlavy

M. Mullaney reported that three area legislators added money for marketing of North/South rail service into the FFY 2020 budget. Unfortunately, the start of service is now delayed until August or later. Efforts to gather baseline data through rider surveys continues at the Greenfield, Northampton, Holyoke, and Springfield stations.

M. Mullaney invited attendees to FRCOG's annual bike breakfast, part of National Bike Month, on May 14th. She spoke of the May launch of a bike safety campaign to include 2 billboards encouraging driving and biking together safely.

10 – Updates from FRTA: Michael Perrault

M. Perrault stated that Tina Cote has re-negotiated the contract with the architect of FRTA's new maintenance facility, that they are finalizing technical details, and that she hopes for approval to purchase the land soon. She noted that the micro-transit project is scheduled to begin in June. Further, she announced that CSO, the current tenant of the JWOTC café, is not renewing its contract but that she is in conversation with another potential vendor.

11 – Updates from FRPB: Tom Miner

None.

12 – Public Comments

None.

13 – Additional business not reasonably anticipated within 48 hours.

Apologizing for the last minute inclusion on the agenda, J. Woelfel introduced John Lozada, who leads MassDOT's efforts to comply with the Civil Rights Act and the ADA. Focusing on the latter, J. Lozada's presentation highlighted municipal obligations, compliance strategies, and resources. Noting that while the ADA was passed in 1990, MA has not yet achieved compliance. He shared examples of poor streetscape design, and recent litigation. Summarizing municipalities' real and present legal vulnerabilities, especially pertaining to access to public spaces and on-line information, he encouraged planners to create access as fast as possible. He referred to the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board as both friend and regulator, encouraging planners to work closely with its members on building projects. Explaining that the acceptance of federal funds obligates compliance with extensive regulations, he offered his own training for municipalities. He noted that his office has begun developing directives for engineers, and referenced a few examples.

The Pedestrian Curb Ramp Portal in GeoDOT is available, and enables communities to feed-in data

regarding insufficient curb cuts. To tackle remediation locally, J. Lozada gave suggestions for forming internal working groups, gathering input from external community stakeholders, surveying facilities, collecting data, coding and prioritizing projects, and both developing and implementing a multi-year plan. He provided information regarding federal, state and local funding resources.

M. Mullaney noted that the FRCOG, with specially trained staff, has completed four ADA transition plans for area communities, and continues to offer assistance to municipalities interested in this work. M. Rhodes noted FRCOG's attention to planning for accessible sidewalks, rights-of-way, public buildings and libraries, as well as programs and websites. W. Martin noted that Greenfield will soon begin work with a \$387,000 grant to bring streets and intersections into compliance.

14 – Next Meeting/Adjourn

The next scheduled meeting of the TPO is Tuesday, May 28, 2019 at 12:00 PM.

S. Woelfel moved to adjourn the meeting, M. Martin seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 2:05 PM.

Documents Distributed / Presentations Viewed:

- Agenda
- FRPB Minutes, March 26, 2019 – DRAFT
- Summary of 2019 TIP Amendment #1 and TIP Adjustment #2
- Draft 2019 TIP Highway Project List Amendment #1
- 2019 Transit project list Adjustment #2
- Draft 2019-2023 TIP Text Amendment #1 (relevant pages)
- Draft 2020-2024 TIP Highway Project List
- Draft 2020-2024 TIP Transit Project List
- Draft 2020-2024 TIP Full document with text
- Performance-Based Planning & Programming Agreement Final
- *ADA Transition Plans: Municipal Obligations, Compliance Strategies, and Resources*