



# Franklin Regional Council of Governments

## Franklin County Transportation Planning Organization

Date:	Tuesday, May 28, 2019
Time:	12:30 PM
Location:	12 Olive Street, Greenfield, MA
Duration:	35 minutes
Facilitator:	Bryan Pounds, MassDOT OTP

### **FCTPO Members in Attendance:**

Steve Woelfel, MassDOT OTP (representing MassDOT Secretary Stephanie Pollack)  
Richard Masse, MassDOT– District 2 (representing Jonathan Gulliver, MassDOT Highway Administrator)  
Bob Dean, Western County Representative  
Michael Perreault, FRTA (representing FRTA Chair Lance Fritz)  
Kevin Fox, FRCOG Executive Committee  
Bill Perlman, FRCOG Regionally Elected Representative  
William Martin, Mayor, City of Greenfield  
Brandon Wilcox – FHWA Ex-officio member  
Tom Miner, Franklin Regional Planning Board – non-voting member

### **Guests:**

Derek Krevat, MassDOT OTP  
Peter Frieri, MassDOT District 1  
Mark Moore, MassDOT District 1  
Laura Hanson , MassDOT – District 2  
Diana Szynal, Executive Director, Franklin County Chamber of Commerce  
Marlo Warner II, DPW Director, City of Greenfield  
Brian Domina, Town Administrator, Town of Whately

### **Staff:**

Linda Dunlavy, Executive Director  
Maureen Mullaney, Transportation & GIS Program Manager II  
Beth Giannini, Senior Transportation Planner 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 12:00 p.m., and was followed by a round of introductions.

## **2 – Review and Approval of the April 23, 2019 Meeting Minutes: Steve Woelfel**

*B. Perlman moved to approve the April 23, 2019 minutes, B. Dean seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.*

## **3 – Review and Vote to Endorse Amendment #1 to the 2019 TIP: Laurie Scarbrough**

L. Scarborough summarized the three changes articulated in the amendment. Two pertain to the FFY 2019 Highway Project List: an increase in the cost of the roadway reconstruction and traffic calming on Route 2 in Charlemont; and a move of the I-91/BMRR bridge replacement project from FFY 2022 to FFY 2019. Another pertains to the FFY 2019-2023 TIP narrative -- the inclusion of language describing the TAM, PM2 and PM3.

*B. Perlman moved to endorse Amendment #1 to the 2019 TIP, B. Dean seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.*

## **4 – Review and vote to Endorse the Draft 2020-2024 TIP: Laurie Scarbrough**

L. Scarbrough noted a few recent changes to the Draft 2020-2024 TIP prompted by a letter from MassDOT OTP: several minor text edits were made; an assessment of the implications of the equity analysis was added; a narrative describing how projects are distributed was included; and references pertaining to air quality and greenhouse gases were changed. The TPO's decision, in April, to move the Wisdom Way project into the TIP, and the Whately Haydenville Road project out of it, was the only change made to the target projects, she said. She indicated that the equity analysis in the TIP focused on socio-economics and geographic distribution.

B. Domina expressed his concern that the Whately project had been moved off the TIP, noted that it is close to the 25% design phase, and stated that the project is important to the Town, which would like to see it moved forward as soon as possible. Mayor Martin indicated that the Wisdom Way project, if it were to be delayed to 2024, would necessitate an important thoroughfare being reduced to one lane. In response to a question from B. Dean, he indicated that the City is not pursuing other funding for the project.

R. Masse noted that MassDOT has reviewed the projects and the change and has no objection. S. Woelfel indicated that continued progress on projects is necessary for them to remain on the TIP. L. Dunlavy reiterated that the TPO reviews the TIP annually, and could again switch the projects if Greenfield's progress were to slow down and Whately's were to pick up. M. Warner indicated that Greenfield is currently working with a consultant, and moving forward.

*B. Perlman moved to endorse the Draft 2020-2024 TIP, R. Masse seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.*

## **5 – Discussion of Financial Information and Financial Constraint for the Update to the Regional Transportation Plan: Laurie Scarbrough**

M. Mullaney provided an overview of the financial information in the RTP and the constraints related to long-range financial planning. Explaining that the FRCOG typically receives funding information for the RTP

in 5-year blocks, she noted that the group just approved the first installment by endorsing the TIP. Currently, the RTP includes \$475 million for roads and \$31 million for transit projects. Analysis of projects in the universe of projects from 2020 to 2040 indicated that there is ample funding to complete the projects. Therefore, the RTP is financially constrained.

M. Rhodes explained the difficulty of applying a 20-year horizon in Franklin County, as local projects are rarely scoped that far in advance, and most projects fall below the \$20 million threshold for inclusion. In response, S. Woelfel indicated that the threshold is now less of a focus for MassDOT than is any project that may have an impact on air quality; even \$10 million projects impacting air quality should be included, he said, adding that projects not fully scoped should be, too. B. Wilcox indicated that FHWA would like to see listed any project that adds capacity to the system; more generally, he suggests including whatever projects are most important to the region.

M. Mullaney indicated that staff is conducting a historical review of spending, by category, to ensure appropriate and effective allocation of funding now and in the future. FRCOG staff will release the RTP for public comment in June, and will ask the TPO to endorse it in July.

#### **6 – Updates from MassDOT District 1 & District 2: Mark Moore, Laura Hanson**

M. Moore provided an update regarding work in Region 1, noting first that Warner Bros. has just begun work on the Route 2 Shelburne resurfacing project. Regarding the resurfacing and traffic calming on Route 2 in Charlemont, the 100% design has been submitted, he said, with an estimate of \$7,860,350; PS&E, ENV and ROW clearance are pending. Further, M. Moore indicated that the repair of rutting on Route 2 in Shelburne will begin shortly.

L. Hanson provided an update regarding work in District 2. The project to replace the bridge over the BMRR has been added to the FY 19 TIP with a advertising date of 7/13/19, she said, then noted work in progress:

- Tree trimming, sidewalk excavation, and discussion regarding a sewer main in Erving (Streetscape and Pedestrian Improvements on Route 63). Scheduled completion: 6/21/20.
- Working on the drilled shaft foundation system for the north abutment on Nash Mill Road over the Green River in Greenfield. Scheduled completion: 12/10/19
- Milling, paving, and rehabilitation of I-91 over Fairview Street in Greenfield (project includes work in Deerfield, Bernardston, Greenfield). Scheduled completion: 8/5/19.
- Demolishing (prior to replacing) the Holtshire Road bridge over Millers River in Orange. Scheduled completion: 4/24/20.
- Working on stem and wing walls of south abutment of McClellan Farm Road Bridge over the B&M Railroad in Deerfield. Scheduled completion: 8/14/20.

Looking ahead, she noted that the final bridge design type for the replacement of the Schell Bridge in Northfield (FY21 TIP) has been finalized and approved by the Town. Full design and engineering of the project will now proceed. The project is scheduled to be advertised 12/5/20. (Graphics are available at [www.schellbridge.org](http://www.schellbridge.org).) Further, MassDOT is discussing next steps with the consultant for expedited repairs of the General Pierce Bridge between Greenfield and Montague; 25% submission is due 6/17/19.

Rich Masse described anticipated lane closures due to work on I-91 at the rotary and the bridge over Fairview Street.

### **7 – Updates from FRCOG**

L. Dunlavy reported that the FRCOG is working with stakeholders from Springfield to Greenfield to survey riders on Amtrak’s Vermonter in anticipation of expanded service launching in the Fall. The historic name of the route -- the Connecticut River Line -- has been revived by consensus, she said, but it has not been approved by MassDOT yet. Bike safety billboards have been installed on Federal Street and on Deerfield Avenue.

The Transportation Climate Initiative (covering the North East, Mid-Atlantic regions, and Washington D.C, based at the Georgetown Climate Center) is working to improve transportation while reducing emission from the transportation sector. The FRCOG has partnered with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to conduct outreach regarding potential solutions in rural areas, and held an engaging session with the FRPB last week. The FRPB, recognizing that some sort of independent driving is going to continue to be important locally, and advocated for solutions involving clean-energy vehicles among other things. T. Miner added said that land-use, compact development, forest conservation, and public transit were also discussed, as were technological methods such as web-based medicine. The TNC/FRCOG will hold an additional session with business leaders. L. Dunlavy expressed gratitude toward TNC and MassDOT for coming to our rural region, and her hope that it will result in new policy.

### **8 – Updates from FRTA: Michael Perrault**

M. Perrault announced that FRTA, with discretionary funding from MassDOT, will launch a micro-transit project on July 1.

### **9 – Updates from FRPB: Tom Miner**

T. Miner reiterated the value of the discussion prompted by The Nature Conservancy’s listening session at the recent FRPB meeting. In June, board will review the Regional Transportation Plan.

### **10 – Public Comments**

In response to questions from Mayor Martin regarding train ticketing, M. Perrault explained that FRCOG and MassDOT are not involved, that FRTA is unable to sell tickets, but that purchases can be made via Amtrak on-line and the local AAA office. L. Dunlavy indicated that it has been Amtrak’s goal to eliminate kiosks in favor of on-line sales. B. Perlman suggested that Greenfield locate a kiosk in the parking garage, and the mayor indicated that he will contact Amtrak directly.

### **11 – Additional business not reasonably anticipated within 48 hours.**

M. Mullaney described the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) developed by staff, and approved by MassDOT, to direct their work each year. She explained that by mid-year, they have a sense of which projects need more or less time and money than initially requested, and regularly seeks adjustments at this time. She presented a UPWP Budget Reallocation request covering 6 categories, and noted that the

2020 UPWP will be available for review at the next meeting,

*B. Perlman moved to make the requested adjustments to the 2019 UPWP, B. Dean seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.*

#### **14 – Next Meeting/Adjourn**

The next scheduled meeting of the TPO is Tuesday, June 25, 2019 at 12:00 PM.

*B. Perlman moved to adjourn the meeting, B. Dean seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 12:35 PM.*

#### **Documents Distributed / Presentations Viewed:**

- Agenda
- FRPB Minutes, April 23, 2019 – DRAFT
- Amended FINAL Franklin '19-'23 TIP text
- Final Franklin 2020-2024 TIP text
- Amended FFY 2019-2023 Franklin TIP Highway final
- Summary of TIP Amendment1 Adjustment2
- 2020-2024 TIP Transit Project List final
- 2020-2024 Franklin TIP Highway Project List final
- UPWP Budget Reallocation request 5/28/19