



# Franklin Regional Council of Governments

## Franklin County Transportation Planning Organization

Date:	Tuesday, June 25, 2019
Time:	12:00 PM
Location:	12 Olive Street, Greenfield, MA
Duration:	1 hour, 35 minutes
Facilitator:	Steve Woelfel, MassDOT OTP

**FCTPO Members in Attendance:**

Steve Woelfel, MassDOT OTP (representing MassDOT Secretary Stephanie Pollack)  
 Mark Moore, MassDOT – District 1 (representing Jonathan Gulliver, MassDOT Highway Administrator)  
 Bob Dean, Western County Representative  
 Bill Perlman, FRCOG Regionally Elected Representative  
 Lance Fritz, FRTA Chair  
 Marlo Warner II, DPW Director, City of Greenfield (representing Mayor William Martin)  
 Brandon Wilcox, FHWA Ex-officio member  
 Tom Miner, FRPB Representative and non-voting member

**Guests:**

Peter Frieri – MassDOT -- District 1  
 Laura Hanson, MassDOT – District 2  
 Derek Krevat, MassDOT OTP  
 Michael Perreault, FRTA  
 Diana Szynal, Franklin County Chamber of Commerce  
 Steven Ellis, Montague Town Administrator  
 Gabriele Voelker, Orange Town Administrator

**Staff:**

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 May 28, 2019 Meeting Minutes: Steve Woelfel**

*B. Perlman moved to approve the May 28, 2019 minutes, B. Dean seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.*

**3 – Review and vote to release for a 21-day public review and comment period the Draft 2020 Long Range Regional Transportation Plan (RTP): Megan Rhodes**

Summarizing the work of FRCOG staff to develop the Draft 2020 RTP, M. Rhodes emphasized extensive public outreach -- via multiple forums and a robust on-line survey -- indicating an overwhelming need for more public transportation options in the region, including both fixed routes and on-demand service. Following the completion of the Draft document, staff developed an on-line, interactive story map to make RTP content more accessible.

M. Rhodes presented the story map, organized by chapters on topics including: public outreach; goals and performance measures; local demographics and economics; existing road and bridge infrastructure; discussions of each mode of transport; tourism; resiliency and climate change; safety and security, and more. The final chapter highlights 25 areas in which staff aims to foster improvement over a 20-year horizon. Throughout the public comment period, the Draft 2020 RTP and the story map will be available on the website, and FRCOG staff will be conducting public forums. After the comment period, staff will seek acceptance of the plan from the TPO, she concluded. D. Syzmal indicated that a regional tourism website will launch soon, and that it will include a link to the RTP.

*B. Perlman moved to release for a 21-day public review and comment period the Draft 2020 Long Range Regional Transportation Plan, B. Dean seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.*

Discussion topics included the responsiveness of various collaborating agencies, and the favorable track record of implementation of the final recommendations of earlier RTPs.

**4 – Review and vote to release for a 21-day public review and comment period the Draft 2020 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP): Maureen Mullaney**

M. Mullaney explained that the UPWP guides the work of FRCOG staff throughout the federal fiscal year, which begins in October, and that the budget is determined by a formula developed by the Massachusetts Association of Regional Planning Agencies (MARPA) based on the percentage of road miles and population of the region. The 2020 budget of \$565,124 represents a \$15k increase from 2019, she said, then summarized the UPWP by section.

Section 1: Management & Support of the Planning Process, is primarily administrative, and changes little from year to year. Section 2: Data Collection and Analysis Activities describes ongoing work that is a big focus of transportation planners, such as traffic counting and air-quality modeling, and includes data-related projects that provide the basis of many planning tasks. Section 4: Ongoing Transportation Activities allows staff to attend conferences to present their work, engage in professional development, join task forces, provide Local Technical Assistance, stay engaged in the Scenic Byways program, and respond to other opportunities as they arise.

Section 3: Transportation Planning Studies changes significantly each year, and reflects federal, state, and regional priorities, she said. In FFY20, staff plan to update the pedestrian plan; to explore and promote ridesharing (possibly through developing a subsidized program for social service organizations); to initiate a culvert assessment project; to create a Rural Road Guidance handbook covering frequently asked questions; to develop tourist itineraries and byway itineraries, particularly for bicyclists; to continue monitoring and to begin marketing of the passenger rail service expected to expand in the fall.

*B. Perlman moved to release for a 21-day public review and comment period the Draft 2020 Unified Planning Work Program, B. Dean seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.*

In response to a question regarding the inclusion of goals to mitigate climate change, S. Woelfel noted that the Transportation Improvement Plan promotes ridesharing, biking, and public transportation, and M. Mullaney emphasized that the reduction of transportation-related emissions is an integral part of FRCOG's work.

**5 – Updates from MassDOT District 1 & District 2: Laura Hanson , Peter Frieri**

For District 2, L. Hanson reported that the Greenfield bridge replacement over BMRR was added to the FY2019 TIP with a current advertising date of 7/13/2019, then provided updates on current construction projects:

- Regarding Erving's streetscape and pedestrian improvement project on Route 63, a Non-Participating Town Agreement is to be signed for a segment of forced sanitary sewer to be placed before the sidewalk installation is continued.
- In Greenfield, regarding the Nash Mill Road over the Green River project, contractor New England Infrastructure completed the northeast abutment, and beams are expected to be set in July.
- Construction is underway to rehabilitate I-91 over Fairview Street in Greenfield and over Falls River in Bernardston.
- In Orange, construction continues on the Holtshire Road bridge replacement over the Millers River with the completion of support of excavation (sheet pile) installation.
- In Deerfield, phase 2 of the preservation of the McClellan Farm Road bridge over the B&M Railroad is underway.

There is no new information regarding the Schell Bride in Northfield, she added, and the latest ad date for the General Pierce Bridge rehabilitation project (Greenfield / Montague) is 3/7/2020.

P. Frieri reported for District 1:

- Construction on the FFY 2018 project to resurface Route 2 in Shelburne is just beginning.
- Regarding the FFY2019 Route 2 Charlemont resurfacing project, the PS&E has been submitted, permitting is pending, and the current estimate is within budget.
- The FFY 2020 project to improve the Main Road / Route 112 / Greenfield Road intersection is under review and the estimate is within 10% of the amount budgeted on the TIP.
- The estimate for the FFY 2020 bridge replacement in Charlemont (West Oxbow Road over Wilder Brook is slightly lower than the TIP amount.
- The estimate for the FFY 2020 bridge replacement in Charlemont (Tower Road over Chickley River) is slightly higher than the TIP amount.

**6 – Updates from FRCOG: Maureen Mullaney**

M. Mullaney described a recent collaboration with The Nature Conservancy to explore possible means to reduce carbon emissions from the transportation sector. With the goal of identifying potential changes which might gain the support of rural residents, they held separate meetings with two distinct constituent groups. One group indicated strong interest in cleaner cars, noting that vehicular independence is unavoidable in the region. The other group advocated for denser development of community centers with strong transit systems in which residents could live, work and play with little need for privately-owned vehicles.

**7 – Updates from FRTA: Michael Perrault**

M. Perrault reported that the FRTA continues to work on the discretionary grant-funded program for

micro-transit. There have been technical problems resulting in delays, but a soft launch is anticipated in July, followed by a hard launch on July 15 or August 1, pending approval from the developers of both software applications.

**8 – Updates from FRPB: Tom Miner**

The FRPB will be reviewing the Regional Transportation Plan at its meeting later in the week.

**9 – Public Comments**

None.

**10 – Additional business not reasonably anticipated within 48 hours**

None.

**11 – Next Meeting / Adjourn**

The next scheduled meeting of the TPO is Tuesday, July 23, 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, May 28, 2019 – DRAFT
- Franklin County Regional Transportation Plan story map (<http://frcog.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=19ddd565c2a34907a916daf192a8a363>)
- 2020 Franklin Unified Planning Work Program/Budget Summary by Task