



# Franklin Regional Council of Governments

## Franklin County Transportation Planning Organization

Date:	Tuesday, January 28, 2020
Time:	12:30 PM
Location:	12 Olive Street, Greenfield, MA
Duration:	50 minutes
Facilitator:	David Mohler, MassDOT OTP

**FCTPO Members in Attendance:**

- David Mohler, MassDOT OTP (representing MassDOT Secretary Stephanie Pollack)
- Richard Masse, MassDOT– District 2 (representing Jonathan Gulliver, MassDOT Highway Administrator)
- Steve Ellis, Central County Representative
- Kevin Fox, FRCOG Executive Committee
- Bill Perlman, FRCOG Regionally Elected Representative
- Michael Perreault, FRTA (representing FRTA Chair Lance Fritz)
- Marlo Warner II, DPW Director, City of Greenfield (representing Mayor Roxann Wedegartner)
- Tom Miner, Franklin Regional Planning Board

**Guests:**

- Elena Cohen, Office of Senator Jo Comerford
- Lily Wallace, Office of Representative Natalie Blais
- Derek Krevat, MassDOT OTP
- Peter Frieri, MassDOT—District 1
- Mark Moore, MassDOT District 1
- Laura Hanson, MassDOT – District 2
- Diana Szynal, Franklin County Chamber of Commerce
- Gabrielle Voelker, Town of Orange

**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

<b>1 – Welcome and Introductions:</b>	<b>David Mohler</b>
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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 July 23, 2019 Meeting Minutes:****David Mohler**

*R. Masse moved to approve the July 23, 2019 minutes, D. Mohler seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously with no abstentions.*

**3 – Review and vote to accept an adjustment to the 2020 Transit TIP:****Laurie Scarbrough**

L. Scarbrough presented the request from FRTA, via MassDOT, to include in the 2020 TIP the purchase of three replacement vans using \$244,663 of MA Community Transit Grant funds. As no federal funds were requested, the action constitutes a TIP Adjustment (not an Amendment) and does not require public review, she explained.

*B. Perlman moved to accept the adjustment as presented, R. Masse seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously with no abstentions.*

**4 – Review and vote to Endorse Calendar Year 2020 PM-1 Safety Performance Measures:****Maureen Mullaney**

M. Mullaney presented the MassDOT CY20 Safety Performance Measure Targets (PM1), all using 5-year averages per 100 million vehicle miles traveled (VMT) for Total Fatalities (347); Total Incapacitating Injuries (2,689); and Total Combined Non-Motorized Injuries & Fatalities (505), and asked that the TPO adopt them, for the third year in a row, in lieu of developing its own regional standards. Data (since 2008) reflects trends toward improved safety, and the targets follow suit.

*B. Perlman moved to endorse the Calendar Year 2020 PM-1 Safety Measures as presented, R. Masse seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously with no abstentions.*

**5 – Review of new self-certification forms for the 2021 TIP and UPWP:****Maureen Mullaney**

M. Mullaney reminded members that the endorsement of the TIP and the Unified Planning Work Program require that certification documents must be signed. One will attest to the TPO's Continuing, Cooperative & Comprehensive (CCC) planning process with partners in the region; another will confirm our attention to the Clean Air Act.

**6 – Review UPWP budget adjustment:****Maureen Mullaney**

M. Mullaney reviewed her request to MassDOT to adjust the cost of two tasks in the 2020 UPWP. One reflects a decrease of \$20,000 in staff time needed for research to update the Regional Pedestrian Plan, as 8-10 communities have already approved Complete Streets prioritization plans with extensive accommodations. The other reflects an increase of \$20,000 in staff time needed to work with the Valley Flyer marketing team at the outset of their work. She noted that very little staff time was included in the Valley Flyer marketing contracts, and that she didn't anticipate the lengthy negotiations with Amtrak regarding Non-Disclosure Agreements among other things.

*S. Ellis moved to accept the UPWP budget adjustment as presented, B. Perlman seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously with no abstentions.*

**7 – Presentation and update on the Valley Flyer:****Maureen Mullaney**

M. Mullaney said that while initial ridership figures on the weekday route to NYC are promising, the Valley Flyer schedule does not currently make it possible to go to NYC and back in the same day. Using \$100,000 of funding from MassDOT, local stakeholders including FRCOG, PVPC, the cities of Greenfield, Northampton and Holyoke, and local Chambers of Commerce hired the “the watsons” out of NYC to lead the marketing project. She then gave an overview of the watsons’ experience, task, approach and progress to date. Now that the firm has a non-disclosure statement with Amtrak, they are picking up steam. The FRCOG purchased URLs, and the watsons are now building a social media platform, establishing wordmarks and a tagline/branding tool kit, and preparing for a launch in April. The deployment and deduction phases will be next. There was discussion regarding grant deadlines and extensions. MassDOT funding has been extended to cover the duration of the pilot project.

Discussion touched on the seasonal colors of the wordmark, ads placed in Amtrak magazine by the Franklin Area and Northampton chambers, current promotional pricing, and community input regarding the marketing plan. M. Mullaney noted that officials in Brattleboro and Keene are eager to participate in the effort. Further, she explained that the marketing will aim to bring travelers north as well as south, as we want our CT and NY neighbors to come here to play, shop, attend museums, dine, and enjoy seasonal events such as Cider Days and the Green River Festival. Amtrak can offer incentives, and is willing to craft special promotions working with the marketing team and stakeholders, she added.

#### **8 – Updates from MassDOT District 1 & District 2:**

**Peter Frieri, Laura Hanson**

Peter Frieri: In District 1, the FFY18 contract for the resurfacing and related work on Route 2 in Shelburne is approximately 75% expended, and the project will be completed in June. J.H. Maxymillian was the low bidder on the FFY19 project involving the resurfacing and traffic calming on Route 2 in Charlemont in November. The Notice To Proceed was issued on January 17<sup>th</sup>. Regarding FFY20 projects, the revised ROW for the Colrain intersection improvements is due in February; and discussions regarding the funding of both Charlemont Bridge replacements will continue. (The West Oxbow/Wilder Brook bridge final design has been received.)

Laura Hanson reported on projects in District 2: The 75% design has been submitted for the resurfacing of a section of North Main Street in Sunderland; the advertising date of the Bernardston bridge over Shattuck Brook is 4/25/20; and the advertising date of the resurfacing of a section of Route 5/10 in Deerfield and Whately is 3/21/20. As for current projects, the Erving streetscape and pedestrian improvements on Route 63 were 60% complete prior to the winter shutdown; Nash Mill Road over the Green River was completed in December; and a contract was awarded for the bridge replacement over the MBRR in Greenfield in December. Further, the Interstate 91 maintenance in Deerfield/Bernardston/Greenfield is scheduled to be completed on 11/14/20; the completion date for the bridge replacement over the Millers River at Holtshire Road in Orange has been moved to November 2020 due to National Grid delays; and the preservation of the bridge over the B&M railroad at McClellan Farm Road in Deerfield is due to be completed on 8/14/20. Further, the latest ad date for the General Pierce Bridge rehabilitation project in Montague will be 3/7/20, and a public hearing is scheduled for 2/4/20; the 25% design of the Schell Bridge in Northfield is currently under review; structural assessment of the French King Bridge between Erving and Gill is ongoing. Finally, MassDOT issued a new engineering directive updating the design criteria for pedestrian, bicycle, transit and vehicle facilities.

See attached for additional detail.

L. Dunlavy expressed her appreciation for all the work that has been done on these projects – many of

which have been in the works for decades.

**9 – Updates from FRCOG:**

**Linda Dunlavy**

L. Dunlavy and M. Mullaney attended a recent meeting, in DC, of The Transportation Climate Initiative – an effort undertaken by the governors of twelve Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states and the District of Columbia to reduce emissions and to strengthen the green infrastructure. Wary of a potential gas tax that would disproportionately cost but not reward rural areas, they were pleased to learn that the program will instead employ incentives and investment, functioning more like the successful MassSave program.

**10 – Updates from FRTA:**

**Michael Perrault**

M. Perrault announced that FRTA recently received a grant to continue their micro-transit pilot project for a second year. They are awaiting word on an application for a workforce development grant, he said, and aiming to complete their update on the comprehensive regional transit program in September.

**11 – Updates from FRPB:**

**Tom Miner**

None.

**12 – Public Comments**

None.

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

L. Hanson announced a public meeting on proposed plans for East-West rail (from Boston to Springfield) to be held at the UMass Center in Springfield on 2/12/20. D. Mohler noted that the advisory committee meets on February 6<sup>th</sup>.

**14 – Next Meeting / Adjourn**

The next scheduled meeting of the TPO is Tuesday, February 25, 2020 at 12:00 PM.

*B. Perlman moved to adjourn the meeting, R. Masse seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 1:20 PM.*

**Documents Distributed / Presentations Viewed:**

- Agenda
- FCTPO Minutes, July 23, 2019 – DRAFT
- FCTPO Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Project List (FY2020) – Adjustment #1
- MassDOT CY20 Safety Performance Measure Targets (PM1)
- Valley Flyer Marketing (PowerPoint)
- UPWP Budget Reallocation form
- MassDOT District One Report, January 28, 2020 – Franklin TPO
- MassDOT Updates – District 2 (Laura Hanson), FCTPO Meeting – January 28, 2020