



Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Franklin County Transportation Planning Organization

Date:	Tuesday, March 24, 2020
Time:	12:00 PM
Location:	https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/443024141 or +1 (872) 240-3412
Duration:	50 minutes
Facilitator:	David Mohler MassDOT OTP

FCTPO Members in Attendance:

Dave Mohler, MassDOT OTP (representing MassDOT Secretary Stephanie Pollack)
Paula Simmons, MassDOT– District 2 (representing Jonathan Gulliver, MassDOT Highway Administrator)
Kevin Fox, FRCOG Executive Committee
Bill Perlman, FRCOG Regionally Elected Representative
Michael Perreault, FRTA (representing FRTA Chair Lance Fritz)
Steve Ellis, Central County Representative
Marlo Warner II, DPW Director, City of Greenfield (representing Mayor Roxann Wedegartner)

Guests:

Bryan Pounds, MassDOT OTP
Derek Krevat, MassDOT OTP
Peter Frieri, MassDOT District 1
Mark Moore, MassDOT District 1
Laura Hanson, MassDOT – District 2
Lily Wallace, Office of Representative Natalie Blais
Fred Orloski, Whately Select Board

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
Ryan Clary, Sr. GIS Specialist

1 – Welcome and Introductions: Dave Mohler

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m., and was followed by an acknowledgement of the virtual meeting platform, and a round of introductions.

2 – Review and Approval of the February 25, 2020 Meeting Minutes: Dave Mohler

B. Perlman moved to approve the February 25, 2020 minutes, S. Ellis seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously, by roll call with votes of TPO signatories.

3 – Review and vote to release for a 21-day comment period an Amendment of the FY 2020 Transportation improvement Program (TIP): Laurie Scarbrough

L. Scarbrough summarized four changes to FFY 2020 TIP articulated in three sections of Amendment #1.

Section 1A – Regionally Prioritized Projects:

- The cost of the Sunderland resurfacing project (606245) has increased by \$584,810 to \$3,240,634, based on 75% design. A remaining TIP target balance unprogrammed is \$207,402.

Section 2A – State Prioritized Reliability Projects:

- The cost of the Charlemont bridge replacement over the Chickley River (608644) has increased significantly by \$1,852,823 to \$5,692,059.
- The cost of the Bernardston bridge replacement over Shattuck Brook (604189) has decreased by \$714,615 to \$2,278,599.

Section 2B – State Prioritized Modernization Projects:

- The cost of the Whately resurfacing on Routes 5 & 10 (606011) has increased significantly by \$1,997,612 to \$4,572,497.

L. Scarbrough announced that the FRTA received a Statewide Workforce Grant to continue its micro-transit program. This additional funding does not need to be included in the TIP because it is all state funding.

In response to a question from L. Dunlavy, P. Simmons indicated that the cost increases to the Whately resurfacing project were due to an expansion of the structural overlap of pavement, additional drainage work, and an increase in the cost of items to be purchased.

S. Ellis moved to release for a 21-day comment period an Amendment #1 to the FY 2020 Transportation improvement Program, B. Perlman seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously with votes from D. Mohler, P. Simmons, K. Fox, B. Pounds, M. Warner, S. Ellis, and M. Perreault.

4 – Review of the preferred list of projects for the FY2021-25 TIP: Laurie Scarbrough

L. Scarbrough reviewed the preferred lists of projects for the FFY 2021-25 TIP pertaining to the region, the state and transit authority.

In the Franklin region, issues raised at the February meeting regarding the readiness of the Buckland project Conway Street/South Street/Conway Road caused it to be moved from 2021 to 2022. Having freed 2021 funds, two Greenfield projects were moved forward to 2021. The reconstruction of Wisdom Way will likely be ready to go, as the 100% design is due 7/7/20, and the ROW has been reviewed. The project to improve two intersections on Route 2 (at Colrain Road and the Big Y entrance) may be ready, as the 25% design is due 5/28/20. L. Scarbrough asked for feedback regarding a potential delay due to ROW concerns. The Buckland project to reconstruct Conway St/South St/Conway Rd will leave \$805,990 un-programmed for 2022, and use the full target for 2023. The Orange project to reconstruct North Main Street will use all but \$15,833 of the 2024 target. The Whately rehabilitation of Haydenville road exceeds the 2025 target by \$363,530, but will qualify for Advance Construction.

In response to a question from F. Orloski, D. Mohler explained that the ROW portions of projects cannot be separated from the larger project. Local ROW work is the responsibility of the local community, State

ROW is the responsibility of MassDOT. In response to a second question from F. Orloski, P. Simmons, L. Scarbrough, and M. Mullaney explained that the prioritization process within a district is influenced by readiness, ROW approval, the acquisition of required permits, and the order in which they were received. B. Perlman and M. Mullaney noted that while the TPO has the authority to adjust scheduling, it works very hard to respect the order that projects come in and strives to keep them in that queue order.

The statewide highway project list from MassDOT is comprised primarily of bridge projects, L. Scarbrough said. The replacement of the bike/pedestrian Schell Bridge over the CT River in Northfield is on track for FFY 21, as is the replacement of the Oxbow Road/Oxbow Brook bridge in Charlemont for FFY 22. Three bridge projects remain scheduled for FFY 23, with no changes: the preservation of the Upper Road/Deerfield River bridge in Deerfield; preservation of the bridge deck on Route 112/North River in Colrain; and the replacement of the Poland Road/Poland Brook bridge in Conway.

Three changes were made to the schedule for 2024; 1 project was added, and two were moved from FFY 2022 to FFY 2024. The Birnham Road/Mill Brook bridge replacement in Northfield was added for \$4.5 million. Moved from 2022 are the Millers Road/Roaring Brook bridge replacement in Leverett and the Cyrus Stage Road/Potter Brook bridge replacement in Rowe. Two projects remain in 2024 as previously scheduled: replacement of the South Street/Sawmill River bridge in Montague, and the resurfacing and related work on Route 2 in Erving.

L. Scarbrough summarized **the transit list** from the FRTA. For 2021, it includes replacing 25 tablets for fixed route and paratransit communications, and buying associated capital maintenance items; engineering and design for construction of the maintenance facility and the rehab/renovation of shop equipment; the purchase and installation of electronic signs at the Transit Center that will integrate with existing DAD/AVL software; and the replacement of 3 minibuses, purchase of associated capital items, and additional rehab/renovation of shop equipment. Now scheduled for 2022 is the replacement of 2 minibuses with 1 larger bus. The 2022 list also includes the purchase and installation of automated passenger counting equipment, similarly integrated with CAD/AVL software and fareboxes. 2023 will see the purchase of new computer workstations and equipment, and associated capital maintenance items; additional rehab/renovation of shop equipment; the replacement of 4 transit buses; and the updating of the fare collection system to include a mobile pay option. In 2024, plans include the purchase of tires and other capital maintenance items; continued rehab/renovation of shop equipment; and the purchase/installation of passenger shelters, bike racks, trash cans, solar lighting and signage at bus stops.

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

P. Frieri summarized activity in District 1:

FFY 2019: Charlemont resurfacing and traffic calming on Route 2, notice to proceed 1/17/20

FFY 2020:

- Colrain intersection improvements projects, awaiting next design submission (PS&E). The PM anticipates that the ROW plans will be approved in June. The next design submission may include a cost increase of \$500k, based on recommendations from the safety study.
- A public hearing is scheduled for 3/31 for the Buckland Conway St/South St/Conway Road project.
- Charlemont bridge replacement on West Oxbow Road, project advertised on 2/22/20
- Charlemont bridge replacement on Tower Road, 100% design received, current estimate \$5,692,059 – about 48% over TIP prog.

FFY 2021: Buckland reconstruction & widening on Conway St, Summer St, South St, Conway Rd, current estimate \$7868,506 – within 4% of TIP prog.

Representing District 2, L. Hanson reported that the 100% design submission for the project to resurface Route 47 in Sunderland, received on 3/11/20, is under review, and the advertising date remains 9/12/20.

M. Moore raised concern that a potential cost increase for the Colrain village center project programmed in 2020 could result in 2020 being out of financial constraint. The potential increased costs would be due to the addition of more safety features as a result of a safety study. Senator Rosenberg had previously committed state funding to cover the additional costs for the safety improvements. D. Mohler said that he would look into this and report back.

6 – Public Comments

None.

7 – Additional business not reasonably anticipated within 48 hours

L. Dunlavy indicated that the FRCOG purchasing department is working hard to get highway products out to bid in April.

8 – Next Meeting / Adjourn

The next scheduled meeting of the TPO is Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 12:00 PM.

S. Ellis moved to adjourn the meeting, M. Warner seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 12:50 PM.

Documents Distributed / Presentations Viewed:

- FC TPO Meeting Agenda 03 24 2020
- TPO Meeting Minutes, February 25, 2020 – DRAFT
- Draft 2020 FCTPO TIP Amendment 1 Summary
- FFY2020 Franklin TIP Amendment 1 DRAFT
- Revised 2021-2025 TIP Preferred Project List FCTPO 3 24 2020
- 2021-2025 TIP Statewide Highway Projects FCTPO
- 2021-2024 CIP FRTA Prelim Project List