



Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Franklin County Transportation Planning Organization

Date:	Tuesday, April 28, 2020
Time:	12:00 PM
Location:	https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/604122069 or +1 (786) 535-3211
Duration:	55 minutes
Facilitator:	Steven Woelfel, MassDOT OTP

FCTPO Members in Attendance:

- Steven Woelfel, MassDOT OTP (representing MassDOT Secretary Stephanie Pollack)
- Richard Masse, MassDOT– District 2 (representing Jonathan Gulliver, MassDOT Highway Administrator)
- Steve Ellis, Central County Representative
- Michael Perreault, FRTA (representing FRTA Chair Lance Fritz)
- Kevin Fox, FRCOG Executive Committee
- Bill Perlman, FRCOG Regionally Elected Representative
- Marlo Warner II, DPW Director, City of Greenfield (representing Mayor Roxann Wedegartner)
- Ken Miller, FHWA, non-voting

Guests:

- Derek Krevat, MassDOT OTP
- Bryan Pounds, MassDOT OTP
- Peter Frieri, MassDOT District 1
- Mark Moore, MassDOT District 1
- Laura Hanson, MassDOT District 2
- Brian Domina, Whately Town Administrator
- Geoff Kravitz, Sunderland Town Administrator
- Omar Mejia, Safe Routes to School

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
- Ryan Clary, Sr. GIS Specialist
- Liz Jacobson-Carroll, Assistant Planner

1 – Welcome and Introductions:	Dave Mohler
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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 March 24, 2020 Meeting Minutes:**Dave Mohler**

Two clerical errors were corrected.

Perlman moved to approve the March 24, 2020 minutes, as amended, Masse seconded the motion, and the motion was approved (Woelfel, Perlman, Fox, Warner, Masse, Ellis, Perrault) with Masse abstaining.

3 – Review and vote to endorse an Amendment of the 2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP):**Laurie Scarbrough**

Scarbrough noted that only one comment, from MassDOT, had been received during the 21-day public comment period, and which resulted in:

- An increase in the cost of resurfacing and related work on Route 47 (from Rt. 116 to Claybrook Drive) in Sunderland, based on the 75% design, to \$3,255,831 STBG.

Additional changes contained in the amendment include:

- An increase in the cost of replacing the Tower Road bridge over the Chickley River in Charlemont, based on the 100% design, to \$5,692,059.
- A decrease in the cost of replacing the Route 5 bridge over Shattuck Brook in Bernardston, based on the final design, to \$2,278,599.
- An increase in the cost of resurfacing and related work on Routes 5 & 10 (Old State Rd to Conway Road) in Deerfield and Whately, based on the final design, to \$4,572,497 HSIP.

Perlman moved to endorse Amendment #1 March 24 2020, Masse seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously (Woelfel, Perlman, Fox, Warner, Masse, Ellis, Perrault) with no abstentions.

Krevat will coordinate collecting electronic signatures on the endorsement sheet.

4 – Review and vote to release for a 21-day public review and comment period the DRAFT FY 2021-25 TIP:**Laurie Scarbrough**

Noting that no changes have been made since the last meeting, Scarbrough reviewed the 2021-25 preferred project list, including:

- In 2021, the regionally prioritized reconstruction of Wisdom Way in Greenfield (\$3,292,100 total cost), and the state prioritized project to replace the Shell Bridge over the CT River in Northfield (\$22,007,915)
- In 2022, the regionally prioritized projects for reconstruction and widening of Conway St/Summer St/South St/Conway Rd in Buckland (\$7,868,506); the improvement of two intersections with Route 2 in Greenfield (at the Big Y entrance, and at Conway Road, for \$2,081,823); and the state-prioritized replacement of the bridge over Oxbow Brook on East Oxbow Road in Charlemont (\$2,196,912)
- In 2023, the 2nd year of the project to reconstruct and widen Buckland's Conway St/Summer St/South St/Conway Rd (\$7,706,070); the preservation of the deck of the Route 112 bridge over the North River in Colrain (\$522,201); and the replacement of the North Poland Road bridge over Poland Brook in Conway (\$3,996,968)
- In 2024, the regionally prioritized reconstruction of North Main Street in Orange (\$5,814,370), and several state-prioritized projects
- In 2025, regionally prioritized rehabilitation of the section of Haydenville Road from Conway Road in Whately to the Williamsburg town line (\$5,809,535)

There was some discussion regarding funds unallocated in 2021 due to the movement of the Buckland project to 2022.

Scarborough indicated that the Transit Project List is virtually identical to that reviewed in March. The 2021 total cost of \$837,500 covers the acquisition of 25 on-board tablets, engineering and design of the maintenance facility, and a replacement bus. Total annual costs for subsequent years are \$1,045,000 (2022); \$2,050,000 (2023); \$75,000 (2024); and \$75,000 (2025).

While the text of the TIP remains largely unchanged year-to-year, Mullaney explained that the section titled “Amendment and Adjustment Procedures” was edited to reflect gradual adjustments in how decisions are being made, and to clarify how projects are prioritized. Ellis prompted a discussion of semantics pertaining to cost changes mentioned in the text; prior to the end of the public comment period, Krevat will confirm that TIP language mirrors that of the FHWA.

Masse made a motion to release for a 21-day public review and comment period the DRAFT FY 2021-25 TIP; Fox seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously (Woelfel, Perlman, Fox, Warner, Masse, Ellis, Perrault) with Perlman abstaining.

5 – Review and vote to release for a 21-day public review and comment period the DRAFT FY 2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP):	Megan Rhodes
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The UPWP describes the scope and estimated cost of work tasks to be conducted by the FRCOG transportation planning staff on behalf of the TPO over the next contract year, Rhodes explained, adding that it is divided into four groups. The tasks, and their respective budgets, of group 1 (administrative projects), group 2 (data collection), and group 4 (ongoing planning pertaining to bikeways, scenic byways, transit, rail and pedestrians, etc.) remain unchanged for the coming year, she said, then summarized the 6 new tasks identified in group 3 (transportation planning studies):

- 3.1 – Working with FRCOG planning department colleagues focused on identifying municipal vulnerability and building resiliency, to synthesize existing plans for individual towns for a cohesive regional approach. (Also, staff will continue assessing under-performing municipally-owned culverts, advising towns on how to proceed with repairs.)
- 3.2 – Studying the feasibility of a bike-share program in Franklin County, likely focusing on Greenfield, Montague, Orange, Deerfield and Shelburne Falls.
- 3.3 – Marketing the Valley Flyer, and monitoring its ridership, once service resumes following closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 3.4 – Developing a plan for regional purchasing and installation of electric vehicle charging stations, partnering with both the public and private sectors, for inclusion the next TIP.
- 3.5 – Planning for the installation of the last remaining trailblazing signs on the Franklin County Bikeway.
- 3.6 – Working with municipalities and the state to identify and plan for MassDOT Park and Ride lots in the eastern portion of the county, where need has previously been identified.

Perlman made a motion to release for a 21-day public review and comment period the DRAFT FY 2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP); Masse seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously (Woelfel, Perlman, Fox, Warner, Masse, Ellis, Perrault).

6 – Review and vote to release for a 21-day public review and comment period a DRAFT Amendment to the MOU establishing the FCTPO:	Maureen Mullaney
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Mullaney summarized the history of signatories on the TIP, since the 1970’s, noting the establishment of the FCTPO by MOU in 2006. With the goal of increasing participation by members from sub-regions in the development of the TIP and other FCTPO activities, she proposed an amendment that would task the FRCOG full Council, rather than the Franklin County Selectmen’s Association, to appoint representatives

from east county, central county, and west county. Further, the amendment would add a Vice Chair to the organization, as recommended by MassDOT, Dunlavy added.

Perlman made a motion release for a 21-day public review and comment period a DRAFT Amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding establishing the FCTPO; Masse seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously (Woelfel, Perlman, Fox, Warner, Masse, Ellis, Perrault).

7 – Updates from MassDOT District 1 & District 2:

Peter Frieri, Laura Hanson

Frieri reported the status of TIP projects in District 1:

- Construction is well underway on the FFY 2019 project in Charlemont to resurface and calm traffic on Route 2/Main Street, including culvert rehabilitation over the Rice Brook.
- The opening of bids on the FFY 2020 project in Charlemont to replace the bridge on West Oxbow Road over Wilder Brook is scheduled for May 19, 2020.
- The PS&E for the FFY 2020 project in Charlemont to replace the bridge on Tower Road over the Chickley River is due on May 8, 2020 and the ROW and ENV clearance are pending. The current amendment brings the estimate up from \$3,839,236 to \$5,692,059
- The 100% design of the FFY 2020 project in Colrain to improve the intersection at Main, Jacksonville and Greenfield roads is anticipated on May 1, 2020 and will include a cost increase for safety signage. ENV and ROW clearance are not yet secured; the latter is dependent on a town meeting.
- The public hearing on the FFY 2021 project in Buckland to reconstruct and widen Conway St, Summer St, South St and Conway Road, originally scheduled for March 31, 2020 has not yet been rescheduled.

Hanson reported on the status of TIP projects in District 2:

- Bids on the FFY 2019 project to replace the bridge on Route 2 over Route 202 in Orange are to be opened today. The next step will be the Notice To Proceed.
- The advertising date of the FFY 2020 project of resurfacing and related work on Route 47 (from Rt. 116 to Claybrook Dr.) in Sunderland remains September 12, 2020.
- Regarding current construction
 - The project to replace the bridge on Route 5 over the Shattuck Brook in Sunderland was advertised on April 25, 2020 and bids are scheduled to be opened on June 23, 2020.
 - The resurfacing and related work on Routes 5 & 10 (from Old State Rd to Conway Rd) in Deerfield and Whately was due to FAPRO yesterday, and is scheduled to be advertised on May 9, 2020.
 - The project to rehabilitate the General Pierce Bridge on Montague City Road over the Connecticut River between Greenfield and Montague was advertised on March 14, 2020 and the bid opening is scheduled for June 2, 2020.
- Deadlines for the upcoming Tier 2 and Tier 3 Complete Street (www.masscompletestreets.com) submissions have been extended. Tier 2 Prioritization Plan applications are being accepted on a rolling basis through June 1, 2020, and Tier 3 Construction applications are due July 1, 2020.

Neither district has yet held a virtual public hearing.

8 – Updates from FRCOG:

None.

9 – Updates from FRTA:

Michael Perrault

Perrault described FRTA efforts, since the end of March, to stem the spread of COVID-19. While reducing runs on all routes, it is prioritizing service for those needing rides to work, medical appointments, pharmacies and grocery stores. Further, the FRTA has stopped enforcing the payment of fares, instituted a rear-door entry process, and provided plexi-glass barriers, cleaning supplies and personal protective equipment to drivers, he said.

10 – Updates from FRPB:

None.

11 – Public Comments

Omar Mejia invited members to attend a Safe Routes to School webinar titled “New Tools for Schools” the following day at noon.

12 – Additional business not reasonably anticipated within 48 hours

None.

13 – Next Meeting / Adjourn

The next scheduled meeting of the TPO is Tuesday, May 26, 2020 at 12:00 PM.

Perlman moved to adjourn the meeting, Masse seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 12:56 PM.

Documents Distributed / Presentations Viewed:

- Agenda
- FRPB Minutes March 24, 2020 – DRAFT
- 2020 TIP Amendment 1 Summary
- FFY 2020 Franklin TIP Amendment 1 DRAFT REVISED
- DRAFT Franklin 2021-2-25 TIP Text (98 pages):
<https://frcog.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/DRAFT-Franklin-2021-2025-TIP-Text.pdf>
- Draft 2021-2025 TIP Highway Project List (5 pages):
<https://frcog.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/DRAFT-Franklin-2021-2025-TIP-Highway-List.pdf>
- Draft: 2021 Unified Planning Work Program (63 pages):
<https://frcog.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Draft-Franklin-2021-UPWP.pdf>
- DRAFT_Amendment_Franklin_MOU_4-25-2020