



Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Franklin County Transportation Planning Organization

Date:	Tuesday, January 25, 2022
Time:	12:00 PM
Location:	https://zoom.us/j/92172017954?pwd=Y1pOSVN4NFUydIArcDIXUFg5YmFsdz09 Meeting ID: 921 7201 7954 Passcode: Wagb+0F^7+
Duration:	45 minutes
Facilitator:	Steven Woelfel, MassDOT OTP

FCTPO Members in Attendance:

Steven Woelfel, MassDOT OTP (representing MassDOT Secretary Jamey L. Tesler)
Paula Simmons, MassDOT District 2 (representing MassDOT Highway Admin. Jonathan Gulliver)
Heather Butler, Western County Representative
Steve Ellis, Eastern County Representative (arrived after agenda item 2)
Kevin Fox, FRCOG Executive Committee
Bill Perlman, FRCOG Regionally Elected Representative (arrived after votes)
Eric Twarog, FRTA Chair
Andrew Raovan, non-voting FHWA representative
David Traverse, non-voting FRPB representative

Guests:

Hannah Davis, Town of Whately
Chris Klem, MassDOT OTP
Derek Krevat, MassDOT OTP
Michelle Ho, MassDOT OTP
Peter Frieri, MassDOT District 1
Mark Moore, MassDOT District 1
Daryl Amaral, MassDOT District 2
Laura Hanson, MassDOT District 2
Tina Cote, FRTA
Michael Perreault, FRTA
Diana Szynal, Franklin County Chamber of Commerce
Corrinne Coryat, Office of Representative Natalie Blais
Geoff Kravitz, Town of Sunderland

Staff:

Linda Dunlavy, Executive Director

Maureen Mullaney, Transportation and GIS Program Manager II
Beth Giannini, Senior Transportation Planner II
Megan Rhodes, Sr. Transportation & Land Use Planner
Laurie Scarbrough, Transportation Planning Engineer
Liz Jacobson-Carroll, Assistant Planner

1 - Welcome and Introductions

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 August 24, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Perlman moved to approve the August 24, 2021 minutes, Fox seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously, by roll call, with no abstentions.

3 - Review and vote to release for a 21-day public comment period Draft Amendment #1 to the Highway Listing of the FY 2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) - Scarbrough

Scarbrough indicated that the cost estimate for Project 612088 Gill-Erving Resurfacing and Related work on Route 2 has decreased by \$1,661,897, and that at 28% of the total cost, an amendment is required. In response to a question referencing inflation and rising construction costs, Simmons indicated that the in-house design team carefully reviewed the numbers, and believe that the estimate is appropriate, particularly given the 2022 advertising date.

Perlman moved to release for a 21-day public comment period Draft Amendment #1 to the Highway Listing of the FY 2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP); Twarog seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously, by roll call, with no abstentions.

4 – Review and vote to approve PM1 Safety Performance Measures CY22 (- Klem) &

5 – Comparison of MA Safety Performance Measures to Franklin Co. Numbers – (Scarbrough)

Klem explained the pandemic-related reason for disregarding 2021 data in the calculations, and reported CY22 projections with downward trends for total fatalities (-2.5%, 340), the fatality rate (0.56/100,000 vehicle miles), total serious injuries (2504), the serious injuries rate (4.11/100,000 vehicle miles), and the total number of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries (471).

Scarbrough provided Franklin County statistics for comparison with regional performance measures. The rate of total fatalities decreased from .79 to .67 per 100,000 vehicle miles, but remains higher than that of the state. The total serious injuries (30.6) and serious injuries rate (3.30/1000,000 vehicle miles) represent a downward trend and remain lower than those of the state. Finally, like the state, Franklin County experienced a sharp decline in non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries averaged over 5 years (from 6.0 – 4.2). In response to a question regarding the effects of alcohol consumption, Scarbrough indicated that staff's current workplan calls for a deeper analysis of factors contributing to crashes.

Perlman moved to accept and approve the statewide PM1 Safety Performance Measures for CY22 as presented; Butler seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously, by roll call, with no abstentions.

6 – Presentation on Culvert Assessment Work in Franklin County - Rhodes

Rhodes summarized several years of work to locate, assess, document, map and inventory culverts in nine towns. A typical Franklin County roadway has ten culverts for every mile of road, she said; Ashfield has 1000 culverts in all. Lots of positive feedback on the use of these web-based interactive on-line inventories has come from both highway department staff and town officials. The former track and plan for maintenance, repair, and replacement by using specific data points regarding the conditions in and around each culvert. The latter – town administrators, finance committee and select board members -- consider the larger picture for annual budgeting and longer-term capital planning. Users are able to update the data in this asset management system as issues are addressed. FRCOG staff plan to inventory two more towns in 2022, and another three in 2023.

7 – Updates from MassDOT District 1 - Frieri

Frieri reported that FFY 2022 Project 608858 to replace a bridge on East Oxbow Road in Charlemont is estimated at \$3,649,897, and that MassDOT and designer CHA will meet to resolve comments on 25% design in February. The Notice To Proceed on the FFY 2021 project (606463) to reconstruct and widen several Buckland roads was issued on January 12, 2022, he said.

8 – Updates from MassDOT District 2 -Hanson

Hanson reported on two FFY projects in Gill and Erving. The PSE for the resurfacing of Route 2 (612088) was submitted on 1/21/22, and the ad date is 3/19/22. The French King Bridge barrier project (608056) was advertised 1/8/22, and bids will be opened on 3/1/22. Regarding FFY 2023 projects, she said that the 25% virtual DPH for the intersection improvements at two locations in Greenfield (608414) is scheduled for 2/22/22 (ad date of 5/13/23). Following cost increases, the resubmitted reconstruction of part of North Main Street and a culvert in Orange (603371) is expected to be presented at the PRC meeting on 2/10/22 (ad date 2/11/23); this represents the first of two years of the accelerated project. Finally, she mentioned that the public hearing on the FFY 2025 Whately project (605983) to rehab Haydenville Road was held on 1/12/22, and that the proposed ad date on this first year of this two year project is 11/30/24.

9 - Updates from FRCOG: - Dunlavy

Dunlavy reported that Valley Flyer ridership is up, and that it is among the most popular routes in the North East. The marketing program has been very successful, she said, and staff have submitted an application to the MA Office of Travel Tourism for funds to continue it. Also, FRCOG has written in support of Rep. Blais and Sen. Hinds legislation to create a working group to look at the challenges faced by towns characterized by dirt and gravel roads.

10 – Updates from FRTA - Twarog

Twarog announced that BW Construction of Spencer was awarded the maintenance facility contract; this is the same firm that recently built Montague's public safety facility. Substantial completion is anticipated by 11/2022.

11 – Updates from the FRPB None

12 – Public Comments None

13 – Additional business not reasonably anticipated within 48 hours

Mullaney invited Ellis to provide his thoughts on the status of the proposed replacement of two bridges over the canal in Turners Falls. Ellis offered Town assistance to MassDOT in its dealings with FirstLight and FERC; Hanson suggested that David Lund may be in touch regarding scoping of the project. Ellis noted that the White Bridge was installed in 1938 as a temporary replacement for its predecessor. Woelfel indicated that the annual MassDOT innovation conference will be held in hybrid format prior to Memorial Day 2022.

14 – Next Meeting / Adjourn

The next TPO meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 22, 2022. Members should expect regular monthly meetings through June, with the review of the TIP and UPWP on the agendas.

Perlman moved to adjourn, Ellis seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 12:45 PM.

Documents Distributed / Presentations Viewed

- Agenda
- FRPB Minutes, August 24, 2021 – DRAFT
- Summary of 2022 TIP Highway Amendment 1
- PM 1 Safety Performance Measures CY22 – Statewide
- Culvert Inventories (PowerPoint)
- 01-25-22 Franklin TPO Update (District 1)
- 1/25/2022 FTPO Meeting – D2 Updates