



Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Franklin County Transportation Planning Organization

Date:	Tuesday, August 24, 2021
Time:	12:00 PM
Location:	https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/826418421 or +1 (877) 309-2073 or +1 (571) 317-3129 Access code: 826-418-421
Duration:	20 minutes
Facilitator:	Steven Woelfel, MassDOT OTP

FCTPO Members in Attendance:

Steven Woelfel, MassDOT (representing MassDOT Secretary Jamey L. Tesler)
Paula Simmons, MassDOT District 2 (representing MassDOT Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver)
Heather Butler, Western County Representative
Steve Ellis, Central County Representative
Gabrielle Voelker, Eastern County Representative
Kevin Fox, FRCOG Executive Committee
Bill Perlman, FRCOG Regionally Elected Representative (arrived after votes)
Eric Twarog, FRTA Chair
Marlo Warner II, DPW Director, City of Greenfield (representing Mayor Roxann Wedegartner)
Andrew Raovan, non-voting FHWA representative

Guests:

Derek Krevat, MassDOT OTP
Peter Frieri, MassDOT District 1
Mark Moore, MassDOT District 1
Laura Hanson, MassDOT District 2
Gus Norrbom, MassDOT OTP
Geoff Kravitz, Town of Sunderland Town Administrator
Christopher Parker, Town of Wendell Planning Board
Michael Perreault, FRTA

Staff:

Linda Dunlavy, Executive Director
Beth Giannini, Senior Transportation Planner II
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 July 27, 2021 Meeting Minutes:

Ellis moved to approve the July 27, 2021 minutes, Warner seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously, by roll call, with no abstentions.

3 – Review and Vote to Endorse a Draft Amendment to the Highway Listing of the FY 2021-25 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP):

Laurie Scarbrough

Scarbrough reminded members that the TPO voted at its July meeting to release for a 21-day comment period, an amendment to the TIP to accommodate a cost increase of \$7, 995,516 (for a \$30,003,431 total) on the Northfield project to replace the Schell Bridge. She explained that the amendment was posted on the FRCOG website and published in The Recorder, as required, but that no comments were received. In response to questions from Ellis, Scarbrough indicated that funds to cover the increase would not be transferred from those already assigned to regional projects. Simmons noted that the large increase was prompted by a structural review suggested by the OPM, and by the increasing price of steel; she does not see this as indicative of a trend. **Warner motioned to endorse the amendment, Twarog seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously, by roll call, with no abstentions.**

4 – Updates from MassDOT District 1:

Peter Frieri

Frieri reported on the FFY21 Buckland project to reconstruct and widen Conway St, Summer St, South St, and Conway Rd. The ROW certificate was issued mid-July, the environmental permitting has cleared, and the revised final design and estimate of \$8,108,399 was received on August 19th. He indicated that the FFY22 Charlemont project to replace the bridge on East Oxbow Rd over the Oxbow Brook has been re-assigned to a new designer (CHA), a scoping meeting was held on August 16th, and the project is re-starting.

5 – Updates from MassDOT District 2:

Laura Hanson

Hanson indicated that the PS&E on the Northfield Schell Bridge project was received on August 20th and is currently under review. The ad date is scheduled for September 11th. In response to questions from Scarbrough and Ellis regarding the removal and replacement of two bridges over the canal in Turners Falls, she will arrange a conference call with Dan Sund, the MassDOT District 2 bridge engineer.

6 – Updates from FRCOG:

Linda Dunlavy

Dunlavy reported that FRCOG transportation planners are in the season of counting – trains, cars, bikes, rafts kayaks, culverts, and more; the data will help guide their planning in the year(s) to come. FRCOG emergency preparedness planners are facilitating the regional switch to the Commonwealth Interoperable Radio System (CoMIRS), and are re-considering the nomenclature and content of what was supposed to be the “After-Action” conference and report on the regional response to CoVID-19.

7 – Updates from FRTA:

Michael Perrault

Regarding the planned FRTA maintenance building, Twarog reported that the Town of Montague has transferred the deed and finalized easement documents for the property, that the construction documents are in process, and that the project will go out to bid in September. The Elm Street Terrace project will also go out to bid in September, he said.

8 – Updates from FRPB:

None.

9 – Public Comments

None.

10 – Additional business not reasonably anticipated within 48 hours

None.

11 – Next Meeting / Adjourn

The next TPO meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 28, 2021 at noon; it may be cancelled, however, as there is currently no business to be conducted.

Warner moved to adjourn the meeting, Ellis seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 12:20 PM.

Documents Distributed / Presentations Viewed:

- Agenda
- FRPB Minutes, July 27, 2021 – DRAFT
- DRAFT Franklin 2021-2025 TIP Highway AMENDMENT 1