



Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Franklin County Transportation Planning Organization

Date:	Tuesday, February 22, 2022
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:	47 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)
Bill Perlman, FRCOG Regionally Elected Representative
Kevin Fox, FRCOG Executive Committee
Eric Twarog, FRTA Chair
Heather Butler, Western County Representative
Gabrielle Voelker, Eastern County Representative
Andrew Reovan, FHWA non-voting member

Guests:

Derek Krevat, MassDOT OTP
Chris Klem, MassDOT OTP
Derek Shooster, MassDOT OTP
Mark Moore, MassDOT District 1
Peter Frieri, MassDOT District 1
Daryl Amaral, MassDOT District 2
Tom Ruta, MassDOT District 2
Tina Cote, FRTA
Michael Perreault, FRTA
Brian Domina, Town of Whately
Elizabeth Quirk
Walt Woo, Stantec
Colin Killay, Windham Regional Planning Commission

Staff:

Linda Dunlavy, Executive Director
Maureen Mullaney, Transportation & GIS Program Manager II
Laurie Scarbrough, Transportation Planning Engineer

Beth Giannini, Senior Transportation Planner II
Liz Jacobson-Carroll, Assistant Planner

1 – Welcome and introductions

-Woelfel

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m..

2 – Review and approval of the January 25, 2022 meeting minutes

-Woelfel

Perlman moved to approve the January 25, 2022 minutes, Voelker seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously by roll call, with Voelker abstaining, and Butler not present.

3 – Review and vote to endorse Draft Amendment #1 to the Highway Listing of the FY 2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

-Scarborough

Scarborough explained a change in the amount of the cost decrease indicated in the draft of the amendment released for public comment by the TPO at the January meeting; this second draft reflects MassDOT's subsequent adjustment. *Perlman moved to endorse the Draft Amendment #1 to the Highway Listing of the FY 2022 TIP, Twarog seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously by roll call.*

4 – Discussion of FY 2023-2027 TIP targets and potential projects

-Scarborough

Figures in the chart, shared by Scarborough, reflect an expected 18% cost increase annually. On February 8 (“Readiness Day”), FRCOG and MassDOT staff (from multiple sections including OTP, Project Management, Right of Way, and more) met to review scheduled and future projects. Scarborough summarized the notable changes they made:

- The Charlemont Oxbow Bridge project (608858) was moved from the FY22 to the FY24 TIP, as a new designer was assigned and it will not be ready to be advertised until then.
- The FY23 Orange Reconstruction of Main Street project (603371) was pushed back to the future projects list, as unresolved ROW issues and a large cost increase (to approximately \$10 million) mean it will not be deliverable until 2024. This change will have significant impact on the TIP, and MassDOT is recommending a scoping review of the project, she noted.
- The FY23 Conway North Poland Bridge Replacement project (609082) needs a design submission, and has been pushed to FY24.
- The Northfield Birnham Road bridge project (602319) has been bumped to FY24, pending design scheduling; it may again be revisited for FY23 readiness.
- The Whately Haydenville Road project (605983) is scheduled to be advertised in FY25, but FRCOG staff have asked MassDOT to explore the possibility of moving it forward to FY24.

Regarding the “universe of projects” to be scheduled, Scarborough indicated that revised TIP Transportation Evaluation Criteria (TEC) will be tested on these projects. She noted that there are some new bridge projects to be aware of – replacing two bridges spanning the Greenfield-Montague/Turners Falls canal district (612507), which need extensive scoping, and another spanning the Montague Sawmill River. Voelker read aloud a letter from the Orange Select Board, Finance Committee and herself (Town Administrator) asking the TPO to consider covering the \$2,318,319 funding gap in the North Main Street project caused by a long-delayed timeframe and increased construction costs. She noted the Town’s recent investment of another \$1 million in design and right-of-way, and the vital importance of the project.

5 – Discussion of TIP Transportation Evaluation Criteria (TEC)

-Scarborough

Scarborough discussed the work done by FRCOG, MassDOT, and District staff to revise the TEC, originally written in 2004, in order to bring it into alignment with updated state and local goals and priorities. The

group considered the current relevancy and the weight of each criterion in 6 slightly revised categories: Condition; Mobility; Safety & Security; Community Effects and Support; Livability & Sustainable Development; and Environment, Climate & Resiliency. They added new metrics to ensure consistent application, and developed a new rating scale. New metrics include criteria pertaining to asset management, improvements to facilities and other infrastructure, congestion and evacuation routes, age-friendliness, job access, and historical/cultural resources, among others. Finally, the TEC is now divided into two parts – one for roadway projects, and another for non-roadway projects, with criteria, metrics and point scales more specifically applicable to each. Staff will test the new criteria by re-scoring old projects, then will bring the revised TEC to the TPO for approval.

6 – Update from MassDOT District 1

-Frieri

Frieri provided updates on 5 projects:

- 606463 In Buckland, the FFY21 multi-road reconstruction project Notice to Proceed was issued 1/12/22 with Baltazar Contractors, Inc.
- 608858 In Charlemont, the FFY22 Oxbow Brook bridge replacement is currently estimated at \$3,649,897, the 25% design public hearing is anticipated in March '22, and the 75% design submittal is anticipated in June '22.
- 608649 In Colrain, the Route 112 bridge deck preservation 25% design submittal is anticipated late summer '22.
- 609082 In Conway, the North Poland Road bridge replacement 25% design submittal is scheduled for April '22.

7 – Update from MassDOT District 2

-Amaral

Amaral provided updates on 4 projects:

- 608056 In Erving and Gill, the FFY22 project to install protective screening on the French King Bridge was advertised 1/8/2022, and bids will be opened on 3/8/2022.
- 612088 Also in Gill and Erving in FFY22, the resurfacing of Route 2 roadway design is at PS&E, and the current ad date is 3/19/22.
- 603371 The Orange reconstruction of Main Street in FFY23 design is at 75%, was re-approved on 2/10/22, 100% design is due 6/13/22, and the current ad date is 02/11/2023 (accelerated, year 1 of 2).
- 608414 The Greenfield intersection improvements at two locations on Route 2 in FFY23 has a current ad date of 5/13/2023.

8 – Update from FRCOG

-Mullaney

Mullaney referred to FRCOG's collaboration with Rep. Blais' to assess the condition of unpaved roads in the county, then advocate for annual state funding for maintenance and repair. Staff has created an interactive online map to which anyone can pin locations, and add descriptions and photos. FRCOG has sent a survey requesting help to highway superintendents and others. Mullaney mentioned that staff is planning its annual season of conducting traffic counts, and encouraged those towns with needs to email Scarbrough promptly.

9 – Update from FRTA

-Twarog

Twarog announced that sitework has begun on the new maintenance facility, and temporary electric service is scheduled for installation early in March. Bids on the Elm Terrace bus stop project have been received, and the project is on track to be completed on 6/15/22. The FRTA has applied for a Shared Streets & Spaces grant, with the Town of Montague, in hopes of adding a bus stop at the intersection of Millers Road and Industrial Boulevard. The FRTA, with help from FRCOG, will be hosting a series of "Community Conversations on Transit" in the coming months.

10 – Update from FRPB

None.

11 – Public Comments

None.

12 – Additional business not reasonably anticipated within 48 hours

None.

13 – Next Meeting/Adjourn

The next scheduled meeting of the TPO is Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at noon. *Voelker moved to adjourn the meeting, Fox seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 12:47 PM.*

Documents Distributed / Presentations Viewed:

- Agenda
- FRPB Minutes, January 25, 2022 – DRAFT
- 2022 TIP Highway Amendment 1 Summary
- Franklin Region 2023-2027 Proposed TIP Targets
- FINAL Franklin 2022-2026 TIP Highway Project List AMENDMENT 1
- Franklin Region TIP Project Readiness FFY 2022-2027
- Draft FRCOG TEC 2022 Non-roadway Projects
- Draft FRCOG TEC 2022 Roadway Projects
- 02-22-22 Franklin TPO Update District 1
- D-2 updates at TPO meeting, 2/23/22 email