



Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Franklin County Transportation Planning Organization

Date:	Tuesday, May 26, 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:	43 minutes
Facilitator:	Dave Mohler, MassDOT OTP

FCTPO Members in Attendance:

Dave Mohler, MassDOT OTP (representing MassDOT Secretary Jamey L. Tesler)
Paula Simmons, MassDOT District 2 (representing MassDOT Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver)
Kevin Fox, FRCOG Executive Committee
Eric Twarog, FRTA Chair
Heather Butler, Western County Representative
Steve Ellis, Central County Representative
Marlo Warner II, DPW Director, City of Greenfield (representing Mayor Roxann Wedegartner)

Guests:

Andrew Reovan, FHWA
Michelle Ho, FHWA
Chris Klem, MassDOT OTP
Andrew Wang, MassDOT OTP
Mark Moore, MassDOT District 1
Peter Frieri, MassDOT District 1
Daryl Amaral, MassDOT District 2
Laura Hanson, MassDOT District 2
David Travers, FRPB representative
Brian Domina, Town of Whately
Mariah Kurtz, Town of Erving
Jacob A. Smith, Town of Erving
Elizabeth Quirk, FRTA Transit Advisory Committee

Staff:

Linda Dunlavy, Executive Director
Laurie Scarbrough, Transportation Planning Engineer
Beth Giannini, Senior Transportation Planner II
Megan Rhodes, Senior Transportation/Land Use Planner

1 – Welcome and introductions

-Mohler

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 May 3, 2022 Meeting Minutes:

-Mohler

E. Twarog moved to approve the May 3, 2022 minutes, with two additions to the attendance list, M. Warner seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously by roll call.

3 – Review and vote to endorse an amendment to the 2022-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP):

-Laurie Scarbrough

Scarbrough reviewed the amendment. The amendment includes the addition of a project to install a solar array on the FRTA maintenance building in Montague (flexing funds from regional target to FTA for transit project, total cost \$1,000,000), a change in funding source listed for the Franklin County Bikeway sign installation project from STBG to CMAQ (total cost \$200,000), and a change to the project to replace the bridge on East Oxbow Road in Charlemont from FFY 2022 to FFY 2024 (total cost \$2,896,458). No public comments were received during the 21-day public comment period.

M. Warner made a motion to endorse an amendment to the 2022-2026 Transportation Improvement Program, S. Ellis seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously by roll call.

4 – Review and vote to endorse the FY 2023-2027 TIP:

-Laurie Scarbrough

Scarbrough noted that comments received during the recent 21-day comment were incorporated into the final document. The comments received from the MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning and the Federal Highway Administration were minor corrections and revisions to the narrative. MassDOT District 2 provided a comment in support of the project to rehabilitate the Rt. 10 bridge over the CT River in Northfield. Questions were submitted from a Colrain resident about the 2027 project to replace a bridge on Adamsville Road which were referred to the Town Administrator and the District 1 bridge engineer.

Scarbrough reviewed the five year listing of projects, by fiscal year, and by section. Scarbrough provided an update on the projects being considered for the \$4.68 million un-programmed balance for FY 2023. The project include municipal projects in Montague, Erving and Buckland, a District 2 bridge preservation project on Route 10 over CT River in Northfield, and a District 1 bridge project on Route 2 over the Deerfield River in Charlemont. The reconstruction of the upper end of North Street in Buckland has been approved by the MassDOT Project Review Committee (PRC). The project to replace a culvert on Ferry Road in Montague and the project to replace the Church Street Bridge in Erving are working their way through the MassDOT project initiation process. Once the process is complete, Scarbrough will bring the full list back to the TPO to determine how best to prioritize approved projects to spend the un-programmed balance.

Dunlavy thanked D1 for getting Buckland’s North Street project to the Project Review Committee (PRC) in May, then initiated a discussion regarding the scheduling of those meetings. Further, she noted the potential benefit of FRCOG resuming local info sessions for towns to help them navigate the TIP process. Hanson detailed the steps by which towns submit projects to the PRC (via the MaPIT project initiation tool), the subsequent meetings between MassDOT and towns/consultants/engineers, additional submissions by the towns which trigger geo-processing reviews, project scoring by district personnel, the internal pre-PRC meeting, and then the final PRC approval/denial process.

S. Ellis made a motion to endorse the TIP as presented, M. Warner seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously by roll call.

5 – Review and vote to endorse the FY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program:

-Megan Rhodes

Rhodes noted that while MassDOT submitted comments during the 21-day review process which

prompted several minor revisions on the draft, and staff added reference to the bipartisan infrastructure law, the content (budgets, projects, and timeframes) on the UPWP have not changed since the last meeting.

E. Twarog made a motion to approve the FY 2023 as distributed prior to the meeting, M. Warner seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously by roll call.

6 – Update on the Statewide Long Range Transportation Plan: -Chris Klem

Klem provided an overview of MassDOT’s process to update the long range transportation plan titled “Beyond Mobility.” The plan will articulate a vision for the future of transportation in the state, document priorities to be addressed between now and 2050, and will guide capital planning. To learn of users’ needs and barriers to transportation, MassDOT has completed multi-lingual and multi-ethnic focus groups and interviews, has launched a community survey, and will hold stakeholder meetings throughout the summer. Klem asked FRCOG Transportation Planning staff for help distributing the survey, activity notices, website information, QR codes and social media posts about the project. Mohler emphasized the need for input from Western MA, and asked for help with the distribution of the survey (deadline July 8).

7 – Updates from MassDOT District 1 - Peter Frieri

Frieri summarized progress on the FFY21 project to reconstruct Conway/Summer/South Street and Conway Road in Buckland, noting that completion of the project is anticipated in the fall of 2023. He noted that there are no D1 projects currently programmed in FFY 22, and is anticipating a 25% design submittal late summer 2022 for the multi-bridge project including two on Route 112 in Colrain. Finally, he listed the four bridge projects programmed for FFY 2024 (in Charlemont, Conway, Heath and Rowe), all in some phase of design.

8—Updates from MassDOT District 2 - Daryl Amaral

Amaral summarized progress on the two FFY 22 projects. Contract to install protective screening on the French King Bridge connecting Gill and Erving over the CT River, and the resurfacing of that section of Route 2, were awarded to Northern Construction Services and Eurovia Atlantic Coast LLC, respectively, with notices to proceed issued in April and May. FFY 2023 projects include the Orange/No. Main Street reconstruction project (moved FFY 24) is progressing toward an ad date of December 2023, and the project to improve two intersections along Route 2 in Greenfield is headed toward a May 2023 advertising date.

Hanson noted that the application for the Montague project referenced earlier was not received until after the May 12th PRC meeting, but the Project Need has since been received and approved. Ellis expressed his appreciation for the guidance provided by Hanson and others at MassDOT.

9– Update from FRCOG: - Linda Dunlavy

Dunlavy expressed thanks to MassDOT staff for their assistance and patience as FRCOG staff struggle to submit some forms during the extended medical leave of Maureen Mullaney. She indicated that staff is navigating state procurement laws as it plans to spend the additional \$100,000 from MassDOT for to continue marketing The Valley Flyer. Dunlavy announced that the application by the Town of Deerfield and FRTA for a Shared Streets and Spaces grant, both of which the FRCOG staff assisted in developing, was successful. Lastly, staff has been invited, by a colleague from Nantucket, to discuss the possibility of the rural regions of MA collaborating to submit an application for Safe Streets for All grant; Dunlavy will be in touch with Mohler following the initial conversation.

10 – Update from FRTA: None. - Michael Perrault

11 – Update from FRPB: 40 minutes, 15 seconds.

Travers announced that the FRPB has been hosting presentations and providing information to assist towns addressing the state’s new model floodplain bylaw requirements, from both MEMA and FEMA, which regulate new development in the 100-year floodplain.

12 – Public Comments: None.

13 – Additional business not reasonably anticipated within 48 hours: None.

14 – Next Meeting/Adjourn

The next scheduled meeting of the TPO is Tuesday, June 28, 2022 at noon. *M. Warner moved to adjourn the meeting, S. Ellis seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 12:43PM.*

Documents Distributed / Presentations Viewed:

- Agenda
- FRPB Minutes, May 3, 2022 – DRAFT
- FCTPO 2022 TIP Amendment 2 Endorsement
- Summary of Franklin 2022-2026 TIP Highway Amendment 2
- Franklin 2022-2026 TIP Highway Project List Amendment 2
- FCTPO 2023-2027 TIP Endorsement
- Franklin 2023-2027 TIP Narrative
- Franklin 2023-2027 TIP Highway Project List
- Franklin 2023-2027 TIP Transit Project List
- Summary of Franklin 2023-2027 TIP Comments Received
- FCTPO 2023 UPWP Endorsement Sheet
- Franklin 2023 UPWP FINAL
- May 2022 MPO Meeting Slides - Beyond Mobility