



Franklin Regional Council of Governments
Franklin County Transportation Planning Organization

Date:	Tuesday, September 27, 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:	30 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)
 Eric Twarog, FRTA Chair
 Linda Dunlavy (representing FRCOG Executive Committee member Kevin Fox)
 Steve Ellis, Central County Representative

Guests:

Chris Klem, MassDOT OTP
 Derek Krevat, MassDOT OTP
 Andrew Wang, MassDOT OTP
 Peter Frieri, MassDOT District 1
 Mark Moore, MassDOT District 1
 Daryl Amaral, MassDOT District 2
 Laura Hanson, MassDOT District 2
 Andrew Reovan, Federal Highway
 Mariah Kurtz, Town of Erving

Staff:

Laurie Scarbrough, Transportation Planning Engineer
 Beth Giannini, Senior Transportation Planner II
 Liz Jacobson-Carroll, Assistant Planner

Agenda Items:

1 – Welcome and introductions

-Woelfel

The meeting was called to order at 12:03 p.m., and was followed by a round of introductions. The order of agenda items was re-arranged to ensure a quorum in attendance for items 2 and 4.

3 – Update on FFY 2023 projects under consideration:

-Scarbrough

Scarbrough reviewed the current status of projects under consideration to receive \$4.7 million remaining FFY 2023 TIP Highway funds, noting that the TPO had voted in June to support projects in Buckland and

Montague. An amendment cannot be made until FHWA approves the STIP. Scarbrough reported that FRCOG transportation staff met with MassDOT Districts 1 and 2 and the MassDOT Office of Transportation and Planning representatives to begin TEC scoring of projects. There are still several scoring sessions to conduct and she will give a presentation on the results at a future FCTPO meeting.

Scarbrough requested status updates from the town and district representatives. Ellis noted that the Montague project was reviewed by the PRC and met all criteria in September. He is awaiting formal approval, and will provide documentation of recent cost increases at a later date. Kurtz noted that the Erving project was also approved by the PRC. Hanson indicated that the Northfield bridge preservation project was approved by the PRC on 5/12/22, and that planned advertising is on-schedule. Frieri indicated that if selected, the Charlemont steel painting project could come together quickly, if funded. Amaral reiterated that District 2 would appreciate TPO consideration of the Northfield bridge preservation project, citing traffic data, interstate travel, improved bike lanes and ADA accessibility as evidence of its importance.

6 – Updates from MassDOT District 2

Hanson and Amaral reported that the General Pierce Bridge remains on schedule to re-open in May 2023; that the project to improve two Route 2 intersections in Greenfield is scheduled for advertisement in July 2023; and that the project on School Street in Orange is scheduled to advertise in June 2024. Amaral explained that a new high-friction surface was applied to a curve on Route 2 in Greenfield, near Gill, to improve safety. He also noted that PRC recently notified him that the Montague culvert project may be eligible for inclusion in the Resiliency Program.

5 – Updates from MassDOT District 1

Frieri indicated that they are receiving responses for the project to clean and paint the underside of the Route 2 bridge in Charlemont, initiated in response to public concerns. Following a recent meeting, there will soon be a walk-through with Weston & Sampson of the North Street Buckland project, and a 25% design is anticipated in November, he said. Regarding the 2023 preservation of the bridge over the North River in Colrain (among others in Lee and Stockbridge), a final design was received earlier in the month. The project cost has increased to \$2.5 million. The four bridge projects programmed in 2024 are proceeding: Charlemont's 75% design is due this fall; Conway's 25% design was received in August; Heath's 25% is anticipated in October; and Rowe's 75% is anticipated late fall.

2 – Review and Approval of the July 26, 2022 Meeting Minutes:

E. Twarog moved to approve the July 26, 2022 minutes, L. Dunlavy seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously, with no abstentions, by roll call.

4 – Review and Vote on UPWP budget reallocation:

-Giannini

Giannini stated that due to staff being out on extended medical leave there will be unspent salary funding as the UPWP year is ending, and proposed reallocating unspent FFY 2022 salary funds to provide for software and equipment purchase to support staff work this year and in the future. The following budget reallocation was purposed:

- \$2000 from salary (traffic counting and data collection) to direct costs (mileage reimbursement, a pedestrian counter, and AutoCAD software)
- \$3000 from salary for resiliency and culvert assessments to salary for bikeway and pedestrian planning

L. Dunlavy motioned to reallocate UPWP funds as proposed, E. Twarog seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously, by roll call, with no abstentions.

7 – Update from FRCOG:

-Giannini

Giannini indicated that a draft of the Regional Outdoor Recreation Plan will be available soon. Staff continue to work their way through Franklin County towns providing culvert assessments, and have recently completed one for the Town of Colrain. FRCOG is assisting the FRTA with the marketing of their transit services, and a new campaign is kicking off today.

8 – Update from FRTA:

-Twarog

Twarog indicated that the construction of the maintenance facility building, including roofing, plumbing, electrical and drainage work, continues. He noted that much has been completed in recent months, and the rest is progressing on schedule. FRTA received three 35' transit buses in September, he announced, and the Shared Streets & Spaces construction project at the bus stop at Elm Terrace in Greenfield is expected to be completed in early October.

9 – Update from FRPB: None.

10 – Public Comments: None.

11 – Additional business not reasonably anticipated within 48 hours

Klem encouraged Franklin County members to attend the MassDOT's virtual conference on its long range transportation plan, *Beyond Mobility*, taking place on October 20th. Woefel noted that the hybrid *Moving Together* conference attendance is filling quickly and that those hoping to participate in-person should register soon.

12 – Next Meeting/Adjourn

The next scheduled meeting of the TPO is Tuesday, October 25, 2022 at noon. *L. Dunlavy moved to adjourn the meeting, E. Twarog seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 12:30 PM.*

Documents Distributed / Presentations Viewed:

- Agenda
- TPO Minutes, July 26, 2022 – DRAFT
- Projects for Transportation Evaluation Criteria Scoring Sept. 26, 2022 -- Scoring Group 1: Projects Under Consideration for 2023
- 2022-2026 TIP Project Waiting List (Appendix A)
- FFY 2022 UPWP Budget Reallocation, September 2022