



# Franklin Regional Council of Governments

## Franklin County Transportation Planning Organization

Date:	Tuesday, October 25, 2022
Time:	12:00 PM
Location:	<a href="https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/826418421">https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/826418421</a> or +1 (877) 309-2073 or +1 (571) 317-3129 Access code: 826-418-421
Duration:	38 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  
Eric Twarog, FRTA Chair  
Heather Butler, Western County Representative

### **Guests:**

Derek Krevat, MassDOT OTP  
Chris Klem, MassDOT OTP  
Andrew Wang, MassDOT OTP  
Michelle Ho, MassDOT OTP  
Mark Moore, MassDOT District 1  
Peter Frieri, MassDOT District 1  
Daryl Amaral, MassDOT District 2  
Laura Hanson, MassDOT District 2  
Tom Ruta, MassDOT District 2  
Andrew Reovan, FHWA  
Michael Perreault, FRTA (representing FRTA Chair Eric Twarog)  
Geoff Kravitz, Town of Sunderland  
Miranda Briseño, Safe Routes to Schools

### **Staff:**

Linda Dunlavy, Executive Director  
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., and a roll call of FCTPO members was taken. Woelfel

prompted a moment of silence in memory of Maureen Mullaney.

**2 – Review and Approval of the September 27, 2022 Meeting Minutes:**

**-Woelfel**

*B. Perlman moved to approve the September 27, 2022 minutes, H. Butler seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously, by roll call, with no abstentions.*

**3 – Review and vote on adjustment to the FY 23-27 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add the FRTA Maintenance Facility Solar Array Installation to FY23 for Informational Purposes: -Scarborough**

Scarborough explained the purpose of the adjustment to the FY 2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program. The \$1,000,000 funds for the FRTA Maintenance Facility Solar array that were programmed in the Highway Element of the FFY 2022 TIP have been transferred from FHWA to FTA for the transit program. This adjustment is to now list these funds in the Transit Element of the 2023 TIP for informational purposes.

*B. Perlman moved to approve the adjustment to the FY 23-27 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to add the FRTA Maintenance Facility Solar Array Installation to FY23 for Informational Purposes. H. Butler seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously, by roll call, with no abstentions.*

**4 – Discussion of schedule for amending the FY23-27 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP): - Scarborough**

Scarborough explained that while it is possible for the TPO to vote to amend the FY23 TIP now to direct the approximately \$4.7 million in un-programmed highway funds, as agreed upon in June, toward projects in Buckland (North St.) and Montague (So. Ferry Rd.), recent discussions suggest that it would be prudent to allow these projects to move further through the MassDOT review process -- to reassure the TPO that they will be able to make their FY2023 advertising dates -- before a formal commitment of the funds. Scarborough suggested postponing the amendment until after TIP Readiness Day, likely in February 2023.

Butler indicated that Buckland's North Street project is proceeding as planned. Weston & Sampson has submitted their 10% design to address some ROW identification issues and ensure Complete Streets compliance. They are working closely with ROW and the district in order to investigate issues thoroughly now in case a timely re-assigning of the funds is appropriate, she added. On behalf of Montague, Scarborough reported that the culvert replacement project has been assigned a MassDOT project manager who will meet with their consultant from Stantec Engineering on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. They anticipate sharing an updated submission schedule and project timeline at the November meeting.

There were no objections to Scarborough's suggested postponement of the vote.

**8 – Update from FRCOG: (Agenda items were shifted to accommodate Dunlavy's schedule.) -Dunlavy**

In tribute to the leadership of Maureen Mullaney, Dunlavy presented a slide show of "30 Years of Work in FRCOG Transportation", which highlighted the many significant accomplishments during her tenure. Dunlavy noted that the stakeholder group that made these possible includes FRCOG, municipalities, engineers, legislators, MassDOT, FWHA, and FRTA. Her photo-rich presentation highlighted projects to: reduce the incidence of traffic accidents; protect boaters and discourage suicide attempts with bridge netting; improve traffic flow at intersections and up hills; maintain community character through gardens, reproduction light fixtures, and historic renovation; expand rural transit, and transit access; re-introduce passenger rail; build and improve bikeways, sidewalks, parks, and trails; encourage bicycle usage with lane markings, signage, billboards, and bike racks; protect pedestrians and encourage walking and hiking; facilitate energy conservation via carpooling, public transportation and electric vehicles to conserve; reduce water pollution and enhance infrastructure resiliency; promote tourism, and work for economic development and the expansion of fiber infrastructure.

**5 – Presentation on Safe Routes to School Infrastructure Launch Program:**

**-Briseño**

Briseño announced that the SRTS infrastructure launch took place earlier in the month, that applications from municipalities are due November 18<sup>th</sup>, and that she is hoping for submissions from around the state. She reviewed aspects of the program including eligibility requirements for both applicants and projects; what is covered by the grants and how they are categorized by cost; project budget examples; updated infrastructure compliance standards; and other considerations. She iterated the grant cycle schedule indicating award announcements in January 2023 and provided a sample 5-year project timeline. (See the attached presentation for additional details.)

**6 – Updates from MassDOT District 1:**

**-Frieri**

Frieri noted the status of FFY '23 and '24 projects including the preservation of two bridges in Colrain (final design completed, 1stQ advertising anticipated); Charlemont's East Oxbow Road bridge replacement (75% design due soon, the public hearing was held in April); Conway's North Poland Road bridge replacement (25% design was submitted in August); Heath's Jacksonville Street bridge replacement (25% design due soon); and Rowe's Cyrus Stage Road bridge replacement (25% public hearing was in June of '21, 75% design due soon).

**7 – Updates from MassDOT District 2:**

**-Amaral**

Amaral noted the status of FFY '23 and '24 projects: two intersection improvement projects in Greenfield (75% design received in July, the public hearing was held in February, 75% design was received in July; environmental permitting is pending, a July '23 ad date is planned); the reconstruction of North Main Street in Orange (design is at 75%, the project was re-approved by PRC in February, environmental permitting is in process, a June '24 ad date is planned); the resurfacing of Greenfield's Montague City Road (there will be a public hearing next month, a January '24 ad date is planned).

**8 – Update from FRCOG (continued):**

**-Giannini, Scarbrough**

Giannini noted that staff have begun work on a regional transportation plan, and will soon suggest avenues for public participation. Scarbrough indicated that staff is in conversation with the towns of Erving and Athol, and the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission (and will soon reach out to District 2 officials), regarding the revival of the Route 2 Task Force.

**9 – Update from FRTA:**

**-Perrault**

Twarog reported that progress continues on the construction of the maintenance facility: the slab has been poured, water and sewer mains have been installed, and the overhead garage doors were delivered. Work on the HVAC system, fire protection features, and electricity and plumbing systems has begun. The project remains on schedule.

**10 – Update from FRPB: None.**

**11 – Public Comments: None.**

**12 – Additional business not reasonably anticipated within 48 hours.**

Woelfel indicated that the in-person registration for MassDOT's Moving Together conference is sold out, but that virtual registration is available for a couple more days.

**13 – Next Meeting/Adjourn**

The next scheduled meeting of the TPO is Tuesday, November 22, 2022, at noon.

*B. Perlman moved to adjourn the meeting, E. Twarog seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 12:38 PM.*

**Documents Distributed / Presentations Viewed:**

- Agenda
- TPO Minutes, September 27, 2022 – DRAFT
- Franklin 2023-2027 TIP Transit Project List Adjustment 1 DRAFT
- SRTS Infrastructure Presentation - October 2022