



# Franklin Regional Council of Governments

## Franklin County Transportation Planning Organization

Date:	Tuesday, November 22, 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:	44 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:

Cassandra Gascon, MassDOT  
 Mark Moore, MassDOT District 1  
 Daryl Amaral, MassDOT District 2  
 Tom Ruta, MassDOT District 2

### Staff:

Laurie Scarbrough, Senior Transportation Planning Engineer  
 Beth Giannini, Transportation Program Manager  
 Megan Rhodes, GIS Program Manager and Planning Coordinator  
 Liz Jacobson-Carroll, Assistant Planner

### 1 – Welcome and introductions

-Woelfel

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m., and was followed by a roll call of the TPO members.

### 2 – Review and Approval of the October 25, 2022 Meeting Minutes:

*B. Perlman moved to approve the October 25, 2022 minutes, E. Twarog seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously, by roll call, with no abstentions.*

### 3 – Discussion and vote to release the updated Franklin County Transportation Planning Organization Public Participation Plan for a 45-day public review:

-Rhodes

Rhodes noted that the public participation plan (PPP) had not been updated since prior to the pandemic,

so was especially needed to articulate virtual engagement guidelines for the FCTPO. Also, staff have removed references to old federal transportation legislation.

*E. Twarog moved to release the updated Franklin County Transportation Planning Organization Public Participation Plan for a 45-day public review, G. Voelker seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously, by roll call, with no abstentions.*

#### **4 – Discussion of public outreach and schedule for the development of the Franklin Regional Transportation Plan:**

**-Rhodes**

Rhodes described public outreach plans including bi-lingual surveys, interactive GIS maps, public meetings with established groups, daytime and evening virtual meetings, and youth input through Greenfield Community College and the Partnership for Youth. Strategies and methods being explored include social media, press releases, personal stakeholder invitations, signs at farmers markets and festivals throughout the county, open houses, and presentations at over a dozen FRCOG-sponsored regional committee meetings. Collectively, these represent a significant increase in outreach efforts.

#### **5 – Presentation on MassDOT’s municipal grant programs and new estimating tool**

**-Gascon**

Gascon introduced the State Aid Reimbursable Programs Estimating Tool (SARPET), a spreadsheet form with embedded (and editable) formulas that enables municipal staff to easily develop reliable cost estimates for small local (<\$2 million, non-TIP) transportation projects. While the tool can be used to develop estimates for other funding sources, it will be particularly helpful for MassDOT funding programs.

Gascon summarized the following programs: Chapter 90, Complete Streets, Local Bottleneck Reduction, Municipal Pavement, Municipal Small Bridge, Shared Streets and Spaces, and Winter Recovery Assistance. She gave examples of user input, cost calculations (updated regularly by MassDOT), excluded costs, and outputs that can be copied/pasted into MassDOT preliminary estimate forms. She pointed attendees to a video tutorial and encouraged them to provide her with feedback after they have given it a try.

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

Moore reviewed the status of FFY 2023 and 2024 TIP projects:

- Bids for the multi-town project that includes construction of two bridges on Route 112 in Colrain will be opened on 12/20/22.
- The current 75% Total Federal Participating Cost (TFPC) of the bridge replacement project on East Oxbow Road in Charlemont is \$4,241,408.
- The current 25% TFPC of the project to replace a bridge on North Poland Road in Conway is \$3,699,324.
- The 25% design submittal for a project to replace a bridge on Jacksonville Street in Heath is anticipated late in 2022.
- The current 25% TFPC for a project to replace a bridge on Cyrus Stage Road in Rowe is \$1,526,220.

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

Amaral reviewed the status of FFY 2023, FFY 2024 and FFY 2026 TIP projects:

- The project to improve two intersections on Route 2 in Greenfield is awaiting environmental permitting, the 100% design is due 1/12/23, and the current ad date is 7/1/23.
- The project to reconstruct a section of North Main Street in Orange is being moved to FY 2024; 100% design is anticipated 6/13/23, and the current ad date is 6/1/24.
- The Design Public Hearing (DPH) project to resurface Montague City Road in Greenfield was held on 11/16/22, and the current ad date is 1/24/26

The DPH for the non-target project to preserve a bridge on Upper Road in Deerfield is scheduled for 12/13/22, and the current ad date is 2/21/26.

#### **8 – Update from FRCOG:**

**-Giannini**

Giannini referenced two current projects. First, she indicated that the development of the marketing campaign for the FRTA is progressing; once it is finalized, staff will present it to the TPO. Second, she said that through MARPA (Massachusetts Regional Planning Association) the regions have begun a MassTrails funded project to collaborate to collect and standardize trail mapping data.

**9 – Update from FRTA:**

**-Perrault**

Perrault noted progress on the construction of FRTA’s maintenance facility, including the pouring of sidewalks and the enclosure of the building. He referenced collaboration with FRCOG on a Montague Shared Streets project; it includes improvements to bus stops, the addition of bike racks, and more, on Millers Falls Road, he said.

**10 – Update from FRPB: None.**

**11 – Public Comments: None.**

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

**12 – Next Meeting/Adjourn**

The December retirement of longtime FRCOG Regionally Elected Representative Bill Perlman was noted. Woelfel and others thanked him for his work, noted their pleasure in serving with him, and wished him well.

The next scheduled meeting of the TPO is Tuesday, January 24, 2023, at noon. *B. Perlman moved to adjourn the meeting, K. Fox seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 12:44 PM.*

**Documents Distributed / Presentations Viewed:**

- Agenda
- TPO Minutes, October 25, 2022 – DRAFT
- SARPET and Muni Programs Overview
- Franklin TPO Update (D1)
- FTPO-District Updates-20221122\_DJA (D2)