

MEETING MINUTES OF THE NORTHERN MIDDLESEX METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION APRIL 27, 2022

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

In light of the COVID-19 emergency executive order authorizing virtual public meetings, the meeting was called to order at 2:00 P.M. via videoconference headquartered at the office of the Northern Middlesex Council of Governments (NMCOG), 40 Church Street, Suite 200, Lowell, MA. Attendees included:

Voting Members:

- Derek Krevat, MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning (Representing MassDOT Secretary Jamey Tesler)
- Frank Suszynski, MassDOT District 4 (Representing MassDOT Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver)
- Tom Bomil, Lowell Regional Transit Authority Board Chair
- Pat Wojtas, Chelmsford Select Board, NMCOG MPO Representative

Voting Members Absent:

- Andrew Deslaurier, Billerica Select Board, NMCOG Chair
- Daniel Rourke, Lowell City Councilor, MPO Representative

Stakeholders and Other Attendees:

- Andrew Reovan, FHWA
- Derek Shooster, MassDOT Planning
- Brian Fallon, MassDOT Projects Engineer
- Sarah Bradbury, MassDOT District 3
- Andrew Wang, MassDOT Planning
- Josh Levin, MassDOT District 4
- Ali Bent, LRTA
- Christine McCall, City of Lowell Assistant City Manager, DPD Director
- Erika Oliver Jerram, Billerica Director of Planning and Community Development
- Stephen Strykowski, Billerica Commission on Disabilities
- David Langlais, Hoyle Tanner

NMMPO Staff:

- Justin Howard, Carlin Andrus, David Tilton, and Katrina Garavanian Northern Middlesex Council of Governments

2. APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 23, 2022 NMMPO MEETING MINUTES

NMMPO members were provided with copies of the March 23, 2022 minutes prior to the meeting. Based on a motion by Tom Bomil and seconded by Pat Wojtas, the March 23, 2022 meeting minutes were approved.

3. STATUS REPORT ON TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) PROJECTS UNDER DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

Brian Fallon updated the NMMPO regarding project information changes since the March 23, 2022 meeting:

- **Tewksbury – Intersection Improvements at Main Street/Pleasant Street & North Street/East Street** – This project has an updated Total Federal Participation Cost of \$4,191,345.
- **Westford – Interstate Maintenance and Related Work on I-495** – This project has been assigned a Total Federal Participation Cost of \$5,472,000.
- **Burlington to Tyngsborough – Pavement Preservation on Route 3** – Michael Murphy has been assigned to this project as project manager.
- **Burlington-Billerica-Resurfacing and Related Work on Route 3A** – The construction advertisement date had been moved to October 15, 2022.
- **Westford – Rehabilitation of Boston Road** – The project is now at 75% Design.
- **Lowell – Reconstruction and Related Work on VFW Highway** – Augustin Manyowashington has been named new project manager.
- **Lowell – North Andover – Haverhill – Bridge Superstructure and Substructure Repairs Along I-495** – This project is at Final Design and the TFPC has been updated to \$7,845,545.
- **Westford – Bridge Rehabilitation Beaver Brook Road over Beaver Brook** – The Total Contract cost has been updated to \$2,139,326.
- **Lowell – Tewksbury – Intersection Improvements at Andover Street (Route 133) and River Road** – Construction is at 45% complete with a completion date of September 23, 2024.
- **Chelmsford – Medford – Somerville – Stoneham – Interstate Preservation on I-93 & I-495** – Construction is at 49% complete with a completion date of August 22, 2023.
- **Andover – Tewksbury – Highway Lighting System Rehabilitation and Repair at the Interchange of Interstate Routes 93 and 495** – Construction is at 9% complete with a completion date of August 18, 2023.
- **Dunstable – Improvements on Main Street (Route 113), from Pleasant Street to 750 Ft East of Westford Street** – Construction active with a completion date of November 17, 2023.
- **Burlington to Tyngsborough – Guide and Traffic Sign Replacement on a Section of US 3** – Construction is 4% complete with a completion date of October 23, 2022.
- **Lowell – Reconstruction and Rehabilitation of Five Bridges (Enel Bridges) Tiger Grant** – Construction is 90% complete, MAS Building. Completion date of April 26, 2022.
- **Chelmsford – Intersection Improvements at Boston Road and Concord Road** – Construction is 56% complete with a completion date of April 2, 2023.
- **Dracut – Improvements on Nashua Road** – Construction active with a completion date of July 20, 2024.

- **Chelmsford – Intersection Improvements at Route 129 and Riverneck Road** – Construction is 89% complete with a completion date of July 8, 2022.
- **Tewksbury – Resurfacing and Sidewalk Reconstruction on Route 38 Beginning at Colonial Drive North to the Intersection of Old Boston Road Approximately 1.5 Miles** – Construction is 4% complete with a completion date of September 5, 2023.

Sarah Bradbury added that the Beaver Brook project in Westford is expected to advertise this summer.

4. OPEN FORUM – OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMENTS FROM MPO MEMBERS, COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS, AND THE PUBLIC

There were none.

5. PROPOSED FFY 2022-2026 TIP AMENDMENT 2

Justin Howard provided a summary of a draft amendment to Fiscal Year 2022 of the FFY 2022-2026 Northern Middlesex Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). He stated that Amendment 2 involves moving the Stony Brook Road Bridge over the Stony Brook project in Westford from FFY 2022 to FFY 2024 and reducing the cost estimate from \$2,520,131 to \$1,767,271. In addition, this amendment includes adjusting funding for the rehabilitation on Boston Road project in Billerica to include additional funding provided by allocations from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law in FFY 2022. The full summary was provided in the meeting packet. Justin requested the NMMPO consider releasing the proposed amendment for a public review and comment period.

Based on a motion by Pat Wojtas and seconded by Tom Bomil, the NMMPO voted to release draft FFY 2022-2026 TIP Amendment 2 for a twenty-one day public comment period.

6. FFY 2023-2027 TIP DEVELOPMENT

Justin Howard provided an Executive Summary of the draft FFY 2023-2027 TIP for consideration to release for a 21-day public review and comment period, reminding the group that the TIP contains the program of Federally funded transportation improvement projects in the Northern Middlesex region over the next five Federal Fiscal Years. He gave an overview of project prioritization, regional equity of TIP funding, financial planning, explained the relationship between the TIP and the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), and amending the TIP as needed. He also provided details on highway projects and transit programming throughout the 2023-2027 TIP years.

Based on a motion by Tom Bomil and seconded by Pat Wojtas, the NMMPO voted to release the draft FFY 2023-2027 TIP for a twenty-one day public comment period.

7. FFY 2023 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) DEVELOPMENT

Justin Howard provided a brief update of tasks and associated budgets as the next UPWP is being developed, reminding the group that the UPWP outlines staff work over the next Federal Fiscal Year beginning in October and running through September 30, 2023. He stated that the main new addition to the work program will involve development of the next long range transportation plan for the region. Following an update on the budget and task breakdown, NMMPO members agreed that the program is good to progress as presented. The Draft document will be made available in May.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

Derek Krevat informed the group that the MassDOT Innovation Conference will take place May 24th and 25th at the DCU Center in Worcester. He provided a link to conference registration for those who would like to attend.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Based on a motion made by Tom Bomil and seconded by Pat Wojtas, the MPO voted unanimously to adjourn at 2:40 PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 25, 2022 at 2:00 PM.