

MEETING MINUTES OF THE NORTHERN MIDDLESEX METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION MAY 25, 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:

- David Mohler, 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
- Kevin O'Connor, Lowell Regional Transit Authority Board Representative to the MPO
- 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
- Brian Fallon, MassDOT District 4
- Chris Klem, MassDOT Planning
- Timothy Paris, MassDOT District 4
- Josh Levin, MassDOT District 4
- Alan Heredia, City of Lowell Assistant Transportation Engineer

NMMPO Staff:

- Justin Howard, Chris Curry, David Tilton, and Katrina Garavanian Northern Middlesex Council of Governments

2. APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 27, 2022 NMMPO MEETING MINUTES

NMMPO members were provided with copies of the April 27, 2022 minutes prior to the meeting. Based on a motion by Tom Bomil and seconded by Pat Wojtas, the April 27, 2022 meeting minutes were approved. Kevin O'Connor abstained as he was not present for the April 27th meeting.

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

Timothy Paris updated the NMMPO regarding project information changes since the April 27, 2022 meeting:

- **Tewksbury – Intersection Improvements at Main Street/Pleasant Street & North Street/East Street** – The new project manager is Adetoyin Olaove.
- **Chelmsford-Improvements On Route 3a (Princeton Street) From Richardson Road To Technology Drive** – This project has a new construction ad date of May 1, 2027.
- **Westford- Interstate Maintenance And Related Work On I-495** – Project has a construction ad date of April 25, 2027 and the new Project Manager is Koby Lemrise.
- **Chelmsford – Interstate Preservation on I-495** – The new project manager is Koby Lemrise.
- **Burlington To Tyngsborough- Pavement Preservation On Route 3** – The new construction Ad date is December 5, 2026.
- **Dracut- Improvements At George Englesby Elementary School (SRTS)** – The new construction Ad date is February 3, 2024.
- **Chelmsford- Traffic Signal Installation at Route 110 & Route 495 (2 Locations)** – the new construction Ad date is January 4, 2025.
- **Lowell- Church Street 2-Way Conversion** – The new Project Manager is Augustin Manyowashington.
- **Lowell- Pedestrian Walkway & Bicycle Connection At Pawtucket Falls Overlook, From Vandenberg Esplanade To School Street** – The Project is scheduled to be discontinued and will no longer be TIP eligible. Letters will be sent to the City.
- **Burlington- Billerica- Resurfacing And Related Work On Route 3A** – The new construction Ad date is November 5, 2022.
- **Amesbury-Haverhill-Lowell-Methuen Bridge Preservation Bundle Along I-495** – Final design Plans were received by MassDOT on March 10, 2022. The project name has changed from LOWELL- NORTH ANDOVER- HAVERHILL- BRIDGE SUPERSTRUCTURE & SUBSTRUCTURE REPAIRS ALONG I-495. The TIP cost estimate has been updated.
- **Andover- Tewksbury- Highway Lighting System Rehabilitation And Repair At The Interchange Of Interstate Routes 93 And 495** – Construction is at 29% complete with a completion date of August 18, 2023.
- **Chelmsford- Intersection Improvements At Boston Road And Concord Road** – Construction is at 68% with a completion date of April 2, 2023.
- **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 13% complete with a completion date of September 5, 2023.
- **Billerica- Rehabilitation On Boston Road (Route 3a) From Billerica Town Center To Floyd Street** – Construction Bids were opened in April.

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

Chris Klem provided a link to MassDOT’s recent survey launch: “Beyond Mobility Massachusetts 2050 Transportation Plan”. He encouraged everyone to take the survey and to share with others. The survey will remain open until July 8, 2022.

<https://beyond-mobility-massdot.hub.arcgis.com/>

5. DRAFT FFY 2022-2026 TIP AMENDMENT 2

Justin Howard reminded the group that at last month’s MPO meeting members voted to release Draft FFY 2022-2026 TIP Amendment 2 for a 21-day public comment period which ended on Monday. He provided a summary review of the two parts in this amendment: 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; and, 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. Having received no comments during the 21-day public comment period, Justin requested the NMMPO endorse the amendment.

Based on a motion by Kevin O’Connor and seconded by Tom Bomil, the NMMPO voted to endorse FFY 2022-2026 TIP Amendment 2 as presented.

6. FFY 2023-2027 TIP DEVELOPMENT

Justin Howard reminded the group that at the April meeting, the MPO had voted to release the Draft FFY 2023-2027 TIP for a 21-day public comment period, which ended on Monday. He reviewed the two sets of comments received during that period, one from Federal Highway Administration and another from MassDOT. Justin also explained staff response to each comment. He also presented the self certification documents to be signed along with endorsement of the TIP. He requested the MPO endorse the FFY 2023-2027 TIP as adjusted and certified.

Based on a motion by Tom Bomil and seconded by Pat Wojtas, the NMMPO voted to endorse the FFY 2023-2027 TIP as presented.

FFY 2023 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) DEVELOPMENT

Justin Howard reminded the MPO that at the April meeting, budget and preliminary tasks for developing the FFY 2023 UPWP were discussed. He presented an Executive Summary of the draft FFY 2023 UPWP and talked about the tasks included, public participation process, transit planning and so forth. He requested the MPO consider releasing the Draft FFY 2023 UPWP for a 21-day public comment period.

Based on a motion by Pat Wojtas and seconded by Tom Bomil, the NMMPO voted to release the Draft FFY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program for a 21-day public comment period.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

Frank Suszynski updated the NMMPO that the Billerica Center project was awarded to J. Tropiano on May 20, 2022 and expects another 30-45 days for the notice to proceed.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Based on a motion made by Tom Bomil and seconded by Pat Wojtas, the MPO voted unanimously to adjourn at 2:36 PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 22, 2022 at 2:00 PM.