

MEETING MINUTES OF THE NORTHERN MIDDLESEX METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION AUGUST 25, 2021

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:

- Stephen Woelfel, MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning (Representing MassDOT Secretary Jamey Tesler)
- Brian Fallon, MassDOT District 4 (Representing MassDOT Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver)
- Pat Wojtas, Chelmsford Select Board, NMCOG MPO Representative
- Kevin O'Connor, Lowell Regional Transit Authority Board Representative to the MPO

Voting Members Absent:

- Andrew Deslaurier, Billerica Select Board, NMCOG Chair
- Daniel Rourke, Lowell City Councilor, MPO Representative
- Tom Bomil, Lowell Regional Transit Authority Board Chair

Stakeholders and Other Attendees:

- Derek Shooster, MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning, MPO Liaison
- Timothy Paris, MassDOT District 4
- Derek Krevat, MassDOT Planning
- Gus Norrbom, MassDOT Planning
- Wesley Lickus, MassDOT Regional Planning CO-OP
- Alan Heredia, City of Lowell Asst. Transportation Engineer
- Sheila Harrington, MA House of Representatives (For Dunstable)

NMMPO Staff:

- Justin Howard, Eric Molinari, and Katrina Garavanian, Northern Middlesex Council of Governments

2. APPROVAL OF THE JULY 28, 2021 NMMPO MEETING MINUTES

NMMPO members were provided with copies of the July 28, 2021 minutes prior to the meeting. Based on a motion by Kevin O'Connor and seconded by Pat Wojtas, the July 28, 2021 meeting minutes were approved.

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

Tim Paris updated the NMMPO regarding project information changes since the July 28, 2021 meeting:

- **Dunstable – Improvements on Main Street (Route 113), from Pleasant Street to 750 Ft East of Westford Street – The project is at final design with a construction ad date of September 11, 2021.** There was a small change to the estimate of around \$300,000, increasing the construction estimate to \$4,466,067.75.
- **Tewksbury – Resurfacing and Sidewalk Reconstruction on Route 38 Beginning at Colonial Drive North to the Intersection of Old Boston Road Approximately 1.5 Miles –** There was a minor increase in the cost estimate of about \$20,000.
- **Billerica – Rehabilitation on Boston Road (Route 3A) from Billerica Town Center to Floyd Street –** The project is now at 100% design with a minor cost estimate reduction.
- **Dracut – Improvements on Nashua Road –** The project is at final design. Cost estimates have increased from \$6.3M to \$6.8M.
- **Westford – Bridge Rehabilitation Beaver Brook Road over Beaver Brook –** The project increased in cost from \$1.9 to \$2.1M.
- **Westford – Bridge Replacement, Stony Brook Road over the Stony Brook – Total construction cost decreased down to \$1.6M and \$1.4M**
- **Lowell – Tewksbury – Route 38 Intersection Improvements –** A new project manager, Ryan Wilcox, has been assigned.
- **Dracut – Improvements at George Englesby Elementary School –** A new project manager, David Shedd, has been assigned.
- **Tewksbury – Andover – Interstate Resurfacing and Related Work on I-93 –** The construction ad date change to February 10, 2050.
- **Lowell – Reconstruction & Related Work on VFW Highway –** Timothy Paris will check into why the Total Contract Cost is now listed as \$0.
- **Chelmsford – Intersection Improvements at Route 129 and Riverneck Road –** Construction of the project is now 68% complete with a completion date of October 3, 2021.
- **Lowell – Tewksbury – Intersection Improvements at Andover Street (Route 133) and River Road –** Construction of the project is now 39% complete with a completion date of September 23, 2024.
- **Lowell – Deck Replacements, Lowell Connector over Industrial Avenue East –** Construction is now 72% Complete.
- **Lowell – Improvements on Route 38 at Four Intersections –** Construction is at 91% with a completion date of September 20, 2021.
- **Lowell – Bridge Replacement VFW Highway over Beaver Brook –** Construction is at 73% with a completion date of November 14, 2021.
- **Lowell – Reconstruction and Rehabilitation of Five Bridges Tiger Grant –** Construction is 77% complete with a completion date of April 26, 2022.

Justin Howard inquired as to the 2024 completion date on Andover Street and River Road. Tim Paris stated that as far as he's been told that is still a valid completion date. Justin also inquired as to whether the bridge type study for the Rourke Bridge has been submitted and a public meeting scheduled. Brian

Fallon stated that the district reviewed the bridge type study last month and he is waiting for the project manager to respond with a public meeting date. Brian will provide that date to Justin as soon as he's been made aware of the meeting.

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

There were no comments provided.

5. FFY 2021-2025 DRAFT TIP AMENDMENT 2 – POTENTIAL ACTION TO ENDORSE

Justin Howard reminded the MPO that the proposed Amendment 2 to the FFY 2021-2025 Northern Middlesex Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) had been released for public comment following the July MPO meeting. He gave a brief reminder summary of the project and the amendment, which involves programming a cost increase for the Route 113 Improvement project in Dunstable, and needs to be endorsed by the MPO to ensure that the project is fully funded for construction. Justin requested the MPO consider endorsing the amendment, which adjusts programming for this project from \$4,500,531 to \$5,211,383. The project is currently at final design with an ad date in September. The public comment period ended August 23, 2021 with one comment from the public in support of the endorsement.

Based on a motion by Kevin O'Connor and seconded by Pat Wojtas, the MPO voted to endorse the FFY 2021-2025 Draft TIP Amendment 2.

6. TIP PROJECT REVIEW STUDY PRESENTATION

Eric Molinari presented the findings of a safety review of two projects previously funded through the Northern Middlesex TIP. This study, included in the 2021 Work Program, looks to assess the effectiveness of transportation improvements at high crash locations in the region by reviewing conditions prior to construction and comparing them to conditions after construction. The locations studied include the intersection of East Street and Livingston Street in Tewksbury and the intersection of Route 110 and Boston Road / Carlisle Road in Westford. A copy of the study presentation was included in the meeting packet.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Based on a motion made by Kevin O'Connor and seconded by Pat Wojtas, the MPO voted unanimously to adjourn at 2:33 PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 22, 2021, 2:00 PM.