

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE NORTHERN MIDDLESEX  
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
October 24, 2018**

**1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The meeting was called to order at 2:10 P.M. at the office of the Northern Middlesex Council of Governments (NMCOG), 40 Church Street, Suite 200, Lowell, MA. Attendees included:

Voting Members:

- Bryan Pounds, Chair (representing MassDOT Secretary and CEO Stephanie Pollack)
- Frank Suszynski, MassDOT District 4 (Representing Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver)
- Pat Wojtas, Chelmsford Board of Selectmen, NMCOG Chair
- Kevin O'Connor, Tyngsborough Rep. to the Lowell Regional Transit Authority Advisory Board
- Tom Bomil, Chair, Lowell Regional Transit Authority
- Chuck Walkovich, NMCOG MPO Representative

Stakeholders and Other Attendees:

- Ben Muller, MassDOT Planning, MPO Liaison
- Cassandra Gascon, MassDOT Transportation Program Planner
- Jack Moran, MassDOT Highway Division, Chief Engineer
- Constance Raphael, MassDOT District 4
- Ali Bent, Lowell Regional Transit Authority
- Kevin Hardiman, Tewksbury DPW
- Justin Sultzbach, Tyngsborough Assistant Town Administrator
- Mark Hamel, Dracut Town Engineer
- Lisa Davis, Pepperell Planning Board
- Eric Salerno, Tyngsborough Town Planner
- Chris Hayes, Lowell Transportation Project Manager

NMMPO Staff:

- Beverly Woods, Chris Curry, Justin Howard, David Tilton, Jong Wai Tommee, and Katrina Garavanian, Northern Middlesex Council of Governments

## **2. APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 22, 2018 MEETING MINUTES**

NMMPO members were provided with a copy of the August 22, 2018 minutes prior to the meeting. Based on a motion made by Kevin O'Connor and seconded by Tom Bomil, the NMMPO voted to approve the August 22, 2018 minutes as presented.

## **3. OPEN FORUM – OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMENTS FROM MPO MEMBERS, COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS AND PUBLIC**

There were no comments.

## **4. STATUS REPORT ON TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) PROJECTS UNDER DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION**

Connie Raphael updated the NMMPO on project information changes since the August 22, 2018 meeting:

Projects under design:

- Chelmsford – Intersection Improvements at Route 129 and Riverneck Road: At 100% Design, ad date is June 15, 2019. Cost has increased to \$5,639,009.
- Lowell – Deck Replacements on Lowell Connector over Industrial Avenue: At 100% Design, ad date is November 10, 2018.
- Tewksbury - Mill Street Bridge over Shawsheen River: At 25% Design, ad date is April 13, 2019.
- Tewksbury – Intersection Improvements at Main Street, Salem Road and South Street: At 100% Design, ad date is July 13, 2019. Cost has increased to \$3,715,057.
- Lowell – Connector Reconstruction from Thorndike Street to Gorham Street: Cost has increased to \$3,409,870.
- Dunstable – Improvements on Main Street (Route 113), from Pleasant Street to 750 feet east of Westford Street: Cost has been adjusted to \$4,254,501.
- Billerica – Rehabilitation on Boston Road (Route 3A) from the Town Center to Floyd Street: At 25% Design. Cost has increased to \$9,785,825.
- Billerica – Intersection Improvements at Boston Road (Route 3A), Lexington Street and Glad Valley Road: Project is to be considered at PRC on December 6, 2018.

Projects under construction:

- Littleton-Westford Interstate Maintenance and related Work on I-495: Bids were opened on August 28, 2018, and the apparent low bidder is Aggregate Industries; awaiting contract award and NTP.

- Lowell-Chelmsford Stormwater Improvements along I-495: Bids were opened on September 18, 2018, and the apparent low bidder is RM Pacella; awaiting contract award and NTP.
- Lowell – Improvements on Route 38 at Four Intersections: Advertised on September 15, 2018, with bids due January 29, 2019.
- Westford-Intersection Improvements at Groton Rd. (Rte. 40) and Dunstable Rd: Bids were due on October 23, 2018.

## **5. UPDATE ON PERFORMANCE MEASURE AND TARGET SETTING ACTIVITIES**

### **a. PM2 Presentation/MPO Adoption of Bridge and Pavement Infrastructure Performance Measures and Targets**

A copy of the Massachusetts National Highway System Bridge and Pavement Condition Performance Measure Targets presentation was included in the meeting packet. Jack Moran explained the performance measures, the targets, and that the NMMPO must decide by November 2018 whether to either adopt MassDOT targets or establish their own.

Based on a motion by Kevin O’Connor and seconded by Pat Wojtas, the NMMPO voted to adopt the MassDOT targets as presented.

### **b. PM3 Presentation/MPO Adoption of System Performance Measures and Targets**

Bryan Pounds explained MassDOT’s required PM3 performance measures and targets with regards to congestion, reliability, and emissions. As with PM2, the NMMPO must decide to either adopt MassDOT targets or establish their own.

Based on a motion by Tom Bomil, seconded by Kevin O’Connor, the NMMPO voted to adopt the MassDOT targets as presented.

## **6. SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS INFRASTRUCTURE APPLICATION PROCESS**

Cassandra Gascon gave a brief presentation about the Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) program and the new project funding application process using MAPIT. MassDOT is planning to send information and guidance documentation with regards to the new process beginning early November 2018.

## **7. BOSTON URBANIZED AREA MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING UPDATE**

Included in the meeting packet was a draft update to the Boston Urbanized Area (UZA) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). At the latest NMMPO certification review in 2016, FHWA and FTA outlined a corrective action stating that “MassDOT, in cooperation with States, MPOs and transportation providers within the Boston UZA revise the existing Boston UZA MOU reflective of the 2010 Census”. Justin Howard discussed the process for revising the document.

Based on a motion by Tom Bomil, seconded by Pat Wojtas, the NMMPO voted to endorse the Boston Urbanized Area Memorandum of Understanding as presented.

## **8. OTHER BUSINESS**

Beverly Woods requested an update on the contracting process status for Rourke Bridge. Frank Suszynski stated that the scope and fee negotiations are presently underway with HNTB.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

Based on a motion made by Kevin O'Connor and seconded by Pat Wojtas, the MPO voted unanimously to adjourn at 3:40 PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 28, 2018, 2:00PM at NMCOG offices.