

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE NORTHERN MIDDLESEX  
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
August 22, 2018**

**1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 P.M. at the office of the Northern Middlesex Council of Governments (NMCOG), 40 Church Street, Suite 200, Lowell, MA. Attendees included:

Voting Members:

- David Mohler, 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 Representative to the Lowell Regional Transit Authority Advisory Board
- Tom Bomil, Chair, Lowell Regional Transit Authority
- Roland Nutter, Pepperell Board of Selectmen, NMCOG MPO Representative

Stakeholders and Other Attendees:

- Cassie Chase Ostrander, Federal Highway Administration
- Derek Krevat, MassDOT Planning, MPO Liaison
- Constance Raphael, MassDOT District 4
- Timothy Paris, MassDOT District 4
- Ali Sarault, Lowell Regional Transit Authority
- Kevin Hardiman, Tewksbury DPW
- Jason Plourde, BETA Group

NMMPO Staff:

- Beverly Woods, Justin Howard, Jong Wai Tommee, Zachary Schladenhouffen, and Katrina Garavanian, Northern Middlesex Council of Governments

**2. APPROVAL OF THE July 25, 2018 MEETING MINUTES**

NMMPO members were provided with a copy of the July 25, 2018 minutes prior to the meeting. Based on a motion made by Tom Bomil and seconded by Roland Nutter, the NMMPO voted to approve the July 25, 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 July 25, 2018 meeting:

Projects under design:

- Littleton-Westford Interstate Maintenance and related Work on I-495: The project was advertised for construction on June 2, 2018 and bids are due August 28, 2018.
- Lowell-Chelmsford Stormwater Improvements along I-495: the project was advertised for construction on July 7, 2018 and bids are due September 18, 2018.
- Lowell – Improvements on Route 38 at Four Intersections: The project is in final design with an ad date of September 15, 2018.
- Westford-Intersection Improvements at Groton Rd. (Rte. 40) and Dunstable Rd: Project was advertised August 11, 2018 and bids are due October 23, 2018.
- Tewksbury - Mill Street Bridge over Shawsheen River: This is now a bridge preservation project rather than a bridge reconstruction project. The price has dropped to \$540,450.
- Lowell – Rourke Bridge Replacement: Interviews were held with short-listed consultants on August 16, 2018.

MassDOT representatives will attend the Lowell City Council meeting on August 28, 2018 to report on the Rourke Bridge and other Lowell transportation projects that are under design and construction.

### **5. Draft FFY 2016-2040 Regional Transportation Plan Amendment 1: Air Quality Conformity Determination – Discussion and Vote to Consider Endorsement**

Justin Howard stated that the NMMPO voted to release the Draft FFY 2016-2040 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Amendment 1 for a 21-day public comment period at its July 25<sup>th</sup> meeting. The amendment is needed to ensure full compliance with revised air quality conformity standards for ozone emissions. The amendment provides the results of the air quality conformity determination analysis that must be included in the current RTP. Justin Howard advised the group that no comments were received as a result of public review.

Based on a motion by Roland Nutter and seconded by Frank Suszynski, the NMMPO voted to endorse FFY 2016-2040 Regional Transportation Plan Amendment 1.

## **6. Update on Performance Measure and Target Setting Activities**

The Pavement/Bridge Performance Measures and System Performance Measures implementation timeline were included in the meeting packet, along with a Performance Period and State DOT Biennial Performance Reporting timeline. Derek Krevat stated that he will provide a presentation on the numbers that MassDOT has set for pavement quality, bridge condition, and system performance measures and targets for the state and region at an upcoming meeting. The NMMPO will take action to either adopt MassDOT targets or establish their own. A discussion of the timeline for adoption of performance measures and targets commenced. The deadline for the pavement/bridge and system performance measures is November 2018. Safety performance measures need to be updated on an annual basis and will be addressed early 2019. Transit asset management performance measures will need to be addressed in January 2019, as the LRTA is finalizing their Transit Asset Management Plan in October 2018.

## **7. Other Business**

Justin Howard noted that at the July meeting the NMMPO learned that the Merrimack Riverwalk project has a \$500,000 funding shortfall, based on new cost estimates arising from the design process. Since the last meeting, the walkway extension project, which will run along the Merrimack River and connect to the Concord River Greenway, has received \$142,000 in Public Lands Highway discretionary funding via a reallocation. The National Park Service has made the Merrimack Riverwalk project a priority if new funding becomes available. The project will proceed with the funding that has been made available.

## **8. Adjournment**

Based on a motion made by Roland Nutter and seconded by Tom Bomil, the MPO voted unanimously to adjourn at 2:18 PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 26, 2018, 2:00PM at NMCOG offices.