

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE NORTHERN MIDDLESEX  
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
January 3, 2019**

**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:

- 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

Stakeholders and Other Attendees:

- Nelson Hoffman, Federal Highway Administration
- Louis Grimm (By Phone), Federal Highway Administration, Eastern Federal Lands Highway Div.
- Derek Krevat, MassDOT Planning
- Constance Raphael, MassDOT District 4
- Natasha Vance, Lowell Transportation Engineer
- 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 OCTOBER 24, 2018 MEETING MINUTES**

NMMPO members were provided with a copy of the October 24, 2018 minutes prior to the meeting. Pat Wojtas pointed out a typographical error in the last paragraph of section 4. Based on a motion made by Kevin O'Connor and seconded by Tom Bomil, the NMMPO voted to approve the October 24, 2018 minutes upon the correction of the typographical error.

**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 October 24, 2018 meeting:

- Chelmsford – Intersection Improvements at Route 129 and Riverneck Road: At 100% Design, ad date is June 15, 2019. Cost has increased to \$5,705,762.
- Lowell – Deck Replacements on Lowell Connector over Industrial Avenue: At 100% Design, ad date was December 15, 2018. Bids due April 9, 2019.
- Tewksbury - Mill Street Bridge over Shawsheen River: At 25% Design, price has increased to \$517,850. 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.
- Chelmsford – Intersection Improvements at Boston Road and Concord Road: At 25% Design, cost increase to \$2,440,923.
- Tewksbury – Project 608774: Name has been changed to Tewksbury – Route 38 Intersection Improvements.

#### **5. DRAFT FFY 2019-2023 TIP AMENDMENT 1 – DISCUSSION AND VOTE TO RELEASE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

Justin Howard summarized a proposed amendment to FY 2019 of the FFY 2019-2023 TIP, which involves the programming of funding for the extension of the Merrimack Riverwalk and construction of an overlook and viewing deck. The project amendment utilizes Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP), Public Lands Highway Discretionary Program (PLHD) and matching funds from the City of Lowell. The amendment is needed to bring the region’s TIP in line with the Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division’s TIP, and to ensure that all funding for construction of the project can be obligated in the near future.

Chris Hayes explained the City’s needs to utilize the funding as soon as possible. In order to expedite approval of the amendment, it was proposed that the public comment period be reduced to 10 days as outlined in the MPO’s Public Participation Plan.

Based on a motion by Pat Wojtas, seconded by Kevin O’Connor, the NMMPO voted unanimously to release the project for a ten-day public comment period.

#### **6. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was none.

#### **7. ADJOURNMENT**

Based on a motion made by Tom Bomil and seconded by Pat Wojtas, the MPO voted unanimously to adjourn at 2:16 PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 23, 2019, 2:00PM at NMCOG offices.