

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE NORTHERN MIDDLESEX  
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

**January 24, 2018**

**1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 P.M. at the office of the Northern Middlesex Council of Governments (NMCOG), 40 Church Street, Suite 200, Lowell, MA. Attendees included:

Voting Members:

- Stephen Woelfel, Chair (representing MassDOT Secretary and CEO Stephanie Pollack)
- Frank Suszynski, MassDOT District 4 (Representing Highway Administrator Johnathan Gulliver)
- Kevin O'Connor, LRTA Representative
- Pat Wojtas, Chelmsford Board of Selectmen, NMCOG Chair
- Roland Nutter, Pepperell Board of Selectmen, NMCOG NMMPO Representative

Stakeholders and Other Attendees:

- David Chandler, Federal Highway Administration
- Derek Krevat, MassDOT Planning, MPO Liaison
- Constance Raphael, MassDOT District 4
- Ali Sarault, LRTA
- Kevin Hardiman, Tewksbury Department of Public Works
- Nicolas Bosonetto, City of Lowell Traffic Engineer

NMMPO Staff:

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

**2. APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 29, 2017 MEETING MINUTES**

NMMPO members were provided with a copy of the November 29, 2017 minutes prior to the meeting. Based on a motion made by Roland Nutter and second by Pat Wojtas, the NMMPO voted to approve the November 29, 2017 minutes as presented. Kevin O'Connor abstained as he was not present for the November meeting.

**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 November 29, 2017 Meeting:

##### **Projects under Design:**

- Littleton-Westford Interstate Maintenance and related Work on 495 is in the preliminary stages, ad date was pushed out one month to February 24, 2018.
- Lowell-Chelmsford-Andover Stormwater Improvements along Route 28 and I-495 at 25% with an ad date of May 5, 2018.
- Lowell – Improvements on Route 38 at Four Intersections, at 75%, with an ad date of September 15, 2018.
- Westford - Intersection Improvements at Groton Rd. (Rte. 40) and Dunstable Rd., at 75% design, slight price adjustment to \$2,393,044.60. Advertising is scheduled for August 4, 2018.
- Dracut – Improvements on Nashua Rd.: The Ad date was moved to August 3, 2019.
- Lowell - Deck Replacement at Lowell Connector over Industrial Avenue East, combined bridges on both sides into one project, with an ad date of November 2018. There has been a cost change to \$4,007,143.20.
- Chelmsford – Intersection Improvements at Route 129 and Riverneck Rd. is at 25% design with a project cost of \$4,907,416.94.
- Dunstable – Improvements on Main St. (Route 113) from Pleasant St. to 750 ft East of Westford Street is at 25% design, with a new cost estimate of \$4,250,874.40.

##### **Projects under Construction:**

- Andover – Bedford – Billerica Stormwater Improvements along I-93, Route 3 and Route 3A- contract has been awarded. Construction expected to begin in spring with completion in summer 2019.
- Westford – Intersection Improvements at Groton Rd. and Oak Hill Rd.: the contract was awarded with construction to start in spring and a completion date of spring 2020.
- Lowell – TIGER Grant Reconstruction and Rehabilitation of Five Bridges was advertised, bid due date moved to February 13, 2018.
- Chelmsford – Bridge Deck Replacement including Intersection Improvements at Route 4 and I-495, bid date moved to January 30, 2018.

Ali Sarault updated the NMMPO on the two LRTA projects currently under construction at the Gallagher Terminal in Lowell:

- The Gallagher Terminal Lobby completion is expected within the next three weeks.
- The Gallagher Terminal pedestrian bridge from the parking garage to the Thorndike Exchange property should be in place in the next month with final completion in June 2018.

## **5. FFY 2019-2023 TIP AND FFY 2019 UPWP DEVELOPMENT**

The NMMPO staff has initiated work on the development of the FFY 2019-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the FFY 2019 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Beverly Woods gave a brief overview of the timeframes for developing the TIP and UPWP.

On January 31st, there is a meeting scheduled with MassDOT to talk about the status of existing projects and TIP targets for the upcoming fiscal year. During February, staff will work at putting together project listing and scoring projects for the February 14th TIP Readiness Day, where the status of all the projects will be reviewed with MassDOT. In March, NMMPO staff will draft a list of recommended projects for consideration. In April, the draft document will be made available to the MPO, who will vote on the release of the document for public comment. The MPO will meet in May to consider endorsement of the document, and once endorsed, the document will be submitted to federal and state transportation and environmental agencies for review and approval.

Beverly Woods noted that the timeframes for the development of the UPWP are similar. In February, the NMMPO staff will review the status of current projects to see which projects are likely to be completed by the end of the Fiscal Year and which are not. Staff will then reach out to the communities to identify their needs for additional projects or studies. Staff will receive PL funding amounts from MassDOT by February. In March, the MPO will have a draft listing of UPWP activities for consideration. The MPO will meet in April to vote to release the draft document for the required public comment period and will meet again in May to endorse the document.

## **6. SAFETY PERFORMANCE MEASURES AND TARGET SETTING – MPO ADOPTION OF STATEWIDE TARGETS**

Beverly Woods stated that a presentation was made on MassDOT safety performance measures and targets at the last MPO meeting. Under MAP-21 there is a requirement that the state coordinate with the MPOs on their performance targets. The MPO can adopt the state's targets or create their own. The targets must be incorporated into all of the MPO's certification documents. Five annual safety targets required by State DOTs and MPOs are total fatalities, the rate of fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled, the total number of serious injuries, the rate of serious injuries per 100 million VMT, and total number of combined serious injuries and fatalities for non-motorized modes.

The MPO staff and NMMPO members felt that the MPO should adopt the state targets so that we are looking at all of our regional planning and state planning in a way that is consistent between various levels of government.

Based on a motion made by Roland Nutter and second by Kevin O'Connor, the NMMPO voted unanimously to adopt the MassDOT Safety Performance Targets.

## **7. OTHER BUSINESS**

Stephen Woelfel informed the group that on Friday, January 26th, MassDOT should be releasing the draft of the State Rail Plan Update. A public meeting will be held Monday evening, January 29th, at the Worcester RTA to receive comment on the Plan.

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

Based on a motion made by Roland Nutter and seconded by Pat Wojtas, the MPO voted unanimously to adjourn at 2:42 PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 28, 2018, 2:30PM at NMCOG offices.