

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE NORTHERN MIDDLESEX
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
May 23, 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:

- 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
- Roland Nutter, Pepperell Board of Selectmen, NMCOG MPO Representative
- Tom Bomil, Dracut Representative to the Lowell Regional Transit Authority (LRTA) Advisory Board
- Kevin O'Connor, Lowell Regional Transit Authority Advisory Board Chair

Stakeholders and Other Attendees:

- Derek Krevat, MassDOT Planning, MPO Liaison
- Constance Raphael, MassDOT District 4
- Ali Sarault, Lowell Regional Transit Authority (LRTA)
- Kevin Hardiman, Tewksbury DPW
- Jason Plourde, BETA Group

NMMPO Staff:

- Beverly Woods, Justin Howard, Chris Curry, Jong Wai Tommee, Northern Middlesex Council of Governments

2. APPROVAL OF THE April 25, 2018 MEETING MINUTES

NMMPO members were provided with a copy of the April 25, 2018 minutes prior to the meeting. Based on a motion made by Tom Bomil and second by Roland Nutter, the NMMPO voted unanimously to approve the April 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 March 28, 2018 meeting:

Projects under Design:

- *Littleton-Westford Interstate Maintenance and related Work on I-495* is at final design with an ad date of June 2, 2018.
- *Lowell-Chelmsford Stormwater Improvements along I-495* is at 100% design with an ad date of July 7, 2018.
- *Lowell – Improvements on Route 38 at Four Intersections* is at final design with an ad date of September 15, 2018.
- *Westford - Intersection Improvements at Groton Rd. (Rte. 40) and Dunstable Rd.* is at final design with an ad date scheduled for August 4, 2018.

Projects under Construction:

- *Andover-Bedford-Billerica Stormwater Improvements along I-93, Route 3 and Route 3A:* Construction began earlier this month, at 8% complete.
- *Billerica – Intersection and Signal Improvements at Route 3A and Allen Road:* Construction began, at 3% with a completion date of April 4, 2020.
- *Westford – Intersection Improvements at Groton Road (Rte. 40) and Oak Hill Rd.:* Construction about 13% complete. Completion date of October 2019.
- *Lowell – Reconstruction and Rehabilitation of Five Bridges:* Construction contract awarded to MAS Building. Completion date of April 26, 2022.
- *Chelmsford – Bridge Deck Replacement Including Intersection Improvements at Route 4 & I-495:* Expected to begin shortly. Completion date May 8, 2020.

5. FFY 2018-2022 TIP ADJUSTMENT 2

Justin Howard gave an overview of TIP Adjustment 2, which involves a project description change for stormwater improvements along I-495. Originally, the project was listed in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) because the scope included multiple MPOs. The scope has been changed to remove the Andover portion along Route 28 and is now solely in the Northern Middlesex region. The project cost estimate is now \$1,679,827 and uses non-target statewide transportation enhancements funding. The adjustment is necessary for the project to move into the construction phase in FFY 2018.

6. DRAFT FFY 2018-2022 TIP AMENDMENT 3 – DISCUSSION AND VOTE TO Endorse

Justin Howard summarized TIP Amendment 3, which involves changes to three bridge construction projects. The first is a cost increase from \$1,167,285 to \$2,160,000 on the Mill Street Bridge project over the Shawsheen River in Tewksbury. Second is the consolidation of the northbound and southbound bridge projects on the Lowell Connector over Industrial Avenue, which originally consisted of two projects in two different TIP years (NB-FFY 2019, SB- FFY 2021). Original cost for the NB bridge programmed in the TIP was \$1,607,143. Combining the two projects changes the cost estimate to \$4,007,143 with the combined project being programmed in FFY 2019. The Amendment had been released for a twenty-one day public comment period and no comments were received during that time.

Based on a motion by Roland Nutter, seconded by Frank Suszynski, the MPO voted unanimously to endorse FFY 2018-2022 TIP Amendment 3.

7. DRAFT FFY 2018-2022 TIP AMENDMENT 4 – DISCUSSION AND VOTE TO RELEASE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Justin Howard gave details of Amendment 4, which involves a cost increase for an intersection improvement project in Westford at Groton Road and Dunstable Road. Currently the Northern Middlesex TIP has programmed the project at \$2,248,616. As design has progressed, new cost estimates total \$3,362,131. The project needs to be amended in the TIP to be fully funded for construction.

Based on a motion by Roland Nutter, seconded by Frank Suszynski, the MPO voted unanimously to release FFY 2018-2022 TIP Amendment 4 for twenty-one day public comment period.

8. DRAFT FFY 2019-2023 TIP – DISCUSSION AND VOTE TO ENDORSE

Justin Howard reminded meeting attendees that at the April 2018 meeting the NMMPO voted to release the draft TIP for twenty-one day public comment period. MassDOT responded with comments, which were incorporated into the TIP by NMCOG staff. A full list of comments were included in the meeting packet along with a summary of staff response and edited pages from the narrative.

Based on a motion by Kevin O'Connor, seconded by Roland Nutter, the MPO voted unanimously to endorse the amended FFY 2019-2023 TIP.

9. DRAFT FFY 2019 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) – DISCUSSION AND VOTE TO ENDORSE

Justin Howard reminded meeting attendees that, as with the TIP, at the April 2018 meeting the NMMPO voted to release the draft UPWP for twenty-one day public comment period. MassDOT responded with comments, a full list of which were included in the meeting packet along with a summary of staff response and edited pages from the narrative.

Based on a motion by Tom O'Connor, seconded by Roland Nutter, the MPO voted unanimously to endorse the amended FFY 2019 UPWP.

10. ROURKE BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT UPDATE

Connie Raphael gave a brief overview of the Rourke Bridge Replacement Request for Proposal dated April 25, 2018. A copy was included in the meeting packet. The RFP scope includes environmental permitting and development of a functional design report and 25% design submissions for the replacement of the bridge. Submission close date is May 31, 2018. Timeframe for selection is the end of the calendar year.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Based on a motion made by Kevin O'Connor and seconded by Roland Nutter, the MPO voted unanimously to adjourn at 3:00 PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 27, 2018, 2:30PM at NMCOG offices.