

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE NORTHERN MIDDLESEX
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
June 26, 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 Jonathan Gulliver)
- Pat Wojtas, Chelmsford Board of Selectmen, NMCOG Chair
- Kevin O'Connor, Chair, Lowell Regional Transit Authority

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

NMMPO Staff:

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

2. APPROVAL OF THE May 23, 2018 MEETING MINUTES

NMMPO members were provided with a copy of the May 23, 2018 minutes prior to the meeting. Based on a motion made by Frank Suszynski and seconded by Kevin O'Connor, the NMMPO voted unanimously to approve the May 23, 2018 minutes with a change to Item 8, which should read "Based on a motion by Kevin O'Connor" rather than "Based on a motion by Tom O'Connor".

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 May 23, 2018 meeting:

Projects under design:

- *Littleton-Westford Interstate Maintenance and related Work on I-495 was advertised on June 2, 2018.*
- *Westford-Intersection Improvements at Groton Rd. (Rte. 40) and Dunstable Rd: The cost has increased to \$3.36 million.*
- *Dracut-Improvements on Nashua Road: the ad date has been changed to December 7, 2019.*
- *Billerica-Yankee Doodle Bike Path Construction (Phase I): The cost has increased to \$9.6 million.*
- *Tewksbury-Andover – Interstate Resurfacing and Related Work on I-93: The cost has been adjusted slightly but still within the TIP funding number.*
- *Chelmsford-Intersection Improvements at Route 129 and Riverneck Road: The Design Public Hearing is scheduled for June 28, 2018.*

Projects under Construction:

- *Lowell-Intersection & Signal Improvements at 2 Locations: SR 113 (Varnum Avenue & VFW Highway) at Mammoth Road & VFW at Aiken Street, preconstruction conference is scheduled for July 12.*

5. Draft FFY 2018-2022 TIP Amendment 4 – Discussion and Vote to Endorse

Beverly Woods explained that Amendment 4 for the FFY 2018-2022 TIP involves a cost increase for Intersection Improvements at Groton Road (Route 40) and Dunstable Road in Westford. Currently the Northern Middlesex TIP has programmed the project at \$2,248,616. As design has progressed, the new cost estimate has increased to \$3,362,131.

Based on a motion by Kevin O'Connor, seconded by Frank Suszynski, the MPO voted unanimously to endorse FFY 2018-2022 TIP Amendment 4.

6. Upcoming Regional Transportation Plan Amendment to Address Air Quality Conformity / Summer Meeting Schedule

Steve Woelfel advised the MPO that due to recent U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit decision, air quality regulations have changed and all MPOs must amend their Regional Transportation Plans (RTP) to include a revised Air Quality Conformity Determination. MassDOT is requesting that MPOs schedule their regularly occurring meetings for both July (for release of the RTP amendment) and August (for endorsement of the RTP amendment). Additional information will be provided in the coming weeks regarding the amendment language.

7. Rourke Bridge Replacement Project Update

Frank Suszynski informed the group that twelve firms have submitted Statements of Qualifications in regards to consultancy on the Rourke Bridge project. The Selection Committee has created a short-list of four firms to submit proposals. Following evaluation and oral interviews, the Committee will identify a firm during the second half of this year, and is aiming to have consultant on board by this December. An update will be provided in July or August, if applicable.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Based on a motion made by Kevin O'Connor and seconded by Pat Wojtas, the MPO voted unanimously to adjourn at 2:43 PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 25, 2018, 2:30PM at NMCOG offices.