

MEETING MINUTES OF THE NORTHERN MIDDLESEX METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION JANUARY 27, 2021

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

In light of the COVID-19 emergency legislation authorizing virtual public meetings, the meeting was called to order at 2:00 P.M. via videoconference headquartered at the office of the Northern Middlesex Council of Governments (NMCOG), 40 Church Street, Suite 200, Lowell, MA. Attendees included:

Voting Members:

- David Mohler, MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning (Representing MassDOT Secretary and CEO Jamey Tesler)
- Frank Suszynski, MassDOT District 4 (Representing MassDOT Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver)
- Pat Wojtas, Chelmsford Select Board, NMCOG Vice Chair, MPO Representative
- Kevin O'Connor, Lowell Regional Transit Authority Board Representative to the MPO
- Tom Bomil, Chair, Lowell Regional Transit Authority Board

Voting Members Absent:

- Andrew Deslaurier, Billerica Board of Selectmen, NMCOG Chair
- Daniel Rourke, Lowell City Council, Lowell MPO Representative

Stakeholders and Other Attendees:

- Chris Timmel, FHWA
- Constance Raphael, MassDOT District 4
- Derek Shooster, MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning, MPO Liaison
- Brian Fallon, MassDOT Projects Engineer
- Andrew Jennings, Billerica LRTA Board Member
- Josh Trearchis, VHB, Project Manager
- Steve Maffetone, Chelmsford Assistant Town Manager
- Justin Sultzbach, Tyngsborough Assistant Town Administrator
- Kevin Hardiman, Tewksbury Town Engineer
- Graham Reich, LRTA, Director of Procurement and Compliance

NMMPO Staff:

- Beverly Woods, Justin Howard, Chris Curry, David Tilton and Katrina Garavanian, Northern Middlesex Council of Governments

2. APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 2, 2020 NMMPO MEETING MINUTES

NMMPO members were provided with copies of the December 2, 2020 minutes prior to the meeting. Based on a motion made by Tom Bomil and seconded by Kevin O'Connor, the December 2, 2020 meeting minutes were approved.

3. STATUS REPORT ON TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) PROJECTS UNDER DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

Connie Raphael updated the NMMPO regarding project information changes since the December 2, 2020 meeting:

Projects in design:

- Andover/Tewksbury – Highway Lighting System Rehabilitation and Repair at the Interchange of Interstate Routes 93 and 495 is at 100% design.
- Burlington to Tyngsborough Guide and Traffic Sign Replacement on a Section of US 3 was advertised for construction on December 12, 2020. Bids were due January 26, 2021.
- Dunstable – Improvements on Main Street (Route 113), from Pleasant Street to 750 ft. east of Westford Street, is at 75% design with a construction ad date of September 25, 2021.
- Tewksbury – Resurfacing and Sidewalk Reconstruction on Route 38 beginning at Colonial Drive north to the Intersection of Old Boston Road, a distance of approximately 1.5 Miles, is at 75% design with an estimated cost of \$6.4 million and construction ad date of September 25 2021.
- Chelmsford-Medford-Somerville-Stoneham – Interstate Preservation on I-93 & I-495 was advertised on January 23, 2021. Bids are due March 9, 2021.

4. OPEN FORUM – OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMENTS FROM MPO MEMBERS, COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS, AND THE PUBLIC

There were none.

5. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT UPDATES – POTENTIAL ACTION TO ENDORSE

a. Updated Highway Safety Targets

Derek Shooster presented Statewide CY 2021 Highway Safety Performance Measure Target updates (PM1), included as a summary in the meeting packet, and requested consideration by NMMPO members. Justin Howard briefly presented the safety trends in the Northern Middlesex Region, compiled since 2004, for PM1 performance measure categories.

Based on a motion by Pat Wojtas, and seconded by Kevin O'Connor, the MPO voted to adopt the statewide CY 2021 Safety Performance Measure Targets.

6. FFY 2022 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) AND FY2022-2026 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) DEVELOPMENT SCHEDULES

Justin Howard stated that NMCOG staff are beginning work on development of the next Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), which will go into effect on

October 1, 2021. He presented a schedule of activities for development of both the TIP and UPWP, which are targeted for endorsement by the MPO in May 2021.

7. DISCUSSION OF NMMPO MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING UPDATE

Justin Howard provided an update on corrective actions identified in the latest MPO Certification Review report, focusing on an update to the MPO's Memorandum of Understanding between NMCOG, MassDOT and the LRTA. The MOU should be updated every four years and the NMMPO has a deadline of March 2021 for completion. A first draft has been circulated to stakeholders for review and comment. A subsequent draft should be available for review at the February 24, 2021 MPO meeting, with a finalized MOU presented at the March 24, 2021 NMMPO meeting.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Based on a motion made by Kevin O'Connor and seconded by Tom Bomil, the MPO voted unanimously to adjourn at 2:27 PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 24, 2021, at 2:00 PM. Should a virtual meeting be required, a link will be sent to participants and published in the public notice.