

## ENDORSEMENT OF AMENDMENT 1 TO THE FFY 2025 – 2029 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FOR THE NORTHERN MIDDLESEX REGION

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### FFY 2025-2029 Northern Middlesex Transportation Program Air Quality Endorsement Statement

This document certifies that the Northern Middlesex Metropolitan Planning Organization hereby endorses Amendment #1 to the FFY 2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program for the Northern Middlesex Region. This TIP amendment is being endorsed in accordance with the 3C Transportation Planning Process and complies with the requirements in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), also known as the “Bipartisan Infrastructure Law” (BIL).

### Air Quality Conformity

Whereas, the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments (CAAA) require Metropolitan Planning Organizations within non-attainment areas and/or attainment areas with maintenance plans to perform air quality conformity determinations prior to the approval of transportation plans and transportation improvement programs, and at such other times as required by regulation;

Whereas, the air quality conformity analysis prepared for the FFY 2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program also demonstrates air quality conformity of the Northern Middlesex Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), and that all regionally significant transportation projects in the FFY 2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program are contained in the Regional Transportation Plan, and that all regionally significant projects in the 2020 to 2040 timeframe of the Regional Transportation Plan are modeled in the FFY 2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program's air quality conformity analyses;

Whereas, the NMMPO has completed its review in accordance with Section 176(c) (4) of the Clean Air Act as amended in 1990 [42 U.S.C. 7251 (a)], and hereby certifies that Amendment 1 to the FFY 2025-2029 TIP is financially constrained and that the implementation of the RTP satisfies the conformity criteria specified in both 40 CFR Part 51 and 93 (8/15/1997) and 310 CMR 60.03 (12/30/1994). Based on the results of the conformity analyses, the RTP and FFY 2025-2029 TIP is consistent with the air quality goals of, and in conformity with, the Massachusetts State Implementation Plan;

Therefore, in accordance with 23 CFR Part 450.326 (Development and content of the Transportation Improvement Program) and the Northern Middlesex MPO Regional Public Participation Plan (23 CFR 450.316), the MPO hereby endorses the FFY 2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program.



for

January 22, 2025

Monica Tibbits Nutt, Secretary and CEO  
Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT);  
Chair, Northern Middlesex Metropolitan Planning Organization (NMMPO)

Date

## Summary Narrative of Amendment 1 to the FFY 2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program for the Northern Middlesex Region

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### Introduction and Overview

The following table summarizes **Amendment 1** to Fiscal Year 2025 of the FFY 2025-2029 Northern Middlesex Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). **Amendment 1** involves the receipt of a federal RAISE grant by the City of Lowell with municipal matching funds, which has the net effect of increasing highway funds by \$21,900,000. The amendment was released for conditional approval subject to no adverse public comments at the December 4, 2024 NMMPO meeting. The public was invited to comment on this amendment by email to [publiccomments@nmcog.org](mailto:publiccomments@nmcog.org) or by mail to NMCOG, 672 Suffolk Street, Suite 100, Lowell, MA 01854. Following the public comment period, the NMMPO met again on January 22, 2025 and voted to endorse the amendment with no comments received.

**Table of Changes FFY 2025 Project #S13124 – “Lowell – Bridge Preservation Project (RAISE)”**

Project Funding	Former Value	New Value	Variance
RAISE	\$0	\$21,900,000	+\$21,900,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$21,900,000</b>	<b>+\$21,900,000</b>

### Detailed List of Proposed Changes

1. **S13124 – Lowell – Bridge Preservation Project (RAISE):**

The City of Lowell was awarded a Federal Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant of \$21,400,000, and is providing \$500,000 in local funds for the preservation of four city-owned bridges in need of immediate repair. The bridges are located in Qualified Census Tracts and Areas of Persistent Poverty (defined as tracts where 50% of households have income below 60% AMI, or a poverty rate of 25% or more). The four bridges to be preserved through this funding:

- Broadway Street Bridge over the West Canal in the Acre
- Market Street Bridge over the Merrimack Canal in Downtown Lowell
- Lawrence Street Bridge over the River Meadow Brook in Back Central
- Swamp Locks Pedestrian Bridge over the Lower Pawtucket Canal in the Acre

This amendment ensures that the RAISE grant funds are programmed on the TIP, allowing the City of preservation of these four bridges consistent with the grant program purpose and objectives.

## Public Comment Summary

The NMMPO invited the public to provide their input on this TIP amendment. A 21-day comment period was established to ensure sufficient opportunity for community feedback. This process satisfies the MPO's public participation requirements for the Program of Projects.

- ***21-Day Public Comment Period: December 4, 2024 – December 29, 2024***

The NMMPO accepted public comments at [publiccomments@nmcog.org](mailto:publiccomments@nmcog.org), or by mail to NMCOG, 672 Suffolk Street, Suite 100, Lowell, MA 01854. The NMMPO received no comments on the proposed amendment.

## TIP Program Description

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a critical federally mandated document that directs the allocation of federal transportation funding within the NMMPO region. The TIP outlines a five-year capital plan, featuring a diverse array of projects anticipated to receive federal and state aid. The most [recent TIP](#) is available on the NMCOG website as well as TIPs from [recent years](#). Our TIP is bifurcated into two principal components: one focusing on transit projects through the Lowell Regional Transit Authority's (LRTA) and the other on regional transportation infrastructure enhancements. The Program of Projects forms the core of the TIP. Proposed changes to the TIP, referred to as "amendments", are presented to the NMMPO Board for comprehensive review and consideration for inclusion in the regional plan.