



NMMPO
MOVING THE REGION SINCE 1976

TO: Northern Middlesex Metropolitan Planning Organization
FROM: Apple Gould-Schultz, Transportation Planner I
 Kelly Lynema, Deputy Director and Transportation Program Manager
DATE: June 24, 2025
RE: Summary Narrative of Amendment 4 to the FFY 2025–2029 Transportation Improvement Program for the Northern Middlesex Region

Introduction and Overview

The following table summarizes **Amendment #4** to Fiscal Year 2026 of the statewide element of the FFY 2025-2029 Northern Middlesex Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Amendment #4 involves a cost increase of \$7,324,487 to Project #608227 (Billerica – Yankee Doodle Bike Path Construction (Phase 1)). Pending MPO vote, the amendment will be released for public comment at the June 25, 2025 NMMPO meeting. The public comment period for Amendment #4 will close July 16, 2025. The public is invited to comment on this amendment by email to publiccomments@nmcog.org or by mail to NMMPO, 672 Suffolk Street, Suite 100, Lowell, MA 01854. The NMMPO may vote to release the amendment with conditional approval should no adverse comments be received.

Table of Changes FFY 2026 Project #608227 – “Billerica – Yankee Doodle Bike Path Construction (Phase 1)”

Value Changed	Former Value	New Value	Variance
2026: Statewide-CON-Bicycle and Pedestrian CMAQ	\$0	\$7,324,487	+\$7,324,487
TOTAL			+\$7,324,487

Detailed List of Proposed Changes

Below is the comprehensive justification for the cost increase:

1. The project necessitated additional traffic management plans on Route 3, including permanent work zone setups and removal and resetting of the existing noise wall and guardrail. Additionally, permanent work zones were also added for construction access along Eliot Street/Orchard Road.

Due to the permanent work zone setups on Route 3 and Eliot/Orchard Street, restoration plans were added, which included mill and overlay, striping, and rumble strips on Route 3. The total paving shown on Route 3 is approximately 4,900 ft.

In total, the added work zone staging and resulting pavement restoration work for Route 3 increased the total project costs by approximately \$1,800,000.

2. Design development of the bridge structures based on MassDOT comments added significant cost increases. Specifically, the ramp truss structure at Eliot Street/Orchard Road (B-12-027) increased by approximately five million dollars. The following is a list of the significant changes:
 - Updated prefabricated costs were used from recent projects for the six-span truss structure. In total the costs for the prefabricated trusses and concrete piers increased by \$2,328,000.
 - The total costs for the micro pile foundations, including rock sockets, load testing, and proof testing, increased by \$2,450,000.

3. Additional smaller cost increases also include the following:
 - A general price escalation in unit prices from the previous cost estimate.
 - The intersection of the proposed bike path spur from the Middlesex Street parking lot has been revised after coordination with MassDOT Complete Streets engineer. The revised intersection landscape plantings for restoration of impacted areas for construction access.
 - The estimate was updated to meet current MassDOT requirements for the removal and disposal of excess soils generated from excavation. All excess soil excavated now require testing and proper disposal at offsite facilities.
 - The overall project cost is also escalated for items such as Item 748. Mobilization and Item 722.1 Schedule of Operations, which are calculated as a function of the total itemized project cost.
 - The total smaller cost increases equals \$746,487.

Public Comment Summary

Pending a vote to release for public comment and conditional approval, the NMMPO invites the public to provide their input on this TIP amendment. A 21-day comment period will be established to ensure sufficient opportunity for community feedback. This process satisfies the NMMPO's public participation requirements for the Program of Projects.

- ***21-day public comment period: June 25-July 16, 2025***

The NMMPO will accept public comments in the following ways:

- **Email:** at publiccomments@nmcog.org
- **Mail:** NMMPO, 672 Suffolk Street, Suite 100, Lowell, MA 01854
- **Virtual Public Meeting:** July 2, 2025 at 12:00 – 12:30 PM. A zoom link and instructions on how to join the meeting will be posted to nmcog.org/calendar following the NMMPO's release of the amendment for public comment.

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 comprised of two principal programs of projects: one focusing on transit projects through the Lowell Regional Transit Authority and the other on regional transportation infrastructure enhancements. The programs of projects form 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.