



TO: Northern Middlesex Metropolitan Planning Organization
FROM: Apple Gould-Schultz, Transportation Planner I
 Kelly Lynema, Deputy Director and Transportation Program Manager
DATE: December 4, 2025
RE: Summary Narrative of Amendment 1 to the FFY 2026–2030 Transportation Improvement Program for the Northern Middlesex Region

Introduction and Overview

The following table summarizes **Amendment #1** to Fiscal Year 2026 of the statewide element of the FFY 2026-2030 Northern Middlesex Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Amendment #1 involves re-programming \$21,900,000 for the **RAISE Grant Lowell Bridge Preservation** project. At their October meeting, the NMMPO voted to release Amendment #1 for a 21-day public comment period; comments were also accepted at the December 3 meeting of the NMMPO. No comments were received. At their December meeting, the NMMPO voted to endorse the amendment.

Table of Changes FFY 2026 Project #S13124 – “Lowell – Bridge Preservation Project (RAISE)”

Value Changed	Former Value	New Value	Variance
Earmark Discretionary - RAISE	\$0	\$21,900,00	+\$21,900,00
TOTAL			+\$21,900,00

Detailed List of Proposed Changes

This project will fund final design, permitting, construction management, and construction activities for the rehabilitation or preservation of approximately four deficient bridges. Three bridges include vehicle, pedestrian, and transit infrastructure and one bridge will accommodate pedestrians and bicycles only. Additional information on the project benefits can be found on the [RAISE Grant Fact Sheets](#).

Below is the comprehensive justification for the amendment:

- This project needs to be programmed on the STIP for 2026 to be eligible for obligation. Because funds were not obligated in FFY2525 when it was originally programmed, the project needs re-programming for FFY2026.

Public Comment Summary

A public comment period was open October 22 through November 12, 2025. Comments were accepted via email to publiccomments@nmcog.org or by mail to NMCOG, 672 Suffolk Street, Suite

100, Lowell, MA 01854. A virtual public hearing was held as part of the NMMPO's December meeting on December 3, 2025 at 2:00pm. No comments were received.

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.

ENDORSEMENT OF AMENDMENT 1 TO THE FFY 2026 – 2030 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FOR THE NORTHERN MIDDLESEX REGION

FFY 2026-2030 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 2026-2030 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 2026-2030 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 2026-2030 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 2026-2030 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 2026-2030 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 2026-2030 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 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program.



for

December 3, 2025

Phillip Eng, Interim Secretary and CEO
Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT);
Chair, Northern Middlesex Metropolitan Planning Organization
(NMMPO)

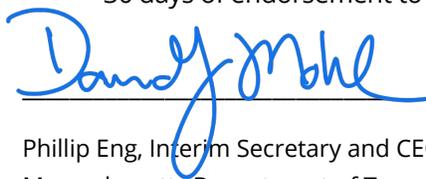
Date

310 CMR 60.05: GLOBAL WARMING SOLUTIONS ACT REQUIREMENTS FOR THE TRANSPORTATION SECTOR AND THE MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Self-Certification Compliance Statement for Metropolitan Planning Organizations

This will certify that the Transportation Improvement Program and Air Quality Conformity Determination for the Northern Middlesex Metropolitan Planning Organization (NMMPO) Transportation Improvement Program is in compliance with all applicable requirements in the State Regulation 310 CMR 60.05: Global Warming Solutions Act Requirements for Transportation. The regulation requires the MPO to:

1. 310 CMR 60.05(5)(a)1.: Evaluate and report the aggregate transportation GHG emissions impacts of MTPs and TIPs;
2. 310 CMR 60.05(5)(a)2.: In consultation with MassDOT, develop and utilize procedures to prioritize and select projects in MTPs and TIPs based on factors that include aggregate transportation GHG emissions impacts;
3. 310 CMR 60.05(5)(a)3.: Quantify net transportation GHG emissions impacts resulting from the projects in MTPs and TIPs and certify in a statement included with MTPs and TIPs pursuant to 23 CFR Part 450 that the MPO has made efforts to minimize aggregate transportation GHG emissions impacts;
4. 310 CMR 60.05(5)(a)4.: Determine in consultation with the RPA that the appropriate planning assumptions used for transportation GHG emissions modeling are consistent with local land use policies, or that local authorities have made documented and credible commitments to establishing such consistency;
5. 310 CMR 60.05(8)(a)2.a.: Develop MTPs and TIPs;
6. 310 CMR 60.05(8)(a)2.b.: Ensure that RPAs are using appropriate planning assumptions;
7. 310 CMR 60.05(8)(a)2.c.: Perform regional aggregate transportation GHG emissions impact analysis of MTPs and TIPs;
8. 310 CMR 60.05(8)(a)2.d.: Calculate aggregate transportation GHG emissions impacts for MTPs and TIPs;
9. 310 CMR 60.05(8)(a)2.e.: Develop public consultation procedures for aggregate transportation GHG emissions impact reporting and related GWSA requirements consistent with current and approved regional public participation plans;
10. 310 CMR 60.05(8)(c): Prior to making final endorsements on the MTPs, TIPs, STIPs, and projects included in these plans, MassDOT and the MPOs shall include the aggregate transportation GHG emission impact assessment in MTPs, TIPs, and STIPs and provide an opportunity for public review and comment on the MTPs, TIPs, and STIPs; and
11. 310 CMR 60.05(8)(a)1.c.: After a final GHG assessment has been made by MassDOT and the MPOs, MassDOT and the MPOs shall submit MPO-endorsed MTPs, TIPs, STIPs or projects within 30 days of endorsement to the Department for review of the GHG assessment.



for

December 3, 2025

Phillip Eng, Interim Secretary and CEO
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SELF-CERTIFICATION OF THE 3C PLANNING PROCESS

FFY 2026-2030 Northern Middlesex Transportation Program 3C Process Statement

The Northern Middlesex Metropolitan Planning Organization certifies that its conduct of the metropolitan transportation planning process complies with all applicable requirements, which are listed below, and that this process includes activities to support the development and implementation of the regional Long-Range Transportation Plan and Air Quality Conformity Determination, the Transportation Improvement Program and Air Quality Conformity Determination, and the Unified Planning Work Program.

1. 23 USC 134, 49 USC 5303, and this subpart.
2. Sections 174 and 176 (c) and (d) of the Clean Air Act, as amended (42 USC 7504, 7506 (c) and (d) and 40 CFR part 93 and for applicable State Implementation Plan projects.
3. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended (42 USC 2000d-1) and 49 CFR Part 21.
4. 49 USC 5332, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, sex, or age in employment or business opportunity.
5. Section 1101 (b) of the Fast Act (Pub. L. 114-357) and 49 CFR Part 26 regarding the involvement of disadvantaged business enterprises in U.S. DOT-funded projects.
6. 23 CFR part 230, regarding implementation of an equal employment opportunity program on Federal and Federal-aid highway construction contracts.
7. The provisions of the US DOT and of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 USC 12101 et seq.) and 49 CFR Parts 27, 37, and 38.
8. The Older Americans Act, as amended (42 USC 6101), prohibiting discrimination on the basis of age in programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance.
9. Section 324 of Title 23 USC regarding the prohibition of discrimination based on gender.
10. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 USC 794) and 49 CFR Part 27 regarding discrimination against individuals with disabilities.
11. Anti-lobbying restrictions found in 49 CFR Part 20. No appropriated funds may be expended by a recipient to influence or attempt to influence an officer or employee of any agency, or a member of Congress, in connection with the awarding of any federal contract.



for

December 3, 2025

Phillip Eng, Interim Secretary and CEO
Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT);
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Date