



TO: Northern Middlesex Metropolitan Planning Organization
FROM: Blake Acton, Transportation Planner II
 Kelly Lynema, Deputy Director and Transportation Program Manager
DATE: February 25, 2026
RE: Summary Narrative of Amendment 3 to the FFY 2026–2030 Transportation Improvement Program for the Northern Middlesex Region

Introduction and Overview

The following table summarizes Amendment #3 to the Northern Middlesex MPO FFY 2026–2030 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The proposed change in Amendment #3 is a transit project involving the addition of \$600,000 to the NMMPO FFY 2026–2030 TIP. There are no highway changes associated with this amendment.

The NMMPO is scheduled to release this amendment for a 21-day public comment period at their February 25, 2026 meeting. A public comment period will be held from February 26 through March 19, with a virtual public hearing during the beginning of the March 25 NMMPO meeting at 2:00pm. Immediately following the hearing the MPO will be presented with the option to endorse the amendment package with comments received.

Summary Table of Amendment #3 Transit Changes to the NMMPO FFY 2026–2030 TIP

Project ID	Description	Former Value	New Value	Variance	Former FFY	New FFY
LRTA012200	LRTA – DESIGN SERVICES FOR FIXED ROUTE MAINTENANCE FACILITY EXPANSION	\$0	\$600,000	+\$600,000	N/A	2026
	TOTAL			+\$600,000		

Detailed List of Proposed Changes

Project LRTA012200: Design Services for LRTA Fixed Route Maintenance Facility Expansion

Project LRTA012200 is being added to the NMMPO FFY 2026–2030 TIP to fund architectural and engineering (A&E) design services for an expansion and upgrade to the LRTA’s existing fixed-route maintenance facility at 100 Hale Street in Lowell. As LRTA expands service and its fleet grows, the current facility is approaching capacity and will need to be expanded to accommodate additional vehicles. The facility also houses dispatch and operations for fixed-route service.

The total project cost is \$600,000, funded with \$432,203 in FTA Section 5307 (Urbanized Area Formula) funds and \$67,797 in FTA Section 5339 (Bus and Bus Facilities) funds, with a match of

\$100,000 in MassDOT Toll Credits (TDC). The project is programmed for FFY 2026 to obligate lapsing federal funds in the current fiscal year.

TIP Program Description

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a 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.