

Summary Narrative of Amendment 2 to the FFY 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program for the Northern Middlesex Region

Introduction and Overview

The following table summarizes a draft amendment to Fiscal Year 2024 of the FFY 2024-2028 Northern Middlesex Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). **Amendment 2** involves the addition of two new, fully funded, projects. These projects are considered statewide projects because they will occur in more than one MPO region. Because part of each of these projects will take place in the NMMPO region, the projects need to be amended onto the NMMPO TIP.

The proposed amendment will be considered for release for public comment period at the January 24, 2024 NMMPO meeting. If released, a public comment meeting will be scheduled for February 14, 2024 via zoom. The public is invited to comment on this amendment by email to publiccomments@nmcog.org or by mail to NMCOG, 672 Suffolk Street, Suite 100, Lowell, MA 01852. Following the public comment period, the NMMPO will meet again on February 28, 2024 to hear any comments received and consider endorsement of this amendment.

Table of Proposed Changes to the FY 2024 TIP Program of Projects

Proposed Project Amendment	Notes	Project Number	Change
Resurfacing and Related Work on Route 110 Lowell- Dracut- Methuen	Add Regionally Prioritized Project (National Highway Performance Program (NHPP) Funded)	608816	+ \$18,436,452
Bridge Preservation of 41 Bridges in Route 3 Corridor Bedford- Billerica- Chelmsford- Tyngsborough	Add State Prioritized Project (Highway Infrastructure Program (HIP) Funded)	613213	+ \$ 9,999,250

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.

Invitation for Public Comment

The NMMPO invites the public to provide their input on this TIP amendment. We have established a 21-day comment period to ensure sufficient opportunity for community feedback. This process satisfies the LRTA's public participation requirements for the Program of Projects.

Please refer any comments to Paul Christner, Transportation Program Manager at publiccomments@nmcog.org or 978-454-8021, ext. 121.

Detailed List of Proposed Changes

1. **608816 – Resurfacing and Related Work on Route 110:**

The purpose of this project is to resurface a 5.9-mile portion of the Route 110 corridor and provide overall improvements to the existing infrastructure. The project will provide new pedestrian and bicycle accommodations as well as update existing pedestrian accommodations to ADA compliance. Additionally, the proposed work will include pavement mill and overlay, restriping, and new signage. The proposed cross section consists of 11-foot travel lanes in each direction, a two-foot shoulder on the north side of the road, a 5.5-foot reconstructed sidewalk on the north side, and a 10-foot at-grade shared use path separated from the vehicle travel lane by a two-foot to six-foot buffer containing guardrail or flex-posts. The vehicle travel lanes, shoulders, and at-grade buffered shared use path are proposed to fit within the existing pavement width. The typical width of the buffer is proposed to be six feet. However, in areas where turn lanes are needed, or other constraints exist, the buffer may be reduced to two feet. The typical buffer separation will include w-beam guardrail with a backing on the post-side to protect the pedestrians and bicyclists. Breaks would be provided along the guardrail for driveways and at pedestrian crossings/access points. Flex posts are proposed, in place of guardrail, in areas where there are frequent driveways, and in constrained areas where the buffer narrows.

2. **613213 – Bridge Preservation of 41 Bridges in Route 3 Corridor:**

This project will perform minor concrete patching to the existing bridge components as well as joint replacement on 41 bridges carrying Route 3 from the NH line to the town of Bedford.