



BOSTON REGION METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Stephanie Pollack, MassDOT Secretary and CEO and MPO Chair

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WORK PROGRAM

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE MPO'S COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

NOVEMBER 7, 2019

Proposed Motion

The Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) votes to approve this work program.

Project Identification

Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Classification

Boston Region MPO Planning Studies and Technical Analyses

Project Number 13297

Client

Boston Region MPO

Project Supervisors

Principal: Katie Pincus Stetner

Manager: Sandy Johnston

Funding Source

MPO Planning and §5303 Contract #108217

Schedule and Budget

Schedule: 12 months after work commences

Budget: \$20,000

Schedule and budget details are shown in Exhibits 1 and 2, respectively.

Relationship to MPO Goals

The Boston Region MPO elected to fund this work program with its federally allocated metropolitan planning funds during federal fiscal year (FFY) 2020. The work completed through this program will address the following goal area(s) established in the MPO's Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP): capacity management and mobility, clean air and clean communities, and economic vitality.

Background

The MPO first included the Community Transportation, Clean Air, and Mobility Investment Program in the LRTP approved in 2015, *Charting Progress to 2040*. This program, intended to provide first-and-last-mile options for commuters and other travelers, derived from several previous MPO funding programs with similar intentions. The MPO funded a study in the FFY 2018 UPWP entitled, “Community Transportation Program Development” to define the direction of the program. The MPO included this program as one of several investment programs defined in *Destination 2040*, the MPO’s new LRTP adopted in August 2019, and has programmed \$2 million per year for it in the FFYs 2020–24 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), beginning in FFY 2021.

To distinguish it from the Community Transportation Technical Assistance Program and programs run by other agencies, this program is now known as the *Community Connections* (CC) Program. Over the past year and a half, MPO staff have continued to develop the framework under which the program would operate, including development of an application form, process and scoring rubric.

Objective(s)

This project would continue the development and refinement of the CC Program during and after its pilot round in FFY 2020. The following objectives of this work scope are to

1. Successfully administer the CC Program pilot round;
2. Review pilot round and make changes to the CC Program framework as necessary; and
3. Continue outreach to stakeholders to publicize the CC Program and facilitate dialogue on first-and-last-mile issues.

Work Description

Work to support the CC Program will be ongoing throughout FFY 2020.

Task 1 Administer application period and evaluate projects for CC Program pilot round

The CC Program application was released to proponents of candidate projects identified in the CC Program Universe in October 2019. MPO staff will evaluate the applications according to the scoring rubric presented to the MPO in December 2018, and present the scored list of projects to the MPO with the intent of gaining the MPO’s approval to include them in the FFYs 2021–25 TIP.

Products of Task 1

- List of CC Program projects to be funded in FFYs 2021–25 TIP

Task 2 Review CC Program pilot round

After the FFYs 2021–25 TIP is finalized, including the CC Program projects, staff will undertake an effort to review how the pilot round functioned and determine what, if any, changes should be made to the CC Program for future rounds. Topics of inquiry will include the mix of project applications and which projects were funded; how the scoring framework functioned, and how it relates (and will relate) to the newly updated TIP criteria; and how to generate a strong set of candidate projects. Staff will present findings to the MPO and request the MPO's feedback on the findings and the future framework of the program. Staff will then prepare a revised memorandum guiding implementation of any changes to the CC Program for future rounds, and to make any necessary administrative preparations.

Products of Task 2

- Memorandum describing any changes to the CC Program as a result of the review process

Task 3 Conduct outreach about CC Program and first-and-last-mile needs

Staff will publicize the CC Program in outreach meetings throughout FFY 2020. During the course of the pilot round, staff will develop a strategy for advertising the availability of funding for future CC Program rounds. Staff will then pursue this strategy for the rest of FFY 2020 in advance of a full public request for projects in FFY 2021 (for funding in FFY 2022 and onward).

Products of Task 3

- Materials advertising the CC Program and funding availability

Attachment 1: FFY 2020 CC Program Universe

As presented to the MPO in December 2018.

**Draft Universe of Potential Community Transportation Projects for Presentation to the MPO,
December 20, 2018**

Municipality	Project Type	Project Concept	Potential Project Sponsor/Proponent*
<i>ICC</i>			
Boston	Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements	Implement some of the recommendations contained in the Fairmount Line Station Access Analysis, http://www.ctps.org/fairmount-station-access	City of Boston
Boston	Transit Operations and Improvements; Education and Wayfinding	Implement signage for commuter and intercity buses stopping curbside in downtown Boston, in accordance with recommendations in Chapter 4 of the Massachusetts Regional Bus Study, http://www.ctps.org/2013_mass_bus_study	City of Boston, MassDOT, bus carriers
Boston	Transit Operations and Improvements	Improve the waiting area for EZRide shuttle buses on Nashua Street outside of North Station with weather-resistant shelters and seating	City of Boston, Charles River TMA
Cambridge	Transit Operations and Improvements; Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements	1) Pilot or permanent implementation of two bus lanes on access roads connecting the Alewife T with Route 2, to benefit MBTA, TMA, and shuttle buses. 2) Safer crossing of Alewife Brook Parkway near Rindge Towers (public housing project), better access between Rindge Ave. housing, Fresh Pond Mall, and Alewife train station 3) Pedestrian bridge from Alewife to Fresh Pond	City of Cambridge, Route 128 BC, Alewife TMA
Cambridge, Somerville	Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements	1) Linking the Community Path Extension with the partially built Grand Junction Path (and the People's Pike near the I-90 project), the proposed Mystic to Charles Connector Friends of the Mystic to Charles Connector, and the GLX Project. 2) Link the Rose Kennedy Greenway with the Charles River Paths. Fix the Charles River path near the Museum of Science, including a dedicated bike lane in both directions.	City of Cambridge, City of Somerville, DCR
Everett, Somerville	Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements	Extension of Northern Strand Community Trail from Everett to Assembly Square.	City of Everett, City of Somerville, MBTA
Everett, Chelsea	Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements	Improve sidewalks, crosswalks, and other routes to transit along the route of the 112 and other local buses.	City of Everett, City of Chelsea
Malden	Transit Operations and Improvements; Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements	Implement more dedicated space for bicyclists, pedestrians, buses, and pickup/drop-off near Malden Center Station.	City of Malden
Melrose	Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements	Improving bike and pedestrian access between neighborhoods, transit stations, commercial districts, and schools and parks.	Town of Melrose
Waltham, Newton	Transit Operations and Improvements	Shuttle from Riverside MBTA station to Brandeis campus	Route 128 Business Council, Brandeis University
Watertown	Transit Operations and Improvements	The Pleasant Street corridor, which has five new residential rental developments and an existing redeveloped office park, is completely unserved by public transportation. The WTMA is currently studying establishing shuttle service along the Pleasant Street corridor, to connect residents and employees to Watertown Square, where they can access buses to the Red Line and downtown. (More details available in documentation from Laura Wiener.)	Town of Watertown , Watertown TMA

Municipality	Project Type	Project Concept	Potential Project Sponsor/Proponent*
MWRC			
Ashland	Transit Operations and Improvements; Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements	1) First-mile/last-mile connections to commuter rail 2) Improve transit access to Ashland Commuter Rail station (shuttle to downtown/MWRTA Route 5)	Town of Ashland, MWRTA
Framingham	Transit Operations and Improvements	1) Shuttle connection from Golden Triangle to downtown 2) Shuttle to Dennison Facilities	City of Framingham
Framingham	Parking Management	Expand park-and-ride in downtown Framingham	City of Framingham
Natick	Parking Management	Parking expansion at Natick Center commuter rail station	Town of Natick
Natick	Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements	Connect Cochituate Rail Trail to Natick Center commuter rail station	Town of Natick
Wellesley	Parking Management	Expanded parking at all three Wellesley commuter rail stations	Town of Wellesley
Weston, Wayland	Parking Management; Transit Operations and Improvements	Shuttle from downtown Wayland to Weston commuter rail stations	Town of Weston, Town of Wayland
MAGIC			
Concord	Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements; Transit Operations and Improvements; Education and Wayfinding	1) Improve pedestrian, bicycle, and transit connections to West Concord station 2) Implement wayfinding strategies and signage along the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail 3) Recommendations pursuant to 2016 CTPS technical assistance memos	Town of Concord
Lexington	Transit Operations and Improvements	Consolidate multiple shuttles operating on Hayden Ave. in Lexington	Town of Lexington, Route 128 Business Council
NSTF			
Beverly	Transit Operations and Improvements	1) Make Beverly Depot a mobility hub. Connect to bikeshare, uber, car-sharing in an organized way. 2) Connections for Cherry Hill manufacturing employees from Lynn, Beverly Depot	City of Beverly
NSPC			
Reading	Transit Operations and Improvements; Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements	1) Better connectivity from Walkers Brook to downtown, including possibly establishing a multimodal path next to the MBTA tracks to accommodate the many people who already walk along the tracks because it's the shortest way to get from the Walker's Brook area to downtown. 2) Creation of remote parking with a shuttle service to open up prime parking spaces by the commuter rail, which are currently occupied all day by commuters and thus aren't available to patrons of downtown businesses 3) More bike lanes and sidewalks. Road diet on South Main (Rte. 28) as a start.	Town of Reading
Winchester	Parking Management	Parking will be lost at Winchester Center during (and after?) reconstruction. Provide a shuttle from off-site parking to compensate.	Town of Winchester
SSC			

Municipality	Project Type	Project Concept	Potential Project Sponsor/Proponent*
Cohasset	Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements	Bicycle and pedestrian approaches to station are dangerous, especially on Sohier St.	Town of Cohasset
Hingham	Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements	Bicycle and pedestrian approaches to station are dangerous, especially intersection of Kilby St./Route 3A	Town of Hingham
Hull	Transit Operations and Improvements	Better (shuttle?) connections from town to commuter rail	Town of Hull
TRIC			
Canton	Transit Operations and Improvements; Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Improve pedestrian, cyclist, or transit accommodations for the many senior living and low-income multifamily developments along Rte. 138 in Canton. 2) The 716 bus doesn't run frequently enough and has no sheltered bus stop locations along the Washington Street corridor. 3) Implement the recommendations made in the Boston MPO study of the Route 138 corridor 4) Reestablish first and last mile connections for Royall St. Once served by the RailLink Shuttle (NVTMA) to the Route 128 Commuter Rail, Quincy Adam, Mattapan, and Ashmont Red Line Stations. Originally, two shuttles were funded with CMAQ funds and contributions from several employer partners. Once funding ended many businesses dropped out. One shuttle remained in service, which was privately funded by Reebok and Computershare. Reebok added an Express shuttle to the commuter rail from March 2016–October 2017. Due to Reebok's move to the Seaport and a significant workforce reduction at Computershare, service was suspended in April 2018. 	Town of Canton, Neponset Valley TMA
Dedham, Norwood, Foxborough, Walpole	Transit Operations and Improvements; Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Legacy Place fixed-route and shuttle improvements 2) Patriot Place shuttles 3) Employee access to Route 1 from MBTA 34E and other transit stops, especially safe pedestrian/bicycle environment 4) Shuttle from Norwood commuter rail stations to Moderna and/or new 40B developments in the same area 	Towns of Dedham, Norwood, Foxborough, Walpole; Neponset Valley TMA
Sharon	Parking Management	Shuttle or innovative carpooling/ridesharing arrangement from off-site parking to Sharon train station. Town is considering building a parking structure.	Town of Sharon, Neponset Valley TMA

***Bold red text** indicates a project proponent or sponsor with whom MPO staff have had advanced conversations about the relevant project

CTPS = Central Transportation Planning Staff. DCR = Department of Conservation and Recreation. GLX = Green Line Extension. ICC = Inner Core Committee. MAGIC = Minuteman Advisory Group on Interlocal Coordination. MassDOT = Massachusetts Department of Transportation. MBTA = Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority. MPO = Metropolitan Planning Organization. MWRC = Metrowest Regional Collaborative. MWRTA = Metrowest Regional Transit Authority. NSPC = North Suburban Planning Council. NSTF = North Shore Task Force. NVTMA = Neponset Valley Transit Management Association. SSC = South Shore Coalition. TMA = Transit Management Association. TRIC = Three Rivers Interlocal Council. WTMA = Watertown Transit Management Association.

Exhibit 1
ESTIMATED SCHEDULE
Further Development of the MPO's Community Transportation Program

Task	Month												
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
1. Administer application period and evaluate projects for CC Program pilot round						A							
2. Review CC Program pilot round												B	
3. Conduct outreach about CC Program and first-and-last-mile needs													

Products/Milestones

- A: Scored list of CC projects for FFY 2021
- B: Final memorandum reviewing CC Program

Exhibit 2**ESTIMATED COST****Further Development of the MPO's Community Transportation Program**

Direct Salary and Overhead	\$20,000
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Task	Person-Weeks					Direct Salary	Overhead (102.11%)	Total Cost
	M-1	P-5	P-3	P-2	Total			
1. Administer application period and evaluate projects for CC Program pilot round	0.2	0.8	2.0	2.5	5.4	\$7,109	\$7,259	\$14,368
2. Review CC Program pilot round	0.2	0.0	0.0	2.0	2.2	\$2,603	\$2,658	\$5,260
3. Conduct outreach about CC Program and first-and-last-mile needs	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	\$184	\$188	\$372
Total	0.4	0.8	2.0	4.7	7.8	\$9,896	\$10,105	\$20,000

Other Direct Costs	\$0
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TOTAL COST	\$20,000
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Funding

MPO Planning and §5303 Contract #108217