

# **Draft Memorandum for the Record Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization's Congestion Management Process Committee Meeting**

## **January 17, 2019, Meeting**

9:00 AM–10:00 AM, CTPS Large Conference Room, Suite 2150, 10 Park Plaza,  
Boston, MA

## **Chairperson**

Jay Monty, Chair

## **Decisions**

The (CMP) Committee agreed to the following:

- Approve the minutes of the December 21, 2017, CMP Committee meeting
- Approve the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2019 CMP Work Plan

## **Meeting Agenda**

### **1. Introductions**

See attendance on page 5.

### **2. Approval of December 21, 2017, CMP Committee Meeting Minutes**

The meeting minutes were approved unanimously by the three committee members present at the meeting.

### **3. Federal Fiscal Year 2019 CMP Work Plan**

#### ***Task 1: Support the CMP Committee***

This task entails preparing meeting materials for the CMP Committee meetings. The objective is to meet three to four times per calendar year. Items such as transit performance measures and park-and-ride data can be discussed at future meetings. Additionally, if there is a desire to meet more often, staff can invite guest presenters to the meeting.

***Task 2: MBTA Park-and-Ride and Bicycle Parking Inventory***

Staff surveyed every train station, every ferry station, and certain bus stops to record park-and-ride lot and bicycle parking utilization. The data have been completely collected and processed. The MPO's modeling group has also reviewed the dataset. The MBTA will review the database and let staff know if there are any disparities with the counts.

A committee member asked about the dates of the collection for the park-and-ride survey. The park-and-ride data were collected between spring 2017 and fall 2018. It was noted that some of the park-and-ride lots had changes to their fare structure in September 2018. These changes will be reflected in the final analysis.

A committee member mentioned that one concern is that parking fee increases might encourage commuters to park illegally in neighborhoods adjacent to MBTA stations instead of in MBTA parking lots. Another committee member mentioned that the fare increases were done to help balance parking at different MBTA stations.

***Task 3: Develop New Performance Measures and Criteria***

There are new federal requirements for the MPO to conduct more performance monitoring. The Federal Highway Administration has given MPOs the National Performance Management Research Data Set for free. The dataset has processed INRIX data for the National Highway System (NHS), which is a smaller network than the CMP network in the Boston region. Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS) data are also available in this dataset. The MPO would like to determine if HPMS counts could be used to create new performance measures, such as vehicle hours of delay. The MPO also would like to conduct a comparison between the 2012 and 2015 INRIX datasets using new performance measures. This task will continue through the rest of the federal fiscal year.

***Task 4: Create Dashboard for Non-recurring Congestion***

This task is related to the non-recurring congestion study that was completed in the previous fiscal year. This task will create a dashboard that will visually show how congestion occurs during certain events, such as a ball game, holiday, or a winter storm for example. Most of the work on the dashboard is nearly complete.

A committee member asked if the MPO allowed to share this data. The MPO cannot share some of the data from the dashboard due to licensing agreements with INRIX, but the MPO can display analysis results from an event. For example, congestion before, during, and after a Super Bowl parade can be displayed on the dashboard.

A committee member asked if the dashboard would include locations that were affected by construction of the casino, the Green Line Extension, or a private development at Harvard Station..

Initially these locations would not be included because MPO staff only has 2012 and 2015 INRIX data. However, if staff receive more data later on, the dashboard can be updated. Predictive modeling would be useful for construction site hot spots.

The FFY 2019 CMP work plan was approved by unanimous agreement among the CMP Committee members who were present at the meeting.

#### **4. Comparator Application Dashboard Presentation**

Staff presented the expressway comparator application to the CMP Committee as a demonstration. (Staff also created an arterial comparator application, but decided not to release it to the public due to the disparities in arterial roadway speed data.) The comparator application compares the travel speeds on roadways between the 2012 and 2015 INRIX datasets. Some of the locations experienced increases in speeds, but the majority of locations experienced decreases in speeds. Staff contacted MassDOT staff to discuss the situation at these locations and they mentioned that the improvement in the economy over time is causing more congestion. Other factors include suburban sprawl, ridesharing, and construction.

Staff then proceeded to demonstrate the dashboard, showing the change in speeds for Interstate 90 eastbound. The dashboard shows the difference in average speed, speed index, congested time, delay per mile, and travel time index. The data can be displayed for the AM and PM peak period. The dataset is also downloadable in Excel format through the dashboard.

#### **5. Other Business**

The committee members agreed that no bylaws were needed going forward, and motions to approve could be confirmed as long as there is unanimous agreement between the members present.

Staff submitted a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) project to the UPWP Committee that would serve as a follow up to the Intersection Improvement Program. This project could become a future UPWP project if approved by the UPWP Committee.

#### **6. Follow-Up Tasks**

The CMP committee membership vacancies will need to be discussed in a future meeting.

## **7. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 AM.

## Attendance

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### Members

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At-Large City (City of Everett)  
City of Boston (Boston Transportation Department)  
Regional Transportation Advisory Council

### Representatives and Alternates

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Jay Monty  
Tom Kadzis  
AnaCristina Fragoso

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### MPO Staff/Central Transportation Planning Staff

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Mark Abbott  
Ryan Hicks  
Scott Peterson  
Michelle Scott

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Title VI Specialist  
Boston Region MPO  
10 Park Plaza, Suite 2150  
Boston, MA 02116  
[civilrights@ctps.org](mailto:civilrights@ctps.org)  
857.702.3700 (voice)