

# **MPO Meeting Minutes**

## **Memorandum for the Record**

### **Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization Meeting**

#### **December 17, 2020, Meeting**

10:00 AM–10:53 AM, Zoom Video Conferencing Platform

David Mohler, Chair, representing Stephanie Pollack, Secretary, and Chief Executive Officer, Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT)

#### **Decisions**

The Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) agreed to the following:

- Approve Amendment One to the Federal Fiscal Years (FFY) 2021–25 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

#### **Meeting Agenda**

##### **1. Introductions**

See attendance on pages 4–6.

##### **2. Chair’s Report—*David Mohler, MassDOT***

There was none.

##### **3. Executive Director’s Report—*Tegin Teich, Executive Director, Central Transportation Planning Staff***

1. [Memorandum FFY 2021 LRTP Priority Corridor Locations](#)
2. [Memorandum Subregional Priority Roadways Selection](#)
3. [Subregional Priority Roadway Selection Comment Letter](#)

T. Teich stated that due to an unstable internet connection she asked Jonathan Church and Kate White, MPO Staff, to provide updates. J. Church noted that MPO staff have chosen locations for the FFY 2021 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Priority Corridor and Subregional Priority Roadways studies. K. White provided an overview of recent MPO staff outreach activities.

##### **4. Public Comments**

There were none.

**5. Committee Chairs' Reports—Jay Monty, At-Large City, City of Everett, Chair, Congestion Management Process (CMP) Committee**

J. Monty stated that the CMP committee met prior to the MPO to approve the FFY 2021 work plan. Ryan Hicks, MPO staff, also presented the Park-and-Ride dashboard.

**6. Regional Transportation Advisory Council Report—Lenard Diggins, Chair, Regional Transportation Advisory Council**

L. Diggins provided a summary of the last Advisory Council meeting.

**7. Action Item: FFYs 2021–25 TIP Amendment One—Matt Genova, MPO Staff**

1. [FFYs 2021–25 TIP Amendment One Simplified](#)

M. Genova stated that Amendment One was released for a 21-day public review period at the meeting on November 19, 2020. MPO staff received one comment from MassDOT. Amendment One includes cost and funding source changes for three MassDOT-funded highway projects in FFYs 2021, 2022, and 2023.

M. Genova stated that MassDOT had requested an additional minor adjustment to the MPO funds allocated to the Green Line Extension (GLX) project in FFY 2021. Less than \$20,000 has been added to the MPO's funding allocation. This adjustment will not affect the funding schedules for any other MPO projects. FFY 2021 is the final year of GLX funding and ends the MPO's commitment to this project. This change does not meet the threshold for a full TIP amendment and does not need to be released for a 21-day public review period.

**Vote**

A motion to approve Amendment One to the FFYs 2021–25 TIP was made by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) (Eric Bourassa) and seconded by the Inner Core Committee (City of Somerville) (Tom Bent). The motion carried.

**8. Presentation/Discussion: Trucks at the Southampton Street Bottleneck, Bill Kuttner, MPO Staff**

1. [Memorandum: Trucks at the Southampton Street Bottleneck](#)

B. Kuttner stated that Southampton Bypass Road is a key freight network junction where congestion during the afternoon and evening peak impacts all vehicles. B. Kuttner stated that there are several merging areas on Interstate 93 (I-93) that contribute to congestion. B. Kuttner stated that Bypass Road northbound is currently unrestricted and MassDOT plans to ask that the restriction be lifted indefinitely, but southbound traffic is forbidden to private automobiles. B. Kuttner concluded that

unrestricted use of the Bypass Road northbound is not a concern, but removing the southbound Bypass Road restriction on private automobiles would exacerbate the congestion during the PM peak. B. Kuttner stated that queues at this location will be a problem unless capacity is added to I-93 in some manner.

### ***Discussion***

Brian Kane (MBTA Advisory Board) questioned the finding of adding capacity to I-93, asking whether adding more capacity would add more cars to the roadway. B. Kuttner stated that heavy traffic on the expressway encourages drivers to use surface roads, causing congestion, and it is preferable to keep traffic moving on premium roads.

Laura Gilmore (Massport) noted that this location has been cited by the trucking industry as a significant bottleneck that impacts freight movements. L. Gilmore noted that travel time is a more important factor for truckers.

B. Kane expressed support for improved signage on Cypher Street and the access road.

Jim Fitzgerald (City of Boston) (Boston Planning & Development Agency) asked if there were any short-term improvements that might be implemented. B. Kuttner stated that all the options are costly and would require rebuilding bridges, stating that without adding capacity, the only option is managing the queues. Any improvements should prevent queues from reaching Melnea Cass Boulevard and blocking key intersections.

## **9. Members Items**

L. Gilmore announced that she would be leaving Massport to take a position at the Volpe Center, and thus stepping down from the board. D. Mohler and Ken Miller (Federal Highway Administration) offered congratulations.

## **10. Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn was made by MAPC (E. Bourassa) and seconded by the Advisory Council (L. Diggins). The motion carried.

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## Attendance

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### Members

### Representatives and Alternates

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At-Large City (City of Everett)	Jay Monty
At-Large City (City of Newton)	David Koses
At-Large Town (Town of Arlington)	Daniel Amstutz
At-Large Town (Brookline)	Todd Kirrane
City of Boston (Boston Planning & Development Agency)	Jim Fitzgerald
City of Boston (Boston Transportation Department)	Tom Kadzis
Federal Highway Administration	Ken Miller
Federal Transit Administration	
Inner Core Committee (City of Somerville)	Tom Bent
Massachusetts Department of Transportation	David Mohler
	John Bechard
MassDOT Highway Division	John Romano
Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA)	Samantha Silverberg
Massachusetts Port Authority	Laura Gilmore
MBTA Advisory Board	Brian Kane
Metropolitan Area Planning Council	Eric Bourassa
MetroWest Regional Collaborative (City of Framingham)	Thatcher Kezer III
Minuteman Advisory Group on Interlocal Coordination (Town of Acton)	Austin Cyganiewicz
North Shore Task Force (City of Beverly)	Darlene Wynne
North Suburban Planning Council (City of Woburn)	Tina Cassidy
Regional Transportation Advisory Council	Lenard Diggins
South Shore Coalition (Town of Rockland)	Jennifer Constable
South West Advisory Planning Committee (Town of Medway)	Peter Pelletier
Three Rivers Interlocal Council (Town of Norwood/Neponset River Regional Chamber)	Tom O'Rourke

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<b>Other Attendees</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Aleida Leza	
Ben Muller	MassDOT
Rachel Benson	Town of Wrentham
Rich Benevento	World Tech Engineering
Sarah Bradbury	MassDOT Division 3
Joe Collins	
Johannes Epke	Conservation Law Foundation
Joy Glynn	MetroWest Regional Transit Authority
Michelle Ho	MassDOT
Jeff McEwen	
Erika Oliver-Jerram	City of Framingham
Constance Raphael	MassDOT Highway Division 4
Steve Olanoff	TRIC Alternate
Jon Seward	
Darin Takemoto	
Frank Tramontozzi	City of Quincy

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**MPO Staff/Central Transportation Planning Staff**

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Tegin Teich, Executive Director

Mark Abbott

Blake Acton

Matt Archer

Seth Asante

Jonathan Church

Annette Demchur

Julie Dombroski

Róisín Foley

Matt Genova

Betsy Harvey

Sandy Johnston

Bill Kuttner

Anne McGahan

Marty Milkovits

Ariel Patterson

Scott Peterson

Barbara Rutman

Michelle Scott

Chen-Yuan Wang

Kate White

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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)