

# **MPO Meeting Minutes**

## **Draft Memorandum for the Record**

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

#### **September 1, 2022, Meeting**

10:00 AM–10:22 AM, Zoom Video Conferencing Platform

David Mohler, Chair, representing Jamey Tesler, Secretary of Transportation and Chief Executive Officer of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT)

#### **Decisions**

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

- Approve the minutes of the meeting of July 21, 2022
- Approve Amendment Eight to the Federal Fiscal Years (FFYs) 2022–26 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

#### **Meeting Agenda**

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

See attendance on page 5.

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

There was none.

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

T. Teich announced that the MPO staff has brought on four new data analysts to the Data Analysis and Applications team. They are Tanner Bonner, Joseph Delorto, Sophie Fox, and Seth Strumwasser. She said that she is very excited to have them on staff.

T. Teich also announced two new engagement highlights. The first highlight was that on August 19 and 25, the Federal Highway Administration’s Transportation Performance Management (TPM), Transportation Asset Management (TAM), and Freight and Analytics (TAFA) teams and MassDOT hosted the *Advancing Freight Virtual Seminar for Massachusetts*. This MPO-focused event covered freight basics, critical freight issues for states and MPOs, freight data, and effective practices from other states. Sandy Johnston, the MPO staff’s freight planner, was a panelist and gave a presentation about MPO freight planning on the first day of the webinar. The second highlight was that the U.S. Department of Transportation has asked the MPO to

participate in a survey on equity and public involvement in the transportation planning process. The MPO's equity and engagement staff are working together to respond and will be submitting the completed survey later in the month.

T. Teich also announced two engagement reminders. The first being that the Transit Working Group quarterly meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 20, at 3:00 PM. The guest speakers will be a team from TransitOps, a nonprofit that works on open-source transit technology, and Marco Chitti, a transit scholar who will speak about Montreal's recent fare integration project. The second reminder is that the 45-day public comment period is underway for the amendment to the Public Engagement Plan. One of the notable changes in the plan is to allow the board to waive the 21-day comment period for Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) amendments. The public comment period ends in a few days on September 4 at 5:00 PM.

T. Teich also highlighted upcoming agenda items at the next MPO meeting on September 15. Two agenda items include a vote to endorse the amendment to the Public Engagement Plan following the closure of its public comment period and a presentation from Sandy Johnston on a transportation demand management (TDM) study on peer MPO practices and whether the Boston Region MPO should engage in those practices.

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

There were none.

#### **5. Committee Chairs' Reports**

There were none.

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

L. Diggins stated that the Advisory Council had not met since its last meeting in early August. The next meeting on September 14 will be dedicated to the Boston Region MPO's Certification Review public meeting with the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration to obtain public feedback on the MPO's engagement and outreach processes.

#### **7. Action Item: Approval of July 21, 2022, MPO Meeting Minutes *Documents posted to the MPO meeting calendar***

1. [July 21, 2022, MPO Meeting Minutes \(pdf\)](#)
2. [July 21, 2022, MPO Meeting Minutes \(html\)](#)

***Vote***

A motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of July 21, 2022, was made by the At-Large Town (Town of Arlington) (Daniel Amstutz) and seconded by the Three Rivers Interlocal Council (Town of Norwood/Neponset Valley Chamber of Commerce) (Tom O'Rourke). The motion carried.

**8. Action Item: FFYs 2022–26 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment Eight—Jonathan Church, MPO Staff**

***Documents posted to the MPO meeting calendar***

1. [FFY 2022-26 TIP Amendment Eight \(pdf\)](#)

J. Church highlighted the FFYs 2022–26 TIP Amendment Eight document. This amendment was released for a 21-day public review period at the MPO's August 4, 2022, meeting. The amendment proposed the removal of the following project from the FFY 2022 element of the State Prioritized Reliability Projects (Safety Improvements) Program: Project #609090, the Boston-Milton-Quincy, Highway Lighting System Replacement on Interstate 93 from Neponset Avenue to the Braintree Split. The cost of the project is \$12,658,545. MassDOT's Highway Division recommended this action because of construction conflicts with two other projects happening in the same area of Interstate 93.

The 21-day public review period ended on August 25, 2022, at 5:00 PM, and no public comments were received on the proposed amendment.

***Discussion***

Bill Conroy (City of Boston) asked when the project would be back out to bid and included in the TIP. John Bechard (MassDOT Highway Division) stated that this project would likely go back out to bid in three years due to three other projects happening in the same area over the next two or more years. J. Bechard mentioned that the Interstate 93 moveable barrier project was advanced in design and advertising using Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRSSAA) funds due to the higher safety concerns related to that project.

***Vote***

A motion to approve Amendment Eight to the FFYs 2022–26 TIP, was made by the Regional Transportation Advisory Council (Lenard Diggins) and seconded by the City of Boston (Boston Transportation Department) (Bill Conroy). The motion carried.

## **9. Members' Items**

Brad Rawson (Inner Core Committee) spoke about the public safety and mobility emergency of the MBTA Orange Line and Green Line shutdowns. B. Rawson highlighted the “incredible light speed interagency effort” to keep people safe and stressed that if anyone has discretionary, non-essential travel next week to please stay off the roads while this emergency situation is occurring. B. Rawson thanked the MassDOT Highway Division for its progressive approach in deploying resources for safe streets and transit priorities in high-congestion, high-demand, and high-stress areas. He further highlighted the Cities of Boston’s and Somerville’s efforts to deploy their own resources for on-street bus lanes, accessibility upgrades, and emergency bicycle facilities in partnership with advocacy stakeholders in a joint team effort.

## **10. Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn was made by the At-Large Town (Town of Arlington) (Daniel Amstutz) and seconded by the Three Rivers Interlocal Council (Town of Norwood/Neponset Valley Chamber of Commerce) (Tom O’Rourke). The motion carried.

## 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 (Town of Brookline)	Todd Kirrane
City of Boston (Boston Planning & Development Agency)	Joe Blankenship
City of Boston (Boston Transportation Department)	Bill Conroy
Federal Highway Administration	Ken Miller
Federal Transit Administration	
Inner Core Committee (City of Somerville)	Brad Rawson
Massachusetts Department of Transportation	David Mohler
MassDOT Highway Division	John Bechar
	John Romano
Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA)	Jillian Linnell
Massachusetts Port Authority	
MBTA Advisory Board	Amira Patterson
Metropolitan Area Planning Council	
MetroWest Regional Collaborative (City of Framingham)	
Minuteman Advisory Group on Interlocal Coordination (Town of Acton)	
North Shore Task Force (City of Beverly)	Darlene Wynne
North Suburban Planning Council (Town of Burlington)	Melisa Tintocalis
Regional Transportation Advisory Council	Lenard Diggins
South Shore Coalition (Town of Rockland)	Jennifer Constable
SouthWest Advisory Planning Committee (Town of Medway)	
Three Rivers Interlocal Council (Town of Norwood/Neponset Valley Chamber of Commerce)	Tom O'Rourke

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<b>Other Attendees</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Lydia Bird	Nitsch Engineering
JR Frey	Town of Hingham
Joy Glynn	MetroWest Regional Transit Authority (MWRTA)
Victoria Healey	City of Beverly
Michelle Ho	MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning (OTP)
Derek Krevat	MassDOT OTP
Benjamin Muller	MassDOT District 6
Jeanette Rebecchi	
C Senior	MassDOT District 5
Tyler Terrasi	MWRTA
Frank Tramontozzi	
Andrew Wang	MassDOT Planning
Bryan Zimolka	Nitsch Engineering
Dan	

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**MPO Staff/Central Transportation Planning Staff**

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Tegin Teich, Executive Director  
Silva Ayvazyan  
Jonathan Church  
Betsy Harvey  
Sandy Johnston  
Stella Jordan  
Heyne Kim  
Rebecca Morgan  
Srilekha Murthy  
Meghan O'Connor  
Gina Perille  
Sean Rourke  
Michelle Scott  
Judy Taylor

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**Title VI Specialist**

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**By Telephone:**

857.702.3700 (voice)

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