



Draft Memorandum for the Record Regional Transportation Advisory Council Meeting

March 8, 2023, Meeting Minutes

2:30 PM–4:15 PM, Zoom Video Conferencing Platform

Lenard Diggins, Chair, representing the MBTA Ridership Oversight Committee (ROC)

Meeting Agenda

1. Introductions

L. Diggins called the meeting to order at 2:15 PM. (For attendance list, see page 5.)

2. Chair's Report—*Lenard Diggins, Chair*

There was none.

3. Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Raw Universe of Proposed Studies—*Srilekha Murthy, MPO Staff*

S. Murthy stated that the [FFY 2024 UPWP Raw Universe of Proposed Studies](#) contains 80 studies, which primarily came from public survey submissions. Proposed studies have been categorized into the following categories: Active Transportation, Land Use, Multimodal Mobility, Transit, Technical Assistance/Other, and Transit Equity.

The Regional Transportation Advisory Council was asked to create a list of recommended studies for the April 12, 2023, Advisory Council meeting.

Discussion

Andy Reker, City of Cambridge, and Franny Osman, Acton Transportation Advisory Committee, suggested methods to organize the discussion of proposed studies.

S. Murthy summarized studies in each of the six study categories and noted areas that overlap with existing MPO programs.

John McQueen, WalkBoston, asked what the discrete study budget is for the FFY 2024 UPWP. S. Murthy stated that the budget is still being developed but is expected to be in the range of the FFY 2023 UPWP's budget of \$300,000.

L. Diggins asked if the Advisory Council could recommend elements of studies to be combined. S. Murthy stated that this is valuable feedback.

J. McQueen recommended combining the studies T-8, Station Access Prioritization and Guidance, with A-3, a study exploring MBTA stations and opportunities to improve the pedestrian and bicycle network in the stations and their surrounding areas.

F. Osman asked what will happen with studies that are not selected. S. Murthy responded that MPO staff shares the project proposals with relevant partner agencies such as MassDOT, the MBTA, and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC).

F. Osman suggested that the Advisory Council should provide short, qualitative commentary on the proposed studies.

A. Reker highlighted studies M-6, Identifying Transportation Infrastructure Impacts from Managed Retreat, and M-7, Opportunities for Highway Removal in the Boston Region, and discussed their connection to climate change adaptation and Boston's history of development, respectively.

4. FFYs 2024-28 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Overview— *Ethan Lapointe, MPO Staff*

E. Lapointe discussed the projected Regional Highway Target Funds available to the MPO for programming within the FFYs 2024–28 TIP. E. Lapointe stated that in FFYs 2027 and 2028 the MPO is expected to have approximately \$25 million more to program than originally projected in the FFYs 2023–27 TIP, due to the Massachusetts Department of Transportation's expected completion of Grant Anticipation Note repayments.

E. Lapointe stated that the Community Connections program has a \$2.5 million set aside each FFY. In FFY 2024, there is \$641,495 remaining and in FFY 2025 there is \$1,075,304 remaining.

E. Lapointe stated that there were 19 projects scored in this TIP cycle—18 new projects and one returning from last cycle—including 11 Community Connections projects, five Complete Streets projects, one Intersection Improvement project, and two Bicycle Network and Pedestrian Connections applications. Primary funding of new projects will occur in FFY 2028. Project scores can be found below:

- Bicycle Network and Pedestrian Connections
 - **Spot Pond Brook Greenway in Malden:** 73
 - **Cochituate Rail Trail Extension in Natick:** Score to be determined due to late submission
- Complete Streets
 - **Roadway Rehabilitation of Route 126, Hartford Road in Bellingham:** 51.8
 - **Bridge Preservation, Cambridge Street over MBTA in Boston:** Score to be determined due to late submission

- **Argilla Roadway Reconstruction and Adaptation (Crane Estate to Crane Beach) in Ipswich: 37.1**
- **Envision Wakefield Main Street Improvements in Wakefield: 61.8**
- **Reconstruction of Canton Street (East Street Rotary to University Avenue) in Westwood: 52.8**
- Intersection Improvements
 - **Signal Installation at Randolph and York Street Intersection in Canton: N/A,** project not far enough in project initiation process to be funded through the TIP
- Community Connections
 - **Broad Street Corridor Transit Signal Priority in Lynn: 88**
 - **Boston Electric BlueBikes Adoption: 84**
 - **Cambridge Electric BlueBikes Adoption: 81**
 - **Medford BlueBikes Expansion: 78**
 - **Medford Bicycle Parking—Tier 1: 84**
 - **Canton Center Bicycle Racks: 72**
 - **Canton Public Schools Bike Program: 38**
 - **Concord Workforce Shuttle: 71**
 - **MetroWest Regional Transit Authority (MWRTA): CatchConnect Microtransit Expansion Phase 2: 90**
 - **North Reading Demand-Response Shuttle Pilot Program: 77.25**
 - **Revere On-Demand Shuttle Service: 57**

Discussion

J. McQueen asked if the Envision Wakefield project will connect to the rail station on North Avenue. E. Lapointe stated that there are ongoing efforts in Wakefield to add bicycle lanes on locally owned roads in the town.

F. Osman asked if there are equity issues contributing to whether or not municipalities apply for TIP funding. E. Lapointe discussed the geographic distribution of rail trail projects and referenced MAPC's Trail Map Application to identify existing bicycle connections in the region.

F. Osman discussed how the Concord Workforce Shuttle connects to similar services in neighboring municipalities and its ability to address first- and last-mile connections.

5. Approval of Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2022, meeting was made by the Acton Transportation Advisory Committee (F. Osman) and seconded by the Boston Society of Civil Engineers (BSCES) (AnaCristina Frago). The minutes were approved.

6. Old Business, New Business, and Member Announcements

There were no items.

7. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by the BSCES (AC Fragoso) and seconded by WalkBoston (J. McQueen). The motion carried.

DRAFT

Attendees

Member Municipalities

Town of Needham
City of Cambridge

Representatives and Alternates

David Montgomery
Andy Reker

Citizen Advocacy Groups

Acton Transportation Advisory Committee
American Council of Engineering Companies
Boston Society of Civil Engineers (BSCES)
MBTA Ridership Oversight Committee (ROC)
MoveMassachusetts
National Rural Transit Assistance Program
WalkBoston

Attendees

Franny Osman
Fred Moseley
AnaCristina Fragoso
Lenard Diggins, Chair
Jon Seward
Scott Zadakis
John McQueen

Agencies (Non-Voting)

MBTA Advisory Board
MetroWest Regional Transit Authority

Attendees

Amira Patterson
Tyler Terrasi

Other Attendees

Andrew Jennings
Daniel Martin
Marc Older
Scott Peterson

Affiliation

Town of Billerica
Town of Brookline
HDR

MPO Staff/Central Transportation Planning Staff

Logan Casey
Stella Jordan
Ethan Lapointe
Srilekha Murthy
Sean Rourke

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