BOSTON REGION METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

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Jeffrey B. Mullan
MassDOT Secretary and CEO
and MPO Chairman

Karl H. Quackenbush
Acting Director, MPO Staff

MEMORANDUM

DATE **July 7, 2011**

TO **Transportation Planning and Programming Committee of the Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization**

FROM **Karl H. Quackenbush, CTPS Acting Director**

RE **Work Program for: Milford/Hopedale Commuter Rail Extension Feasibility Study**

ACTION REQUIRED

Review and approval

PROPOSED MOTION

That the Transportation Planning and Programming Committee of the Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization, upon the recommendation of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, vote to approve the work program for Milford/Hopedale Commuter Rail Feasibility Study in the form of the draft dated July 7, 2011.

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Unified Planning Work Program Classification
Planning Studies

CTPS Project Number
42312

Client
Massachusetts Department of Transportation
Project Supervisor: Tim Doherty

CTPS Project Supervisors
Principal: Karl H. Quackenbush
Manager: Bruce Kaplan

Funding
MassDOT §5303 Contract #67438

IMPACT ON MPO WORK

The MPO staff has sufficient resources to complete this work in a capable and timely manner. By undertaking this work, the MPO staff will neither delay the completion of nor reduce the quality of other work in the UPWP.

BACKGROUND

Rail passenger service to the town of Hopedale was last operated more than 80 years ago. At present, the nearest commuter rail stations to Hopedale are Forge Park/495 and Franklin on the Franklin Line, and Framingham on the Framingham/Worcester Line. Hopedale public officials and residents have recently expressed strong interest in the reinstitution of commuter rail service to Boston from Hopedale. This study will analyze the feasibility of extending the existing Franklin commuter rail service to a Hopedale station. This study will build on CTPS's 1997 *Milford Commuter Rail Extension Feasibility Study*.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this work are:

- Evaluate the ridership potential of the Milford/Hopedale area for commuter rail service
- Develop a service plan for the proposed Milford/Hopedale extension
- Assess the proposed Milford/Hopedale extension's operational issues and its impact on the MBTA commuter rail system
- Project the revenue and capital and operating costs for the proposed Milford/Hopedale extension
- Assess the environmental and community impacts of the proposed Milford/Hopedale extension

WORK DESCRIPTION

The work required to accomplish the study objectives will be carried out in six tasks, as described below.

Task 1 Investigate Future Milford/Hopedale–Area Demographics

Hopedale lies in the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) planning region, as do some of its neighboring communities. Other communities neighboring Hopedale, such as Milford, lie in the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) planning region. Both of these regional planning agencies are in the process of developing future-year demographics based on 2010 census data. Both of these agencies,

as well as the Town of Hopedale and other major stakeholders, will be consulted to produce the best future-year Milford/Hopedale–area demographic projections.

Product of Task 1

Milford/Hopedale–area demographics

Task 2 Investigate Historical Travel Trends for the Milford/Hopedale Area

Various data sources, including census data, journey-to-work data, and the recent MBTA On-Board Survey, will be perused to establish historical travel trends for the Milford/Hopedale area. CTPS's 1997 *Milford Commuter Rail Extension Feasibility Study* will also be consulted for guidance.

Product of Task 2

Compilation of Milford/Hopedale–area historical travel trends

Task 3 Develop Commuter Rail Service Plan and Forecast Ridership

CTPS will develop a commuter rail service plan for the Milford/Hopedale commuter rail extension. This service plan, in conjunction with the data gathered in Tasks 1 and 2, will be used to project commuter rail ridership on the Milford/Hopedale extension. The forecasting methodology employed will resemble CTPS's 1997 *Milford Commuter Rail Extension Feasibility Study* and may also include use of the Boston Region MPO's regional travel demand model.

Products of Task 3

Service plan and summary of travel forecasts for the proposed Milford/Hopedale extension

Task 4 Estimate Costs and Revenues

CTPS will forecast the proposed project's anticipated passenger revenue as well as the capital and operating costs associated with the proposed commuter rail extension.

Products of Task 4

Cost and revenue estimates

Task 5 Assess Other Impacts

CTPS will investigate the project's environmental and community impacts as well as its impact on the existing MBTA commuter rail system. Operational issues related to the proposed Milford/Hopedale extension will also be examined. This will include assessing the feasibility of siting a new commuter rail layover facility in Hopedale.

Product of Task 5

A document summarizing the assessment of other impacts

Task 6 Produce a Technical Report

A technical report evaluating the feasibility of the proposed Milford/Hopedale extension, as well as documenting and summarizing the study's results, findings and the methodology used for the analysis, will be provided to MassDOT.

Product of Task 6

A technical report documenting the project

ESTIMATED SCHEDULE

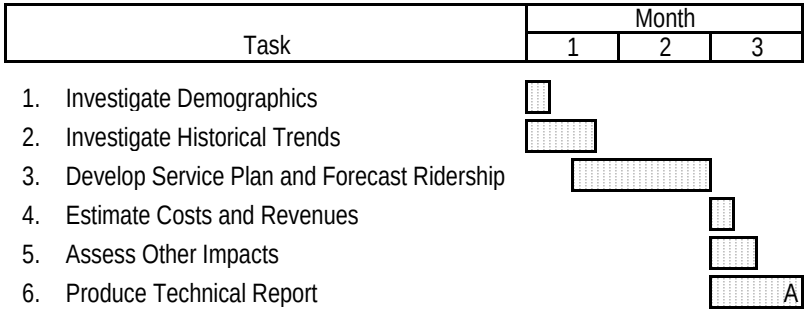
It is estimated that this project will be completed approximately three months after the notice to proceed is received. The proposed schedule, by task, is shown in Exhibit 1.

ESTIMATED COST

The total cost of this project is estimated to be $50,000. This includes the cost of 18.0 person-weeks of staff time, overhead at the rate of 90.69 percent, and travel. A detailed breakdown of estimated costs is presented in Exhibit 2.

KQ/SAP/BK/bk

Exhibit 1
ESTIMATED SCHEDULE
Milford/Hopedale Commuter Rail Extension Feasibility Study



Product

A: Technical report

Exhibit 2
ESTIMATED COST
Milford/Hopedale Commuter Rail Extension Feasibility Study

Direct Salary and Overhead	$49,942

Task	Person-Weeks M-1	P-5	P-4	Total	Direct Salary	Overhead (@ 90.69%)	Total Cost
1. Investigate Demographics	0.0	0.0	1.0	1.0	$1,220	$1,106	$2,326
2. Investigate Historical Trends	0.0	2.0	1.0	3.0	$4,410	$4,000	$8,410
3. Develop Service Plan and Forecast Ridership	0.0	4.0	1.5	5.5	$8,211	$7,446	$15,657
4. Estimate Costs and Revenues	0.0	0.7	0.3	1.0	$1,470	$1,333	$2,802
5. Assess Other Impacts	0.0	1.5	1.0	2.5	$3,613	$3,276	$6,889
6. Produce Technical Report	1.0	2.0	2.0	5.0	$7,268	$6,591	$13,858
Total	1.0	10.2	6.8	18.0	$26,191	$23,753	$49,942

Other Direct Costs	$58
Travel	$58

TOTAL COST	$50,000

Funding
MassDOT §5303 Contract #67438