

# Draft Memorandum for the Record Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization Unified Planning Work Program Committee Meeting Summary

## July 21, 2022, Meeting

9:00 AM–10:00 AM, Zoom Video Conferencing Platform

Derek Krevat, 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's (MPO) Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Committee agreed to the following:

- Move the Draft Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2023 UPWP to the MPO board
- Move the Draft FFY 2022 UPWP Amendment Two to the MPO board

## Materials

Materials for this meeting included the following:

1. Draft FFY 2023 UPWP
2. FFY 2022 UPWP Amendment Two memo

## Meeting Agenda and Summary of Discussion

### 1. Introductions

See attendance list on page 4.

### 2. Public Comments

There were none.

### 3. Action Item: Vote to Move Draft FFY 2023 UPWP to MPO Board— *Srilekha Murthy, MPO Staff*

S. Murthy presented committee members with updates since the previous meeting on staff's work to change the scope description for the congestion pricing study. The new study, titled Learning from Roadway Pricing Experiences, was developed based on feedback from the previous meeting of the UPWP Committee. The goal of this study is to engage with planners and policymakers in US cities that have implemented roadway-pricing strategies in an effort to understand the hurdles and opportunities they have

faced. The study is not intended to be a literature review; rather, the findings will allow the Boston region to be better informed about the realities and logistics of actually implementing roadway-pricing policies in the region.

S. Murthy additionally addressed some budgets that had been adjusted since the previous meeting. The budget for the Lab and Municipal Parking study had been adjusted to account for contributions by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC). Additionally, the Sustainability and Decarbonization in the Freight and Logistics Sector in the North Suffolk Area study's budget had been reduced.

### **Vote**

A motion to move the Draft FFY 2023 UPWP to the MPO board was made by the MAPC (Eric Bourassa) and seconded by the Regional Transportation Advisory Council (Lenard Diggins). The motion passed unanimously.

### **4. Action Item: Vote to Move Draft FFY 2022 UPWP Amendment Two to MPO Board—*Jonathan Church, MPO Staff***

Jonathan Church (MPO Staff) presented the FFY 2022 UPWP Amendment Two to the committee and requested that the committee move it to the MPO board for release for public comment. The first amendment was passed in November 2021 by the MPO board. Each year, staff perform a thorough assessment of spending patterns in the first three quarters of the fiscal year and estimate fourth quarter needs to propose UPWP budget adjustments in the final quarter. The two main reasons for this amendment are staff attrition and changing project and line item needs.

J. Church discussed some of the changes, notably a reduction in the budget for the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) by \$80,000 due to delays in developing the TIP database and public-facing application, and increases in the UPWP and Bicycle and Pedestrian Support categories, to name a few.

### **Discussion**

L. Diggins asked why there was a decrease in spending for the TIP, due to a lack of staff available to work on the database, while there was an increase in spending to support data-analysis work. J. Church responded that the data-analysis work was related to other ongoing work for the MPO and not specifically for the TIP. L. Diggins then asked about the staff-generated research line item and whether the lack of work in this area was due to a dearth of ideas or staff bandwidth. J. Church responded that it was due to staff capacity issues.

L. Diggins asked why the budget for the Regional Transit Service Technical Assistance line item was reduced. J. Church responded that the MPO has not received as many requests for assistance as anticipated.

Derek Shooster (MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning) asked whether these adjustments were direct costs or staff time changes. Annette Demchur (MPO Staff) responded that the changes were in staff time.

Steven Olanoff (Three Rivers Interlocal Council/Town of Westwood) asked why the budget for the Regional Transportation Advisory Council was cut for the rest of this fiscal year and reduced in the next year's UPWP. A. Demchur explained that previously there was a staff member dedicated to working with the Advisory Council; since that person no longer works for the MPO, the budget has been reduced to reflect that. S. Olanoff responded with concern that there may not be enough support for the Advisory Council. A. Demchur stated that, if necessary, staff can make an adjustment to the UPWP and allocate more funding to the Advisory Council.

#### ***Vote***

A motion to move the Draft FFY 2022 UPWP Amendment Two to the MPO board was made by MAPC (Eric Bourassa) and seconded by the At-Large Town (Town of Arlington) (Daniel Amstutz). The motion passed unanimously.

#### **5. Members Items**

There were none.

#### **6. Next Meeting**

The next meeting date will be announced at a later date.

#### **7. Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn was made by MAPC (Eric Bourassa) and seconded by the Inner Core Committee (City of Somerville) (Tom Bent). The motion carried.

## Attendance

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<b>Members</b>	<b>Representatives and Alternates</b>
Massachusetts Department of Transportation (Office of Transportation Planning)	Derek Shooster
Metropolitan Area Planning Council	Eric Bourassa
Regional Transportation Advisory Council	Lenard Diggins
At-Large City (City of Newton)	David Koses
At-Large Town (Town of Arlington)	Daniel Amstutz
City of Boston (Boston Transportation Department)	
Inner Core Committee (City of Somerville)	Tom Bent
Three Rivers Interlocal Council (Town of Norwood/Neponset Valley Chamber of Commerce)	Tom O'Rourke
Three Rivers Interlocal Council alternate (Town of Westwood)	Steve Olanoff
City of Framingham (Metrowest Regional Collaborative)	

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<b>Other Attendees</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Josh Levin	MassDOT District 4
Cassandra Ostrander	Federal Highway Administration
John Fetherston	MetroWest Regional Transportation Authority

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### **MPO Staff/Central Transportation Planning Staff**

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Tegin Teich, Executive Director  
Annette Demchur, Director of Policy and Planning  
Hiral Gandhi, Director of Finance and Operations  
Rebecca Morgan, Director of Projects and Partnerships  
Marty Milkovits, Director of Modeling and Analytics  
Jonathan Church, Manager of Certification Activities  
Mark Abbott, Manager of Traffic Analysis and Design  
Michelle Scott, MPO Staff  
Sandy Johnston, MPO Staff  
Srilekha Murthy, MPO Staff  
Logan Casey, MPO Staff

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**Title VI Specialist**

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Boston, MA 02116  
[civilrights@ctps.org](mailto:civilrights@ctps.org)

**By Telephone:**

857.702.3700 (voice)

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