

# **MPO Meeting Minutes**

## **Draft Memorandum for the Record**

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

**March 2, 2023, Meeting**

10:00 AM–12:30 PM, Zoom Video Conferencing Platform

David Mohler, Chair, representing Gina Fiandaca, 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 January 26, 2023
- Endorse the Federal Fiscal Years (FFY) 2023–27 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Adjustment Three
- Endorse the Title VI Triennial Report
- Approve ongoing funding for the Royall Street Shuttle and NewMo Shuttle pilot projects under the Community Connections investment program

## **Meeting Agenda**

### **1. Introductions**

See attendance on page 10.

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

D. Mohler, Chair, stated that Agenda Item 8, the work scope for Flexible, Fixed-Route Bus Service, has been postponed to a future meeting.

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

T. Teich, Executive Director, shared four job postings: Manager of MPO Activities, Manager of Policy and Planning, Manager of Multimodal Planning and Design, and Program Manager of the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

T. Teich stated that inquiries about the LRTP should be directed to Bradley Putnam, the Interim Program Manager of the LRTP.

T. Teich stated that the Open Meeting Law extension allowing virtual meetings is scheduled to expire on March 31, 2023. The Transportation Board Room has been reserved for MPO use through October 2023.

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

Frank Ventimiglia, Ipswich Department of Public Works, spoke about the Ipswich Argilla Roadway Reconstruction and Adaptation project. F. Ventimiglia described the project background and discussed resiliency efforts being made in the area. F. Ventimiglia advocated for the project to be funded in the FFYs 2024–28 TIP.

Danielle DeMarco, Campanelli Company, spoke in support of the Royall Street Shuttle in Canton. Campanelli Company owns an office building at 250 Royall Street and noted the importance of the shuttle to its business and attracting tenants to its building.

Yadira Martinez, Boston Mutual Life Insurance Company, spoke in support of the Royall Street Shuttle. Y. Martinez noted its importance in incentivizing employees to return to the office and promoting mode shifts.

Brian McCusker, Point32Health, spoke in support of the Royall Street shuttle. B. McCusker noted that the shuttle service was crucial in retaining and attracting employees after it moved its office.

Josh Ostroff, Town of Newton Planning Department, spoke in support of the NewMo Microtransit service. J. Ostroff noted that the service is critical for providing mobility options in Newton, providing equitable mobility especially for seniors and people with disabilities, supporting the workforce, and reducing congestion. J. Ostroff discussed the importance of the Community Connections program funding for this service and noted that Newton is exploring options to maintain and support the service in the future.

Gene Manning, Town of Canton Interim Town Planner, spoke in support of the Royall Street Shuttle. G. Manning noted the shuttle's importance to the town and its impacts on reducing congestion and benefits to the business community.

Karen Dumaine, Neponset Valley Transportation Management Association, spoke in support of the Royall Street Shuttle. K. Dumaine discussed the importance of the shuttle as a transit option for residents who lack other transit access and ways to get to work.

Brad Rawson, City of Somerville, noted Somerville's support for the TIP process and commended the MPO on TIP process improvements over the years. B. Rawson noted the importance of discussing the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority's (MBTA)

regional portfolio of projects and requested that the MPO Board see and discuss those projects.

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

Derek Krevat, MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning, stated that there will be a meeting of the Unified Planning Work Program Committee on March 16, 2023, at 1:00 PM.

Brian Kane, MBTA Advisory Board, stated that the Administration and Finance Committee met prior to this meeting to continue the development of the Operations Plan.

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

Lenard Diggins, Regional Transportation Advisory Council, stated that the next meeting will be held on March 8, 2023, at 2:30 PM.

## **7. Action Item: Approval of January 26, 2023, MPO Meeting Minutes Documents posted to the MPO meeting calendar**

1. [January 26, 2023, Meeting Minutes \(pdf\)](#)
2. [January 26, 2023, Meeting Minutes \(html\)](#)

### ***Vote***

A motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 26, 2023, was made by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) (Eric Bourassa) and seconded by the MBTA Advisory Board (B. Kane). The motion carried through a roll call vote.

## **8. Action Item: Work Scope, Flexible, Fixed-Route Bus Service**

Presentation of this work scope has been postponed to a future meeting.

## **9. Action Item: FFYs 2023-27 TIP Adjustment Three—*Logan Casey, MPO Staff***

*Documents posted to the MPO meeting calendar*

3. [FFYs 2024–28 TIP Adjustment Three \(pdf\)](#)
4. [FFYs 2024–28 TIP Adjustment Three \(html\)](#)

L. Casey presented FFYs 2023–27 TIP Adjustment Three.

The adjustment proposes:

- Funding source adjustment for Quincy–Milton–Boston Interstate Maintenance and Related Work on Interstate 93
- Correction to Section 5307 funding amount for Cape Ann Transportation Authority’s Revenue Vehicle Replacement project

**Vote**

A motion to endorse FFYs 2023–27 TIP Adjustment Three, was made by the MBTA Advisory Board (B. Kane) and seconded by the MAPC (E. Bourassa). The motion carried through a roll call vote.

**10. Action Item: Title VI Triennial Report—*Betsy Harvey, MPO Staff***  
***Documents posted to the MPO meeting calendar***

5. [Title VI Triennial Report \(pdf\)](#)
6. [Title VI Triennial Report \(html\)](#)
7. [Title VI Public Comments \(pdf\)](#)
8. [Title VI Public Comments \(html\)](#)
9. [Title VI Public Comments and Response Summary \(pdf\)](#)
10. [Title VI Public Comments and Response Summary \(html\)](#)

B. Harvey reviewed the 2022 Title VI Triennial Report for endorsement and presented public comments received during the report’s 30-day public comment period. Three comment letters were received and MPO Staff responded to each letter. B. Harvey summarized each comment letter for the board.

**Vote**

A motion to endorse the Title VI Triennial Report, was made by the MAPC (E. Bourassa) and seconded by the Regional Transportation Advisory Council (L. Diggins). The motion carried through a roll call vote.

**11. Action Item: Community Connections Shuttles Performance Data—*Ethan Lapointe, MPO Staff***

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

11. [Community Connections Shuttle Performance Data \(pdf\)](#)
12. [Community Connections Shuttle Performance Data \(html\)](#)
13. [Neponset River Regional Chamber Comment Letter \(pdf\)](#)
14. [Neponset River Regional Chamber Comment Letter \(html\)](#)

E. Lapointe discussed performance data of two Community Connections shuttle projects: the Royall Street Shuttle and the NewMo Microtransit Service Expansion.

The Royall Street Shuttle provides weekday service connecting MBTA Red Line stations and commuter rail stations to businesses along Royall Street in Canton. E. Lapointe discussed ridership data and projections for FFYs 2022–24. The FFY 2023 cost per rider from the MPO’s financial contribution is \$63.21.

The NewMo Service Expansion builds upon the Newton Microtransit Service, providing additional service to nine stops along Newton’s municipal borders. E. Lapointe discussed combined performance data of the NewMo Service and Expansion. The FFY 2023 cost per rider from the MPO’s financial contribution is \$7.91.

***Discussion***

David Koses, City of Newton, asked why the performance evaluation was conducted on three of the eight current shuttle projects, counting the NewMo and NewMo Expansion separately. D. Krevat responded that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) requested that MassDOT indicate its support for ongoing funding, and to make that determination, the MPO’s disposition on this approval was needed. The two shuttles evaluated were the only two shuttles to begin in FFY 2022.

B. Kane stated his support for ongoing funding of the shuttles.

E. Bourassa asked for clarification on the methodology to determine ridership and costs for the Royall Street Shuttle.

Tom O’Rourke, Three Rivers Interlocal Council (TRIC), stated his support for ongoing funding of the Royall Street Shuttle.

Kenneth Miller, FHWA, asked for the definition of “ridership,” as used within the performance analysis. E. Lapointe confirmed that ridership is equivalent to passenger trips.

***Vote***

A motion to approve continued funding for FFY 2023 of the Royall Street Shuttle was made by TRIC (T. O’Rourke) and was seconded by the MBTA Advisory Board (B. Kane). The motion carried through a roll call vote.

***Vote***

A motion to approve continued funding for FFY 2023 of the NewMo Shuttle Expansion was made by the City of Newton (D. Koses) and seconded by the MAPC (E. Bourassa). The motion carried through a roll call vote.

## 12. Discussion: FFYs 2024–28 Presentation of Final TIP Project Scores—*Ethan Lapointe and Logan Casey, MPO Staff*

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

15. [FFYs 2024–28 TIP Scoring Summary \(pdf\)](#)
16. [FFYs 2024–28 TIP Scoring Summary \(html\)](#)
17. [FFYs 2024–28 TIP Evaluated Project Descriptions \(pdf\)](#)
18. [FFYs 2024–28 TIP Evaluated Project Descriptions \(html\)](#)

E. Lapointe and L. Casey reviewed evaluation scores and key details of projects under consideration for funding in the FFYs 2024–28 TIP. There were 19 projects scored, with new projects primarily being funded in FFY 2028. All projects are scored on a 100-point scale. Scores are not compared across the four investment programs: Community Connections, Complete Streets, Intersection Improvements, and Bicycle Network and Pedestrian Connections.

Scores are as follows, with additional information available in the linked documents:

- 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***

E. Bourassa asked if the MPO's policy to only score projects above the 25 percent design threshold is limiting the number of projects applying for TIP funding, noting that past years had more project applications. E. Lapointe affirmed that excluding Community Connections projects, there were only nine projects submitted for scoring. E. Bourassa suggested discussing this policy at a future meeting.

B. Kane asked if the project scoring process accounts for the impacts of climate change. D. Mohler responded that B Kane's question can be addressed in future policy discussions.

B. Kane asked for elaboration on the design status of Project #612989, the Boston Bridge Replacement on Cambridge Street over the MBTA Orange Line. E. Lapointe answered that the City of Boston completed its internal design of the bridge replacement in 2022 and it was presented to the Project Review Committee within MassDOT, where additional adjustments are expected to be made. Para Jayasinghe, Boston Public Works Department, stated that the bridge is in a critical location, where its failure can result in numerous challenges.

Linda Orel, The Trustees, commented that the design for Argilla Road in Ipswich was created to be resilient to climate change impacts through 2070.

G. Manning commented that the Canton Public Schools Bike Program was proposed by students to promote bicycle routes to schools within the town.

Derek Shooster, MassDOT, asked if the electric Bluebikes proposals in Boston and Cambridge include adaptive bicycles within their scope to accommodate people with disabilities.

Jim Nee, MWRTA, commented that the CatchConnect Microtransit Program currently costs approximately \$20 per passenger trip and has had success in previous trials.

### **13. Draft Universe of Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Roadway Projects—Michelle Scott, MPO Staff**

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

19. [LRTP Draft Universe of Roadway Projects \(pdf\)](#)
20. [LRTP Draft Universe of Roadway Projects \(html\)](#)

M. Scott presented projects included in the draft universe of LRTP roadway projects. Included projects meet criteria for being included in the LRTP based on MPO policies adopted in October 2020 and clarified in January 2023.

The draft universe contains 13 MPO-funded projects from *Destination 2040*, where six projects are advertised or under construction, the Green Line Extension Phase 1 is now in service, four projects are programmed in the FFYs 2023–27 TIP, and two projects not yet programmed in the TIP. *Destination 2040* also contains five non-MPO-funded projects, where one project is complete, and two projects are programmed in the FFYs 2023–27 TIP.

There are six projects relevant to the LRTP programmed in the FFYs 2023–27 TIP. The McGrath Boulevard Construction in Somerville is expected to be programmed in FFYs 2027–30. The Bridge Replacement, Route 27 (North Main Street) over Route 9 in Natick is expected to be programmed in FFY 2024. The Intersection Improvements at Route 1 and University Avenue/Everett Street in Norwood is expected to be programmed in FFYs 2025–26. The Reconstruction of Rutherford Avenue in Boston is expected to be programmed in FFYs 2028–31. The Construction of Interstate 495/Route 1A Ramps in Wrentham is expected to be programmed in FFY 2024. The Reconstruction of Interstate 495 and Interstate 90 Interchange in Hopkinton and Westborough is expected to be programmed in FFYs 2023–27.

M. Scott reviewed projects that have been approved by MassDOT’s Project Review Committee (PRC) and appear to meet criteria to be included in the LRTP. Route 126/Route 135 Grade Crossing Project in Framingham, which appears in *Destination 2040* is included in these projects.

M. Scott reviewed projects that appear to meet LRTP inclusion criteria that have not been approved by the PRC and are still conceptual in nature. The Bedford/Hartwell Complete Streets Project in Lexington, which appears in *Destination 2040*, is included in these projects.



Next steps for the development of *Destination 2050* include reviewing the universe of transit projects, reviewing updates of project status in *Destination 2040*, scoring projects based on LRTP criteria, sizing investment programs, and selecting LRTP projects.

#### **14. Members' Items**

There were none.

#### **15. Adjourn**

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

## Attendance

<b>Members</b>	<b>Representatives and Alternates</b>
At-Large City (City of Everett)	Jay Monty
At-Large City (City of Newton)	David Koses
At-Large Town (Town of Arlington)	
At-Large Town (Town of Brookline)	
City of Boston (Boston Planning & Development Agency)	Jim Fitzgerald
City of Boston (Boston Transportation Department)	Bill Conroy
Federal Highway Administration	Kenneth Miller
	Cassandra
	Ostrander
Federal Transit Administration	
Inner Core Committee (City of Somerville)	Tom Bent
	Brad Rawson
Massachusetts Department of Transportation	David Mohler
	John Bechard
MassDOT Highway Division	John Romano
Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA)	Ali Kleyman
Massachusetts Port Authority	Sarah Lee
MBTA Advisory Board	Brian Kane
	Amira Patterson
Metropolitan Area Planning Council	Eric Bourassa
MetroWest Regional Collaborative (City of Framingham)	Dennis Giombetti
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)	
Regional Transportation Advisory Council	Lenard Diggins
South Shore Coalition (Town of Hull)	
South West Advisory Planning Committee (Town of Medway)	
Three Rivers Interlocal Council (Town of Norwood/Neponset	Tom O'Rourke
Valley Chamber of Commerce)	Steve Olanoff

<b>Other Attendees</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
John Alessi	City of Malden
Sarah Bradbury	MassDOT District 3
Miranda Briseño	MassDOT
Paul Cobuzzi	
Danielle DeMarco	Campanelli Company
Trish Domigan	VHB
Paula Doucette	
Janie Dretler	Sudbury Select Board
Jen Ducey	Stantec
Karen Dumaine	Neponset Valley TMA
Daniel Fitch	
Nicole Freedman	
Cindy Frené	
Pamela Haznar	
Michelle Ho	MassDOT OTP
Juan Huicochea Mason	
Amy Ingles	
Gin	
Para Jayasinghe	Boston Public Works Department
Sandy Johnston	MBTA
Josh Klingenstein	MBTA
Todd Korchin	
Raissah Kouame	
Derek Krevat	MassDOT OTP
Josh Levin	MassDOT District 4
Owen MacDonald	Town of Weymouth
Gene Manning	Town of Canton
Yadira Martinez	Boston Mutual Life Insurance Company
Brian McCusker	Point32Health
Stephanie Monaco	
Benjamin Muller	MassDOT District 6
Jim Nee	MetroWest Regional Transit Authority
Linda Orel	The Trustees
Josh Ostroff	Town of Newton Planning Department
Sheila Page	Town of Lexington
Jesse Riedle	Town of Bellingham Department of Public Works
Claire Rundelli	Natick Conservation Agent
Cheryll-Ann Senior	MassDOT District 5
Derek Shooster	MassDOT OTP
Erin Stevens	
Tyler Terrasi	MetroWest Regional Transit Authority
George Thiel	

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<b>Other Attendees</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Frank Ventimiglia	Town of Ipswich Department of Public Works
Andrew Wang	MassDOT OTP

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**MPO Staff/Central Transportation Planning Staff**

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Tegin Teich, Executive Director  
Silva Ayvazyan  
Logan Casey  
Jonathan Church  
Annette Demchur  
Hiral Gandhi  
Betsy Harvey  
Stella Jordan  
Heyne Kim  
Ethan Lapointe  
Erin Maguire  
Marty Milkovits  
Rebecca Morgan  
Gina Perille  
Bradley Putnam  
Sean Rourke  
Michelle Scott  
Judy Taylor  
Sam Taylor

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**Title VI Specialist**

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