

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

Boston Region MPO Board  
10 Park Plaza, Suite 2150  
Boston, MA 02116

Re: Draft Federal Fiscal Years 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program

Dear Members of the Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Board:

The Regional Transportation Advisory Council (the Advisory Council) reviewed the MPO's Federal Fiscal Year 2024 to 2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). We would like to offer the following comments for your consideration:

-We appreciate the focuses this year on...

Issues to mention (discuss each at RTAC Wednesday). These are taken from notes from last week's two meetings:

- Fiscal sustainability

- Bikeshare funding

- Pilot design project -want more money allocated to supporting design

- 25% design requirement and struggle of municipalities to meet threshold

- Should projects estimate when ready for construction

- Rutherford avenue slipping backward in schedule

- Items added to TIP or amended at the last minute--by whom? often MassDOT projects?

- Related: flux in the TIP

- MPO's move since last year to work with the T to put transit projects into near-term years

- Risk mitigation concern this year

- Having a bank of projects ready for when there is a surplus. Having cushion for cost changes

- More top-down decisions and funding of projects that are working in one area of the MPO, e.g. microtransit projects. Ongoing need to encourage better projects that will score well, to be generated, and technical assistance for smaller municipalities, to help them shape proposals and designs.

- Support better inter-regional transit connection