

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

## June 25, 2020 Meeting

9:00 AM–9:30 AM, Zoom videoconferencing platform

Benjamin Muller, Chair, representing Stephanie Pollack, Secretary and Chief Executive Officer, Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT)

## Decisions

The Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Committee agreed to the following:

- Approve the Meeting Summary of the April 2, 2020 meeting
- Approve the Meeting Summary of the May 28, 2020 meeting
- Approve Amendment Two to the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2020 UPWP and forward it to the full MPO with a recommendation to vote to release for public comment

## Materials

Materials for this meeting included the following:

1. Meeting Summary of the April 2, 2020 meeting
2. Meeting Summary of the May 28, 2020 meeting
3. Draft Amendment Two to the FFY 2020 UPWP

## Meeting Agenda and Summary of Discussion

### 1. Introductions

B. Muller read the accessibility statement and called the meeting to order.

### 2. Public Comments

There were none

### 3. Meeting Summary of April 2, 2020—*Approval of this summary*

A motion to approve the summary was made by Daniel Amstutz (Town of Arlington) and seconded by Tom O'Rourke (Town of Norwood/Three Rivers Interlocal Council [TRIC]).

The motion carried, with T. O'Rourke abstaining and Steve Olanoff (Town of Westwood/TRIC alternative) voting in his place.

#### **4. Meeting Summary of May 28, 2020—Approval of this summary**

A motion to approve the summary was made by T. O'Rourke and seconded by David Koses (City of Newton/At-Large City). The motion carried unanimously.

#### **5. Amendment Two to the FFY 2020 UPWP—Sandy Johnston, UPWP Manager**

S. Johnston presented the amendment. He noted that the committee members should be familiar with the content of the amendment at this point given previous discussions. The amendment removes the study called Transit Mitigation of New Development Sites, funded at \$60,000, and replaces it with two \$30,000 studies called Review of Vision Zero Policies and Innovations in Estimating Trip Generation Rates. The MPO has already seen the scope for Trip Generation Rates, and Bradley Putnam (MPO Staff) will present the scope for Vision Zero at the MPO meeting later today. Since the amendment moves money around rather than increasing or decreasing the overall budget, top-line numbers will remain the same. Staff request that the committee approve the amendment so that they can ask the MPO to release it for public comment at the meeting to follow.

B. Muller asked for a motion to approve the amendment and pass it to the MPO. Len Diggins (Regional Transportation Advisory Council) made the motion and Tom Bent (City of Somerville/Inner Core Committee) seconded. Tom Kadzis (City of Boston) asked for a reminder as to why the Transit Mitigation study is being removed, and who at MassDOT is doing the redundant work. Annette Demchur (CTPS Director of Policy and Planning) explained that the initial idea had been to conduct a literature review, and with MassDOT doing something similar, CTPS had been unable to come up with work that could add value on the topic. B. Muller explained that MassDOT's Public-Private Development Unit is taking the lead on this work. There was further discussion; A. Demchur noted that MassDOT had identified legal issues that are challenging and do not fall into CTPS' expertise.

D. Amstutz wondered if, given the current climate and protests about police brutality, and that organizations such as the Safe Routes to School National Partnership have dropped enforcement from their priorities, the Vision Zero work scope should deal differently with the question of enforcement of traffic safety. A. Demchur said that CTPS had been conducting significant internal discussion on that question, and that staff would be looking deeply into the literature and current media as to how to bring that perspective into the study. L. Diggins noted that even prior to the current climate,

organizations involved in Vision Zero had already de-emphasized enforcement. He also thanked T. Kadzis for bringing up important questions about the development mitigation work.

With discussion concluded, the motion carried unanimously.

## **6. Members Items**

B. Muller mentioned MassDOT's Shared Streets grant program, and noted that the Department of Conservation & Recreation had announced a similar program. Both of these could be significant resources in the phased reopening of the state from its COVID-19 restrictions. L. Diggins thanked B. Muller for bringing up those programs and said a member of the Regional Transportation Advisory Council was very interested in these programs, so this was valuable information.

## **7. Next Meeting**

The next meeting is to be held on July 16, with a vote expected to approve the final FFY 2021 UPWP before its final endorsement by the MPO board.

## **8. Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn was made by T. O'Rourke and seconded by T. Bent. Without objection, the meeting adjourned.

## Attendance

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<b>Members</b>	<b>Representatives and Alternates</b>
Massachusetts Department of Transportation (Office of Transportation Planning)	Ben Muller
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)	Tom Kadzis
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

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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  
Scott Peterson, Director of Technical Services  
Hiral Gandhi, Director of Operations and Finance  
Mark Abbott, Traffic Analysis and Design Group Manager  
Sandy Johnston, UPWP Manager  
Kate White, Public Outreach Coordinator  
Matt Archer, Transportation Planner  
Bradley Putnam, Transportation Planner

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