



VIRTUAL

MEETING

# Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization

October 19, 2023



VIRTUAL

MEETING

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## **繁體中文 (Traditional Chinese)**

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## **Kreyòl Ayisyen (Haitian Creole)**

Si yon moun vle genyen enfòmasyon sa yo nan yon lòt lang, tanpri kontakte Espesyalis Boston Region MPO Title VI la nan nimewo 857.702.3700.

## **Español (Spanish)**

Si necesita esta información en otro idioma, por favor contacte la Boston Region MPO al 857.702.3700.

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Caso estas informações sejam necessárias em outro idioma, por favor, contate o MPO da Região de Boston pelo telefone 857.702.3700.

## **Tiếng Việt (Vietnamese)**

Nếu quý vị cần thông tin này bằng một ngôn ngữ khác, vui lòng liên lạc Boston Region MPO theo số 857.702.3700.

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## Guidelines

1. All participants will join the meeting with muted microphones.
2. Please rename yourself to include your first name, last name and affiliation.
3. After roll call, Board members may mute and unmute themselves. Always remain muted unless actively speaking.
4. To participate in the discussion, please select the “raise hand” function. Find this by clicking either on the “Participants” button at the bottom of the screen, and a window will pop up with a “Raise Hand” button at the bottom, or the “Reactions” button in the toolbar. The Chair will then call on participants.
5. If you are on the phone, you can use \*9 to raise your hand.
6. If you have any technical difficulties, please contact Sean Rourke via the chat box, [srourke@ctps.org](mailto:srourke@ctps.org) or 857.702.3705.



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October 19, 2023

## AGENDA

1. **Introductions**
2. Chair's Report
3. Executive Director's Report
4. Public Comments
5. Committee Chairs' Reports
6. Regional Transportation Advisory Council Report
7. Action Item: August 17, 2023, MPO Meeting Minutes
8. Action Item: Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan
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11. Annual Meeting Planning: Federal Funding Topic
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# Introductions



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# Chair's Report



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# Executive Director's Report



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# Staffing Updates

- **New colleague in November**
  - Transportation Planner, Multimodal Planning and Design-  
Kyle Casiglio
- **Newly posted**
  - Program Manager, Long-Range Transportation Plan
  - Manager of Model Development



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# Engagement Updates

- Subregional MPO/Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Discussions
  - Completed this week: Three Rivers Interlocal Council (TRIC), North Suburban Planning Council (NSPC), North Shore Task Force (NSTF)
  - Today at 2:00 PM: South Shore Coalition (SCC)
  - To be held next week: Minuteman Advisory Group on Interlocal Coordination (MAGIC), MetroWest Regional Collaborative (MWRC)
  - Contact: Stella Jordan, [sjordan@ctps.org](mailto:sjordan@ctps.org)



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# Engagement Updates

- Upcoming in-person engagement
  - Mattapan Square Farmers Market on Saturday, October 21 from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM
  - Open Streets, Somerville on Sunday, October 22 from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM
  - Questions or ideas, contact: Stella Jordan, [sjordan@ctps.org](mailto:sjordan@ctps.org)



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# Transportation Improvement Program Engagement

- Information Sessions on the TIP application process
  - Dates:
    - Thursday, November 2 at 3:00 PM
    - Thursday, November 9 at 10:00 AM
  - Audience: municipalities interested in initiating or advancing projects in the TIP
  - Contact: Ethan Lapointe, [elapointe@ctps.org](mailto:elapointe@ctps.org)

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# Today's Agenda

- Two action items
  - Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan, vote to endorse
  - Federal Fiscal Years (FFYs) 2024–28 TIP Amendment One
- One presentation
  - Transit Transformation Program
- Two discussions
  - Annual Meeting agenda topic
  - Responding to requests for MPO letters of support



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# Upcoming Meetings

- November 2, 2023, at 10:00 AM
  - Beginning of new members' terms
- ***Annual Meeting (hybrid)***
  - November 30, 2023, at 10 AM
  - State Transportation Building Second Floor Boardroom
  - Refreshments at 9:30 AM



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# Public Comments



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# Committee Chairs' Report



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# Regional Transportation Advisory Council Report



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# Action Item: August 17, 2023, MPO Meeting Minutes

Vote to approve the August 17, 2023, MPO meeting minutes



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# Action Item: Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan

## Betsy Harvey, MPO Staff

Presentation, discussion, and expected vote to endorse the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan following its public review period



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# Action Item: Federal Fiscal Years (FFYs) 2024–28 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment One

**Ethan Lapointe, MPO Staff**

Presentation, discussion, and vote to release the FFYs 2024–28 TIP Amendment One for its 21-day public review period



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# FFYs 2024–28 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment One

October 19, 2023

Ethan Lapointe  
TIP Manager, MPO Activities

Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization

October 19, 2023

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# Amendment One Summary

- For the FFY 2024 Program, Amendment One proposes
  - Programming of Boston's FFY 2022 Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Implementation Grant
  - Reprogramming of three Border to Boston Trail Design Earmarks
  - Cost increase for one Statewide Highway Project
  - Addition of three projects from the FFYs 2023–27 STIP into the FFYs 2024–28 TIP for project readiness



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FFY = Federal Fiscal Year. STIP = State Transportation Improvement Program. TIP = Transportation Improvement Program.

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# Amendment One Project Changes— FFY 2022 Federal Discretionary Grant

Project Name	Change Type	Budget	Description
<b>Boston– Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Implementation Grant</b>	<b>New Project</b>	<b>\$9,000,000</b>	This grant will be used to implement safety countermeasures to address speeding and pedestrian hazards at nine intersections throughout Boston.

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# Amendment One Project Changes— FFY 2024 Earmark Discretionary

Project Name	Change Type	Budget	Description
<b>Peabody-</b> Border to Boston Trail Design	<b>Move Project</b>	<b>\$375,000</b>	These projects were previously included in FFY 2023 of the FFYs 2023–27 TIP but were not executed before the end of the fiscal year. They are being amended onto the FFYs 2024–28 TIP as a result.
<b>Salem-</b> Border to Boston Trail Design		<b>\$375,000</b>	
<b>Marblehead-</b> Border to Boston Trail Design		<b>\$175,000</b>	

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# Amendment One Project Changes— FFY 2024 Statewide Highway Funds

Project ID and Name	Change Type	Funding Source	Difference	Explanation
<b>609254:</b> Lynn–Intersection Improvements at Two Intersections on Broadway	<b>Move Project</b>	HSIP	<b>\$6,059,056</b>	The programmed year for this project reflects a new advertisement date of December 30, 2023. It was previously programmed in FFY 2023 of the FFYs 2023–27 TIP.

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# Amendment One Project Changes— FFY 2024 Statewide Highway Funds

Project ID and Name	Change Type	Funding Source	Current Budget	New Budget	Difference	Explanation
<b>608762:</b> Boston-Cambridge-Bridge Preservation of B-16-246=C-01-029, Eliot Street over the Charles River	<b>Move Project</b>	HIP-BR	\$6,973,936	\$6,973,936	\$0	This project is currently in the statewide section of the STIP but is located entirely within the Boston region. The project is being amended onto the TIP as a result.
<b>609058:</b> Gloucester, Peabody– Guide and Traffic Sign Replacement on Route 128	<b>Move Project, Cost Increase</b>	HSIP	\$1,714,693	\$2,298,603	\$645,655	This project is currently in the statewide section of the STIP but is located entirely within the Boston region. The project is being amended onto the TIP as a result and increasing based on the final design cost.

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HIP-BR = Highway Investment Program, Bridge. HSIP = Highway Safety Improvement Program. STIP = State Transportation Improvement Program. TIP = Transportation Improvement Program.

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# Today's Requested Action

- MPO staff request that the board votes to release Amendment One for a 21-day public comment period.
- Comment will commence October 23 and conclude November 13, 2023.



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# Discussion

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# Transit Transformation Program

**Ethan Lapointe and Logan Casey, MPO Staff**

Presentation and discussion of the Transit Transformation Program, included in the FFYs 2025–29 TIP



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# Transit Transformation Program

Ethan Lapointe, Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Manager

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# Overview

- Adjustments on feedback
  - Scoring Criteria
  - Project Types
- Program Administration
- Upcoming Dates
- Discussion

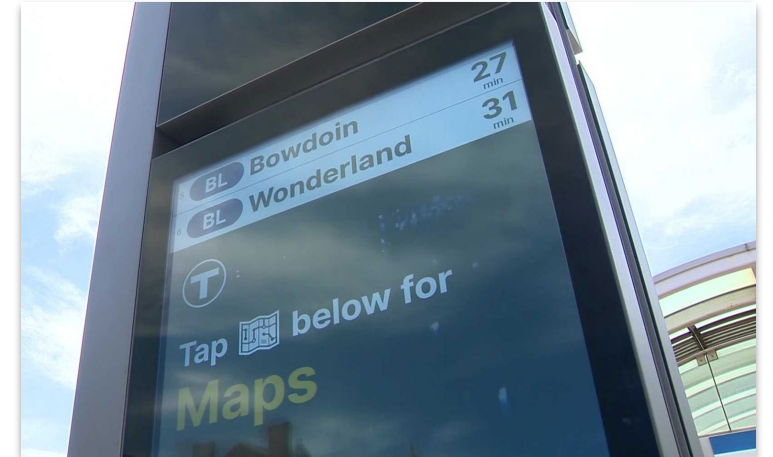


Image Sources: (Top) WCVB, (Bottom) Boston Business Journal

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# Materials for Today's Presentation

- Transit Transformation Memo
- Transit Transformation Scorecard
- Available on the MPO calendar

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# Changes in Response to Member and Proponent Feedback



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# Project Scoring Tweaks

- **Resilience**

- Changed emphasis to extreme temperature events
- Previously extreme heat only
- Changes will be reflected in other investment programs



- **Access and Connectivity**

- Equity multiplier for pedestrian connections, more weight




- **No changes in point allocations**

Image Sources: (Top) The Guardian, (Bottom) WPRI

# Transit Transformation Project Scorecard

- On MPO Calendar: Final Transit Transformation Scorecard
- One scorecard for all project types and applicants
- Scorecards for other investment programs in development




## Transit Transformation Project Scorecard

For project funding through the Transportation Transformation Program

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### Transportation Equity




**Goal: Facilitate an inclusive and transparent transportation-planning process and make investments that eliminate transportation-related disparities borne by people in disadvantaged communities.**

An equity multiplier is applied to criteria that the MPO has identified through public outreach and data analysis as critical transportation needs or where there exist disparities that negatively impact equity populations. These criteria are denoted by a check mark on the right side of this scorecard. Each project's multiplier is based on the percent of the population in the project area that belongs to each of the MPO's six equity populations in the project area relative to their region wide averages. The higher the share of equity populations in the project area, the higher the multiplier.

To calculate a final Transportation Equity score, a project's raw equity multiplier is scaled to 20 points and then added to the base score (out of 80 possible points) as shown at the bottom of this scorecard.

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### Safety




**Goal: Achieve zero transportation-related fatalities and serious injuries and improve safety for all users of the transportation system.**

Criteria	Point Value	Equity Multiplier
The proposed project addresses a documented operational safety issue	5	
The proposed project improves the safety of users within the transit facility	4	✓
The proposed project improves the safety of users traveling to and from transit facilities	3	✓
The proposed project supports dedicated rights-of-way for transit or mitigates interference from other facility users	2	
The proposed project improves system responsiveness during emergency events	2	
<b>16 possible points</b>		

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### Mobility and Reliability




**Goal: Support easy and reliable movement of people and freight.**

Criteria	Point Value	Equity Multiplier
The project reduces transit passenger delay	5	✓
The project invests in new transit assets or expanded service	5	✓
The project performs state-of-good-repair improvements that extend the useful life of the facility	2	
The project improves intermodal connections and the ability of users to navigate those connections	2	
The project improves conditions for personnel that support transit operations	2	
<b>16 possible points</b>		

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### Access and Connectivity



**Goal: Provide transportation options and improve access to key destinations to support economic vitality and high quality of life.**

Criteria	Point Value	Equity Multiplier
The project serves sites targeted for future development	3	
The project serves existing employment and population centers	3	
The project invests in pedestrian connections to transit facilities or routes	3	✓
The project invests in bicycle connections to transit facilities or routes	3	✓
The project improves ADA accessibility for transit facilities or routes	4	✓
<b>16 possible points</b>		

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# Proponent Feedback: Regional Transit Authority (RTA) Project Types

- Bus transit hub improvements
- Operational facility expansion and repair
- Intelligent Transportation Systems
- Low-/No-Emission Vehicle Transition
  - Supportive infrastructure
  - **NEW:** Possible larger contracts with options for smaller RTAs



Image Source: Cape Ann Transportation Authority

Technical difficulties?  
Call Sean Rourke at 857.702.3705 or  
email [srouke@ctps.org](mailto:srouke@ctps.org).



# Proponent Feedback: MBTA Project Types

- Station accessibility improvements
  - ADA accessibility and compliance
  - Improved pedestrian and micromobility connections
- Foundational investments for service frequencies
  - Better headwdays, electrification
- Bus transit station/stop upgrades
- Signage and wayfinding



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# Proponent Feedback: Municipal Project Opportunities

- Continuing to support
  - Bus Lane implementation
  - Transit Signal Priority Projects
  - Transit improvements in other programs
- **New: Wayfinding Signage**
  - Overlapping investment
  - Community Connections, includes transit-supportive signage



Image Sources: (Top) Social Impact Collective, (Bottom) Mass Transit Magazine

# Program Administration

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# Transit Modernization Investments

Between 2021 and 2025, Boston Region MPO programmed nearly \$115 million towards transit capital projects

YEARS	PROJECT NAME	MPO ALLOCATION
2021–24	Columbus Avenue MBTA Bus Lanes Phase II	\$26,550,000
2023–24	Lynn Station Improvements Phase II	\$48,100,000
2024	MBTA Rail Transformation Early Action Items at Reading Station and Wilbur Interlocking (Woburn)	\$14,000,000
2024–25	Jackson Square Station Accessibility Improvements	\$26,250,000
<i>TOTAL FUNDING:</i>		\$114,900,000

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# Transit Transformation Approach

- Envisioning two classes of projects in future scenarios
  - Set-aside Pool
    - \$250,000–\$4 million, near-term projects
    - Fits within advance allocation in TIP
    - \$2.5 million in federal fiscal year 2025
  - Large capital
    - Moderate scale capital projects, as historically supported by MPO
    - Scored alongside other projects, but likely funded in outer years if funding is available

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# Key Dates

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# Progress Update

- **Task 1: Literature Review and Stakeholder Feedback**
  - Review other MPO best practices and related literature
  - Solicit stakeholder feedback
- **Task 2: Development of the Transit Transformation Investment Program**
  - Develop a Universe of Projects for the Transit Transformation program
  - Define the process for determining needs and evaluating projects
- **Task 3: Presentations to the MPO Board**



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# Upcoming Dates

- **November 1** - TIP application opens
- **December 31** - TIP applications close
- **TENTATIVE:**
  - Scoring results in early March
  - Scenario discussions mid March and early April
  - TIP Process Readiness and Engagement Committee will be involved throughout process

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# Discussion

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# Annual Meeting Planning: Federal Funding Topic

## Tegin Teich, Executive Director

Presentation and discussion of content and speakers to include in an agenda item on the federal funding process at the upcoming Annual Meeting



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# Options for Consideration and Discussion

- Summary and dialogue of the funding program areas included in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)
- Federal/national level policy intent related to developing funding programs most relevant to MPOs
- Perspective on the range of approaches and tactics to manage funding flows
- Deeper dive into MassDOT and MPO prioritization and use of funding sources
- Other ideas?



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# Policy Discussion: Letters of Support for Federal Discretionary Grants

## Tegin Teich, Executive Director

Presentation and discussion of the MPO's policy on responding to requests for an MPO letter of support for projects pursuing federal discretionary grant funding



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# Discussion and Decisions

- Does the MPO wish to set a policy for whether the MPO is willing to provide letters of support?
- Would the MPO like to proactively communicate expectations when requesting letters of support, such as:
  - Amount of advance notice
  - Evaluate the application's alignment with goals at board meetings, or delegate to staff and subset of board members, or both?
- Other questions?



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# Members' Items

Reports and notices by MPO members, including regional concerns and local community issues



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