

Merrimack Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization Docket

July 26, 2023

Item 4 - FFY24 UPWP Administrative Modification – Safety Work Program Edits

Context:

During its June 2023 meeting, the MVMPO endorsed the FY2024 Unified Planning Work Program. This document details the anticipated work and budget of MVMPO staff to be performed with the support of federal aid during the 2024 federal fiscal year. During the meeting, FHWA Community Planner Chris Timmel provided comments suggesting that additional coordination was required regarding the proposed work program's safety planning efforts to show better differentiation between proposed safety tasks.

Discussion:

Based on the requested coordination staff has made the following changes:

- Changed the task name and numbering for Subtasks 3.2A and 3.2B from Safe Streets and Roads for All (A) and Safe Streets and Roads for All (B) to Subtask 3.2 – Safe Streets and Roads for All and Subtask 3.6 Safety Engagement and Planning.
- Amended table 4 to show hours anticipated for subtask 3.6; adjusted anticipated hours for subtask 3.2.
- Updated the budget detail for Subtask 3.2, removing former references to subtask 3.2B.
- Added a task description page for Subtask 3.6 – Safety Engagement and Planning.
- Scanned and updated references throughout the document based on new subtask titles.
- Updated table of content page numbers, as relevant.

Action:

Receive the update (no action required)

Item 5 - FFY23 UPWP Amendment

Context:

Each year, MVMPO staff track expenditures to ensure the best use of Metropolitan Planning (PL) federal aid. In Massachusetts, PL funding has typically been granted to regions on an annual basis. Funds are expected to be expended within the federal fiscal year of apportionment based on an annual contract with MassDOT, which functions as an intermediary between regional planning agencies and the federal government. Funds cannot be carried over.

Discussion:

Due to staffing changes, the immediate needs of the 3C certification process documents, and a refocused mission, MVMPO staff project PL budget remainders in the approximate amount of \$238,000. Staff propose to amend the UPWVP, moving funds to subtasks with anticipated shortfalls. Staff also proposes to increase the program's direct cost expenditure budget to 1) support the purchase and installation of trail counting equipment; 2) the purchase of additional in-office support hardware, and; 3) training for staff. Staff will present the full proposed amendment in detail during the MVMPO meeting.

Action:

Open the 21-day comment period for the proposed amendment.

Item 6 - FFY23-27 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #4 – Transit (Community Transit Grants)

Context:

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation manages the Community Transit Grant program, which provides Section 5310 federal aid to transit operators on a competitive basis. In winter of 2022, MassDOT announced annual operating assistance awards. Following this, in spring of 2023 MassDOT announced selected capital award recipients.

The Community Transit Grant Program capital provides wheelchair-accessible vehicles to Regional Transit Authorities, municipalities, Councils on Aging, and non-profit organizations to expand mobility for older adults and people with disabilities across the Commonwealth.

Discussion:

In the FY23 cycle, MassDOT awarded 133 vehicles for a total value of \$15,336,758. Nine of the 133 vehicles are for operators in the Merrimack Valley via lease through MeVa. Amesbury, Boxford and North Reading (North Reading falls within the Regional Transit Authority service area but not the Regional Planning Agency's) will receive low floor passenger vans. Andover and North Andover will receive Type A minivans. Georgetown will receive a Type C cutaway van.

FY21 and FY22 delayed orders are also being fulfilled. MeVa will receive a replacement Type A van and the Town of Rowley will receive one low floor van directly.

Attachment B provides the revisions report, which includes the community transit grant award financials, and the financials for amendments and adjustments noted in Item 7.

Action:

Close the 21-day comment period and approve the proposed amendment.

Item 7 - FFY23-27 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #5 – Transit (MeVa Updates)

Context:

Merrimack Valley Transit (MeVa) is a designated Regional Transit Authority (RTA), which allows it to manage the region's transit federal aid program in coordination with state and federal governments.

Attachment B provides the revisions report, which includes the community transit grant award financials and the financials for amendments and adjustments noted in Item 7.

Discussion:

Consistent with its authority to program federal aid, MeVa has proposed several adjustments and amendments to its FY23 and FY24 program as shown in the attached TIP revisions report. MeVa will describe the proposed changes during the meeting.

Action:

Open the 21-day comment period for the proposed amendment..

Item 8 - FFY23-27 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #6 – Highway (Lawrence Rail Crossing)

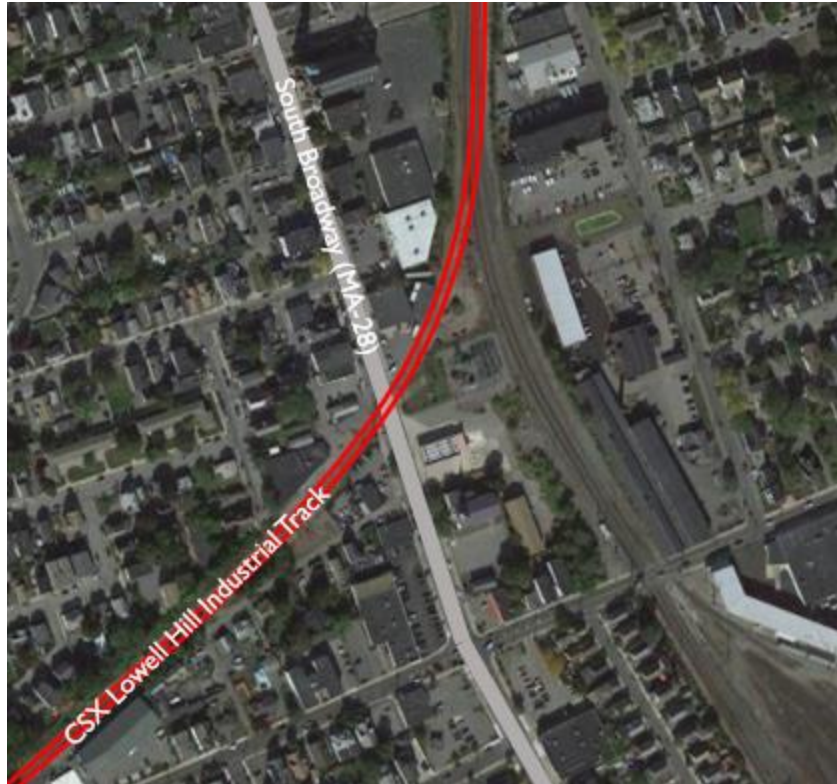
Context:

South Broadway (Route 28) is a two-lane principal arterial in the City of Lawrence with an annual average daily traffic volume of approximately 18,000 vehicles. South Broadway crosses the CSX Lowell Hill Industrial Track which is used several times a week as CSX serves customers along the line. The figure on the following page provides the geographic context of the area.

Discussion:

In the Spring of 2021, the Lawrence Police Department contacted both the railroad and MassDOT about the condition of the roadway crossing surface of the South Broadway grade crossing. The surface, which was originally a full-depth rubber system, was in a condition that required vehicles to swerve out of the travel lanes to avoid potholes and exposed metal bolts within the crossing surface to avoid damage to their vehicles. This was considered a significant roadway hazard and required immediate repair. Pan Am, the railroad owner at the time, worked with the city to repave the crossing thereby eliminating the roadway hazard at the crossing.

Due to conditions of the track and ties below the crossing surface, the repair made in the summer of 2021 failed within two years introducing a hazard at the crossing again. To resolve the on-going safety issues at the crossing MassDOT is advancing a project to fully replace the complete track panel and crossing surface so that the roadway safety issue does not reemerge.



Action:

Open the 21-day comment period for the proposed amendment.

Item 9 – Metropolitan Transportation Plan Constrained Project List

Context:

The Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) is a document that provides information about existing conditions in the region, which inform a shared vision for the region, goals and objectives to meet that vision, and strategies and projects that also support the vision. The MTP includes a financially constrained project list that lists projects anticipated to be recipients of federal aid within the plan's 20-year horizon.

Discussion:

MVMPO staff will present its proposed constrained financial project list during the July meeting. Due to anticipated updates to the region's project scoring methodology (which is included as a deliverable in the FY24 Unified Planning Work Program), project prioritization will be based on a high-level analysis of goals and returns. Staff will return to the MVMPO to update scoring for the universe of projects once its new project scoring system is developed.

Action:

Provide feedback on the constrained project list.

Item 10 – Massachusetts Vehicle Census Dashboard (presented by Massachusetts Department of Transportation)

Context:

MassDOT's Office of Transportation Planning (OTP), supported by the Office of Performance Management and Innovation (OPMI), has developed a dashboard displaying information about the miles traveled by vehicles registered within the state. This data is based on totals reported during annual inspections and does not differentiate where vehicle miles are traveled (i.e. the totals displayed include out-of-state-mileage), but is a useful benchmarking tool to understand the general driving habits of communities and regions.

Discussion:

MassDOT OTP/OPMI will be present at the meeting to share the dashboard product and its potential use cases for the data tool. MVMPO staff are already working to integrate some of the product's data into the region's Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

Action:

Receive the overview (no action required).

Docket Attachments

- A. Agenda Item 4 – UPWP 2024 – Administrative Modification – Final FY24 UPWP
- B. Agenda Item 6 and 7 – TIP Revisions Report
- C. Agenda Item 8 – TIP Revisions Report

Item 5 - FFY23 UPWP Amendment

Context:

Each year, MVMPO staff track expenditures to ensure the best use of Metropolitan Planning (PL) federal aid. In Massachusetts, PL funding has typically been granted to regions on an annual basis. Funds are expected to be expended within the federal fiscal year of apportionment based on an annual contract with MassDOT, which functions as an intermediary between regional planning agencies and the federal government. Funds cannot be carried over.

Discussion:

Due to staffing changes, the immediate needs of the 3C certification process documents, and a refocused mission, MVMPO staff project PL budget remainders in the approximate amount of \$238,000. Staff propose to amend the UPWP, moving funds to subtasks with anticipated shortfalls. Staff also proposes to increase the program's direct cost expenditure budget to 1) support the purchase and installation of trail counting equipment; 2) the purchase of additional in-office support hardware, and; 3) training for staff. Staff will present the full proposed amendment in detail during the MVMPO meeting.

Action:

Open the 21-day comment period for the proposed amendment.



TIP Revisions Report Merrimack Valley

STIP: 2023 - 2027 (A)

Type	Value Changed	Date of Change	Former Value	New Value	Variance	Comments
Federal Fiscal Year 2023						
RTA Facility & System Modernization						
MVRTA011499 : CAD/AVL expansion						
Amendment	2023: MVRTA-OT-RTA Facility & System Modernization-RTACAP	6/13/2023	\$0	\$469,620	\$469,620	
Adjustment	2023: MVRTA-OT-RTA Facility & System Modernization-RTACAP	6/13/2023	\$0	\$10,524	\$10,524	
MVRTA011523 : Website Upgrades that will provide integration with our CAD/AVL to provide Real-Time Information to Operations staff and to our customers for bus arrival predictions.						
Amendment	2023: MVRTA-OT-RTA Facility & System Modernization-5307	6/14/2023	\$0	\$7,524	\$7,524	
Adjustment	2023: MVRTA-OT-RTA Facility & System Modernization-RTACAP	6/14/2023	\$0	\$3,634	\$3,634	
RTA Facility & Vehicle Maintenance						
MVRTA011522 : Purchase Bike Racks for buses						
Amendment	2023: MVRTA-OT-RTA Facility & Vehicle Maintenance-RTACAP	6/14/2023	\$0	\$2,560	\$2,560	
RTD0011306 : Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority- REHAB/RENOVATE - MISC EQUIPMENT						
Adjustment	2023: MVRTA-OT-RTA Facility & Vehicle Maintenance-5307	6/14/2023	\$1,360,000	\$1,263,388	-\$96,612	
Adjustment	2023: MVRTA-OT-RTA Facility & Vehicle Maintenance-RTACAP	6/14/2023	\$340,000	\$315,847	-\$24,153	
RTA Fleet Upgrades						
RTD0011300 : Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority - BUY REPLACEMENT VAN						
Amendment	2023: MVRTA-OT-RTA Fleet Upgrades-RTACAP	6/13/2023	\$234,810	\$0	-\$234,810	



TIP Revisions Report Merrimack Valley

STIP: 2023 - 2027 (A)

Type	Value Changed	Date of Change	Former Value	New Value	Variance	Comments
RTA Replacement Facilities						
RTD0011307 : Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority- ENG/DESIGN - Parking Facility						
Adjustment	Description	6/14/2023	Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority- ENG/DESIGN - ADMIN/MAINT FACILITY	Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority- ENG/DESIGN - Parking Facility		
RTA Vehicle Replacement						
MVRTA011524 : MVRTA - Capital 5310 Vans (2 Type A Vans)						
Amendment	2023: MVRTA-OT-RTA Vehicle Replacement-5310	6/14/2023	\$0	\$125,766	\$125,766	
MVRTA011525 : MVRTA - Capital 5310 Vans (1 Type E)						
Amendment	2023: MVRTA-OT-RTA Vehicle Replacement-5310	6/14/2023	\$0	\$84,800	\$84,800	
MVRTA011526 : MVRTA - Capital 5310 Vans (6 LF)						
Amendment	2023: MVRTA-OT-RTA Vehicle Replacement-5310	6/14/2023	\$0	\$895,949	\$895,949	
MVRTA011565 : Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority - BUY REPLACEMENT VAN Type A (5310 Carryover)						
Amendment	2023: MVRTA-OT-RTA Vehicle Replacement-5310	6/15/2023	\$0	\$62,883	\$62,883	
MVRTA011566 : Town of Rowley - BUY REPLACEMENT VAN (5310 Carryover)						
Amendment	2023: MVRTA-OT-RTA Vehicle Replacement-5310	6/15/2023	\$0	\$149,325	\$149,325	
Amendment	2023: MVRTA-OT-RTA Vehicle Replacement-LF	6/15/2023	\$0	\$22,017	\$22,017	
RTD0010751 : Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority - Replace 6 model yr 2017 Type E-2 vans delivery 2023						
Amendment	2023: MVRTA-OT-RTA Vehicle Replacement-RTACAP	6/13/2023	\$234,810	\$0	-\$234,810	



TIP Revisions Report

Merrimack Valley

STIP: 2023 - 2027 (A)

Type	Value Changed	Date of Change	Former Value	New Value	Variance	Comments
RTD0010758 : Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority - Replace 2 Model Year 2017 Supervisory Vehicles						
Adjustment	2023: MVRTA-OT-RTA Vehicle Replacement-5307	6/13/2023	\$40,265	\$37,881	-\$2,384	
Adjustment	2023: MVRTA-OT-RTA Vehicle Replacement-RTACAP	6/14/2023	\$10,070	\$17,505	\$7,435	
Adjustment	Description	6/14/2023	Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority - Replace 1 Model Year 2017 Supervisory Vehicle	Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority - Replace 2 Model Year 2017 Supervisory Vehicles		



TIP Revisions Report
Merrimack Valley

STIP: 2023 - 2027 (A)

Type	Value Changed	Date of Change	Former Value	New Value	Variance	Comments
Federal Fiscal Year 2024						
RTA Fleet Upgrades						
RTD0011300 : Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority - BUY REPLACEMENT VAN						
Amendment	2024: MVRTA-OT-RTA Fleet Upgrades-RTACAP	6/27/2023	\$0	\$234,810	\$234,810	
RTA Vehicle Replacement						
MVRTA011524 : MVRTA - Capital 5310 Vans (2 Type A Vans)						
Amendment	2024: MVRTA-OT-RTA Vehicle Replacement-GOBOND	6/14/2023	\$0	\$31,442	\$31,442	
MVRTA011525 : MVRTA - Capital 5310 Vans (1 Type E)						
Amendment	2024: MVRTA-OT-RTA Vehicle Replacement-GOBOND	6/14/2023	\$0	\$21,200	\$21,200	
MVRTA011526 : MVRTA - Capital 5310 Vans (6 LF)						
Amendment	2024: MVRTA-OT-RTA Vehicle Replacement-GOBOND	6/14/2023	\$0	\$223,987	\$223,987	
MVRTA011565 : Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority - BUY REPLACEMENT VAN Type A (5310 Carryover)						
Amendment	2024: MVRTA-OT-RTA Vehicle Replacement-GOBOND	6/15/2023	\$0	\$15,721	\$15,721	
MVRTA011566 : Town of Rowley - BUY REPLACEMENT VAN (5310 Carryover)						
Amendment	2024: MVRTA-OT-RTA Vehicle Replacement-GOBOND	6/15/2023	\$0	\$15,314	\$15,314	
RTD0010751 : Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority - Replace 6 model yr 2017 Type E-2 vans delivery 2023						
Amendment	2024: MVRTA-OT-RTA Vehicle Replacement-RTACAP	6/27/2023	\$0	\$234,810	\$234,810	
RTD0010753 : Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority - Replace 8 model yr 2012 35' buses delivery 2024 8 of 8						
Adjustment	2024: MVRTA-OT-RTA Vehicle Replacement-RTACAP	6/27/2023	\$2,351,600	\$1,881,980	-\$469,620	



TIP Revisions Report

Merrimack Valley

STIP: 2023 - 2027 (A)

Type	Value Changed	Date of Change	Former Value	New Value	Variance	Comments
Federal Fiscal Year 2023						
Section 3 / Planning/Adjustments/Pass-throughs						
Railroad Crossings						
S12855 Lawrence: LAWRENCE- Rail-Highway Crossing Improvement on the Lowell Hill Industrial Track South Broadway - Route 28 (053031V)						
Amendment	2023: Statewide-CON-Railroad Crossings-RRHE	7/19/2023	\$0	\$395,000	\$395,000	