

Merrimack Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization Docket

September 27, 2023

Item 4 – Draft Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)

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:

At it's the last MVMPO meeting, the Board opened the 21-day comment period for the draft plan. Staff received comments from the Town of Newbury, Town of Newburyport, and MassDOT. Following review of comments, staff integrated edits into the document. During the September meeting, staff share these edits with the MVMPO Board to for review.

Action:

Approve and adopt the draft plan.

Item 5 – Draft Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan (CHSTP)

Context:

Projects selected for the Federal Transit Administration's Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program (Section 5310) must be included in a locally developed coordinated public transit-human services transportation plan. Typically, these plans are referred to as Coordinated Human Services Transit Plans (CHSTP). As the Section 5310 program is intended to support seniors and individuals with disabilities, these parties are an integral part of plan development. Additionally, representatives of public and nonprofit transit service providers provide feedback to ensure their support services needs are captured for federal aid eligibility.

Discussion:

Staff kicked off the planning effort for an updated CHSTP in fall of 2022. Outreach work included an online questionnaire, a veterans coffee event, two specific targeted senior language/community-based meetings

(Spanish-speakers and Asian seniors), and a focus group meeting with service providers in both the Merrimack Valley and Northern Middlesex Council of Governments.

Staff have compiled feedback and produced a plan for comment. Staff directly contacted participants involved in the planning process and received only one comment from Amesbury Council on Aging Director Doreen Arnfield, which affirmed the contents of the Plan.

Action:

Approve and adopt the draft plan.

Item 6 – Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Work Program

Context:

The Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) discretionary program funds regional, local, and tribal initiatives through grants to support Vision Zero. The Merrimack Valley Planning Commission has secured an SS4A planning grant to develop a Comprehensive Safety Action plan to guide the region towards realization of our Vision Zero goals. We were awarded the grant with our sister region Northern Middlesex Council of Governments.

Discussion:

To date we have:

- Finalized our grant agreement with FHWA
- Secured a technical consultant (BETA) to help with the development of the High Injury Network
- Transportation Program Manager Patrick Reed will speak about regional planning for Vision Zero at the Move Together conference on October 4th.
- Held an in-person meeting with at least one liaison from all municipalities to introduce and discuss the potential for Vision Zero Planning in our region. Some target goals which were identified during the discussion:
 - All work towards MV Vision Zero should be visible and accessible for our community members.
 - Balance is key to find solutions for rural and urban settings, different mode types and preventative and remedial solutions.
 - Establishing generative communication with MassDOT now is vital for future implementations.
 - Public engagement at each stage of the process should promote the integration of lived experiences with the High Injury Network.
 - Participatory events should be well-coordinated with other region-wide efforts like MBTA communities to avoid a fatigued public.

Action:

Receive the update (no action required)

Docket Attachments

- A. Metropolitan Transportation Plan – Updated Draft
- B. Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan – Updated Draft