

Merrimack Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization Docket April 24, 2024

Item 4 – FFY2025-2029 Draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Context: Each year, MVMPO staff develop the region's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TIP is a five-year plan for capital improvements that are candidates for federal aid. The TIP programs apportioned and discretionary funding administered by both the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). In Massachusetts, highway side funding is broken into two portfolios: *regional target* funding and *statewide* funding. State staff develop and propose a program of *statewide* projects for MVMPO board review and approval. For *regional target* funding, MVMPO staff coordinate with municipal officials and MassDOT to develop a proposed program for board review.

MVMPO staff inform initial program scenarios with two primary measures: a *readiness* determination and a project score. For readiness, staff coordinate with MassDOT to determine a project's design and engineering status. MassDOT assigns each project a year in which the MassDOT project manager believes the project will be able to advertise and obligate funds. Programming a project prior to the readiness year is allowable, but not advised as failure to obligate funding each year of programming essentially forfeits access to such funds. A project score is developed based on a given project's alignment with MVMPO board goals and priorities. Staff developed a new scoring methodology during this year's TIP cycle, but as no new regional target projects are to be programmed, current legacy stores were retained for programming purposes.

Discussion: Last month, MVMPO staff provided MVMPO's board a proposed TIP scenario for review and comment. In total, the proposed FFY25-29 program includes \$73,864,188 worth of regional target funding with a \$1,180,000 reserve (FHWA aid), a statewide portfolio of \$440,022,195 (FHWA aid), and \$76,652,714 of transit support (FTA aid). During the March 27 meeting, the board reviewed the proposed program and indicated its support. Based on this, staff prepared the draft TIP. Should it be the board's pleasure, the board may release the draft TIP during its April meeting for the required 21-day comment period.

Action: Release the draft FFY2025-2029 TIP for the 21-day comment period.

Item 6 – FFY2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Context: Each year, MVMPO staff develop the region's Unified Planning Work Program. The Unified Planning Work Program lays out the anticipated deliverables and work of MVMPO staff over the course of a given fiscal year. The document is presented annually for MVMPO Board approval.

Discussion: Staff has prepared the draft FFY2025 Unified Planning Work Program for review. The draft UPWP programs four tasks—3C Program Management, Data Collection and Analysis, Transportation Planning, and Other Planning Support—and 18 total associated subtasks.

Work performed in support of these tasks will generate the following major deliverables:

- FFY2026 Unified Planning Work Program (Task 1.3)
- FFY2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program (Task 1.4)
- Mechanics/Guidance for use of Regional Target on Design (Task 1.4)
- MassDOT and Regional Counting Program (Task 2.1)
- Traffic Counter Install and Monitoring (Task 2.1, continuing from FFY24)
- Pavement Management Program Evaluation (Task 2.2, carried over from FFY24)
- Travel Time Competitiveness Tool (Task 2.4, carried over from FFY24)
- Annual Performance Monitoring Benchmarks (Task 2.5)
- Active Transportation Plan Phase 2: Node Activation (Task 3.1)
- Active Transportation Pilot (Task 3.1)
- Fare Free Evaluation (Task 3.3, continuing from FFY24)
- Merrimack Valley Transit Automatic Passenger Counter Validation (Task 3.3)
- Scoping for a Future Years' Transit Enhancement Analysis (Task 3.3)
- Elder Friendly Service Design White Paper (Task 3.3)
- Third Party American with Disabilities Act Compliance Review (Task 3.3)
- Ferryboat Business Plan Development (Task 3.4)
- Annual High Injury Network Updates (Task 3.6)
- Up to Two Safety Quick Builds (Task 4.2)
- Collective Purchase for Roadway Salt (Task 4.2)
- Collective Purchase for Roadway Services (Task 4.2)

The FFY25 UPWP also includes standard process-oriented tasks and deliverables, including:

- Certification Review (Task 1.1)
- MVMPO Preparation and Facilitation (Task 1.2)
- Updated MVMPO Memorandum of Understanding (Task 1.2)
- MVMPO "Retreat" (Task 1.2)
- Review of Regional Target Plan Sheets & Scoring (Task 1.4)
- Re-organization/Consolidation of Online Transportation Tools (Task 2.3)
- Urbanized Area GHG Coordination (Task 2.5)
- Border to Boston Support and Coordination (Task 3.1)
- Regional Priority Growth Strategy Support (Task 3.4)
- Vision Zero Community Capacity Building (Task 3.6)
- Council on Aging Coordination (Task 3.3)
- Miscellaneous Grant Support (Task 4.2)

Funding for the Unified Planning Work Program is sourced through several federal aid programs. \$1,235,684 of Metropolitan Planning (PL) and Section 5303 funds, \$94,080 of Section 5307 funds, and a proposed

\$118,910 of Metropolitan Planning carryover. Combined, these sources will support the salary, indirect costs, and direct expenditures of MVPC's transportation planning work program over the course of FFY25.

Action: Release the draft FFY2025 UPWP for the 21-day comment period.

Attachments:

- A. Draft FFY2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program
- B. Draft FFY2025 Unified Planning Work Program