

Amendments/ Adjustments to MVMPO's FFY 2021 UPWP

The Merrimack Valley MPO has released two proposed amendments to its FFY 2021 Unified Planning Work Program. These are described below:

Task 3.11 - Amesbury Traffic Studies

- Kimball Road/Route 110 Intersection Study
- Main Street/Merrimac Street Intersection Study
- Market Square Intersection Study

As a result of Covid-19 impacts, the MVMPO was unable to complete these three traffic studies in FFY 2020, due to the significant changes in traffic volumes.

Therefore, we propose adding a new Task 3.11 – Amesbury Traffic Studies to the MVMPO's FFY 2021 UPWP to complete these three analyses. The proposed budget is \$9,374. This task will allow us to digest the ATR volume data that we have been collecting from around the region during the summer and fall to provide the basis for adjusting the traffic data used in these analyses and completing the study reports.

Active Transportation Plan Update

The Covid-19 pandemic forced MVPC staff to substantially change the public outreach process used in updating this document. After completing our virtual outreach meeting schedule in September, we concluded that we should reach out further to one or two communities in order to gather input on their bicycle and pedestrian needs. In addition, MassDOT is providing StreetLight bicycle travel data for our region. Therefore, we propose to increase the budget for Task 2.7 – Bicycle/Pedestrian/Water Trails Planning by \$4,000 to complete our outreach efforts run our analysis, and to complete our ATP Update report.

The funding for these proposed amendments will be provided by making minor reductions to other tasks contained in the FFY 2021 Unified Planning Work Program.

Task 3.11 – Completion of FFY 2020 Traffic Studies in Amesbury

Description

The MVMPO's FFY 2020 UPWP included three intersection traffic studies in the City of Amesbury. These three intersections were:

- Kimball Road at Route 110
- Main Street at Merrimac Street
- Market Square

In developing the MVMPO's Draft FFY 2021 UPWP in Spring 2020, MVPC staff had assumed that traffic patterns in the Commonwealth would return to levels similar to what was observed before the pandemic occurred. Unfortunately, this did not prove to be the case.

Starting in July 2020, MVPC began collecting ATR volume counts on key roadways in the region where recent pre-COVID traffic volume counts had been conducted. This was done in an effort both to monitor how travel patterns were changing as the Massachusetts economy began to reopen and to serve as a resource in adjusting any traffic volume data that was collected during this period in order to estimate what levels they would be had there been no pandemic.

Previous Work

Under the FFY 2020 UPWP, MVPC was able to collect turning movement counts at these three intersections and used the Department's IMPACT Crash Portal to analyze recent MassDOT crash data at these locations. Staff also reviewed MassDOT layout plans and MVPC's Pictometry and community databases to review status of roadway rights of way.

Proponent	Work Conducted By
• City of Amesbury	• Merrimack Valley Planning Commission

FFY 2021 Activities

MVPC transportation staff will complete the following tasks in order to finalize these three intersection studies:

Tasks

- 3.11.1 *Adjust Traffic Volumes:* For each intersection being studied, MVPC will use the traffic data being collected by MVPC and MassDOT from around the region to develop a methodology to adjust the turning movement volumes collected at these locations under the FFY 2020 UPWP.

- 3.11.2 *Perform Level of Service Analyses:* MVPC staff will adjust the AM and PM peak period turning movement volumes observed at these locations and complete Level of Service (LOS) analyses.
- 3.11.3 *Meet with Local Officials:* Staff will meet with local officials to discuss the results of its Safety and LOS analyses and then develop recommended intersection improvements at all three locations. Staff will work with the City and the MVRTA in developing these recommendations
- 3.11.4 *Prepare Draft/ Final Study Reports:* MVPC staff will prepare draft and final reports that outline the findings and recommendations of each study.

Products/Schedule

	2020			2021								
Task(s)	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Adjust Traffic Volumes		•										
Perform LOS Analyses		•										
Develop Recommendations			•									
Draft/Final Reports				•								
• Product/Event												

Funding

Funding for Task 3.11 Complete FFY 2020 Amesbury Traffic Studies		
Source	Person Hours	Amount
FHWA	64	\$7,499
MassDOT	16	\$1,875
FTA Section 5303	0	\$0
MassDOT	0	\$0
FTA Section 5307	0	\$0
MVPC	0	\$0
TOTAL	80	\$9,374

Task 2.7 - Bicycle/Pedestrian/Water Trails Planning

Description

MVMPO communities are increasingly interested in improving opportunities for non-motorized transportation. Regional Transportation Plan objectives include:

1. Implementing and expanding the multi-modal network through
 - a. The development of the Active Transportation Network,
 - b. Assisting communities with implementing Complete Streets policies and practices
2. Increasing bicycle parking
3. Fostering tourism through enhancing visitor experiences and improving mobility.

Previous Work

In FFY 2020, MVPC updated the Merrimack Valley Active Transportation Plan a document intended to both guide the further development of the bicycle and pedestrian network in the Valley and assist communities in improving the condition and safety of their bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

In FFYs 2015 through 2017, MVPC worked in cooperation with MassDOT and the Haverhill Police Department to implement an innovative program that tracks the behaviors of motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians. The results from this program and those from elsewhere in the state will be used to develop future outreach programs that are intended to promote bicycle and pedestrian transportation.

In FFY2019, MVPC finished an inventory of and condition reports for sidewalks and ADA ramps in the seven communities of Amesbury, Andover, Georgetown, Lawrence, Methuen, North Andover and Salisbury. This data is being used by communities to create maintenance plans and complete streets programs and prioritization plans.

FFY 2021 Activities

The primary effort under this task in FFY 2021 will be the implementation of the findings and recommendations contained in the 2020 Merrimack Valley Active Transportation Plan. Any project recommendations made under this task will consider the requirements of MassDOT's Healthy Transportation Directive.

MVPC staff will also continue to assist communities in developing multi-use trails.

Tasks

- 2.7.1 *Program Review:* MVPC staff will continue to review any local, regional, state and national policies/reports as they pertain to multi-use, pedestrian, bicycle, and equestrian trails.
- 2.7.2 *Provide Support to the Development of the Border to Boston Trail:* MVPC will continue to work with local trails groups and MassDOT in support of the effort to

complete 25% and 100% design plans for the remaining portions of the Border to Boston Multiuse Trail.

- 2.7.3 *Technical Assistance to Communities for Trails in Development:* MVPC will provide technical assistance on other off-road trail projects including the Georgetown Branch Trail, extension of the Bradford Rail Trail, Methuen Rail Trail, Merrimack River Trail, Shawsheen River Trail and Manchester & Lawrence Branch project in Lawrence. It will also encourage communities to undertake activities that support the development of projects that appear on the Bay State Greenway.
- 2.7.4 *Attend Meetings of the Coastal Trail Coalition and Other Local Bicycle, Pedestrian and Water Trail Groups:* MVPC staff will attend meetings of the Coastal Trails Coalition, Haverhill Trails Committee and other local and/or regional groups to foster coordination between the various bicycle and pedestrian planning efforts across the region and to provide technical assistance and advice to groups and organizations as they seek to implement improvement projects.
- 2.7.5 **Completion and** *Implementation of the 2020 MVMPO Active Transportation Plan:* The 2020 Active Transportation Plan for the MVMPO will comprehensively update the 2015 document to reflect the development of new projects, the recommendations for the Merrimack Valley contained in MassDOT's Bicycle and Pedestrian Plans, and the projects/connections contained in the many Complete Streets programs now being implemented in the region. As was the case after the 2015 Active Transportation Plan was adopted, MVPC Staff will reach out to local officials and the public to develop recommended new connections and projects that recognize the new reality of bicycle and pedestrian transportation in the region and establish new priorities for improving the network.
- 2.7.6 *Maintenance of Regional Bikeability Index:* Staff will work with MassDOT and area cyclists to refine and where necessary update the Regional Bikeability Index.
- 2.7.7 *Coordination with MVRTA:* MVPC staff will continue to work with the MVRTA to add bike trail and other multi-use trails to bus route maps.

Products/Schedule

	2020			2021								
Task(s)	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Program Review												
Border to Boston Trail												
Technical Assistance												
Attend Meetings												
<i>Active Trans. Plan</i>				•								•
Bikeability Index												
Coord. with MVRTA												
• Product/Event												

Funding

Funding for Task 2.7 Bicycle/Pedestrian/Water Trails Planning		
Source	Person Hours	Amount
FHWA	207	\$25,720
MassDOT	52	\$6,430
FTA Section 5303	0	\$0
MassDOT	0	\$0
FTA Section 5307	0	\$0
MVPC	0	\$0
TOTAL	259	\$32,150

PROPOSED MVMPO FFY 2021 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM TASK FUNDING SUMMARY

Task	Description	Current FFY 2021 Task Total	Proposed FFY 2021 Task Total	% Change in Task Funding
1.1	Program Management and Support	\$115,420	\$115,420	100.0%
1.2	Public Participation Process	\$86,380	\$84,955	98.4%
1.3	Unified Planning Work Program	\$23,410	\$21,755	92.9%
1.4	Transportation Improvement Program	\$64,380	\$62,666	97.3%
1.5	Title VI/Environmental Justice/Limited English Proficiency Activities	\$28,720	\$27,360	95.3%
1.6	Regional Transportation Plan	\$10,690	\$10,690	100.0%
2.1	Traffic Monitoring Program	\$78,045	\$78,045	100.0%
2.2	Regional Pavement Management Program	\$14,595	\$14,595	100.0%
2.3	Geographic Information Services	\$154,450	\$152,740	98.9%
2.4	Congestion Management Process	\$23,885	\$23,885	100.0%
2.5	Intermodal Connections with NHS System/Freight Planning	\$11,350	\$10,280	90.6%
2.6	Regional Transportation Model	\$8,630	\$7,725	89.5%
2.7	Bicycle/Pedestrian/Water Trails Planning	\$28,150	\$32,150	114.2%
2.8	Safety Monitoring System	\$28,085	\$28,085	100.0%
2.9	Transportation & Livability	\$17,593	\$17,593	100.0%
2.10	MVMPO Transportation Performance Measures and Targets	\$27,780	\$27,780	100.0%
2.11	Travel and Tourism Planning	\$16,185	\$15,050	93.0%
3.1	Elderly and Disabled/ADA Planning	\$24,015	\$24,015	100.0%
3.2	Transit Planning	\$83,145	\$83,145	100.0%
3.3	Three Roads Intersection Bicycle and Pedestrian Study in Newburyport	\$16,600	\$16,600	100.0%
3.4	Broadway/Daisy Street/Manchester RSA in Lawrence	\$20,350	\$20,350	100.0%
3.5	Route 110/Prospect Street Intersection RSA in Methuen	\$25,290	\$25,290	100.0%
3.6	Route 133 Complete Streets Analysis in Andover	\$22,200	\$22,200	100.0%
3.7	Merrimack Street Complete Streets Study in Methuen	\$33,400	\$33,000	98.8%
3.8	Turkey Hill Road Heavy Commercial Vehicle Exclusion Study in Newburyport	\$11,850	\$10,850	91.6%
3.9	Stormwater Management	\$23,800	\$23,800	100.0%
3.10	Climate Change	\$35,205	\$35,205	100.0%
3.11	Completion of FFY 2020 Studies	\$0	\$9,374	
4.1	Intelligent Transportation Systems	\$8,995	\$8,995	100.0%
4.2	Local Technical Assistance	\$18,000	\$17,000	94.4%
4.3	Regional Transportation Security	\$8,320	\$8,320	100.0%
4.4	County Road Adjudication	\$3,280	\$3,280	100.0%
	TOTAL	\$1,072,198	\$1,072,198	