

MONTACHUSETT

REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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Montachusett Metropolitan Planning Organization Endorsement of Amendment #3 to the FFY 2022-2026 Transportation Improvement Program

The Montachusett Metropolitan Planning Organization (MMPO) has completed its review of Amendment #3 to the Highway Element of the FFY 2022-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) in accordance with 23 CFR Part 450 Section 324 (Transportation Improvement Program: General) of the October 28, 1993 Final Rules for Statewide and Metropolitan Planning.

This Amendment to the FFY 2022-2026 TIP is financially constrained and conforms to the Montachusett 2020 Regional Transportation Plan. Based on the results of the review and analyses, the Montachusett 2020 Regional Transportation Plan and FFY 2022-2026 TIP are consistent with the air quality goals of, and in conformity with, the Massachusetts State Implementation Plan. This Amendment and TIP do not add or delete any regionally significant, non-exempt projects, nor reprogram any existing regionally significant, non-exempt projects across analysis years.

Therefore, the Committee of Signatories representing the Montachusett Metropolitan Planning Organization (MMPO) by a majority vote hereby endorses Amendment #3 to the FFY 2022 Highway Element of the Montachusett Region FFY 2022-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Due to current COVID-19 restrictions, this endorsement is signed by the MassDOT Secretary and CEO, or their appointed designee, on behalf of the entire Montachusett MPO. This action is taken after an official vote of the MPO.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jamey L. Tesler for".

*Jamey L. Tesler, Secretary and CEO
Massachusetts Department of Transportation*

4/20/2022

Date

Montachusett Metropolitan Planning Organization (MMPO)
Potential Amendment #3 to the
FFY 2022-2026 Montachusett Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Comment Period: March 25, 2022 to April 14, 2022

Reason for Amendment: MassDOT Highway Division has proposed the following two projects be amended as part of the Montachusett FFY 2022-2026 TIP.

1. Petersham - Bridge Replacement, P-08-002, Glen Valley Road Over East Branch of Swift River (608850). The cost needs to be increased in FFY 2022 due to increases in the rising price of steel. The project includes a steel beam superstructure with the use of steel H-piles in the proposed integral pile supported abutments.

2. Leominster - Viscoloid Avenue Improvements (Safe Routes to School) Project (#609529). The cost needs to be adjusted in FFY 2022 due to increases as a result of changes in the scope. There has been an increase between the combined 25%/75% submittal and the 75% resubmission due to the addition of sidewalks throughout the length of the project. There was also an increase between the 75% resubmission and 100% submission due to the inclusion of a few smaller sections of additional sidewalks and the re-location of sidewalks in some locations to avoid the need to relocate utility poles total.

1. Proposed Amendment to Project Costs in Section 2A - State Prioritized Reliability Projects

From FFY 2022:

FFY	Project #	Community	Description	Dist.	Fund Source	Total Funds	Federal Funds	State Funds
2022	608850	Petersham	PETERSHAM- BRIDGE REPLACEMENT, P-08-002, GLEN VALLEY ROAD OVER EAST BRANCH OF SWIFT RIVER	2	STBG-BR-Off	\$2,050,591	\$1,640,473	\$410,118

To FFY 2022:

FFY	Project #	Community	Description	Dist.	Fund Source	Total Funds	Federal Funds	State Funds
2022	608850	Petersham	PETERSHAM- BRIDGE REPLACEMENT, P-08-002, GLEN VALLEY ROAD OVER EAST BRANCH OF SWIFT RIVER	2	STBG-BR-Off	\$2,844,044	\$2,275,235	\$568,809

Total Cost Increase = \$793,453 or approximately 38.7%

2. Proposed Amendment to Project Costs in Section 2B – State Prioritized Modernization Projects

From FFY 2022:

FFY	Project #	Community	Description	Dist.	Fund Source	Total Funds	Federal Funds	State Funds
2022	609529	Leominster	LEOMINSTER – VISCOLOID AVENUE IMPROVEMENTS (SRTS)	3	TAP	\$2,232,523	\$1,786,018	\$446,505

To FFY 2022:

FFY	Project #	Community	Description	Dist.	Fund Source	Total Funds	Federal Funds	State Funds
2022	609529	Leominster	LEOMINSTER – VISCOLOID AVENUE IMPROVEMENTS (SRTS)	3	TAP	\$3,094,619	\$2,475,695	\$618,924

Total Cost Increase = \$826,096 or approximately 38.6%

The following is from the MPO Endorsed FFY 2022-2026 Montachusett TIP regarding Amendment and Adjustment actions.

AMENDMENT/ADJUSTMENT PROCEDURES

In order to minimize constraints on programming projects, the endorsed TIP will have the provision, as adopted by the MPO, that will allow relatively minor modifications be made to the TIP without formal MPO action. Significant changes will continue to require MPO action through the amendment process.

Minor modifications may include such actions as:

- changes in funding amounts (typically less than 10% of the total cost) or categories within the same fiscal year.

Minor modifications will be accomplished through an agreed-upon administrative action with the approval of the MPO. That action will include approval of the modification by the MPO at a duly constituted meeting and written notification of the MPO members. Under an adjustment, a formal signatory endorsement and a 21-day public review period will not be required.

Significant changes to the TIP include major actions such as:

- moving a project in either direction between the sequential years, ex. Years 1 and 2, Years 2 and 3, etc.
- the addition or deletion of a Federal Aid project.
- if the design, scope, or budget of a project is found to have changed significantly as determined by the MJTC and MPO (typically cost changes of more than 10%).
- moving a project from Non-Federal Aid to one of the Federal Aid funding categories.
- moving a project in either direction between non-sequential fiscal years, ex. from Year 1 of the TIP to Year 3.
- advancing a project from the Appendix project list to either Years 1, 2, 3 or 4.
- advancing a project from the out Year 5 to either Years 1, 2 or 3.

Significant changes to the TIP will require formal endorsement of an amendment. This amendment process will include a 21-day public comment period, or an abbreviated comment period of not less than ten (10) days under what the MPO considers to be extraordinary circumstances, as outlined in the federal planning regulations and the Montachusett Public Participation Program (as endorsed May 25, 2016 and amended on March 15, 2017), approval of the amendment and signatory endorsement by MPO members at a subsequent MPO meeting.

The MPO will review each request change and determine whether the adjustment or amendment procedure is required for the proposed action. Additionally, MassDOT's Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) procedures offer more detailed examples of what would constitute an amendment or adjustment. When such an action is warranted and it is not clear from the indicators above which action that may be, the STIP procedures will be consulted to determine what action is appropriate.