

MONTACHUSETT

REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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Montachusett Metropolitan Planning Organization Endorsement of Amendment #5 to the FFY 2022-2026 Transportation Improvement Program

The Montachusett Metropolitan Planning Organization (MMPO) has completed its review of Amendment #5 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 #5 to the 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*

6/15/2022

Date

Montachusett Metropolitan Planning Organization (MMPO)
Summary of Amendment #5 to the
FFY 2022-2026 Montachusett Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

MPO Endorsed: June 15, 2022
Comment Period: May 24, 2022 to June 13, 2022

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

Ashby - Intersection Improvements at Greenville Road (Route 31) and Turnpike Road (609314).

The project is at 100% design and nearing final design with an expected advertisement date of August 27th. The overall cost has increased. A final design estimate is expected in the upcoming weeks that may change slightly during this public comment phase. This project is listed under Section 2B/State Prioritized Modernization Projects – Intersection Improvements and does not impact any target funded projects or the TIP's fiscal constraint. In addition, the cost of Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) projects is split 90% federal/10% state. The design consultant has identified three major reasons for the cost increase:

1. In response to 75% design review comments, the Design Engineer (DE) was directed to move some of the earth work quantities to Unclassified Excavation. The unit price for Unclassified Excavation was significantly higher than the price for Earth Excavation.
2. Drainage costs increased as a result of revisions required per on-going permitting and comments from the Boston Environmental (MassDOT) section. All existing Catch Basins (CB's) in the project area are now replaced to have deep sumps as a Best Management Practice (BMP) for example.
3. All unit costs were updated to reflect current price trends with weighted average bid prices. There has been significant inflation, so the DE used the most recent 4 months instead of 12 months for determining unit prices.

Amendment to Project Costs in Section 2B / State Prioritized Modernization Projects

Intersection Improvements

From FFY 2022:

FFY	Project #	Community	Description	Dist.	Fund Source	Total Funds	Federal Funds	State Funds
2022	609314	Ashby	ASHBY- INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT GREENVILLE ROAD (ROUTE 31) AND TURNPIKE ROAD	3	HSIP	\$2,503,398	\$2,253,058	\$250,340

To FFY 2022:

FFY	Project #	Community	Description	Dist.	Fund Source	Total Funds	Federal Funds	State Funds
2022	609314	Ashby	ASHBY- INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT GREENVILLE ROAD (ROUTE 31) AND TURNPIKE ROAD	3	HSIP	\$3,224,713	\$2,902,242	\$322,471

Total Cost Increase = \$721,315 or approximately 28.8%

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.