

# MONTACHUSETT

## REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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### **Montachusett Metropolitan Planning Organization Endorsement of Amendment #6 to the FFY 2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program**

The Montachusett Metropolitan Planning Organization (MMPO) has completed its review of Amendment #6 to the Highway and Transit Elements of the FFY 2023-2027 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 2023-2027 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 2023-2027 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 #6 to the FFY 2023 Highway and Transit Elements of the Montachusett Region FFY 2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

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.

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Gina Fiandaca, *Secretary and CEO*  
*Massachusetts Department of Transportation*

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8/16/2023  
Date

**Montachusett Metropolitan Planning Organization (MMPO)**  
**MPO Endorsed Amendment #6 to the**  
**FFY 2023-2027 Montachusett Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

MPO Endorsed - August 16, 2023

**Reason for Amendment:** MassDOT has notified the MPO that the two (2) projects under consideration have seen cost increases as well timing issues. The first is a bridge project in Harvard that went from \$2,694,992 to \$3,706,048; an increase of \$1,011,056 or approximately 37.5%. This represents an increase of more than \$500,000 for a programmed project under \$5,000,000, thus requiring an Amendment to the FFY 2023 Highway Element for the current FFY 2023-2027 Montachusett TIP. This project will also move from Section 1B – Earmark or Discretionary Grant Funded Projects to Section 2A – State Prioritized Reliability Projects.

The second project is a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) project in Gardner that increased from \$1,246,511 to \$1,814,944; an increase of \$568,433 or 45.6%. In addition, the project is not expected to be ready for advertisement in FFY 2023 and needs to be moved to FFY 2024. The cost change represents an increase of more than \$500,000 for a programmed project under \$5,000,000 and therefore requires an Amendment. The movement of the project back one FFY also requires an Amendment.

- **Project #1 – Harvard - Bridge Preservation H-09-015, H-09-016, & H-09-017**

**From FFY 2023:**

**Section 1B - Earmark or Discretionary Grant Funded Projects**

FFY	Project #	Community	Description	Dist.	Fund Source	Total Funds	Federal Funds	State Funds
2023	612620	Harvard	HARVARD- BRIDGE PRESERVATION, H-09-015, H-09-016 & H-09-017, ROUTE 2 OVER THE NASHUA RIVER, TANK ROAD, BOSTON AND MAINE RAILROAD	3	Bridge	\$2,694,992	\$2,155,994	\$538,998

**To FFY 2023:**

**Add to Section 2A - State Prioritized Reliability Projects**

FFY	Project #	Community	Description	Dist.	Fund Source	Total Funds	Federal Funds	State Funds
2023	612620	Harvard	HARVARD- BRIDGE PRESERVATION, H-09-015, H-09-016 & H-09-017, ROUTE 2 OVER THE NASHUA RIVER, TANK ROAD, BOSTON AND MAINE RAILROAD	3	Bridge	\$3,706,048	\$2,964,838	\$741,210

Cost Increase: \$1,011,056

- **Project #2 – Gardner – Elm Street Resurfacing & Sidewalk Improvements (SRTS)**

**From FFY 2023:**

**Section 2B - State Prioritized Modernization Projects**

FFY	Project #	Community	Description	Dist.	Fund Source	Total Funds	Federal Funds	State Funds
2023	610672	Gardner	GARDNER- ELM STREET RESURFACING AND SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS (SRTS)	3	Bridge	\$1,246,511	\$997,209	\$249,302

**To FFY 2024:**

**Section 2B - State Prioritized Modernization Projects**

FFY	Project #	Community	Description	Dist.	Fund Source	Total Funds	Federal Funds	State Funds
2024	610672	Gardner	GARDNER- ELM STREET RESURFACING AND SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS (SRTS)	3	Bridge	\$1,814,944	\$1,451,955	\$362,989

Cost Increase: \$568,433

The following is from the MPO Endorsed FFY 2023-2027 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.

### Highway Project STIP Revision Definitions and Procedures

Type of Revision	Definition	Procedure	Notes
Major Project Cost Change	Increase or decrease of \$500,000 or greater for projects programmed under \$5,000,000 and greater than 10% of the total cost for projects programmed over \$5,000,000	Amendment	The "increase" or "decrease" in cost is relative to the Total Federal Participating Cost (TFPC) of a project.
Change in Year of Programming	Moving a currently programmed project earlier or later than an originally programmed year.	Amendment	Changes to a project delivery schedule (advancement or delay) requires an amendment for the change in programmed FFY.

**Montachusett Metropolitan Planning Organization (MMPO)**  
**MPO Endorsed Transit Amendment #6 to the**  
**FFY 2023-2027 Montachusett Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

MPO Endorsed - August 16, 2023

**Reason for Amendment:** The Montachusett Regional Transit Authority (MART) and MassDOT have notified the MPO that due to recent awards, two (2) projects need to be added to FFY 2023 Transit Element. Due to the requirement that states that project additions are treated as amendments if the project was not part of any previously approved STIP that has been vetted through the public process. These projects are new to the TIP process and therefore require an Amendment for the current FFY 2023-2027 Montachusett TIP.

- **Amendment to the FFY 2023 Transit Element**

**Add to the FFY 2023 Transit Element**

MassDOT Project #	FTA Activity	Project Title	Notes	FTA Section	Total	Status
MART011519	11.12.15	GAAMHA, Inc. - Buy Replacement Van (5310)	Two E2b vans; GAAMHA is receiving agency	\$177,600	\$222,000	\$44,400 Local Match
MART011520	11.12.15	MART - Replacement Paratransit Vehicles (5310)	Four E2b Vans	\$355,200	\$444,000	Match will be provided through GOBOND in FY24

The following is from the MPO Endorsed FFY 2023-2027 Montachusett TIP regarding Amendment and Adjustment actions.

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**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.

### Transit Project STIP Revision Definitions and Procedures

Type of Revision	Definition	Procedure	Notes
Major Project Cost Change	Increase or decrease of \$500,000 or greater for projects under \$5,000,000 and greater than 10% of the total cost for projects exceeding \$5,000,000	Amendment	The "increase" or "decrease" in cost is relative to the combined federal and nonfederal aid participating cost of the project.
Minor Project Cost Change	Increase or decrease of \$499,999 or less for projects under \$5,000,000 and less than 10% of the total cost for projects exceeding \$5,000,000.	Adjustment	See above.
Project Description Change	Change in the description of the project as it is listed in the STIP.	Adjustment or Administrative Modification	Project description changes are treated as administrative modifications for minor changes (e.g. spelling errors, more detailed descriptions, etc.).
Major Project Scope Change	A revision to the project scope deemed large enough to require public review and comment (e.g. changing the number of stations)	Amendment	In many cases, changes in this category will also include a major cost change.
Minor Project Scope Change	A minor revision to the project scope that does not significantly alter the original scope of work (e.g. changes to the bus model for vehicle replacement projects).	Adjustment	In many cases, changes in this category will also include a minor cost change.
Project Addition	The programming of a new project in any federal fiscal year of the current TIP.	Amendment or Adjustment	Project additions are treated as amendments if the project was not part of any previously approved STIP that has been vetted through the public process.
Project Removal	The removal of a project in any federal fiscal year of the current TIP.	Amendment	Exception: if a project is removed from a TIP or the STIP due to it being previously advanced/advertised or is moved to the statewide list from a regional TIP, the action would be considered an adjustment.
Change in Funding Source	Change in the funding source, including federal and non-federal sources that fall within project cost change revisions listed in the first two rows.	Adjustment	Changes in funding sources for projects are permissible for obligation purposes with written notice from the FTA region office.
Change in Year of Programming	Moving a currently programmed project earlier or later than the originally programmed year.	Amendment or Adjustment	Note: Federal funds shall be programmed in the federal fiscal year in which the award will occur. Changes in year of programming are only treated as adjustments if they involve advancing federal funds to align with the year of the grant award.