



MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Selectmen
From: Erika Oliver Jerram, Deputy Director
Cc: Robert Halpin, Town Manager
William R. Sedewitz, Chief Engineer
Re: Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) Update
Date: January 20, 2016

Below is a brief update on the status of the projects selected last year for advancement on the regional Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP).

Process

Over several meetings in 2014, the Town's interdepartmental TIP committee, which meets on an as-needed basis, discussed and created a list of projects for the Selectmen to consider advancing for regional Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) funding. These projects were deemed to be of sufficient size and regional impact to be successful in that competitive process.

In January 2015, the Board approved the projects and the priorities recommended by the TIP Committee. Every year, the MPO evaluates new projects and revises the five-year TIP. They are currently considering funding for the years FY2017-2021.

The annual MPO TIP evaluation process is beginning this month. The following timeline indicates the deadlines for each step of the process with an asterisk (*) next to items requiring Town input.

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|---|----------------|
| • Complete Project Funding Application Forms* | January 30 |
| • Complete Project Evaluations | February 27 |
| • Submit Municipal Feedback on Project Evaluations* | March 18 |
| • Post First-Tier List and Staff Recommendation | March 31 |
| • Discuss First-Tier List and Staff Recommendation with MPO | April 7 and 21 |
| • Release Draft FFYs 2017–21 TIP for Public Review | May 5 |

You can find more information about the current approved TIP and the development process at this website: <http://www.ctps.org/tip>. In addition, there is an “interactive database” where you can search specific criteria: http://www.bostonmpo.org/apps/tip11/tip_query.html. This is also the portal that Towns use to input additional information that the MPO requires the Towns to provide. C&ED and DPW staff collaborate to provide all required information and monitor the process in order to advocate for Town priority projects. All data input from the



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MPO as well as the Town and MassDOT is collected and available for review on this interactive database. It will be used by the MPO to evaluate the projects in February and in March, we will have an opportunity to comment on the MPO's project evaluations.

Below is a status report on each of the four projects identified last year for advancement. They are listed in the priority order that was established by the Selectmen last year and are all progressing accordingly with no unanticipated delays.

Project Status and Next Steps

Union Avenue: The Union Avenue Project was determined to be the most advanced and the highest priority. Over the past year, DPW staff has been working to bring the project to the 25% design level which is the minimum threshold for the project to be considered by the MPO for inclusion on the TIP. We are working on the Project Funding Application Forms for the January 30th deadline and will follow the MPO evaluation process closely in order to advocate for this project.

The limits of this project are Union Avenue from Proctor Street to Main Street and the work includes pavement reconstruction, reconstruction of sidewalks to comply with ADA requirements, compliance with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation's (MassDOT's) Healthy Transportation Policy, and traffic operation, streetscape and intersection geometry improvements.

The Project Need Form (PNF) was submitted in December 2014. The Town met with MassDOT District 3 staff to discuss the project in February 2015 and held a neighborhood meeting in April 2015. The Project Initiation Form (PIF) was submitted in May 2015 and MassDOT's Project Review Committee reviewed the project at its July 2015 meeting. In a MassDOT letter dated August 12, 2015, the Town was notified that the project is eligible for Federal Aid highway funding. While eligible for funding, the project still needs to be programmed into the TIP by the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). The project has been assigned **TIP ID: 608228**.

The utilities along Union Avenue should be addressed prior to the TIP project as some date to the late 1880's are in poor condition. Utility improvements on the northern section of Union Avenue (Main Street to Walnut Street) will begin this construction season. Utilities along the southern section of the road will be addressed as part of a subsequent construction project.

Next Steps: The Town submitted the 25% design to MassDOT on September 18, 2015. We anticipate that MassDOT will hold the mandatory 25% design public hearing this spring. The Town will continue to advance the design upon receipt of the 25% design comments from MassDOT. Also, now that the 25% design has been received by MassDOT, the Town will submit additional information to the MPO and advocate for the project's inclusion on the TIP.



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Edgell Road: Preliminary design work on Edgell Road will begin this year. The option exists to advance critical intersections in advance of the corridor. The limits of this project are Edgell Road from Vernon Street to Water Street and include the key intersections at Vernon Street, Central Street, Belknap Road, Brook Street, McAdams Road/Frost Street and Edmands Road/Water Street.

Similar to Union Avenue, this corridor is in need of utility improvements. The 10,000 linear feet of water main is nearly 100 years old and undersized for the demand. The 9,300 linear feet of asbestos cement sewer main is nearly 60 years old and is in deteriorated condition. The Department's FY2017 capital budget requests include design funding for water and sewer improvements along Edgell Road. The utility work should be completed before the proposed transportation improvements.

Next Steps: This is a multi-year project and is not yet ready for inclusion in the formal TIP process. The Town will continue working towards design of utility improvements and begin design on roadway improvements.

Salem End Road Bridge: This 88-year old, Town-owned bridge has significant deterioration and will need to be repaired or replaced. Funding to begin the process was approved at the Annual Town Meeting in April 2015. A structural evaluation and alternatives analysis is currently underway and is expected to be completed in March.

Next Steps: When the evaluation is complete, later in the spring, the Town will begin preliminary design work based on the report recommendations. When the project reaches the 25% design threshold, the Town will work with MassDOT to seek funding under the TIP.

Route 30/Speen Street: Town planning staff (C&ED) is currently working with planners from the Town of Natick to prepare an RFP for a major build-out analysis and establish a vision for the entire Exit 13 area. We are drafting an intermunicipal agreement to allow us to work with Natick to commission a consultant to perform this work. Once complete, it will inform the efforts of MassDOT as well as Town engineers to plan for the infrastructure to support a unified vision for future growth in this area. Ultimately any transportation projects in this area will be ideal candidates for TIP funding because of their broader impact on not just Framingham and Natick but the entire region.

Next Steps: Preliminary meetings with Natick officials and staff are continuing in anticipation of a signed intermunicipal agreement later this spring. Once the IMA is in place, we will release the RFP and hire a consultant to perform the build-out and visioning work.