



# 495/METROWEST PARTNERSHIP

*Leaders for Regional Prosperity*

May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Secretary Phil Eng, Chair  
Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization  
10 Park Plaza, Suite 2150  
Boston, MA 02116

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495PARTNERSHIP.ORG

**RE: Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization's Draft Transportation Improvement Program, FFY 2027-2031**

Dear Secretary Eng,

On behalf of the 495/MetroWest Partnership, please accept the following comments regarding the Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization's (Boston MPO) draft *Transportation Improvement Program* (TIP) for FFY 2027-31.

The 495/MetroWest Partnership is a unique alliance among businesses, municipalities, and other stakeholders leading the advancement of the 495/MetroWest region as an exceptional location for people, businesses, and communities. Our vision is one in which the 495/MetroWest region enjoys sustainable economic growth, well-stewarded natural and built resources, and diverse transportation and housing choices across our 37 cities and towns. The Partnership accomplishes this by providing coordination, education, and advocacy for solutions to regional constraints.

While the 495/MetroWest region features a robust transportation network, the Partnership has identified a number of transportation challenges that threaten the economic vitality of our region. These include several high-congestion and high-crash locations, interchange capacity issues, and gaps in public transit service. Addressing these issues will require enhanced transportation infrastructure and targeted investments in transit options.

In accordance with our organization's 2022-2027 Strategic Plan, the 495/MetroWest Partnership has adopted a "Vision and Priorities" statement regarding roadway projects in our region, outlining our organization's core aims regarding roadway improvements as well as specific projects requiring significant attention. We are pleased to note that a number of these priorities were reflected in the draft TIP for FFY 2027-31.

The Partnership greatly appreciates proposed funding increase for project 613639 *Framingham – Resurfacing and Related Work on Route 9*. We support the advancement of this important maintenance initiative on this key regional corridor.

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The Partnership is pleased to see a programmed funding increase for the 612178 *Natick – Bridge Replacement, N-030010, Speen Street Over RR MBTA/CSX* project, but would like to express concern that it has been rescheduled to later years than previously planned. We encourage the MPO to accelerate scheduling for this project should resources become available.

Additionally, it is our understanding that the following projects were accelerated into FY26 or are otherwise being funded by other sources. We continue to support these worthy projects and extend our thanks for their progress:

- 612099 Ashland – Bridge Replacement, A-14-006, Cordaville Road over Sudbury River
- 613274 Foxborough – Bridge Preservation at 6 Bridges Along the I-95 Corridor
- S13147 Framingham – Preliminary Design of Intersection Improvements at Route 126/135/MBTA & CSX Railroad

The Partnership supports the continued inclusion of the following projects at their current funding levels and schedule:

- 610680 Natick – Lake Cochituate Path
- S13414 Framingham – Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (Federal Earmark for Design - MA292)
- 616313 Franklin – Pavement Preservation on I-495 (MM 42.5-44.5)
- 604564 Maynard – Bridge Replacement, M-10-004, Route 62 (Main Street) Over the Assabet River
- S13501 Natick – Cochituate Rail Trail Extension (MBTA Station to Main Street) (Design Only)
- 610660 Sudbury/Wayland – Mass Central Rail Trail
- 613166 Acton – Safety Improvements at Route 2A/119 (Great Road)
- 613640 Natick – Resurfacing and Related work on Route 9
- 613319 Sudbury/Framingham – Bike Path Construction of Bruce Freeman Rail Trail, from the Sudbury Diamond Railroad Crossing to Eaton Road West
- 607748 Acton – Intersection and Signal Improvements on Routes 2 and 111 (Massachusetts Avenue) at Piper Road and Taylor Road
- 613654 Framingham – Bike Path Construction of Bruce Freeman Rail Trail, from Eaton Road West to Frost Street

While the Partnership understands that the MPO is conducting its planning work under significant resource constraints, we would like to express concern with the proposed delays to the following projects:

- 612173 Bellingham – Bridge Replacement, B-06-022, Maple Street Over I-495 (moved from FY27 to FY28)
- 612894 Framingham – Improvements at Harmony Grove Elementary School (SRTS) (Moved from FY27 to FY28)
- 613477 Holliston – Linden Street Improvements at Robert Adams Middle School SRTS (moved from FY28 to FY29)

- 612963 Bellingham – Roadway Rehabilitation of Route 126 (Hartford Road), From 800 Feet North of the I-495 NB Off Ramp to Medway Line, Including B-06-017 (moved from FYs 29 and 30 to FY31)

The Partnership is concerned by the reduced funding for the *613343 Foxborough – Interstate Pavement Preservation and Related Work on I-95* project, and requests further information regarding the reasoning for the funding reduction.

The Partnership appreciates the MPO's work done on *608045 Milford – Rehabilitation on Route 16, From Route 109 to Beaver Street* project, and supports the proposed approach of potentially initiating a separate project under a different ID that would address other elements of this project.

Finally, the Partnership notes that the following projects were programmed in the FY26-30 TIP but do not appear in the draft TIP for FY27-31; we strongly encourage their inclusion within their originally programmed years:

- 608436 Ashland – Rehabilitation and Rail Crossing Improvements on Cherry Street; While we understand the reasons for the its removal, we hope the project will be considered in the future.
- 610691 Natick – Cochituate Rail Trail Extension, From MBTA Station to Mechanic Street

We appreciate funding for *S13391 MWRTA – Construction of Vehicle Maintenance and Fueling Facility*, which will allow for the initial design and construction of this first-of-its-kind facility. Following completion, the MWRTA will be well-positioned to maintain and fuel its diverse fleet of transit vehicles, while piloting a wide range of propulsion types, including battery electric and hydrogen fuel cell technology. In line with our priorities for improved regional transit services, the MWRTA's modern heavy-duty Vehicle Maintenance and Fueling Facility will support ongoing efforts to increase vehicle and seating capacity throughout key routes and reduce vehicle emissions per passenger mile in order to promote a more sustainable and accessible public transit system.

The Partnership would like to reiterate support for the I-90 connection with Route 30 in Framingham/Speen Street in Natick, as it is a major regional hub for office space and retail. Although this area is of tremendous regional significance, its largely uncoordinated development has resulted in confusing and congested roadways. The 2013 Golden Triangle Study highlighted issues and potential improvement approaches for this area. We would like the MPO to be aware that the Partnership is convening stakeholders to discuss the interchange, with the intention of drafting additional suggestions on this area to MassDOT and the MPO in the future.

The Partnership would like to remind the MPO of several long-range priorities of our organization. These include the I-495/Route 9 interchange project, which deserves future funding consideration given its proximity and interdependency with the I-495/I-90 interchange, and the area's key role in serving freight and commuter traffic. Since the Interstate 495 and Route 9 Interchange Improvement Study was conducted by MassDOT in 2013, the immediate area continues to grow as a regionally significant employment base. With the planned opening of Costco in Southborough in the immediate

vicinity of the interchange, we note the potential for additional traffic at what is already a frequently congested location.

The Partnership would also like to highlight our priorities for our region's Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs), particularly enabling increased connectivity and origin-to-destination travel for its riders. Current RTA service operations are characterized by carrying passengers from hubs (such as Framingham, Worcester, and Lowell) to neighboring communities, and vice versa, leaving significant localized and regional coverage gaps within the 495/MetroWest region itself. While some initiatives like MetroWest RTA's north-south 495 Connector service represent progress towards greater connectivity within our region, gaps in coverage remain. The Partnership supports our region's RTAs providing the right mix of services that would enable passengers to travel extensively within their own community and between other 495/MetroWest communities.

The Partnership identified several unprogrammed projects included on the TIP Project Dashboard that are of significance to our stakeholders and which we will continue to monitor. Those projects include:

- S13041 Acton - Intersection Improvements at Hayward Road and Route 27
- 613872 Acton – Reconstruction of Route 2A/119 (Great Road), from Davis Road to Harris Street
- 610553 Acton – Intersection Improvements at Route 2 and Route 27 Ramps
- S13039 Acton/Maynard – Route 62 Complete Streets Design (Knox Trail to Waltham Street)
- S13050 Ashland – Intersection Improvements at Fountain and Union Street
- S13070 Bellingham – South Main Street (Route 126) – Elm Street to Douglas Drive Reconstruction
- 608948 Bellingham/Franklin – Southern New England Trunk Trail (SNETT) Extension, from Grove Street to Franklin Town Center
- 613885 Bolton – Reconstruction of Route 117 (Main Street) from 200 feet West of John Power Lane to the Intersection of Mechanic Street
- 612740 Foxborough – Intersection Signalization at Route 140/Walnut Street and Route 140/I-495 (SB Ramp)
- 609280 Framingham – Roundabout Construction at Salem End Road, Badger Road, and Gates Street
- 606109 Framingham – Intersection Improvements at Route 126/135/MBTA and CSX Railroad
- S13049 Holliston – Reconstruction of Concord Street (Route 126)
- 611932 Hopkinton – Campus Trail Connector, Shared Use Trail Construction
- S13071 Hopkinton – West Main Street Reconstruction and Shared Use Path
- 610702 Littleton – Intersection Improvements on 119/Beaver Brook Road
- 612807 Medfield – Intersection Improvements at Route 27 and West Street
- S13086 Medfield – Reconstruction of Route 109 (Millis T/L to Hartford Street)
- S13072 Medway – Improvements on Route 109 West of Highland Street (Highland Street to Bellingham Line)
- S13077 Medway – Traffic Signalization at Trotter Drive and Route 190
- S13073 Millis – Town Center Improvements
- S13083 Norfolk/Wrentham – Metacomet Greenway

- S13074 Sherborn – Improvements on Route 27 and Route 16, Sherborn Town Center Improvements (Village Way to Coolidge Street)
- S13078 Sherborn – Intersection Improvements at Route 16 and Maple Street
- S13084 Sherborn – Upper Charles River Trail Extension to Framingham City Line
- 613096 Stow – Assabet River Rail Trail Construction
- 608497 Wrentham – Resurfacing and Related Work on Route 1
- S13075 Wrentham – Route 140 and Eagle Dam
- S13076 Wrentham – Wrentham Center Improvements
- S13079 Wrentham – Intersection Improvements at Randall Road and Route 1A
- S13080 Wrentham – Intersection Improvements at Route 1A Green Street and High Street
- S13081 Wrentham – Intersection Improvements at Route 1 and Hawes Street
- S13082 Wrentham – Intersection Improvements at Route 1A and Route 12

The Partnership is pleased to see *610676 Wrentham – Intersection Improvements on Route 1A at North and Winter Street*, previously on the TIP Universe of Projects, receiving funding on this year's TIP. We would also like to express our concern for the removal of *604862 Bellingham – Ramp Construction & Relocation, I-495 at Route 126 (Hartford Avenue)* from the MPO's list of unprogrammed projects.

Finally, the Partnership applauds continued funding, as planned, for project *607977 Hopkinton & Westborough – Reconstruction of Interstate 90/Interstate 495 Interchange*. This initiative had been a major priority of our organization for over a decade; we, and our stakeholders, continue to be pleased with the pace of the project. We are deeply appreciative of the work by the MPO, MassDOT, District 3, as well as contractors and other staff who have made this initiative a success thus far. We look forward to celebrating the completion of this important effort in 2028.

We thank you for your consideration of these comments. Should you have any questions or require any additional information, please contact me at any time, (774)-760-0495 or by email at [jason@495partnership.org](mailto:jason@495partnership.org).

Sincerely,



Jason Palitsch  
Executive Director  
The 495/MetroWest Partnership