FFY 2020 Annual Listing of Federally Obligated Transportation Projects in the Northern Middlesex Region

PREPARED FOR THE NORTHERN MIDDLESEX METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
BY THE NORTHERN MIDDLESEX COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
Federal Title VI/Nondiscrimination Protections

The Northern Middlesex Metropolitan Planning Organization (NMMPO) operates its programs, services and activities in compliance with federal nondiscrimination laws including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987, and related statutes and regulations. Title VI prohibits discrimination in federally assisted programs and requires that no person in the United States of America shall, on the grounds of race, color or national origin (including limited English proficiency) be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal assistance. Related federal nondiscrimination laws administrated by the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration, or both prohibit discrimination on the basis of age, sex, and disability. These protected categories are contemplated with NMMPO’s Title VI Programs consistent with federal interpretation and administration. Additionally, NMMPO provides meaningful access to its programs, services, and activities to individuals with limited English proficiency, in compliance with UD Department of Transportation policy and guidance on federal Executive Order 13166.

State Nondiscrimination Protections

The NMMPO also complies with the Massachusetts Public Accommodation Law, M.G.L. c 272 §§92a, 98, 98a, Prohibiting making any distinction, discrimination, or restriction in admission to or treatment in a place of public accommodation based on race, color, religious creed, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability, or ancestry. Likewise, NMMPO complies with the Governor’s Executive Order 526, section 4 requiring all programs, activities, and services provided, performed, licensed, chartered, funded, regulated, or contracted by the state shall be conducted without unlawful discrimination based on race, color, age, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, religion, creed, ancestry, national origin, disability, veteran’s status (including Vietnam-era veterans), or background.

Additional Information

To request additional information regarding Title VI and related federal and state nondiscrimination obligations, please contact:

NMCOG Title VI Specialist  
Northern Middlesex Council of Governments  
40 Church Street, Suite 200  
Lowell, MA 01852  
(978) 454-8021  
jhoward@nmcog.org

Complaint Filing

To file a complaint alleging a violation of Title VI or related federal nondiscrimination law, contact the Title VI Specialist (above) within 180 days of the alleged discriminatory conduct.
To file a complaint alleging a violation of the state’s Public Accommodation Law, contact the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination within 300 days of the alleged discriminator conduct at:

Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination (MCAD)
One Ashburton Place, 6th Floor
Boston, MA 02109
617-994-6000
TTY: 617-994-6296

For additional copies of this document or to request a copy in an accessible format, please contact:

Mail: Northern Middlesex Council of Governments
40 Church Street, Suite 200
Lowell, MA 01852
Phone: (978) 454-8021
Fax: (978) 454-8023
Email: jhoward@nmcog.org

The document is available for download on our website at www.nmcog.org

If this information is needed in another language, please contact the NMCOG Title VI Specialist at 978-454-8021.

Caso esta informação seja necessária em outro idioma, favor contar o Especialista em Título VI do NMCOG pelo telefone 978-454-8021.

ប្រសិនបរើបោកអ្នកប្រូវការរកប្ប្រព័រ៌មានបនេះសូមទាក់ទកអ្នកឯកបទសប ើជំពូកទី 6ររស់ NMCOG
តាមរយៈបខទូរស័ពទ978-454-8021

Si necesita esta información en otro idioma, por favor contacte al especialista de NMCOG del Título VI al 978-454-8021.

Si yon moun vle genyen enfômasyon sa yo nan yon lôt lang, tanpri kontakte Espesyalis NMCOG Title VI la nan nimewo 978-454-8021.

如果需要使用其它语言了解信息，请联系马萨诸塞州交通部（NMCOG）《民权法案》第六章专员 
·电话978-454-8021。
INTRODUCTION

Signed into law in 2015, the Fixing Americas Surface Transportation (FAST) Act requires that the Northern Middlesex Metropolitan Planning Organization (NMMPO) publish for public review an annual listing of projects for which federal funds have been obligated in accordance with Title 23 of the US Code of Federal Regulations, Section 450.334. This provision is intended to increase transparency of government spending on transportation projects to state and local officials, and the public. This report helps to ensure the public has an accurate understanding of how federal funds are being spent on transportation projects throughout the region. Title 23 USC CFR 450.334 states the following:

(a) In metropolitan planning areas, on an annual basis, no later than 90 calendar days following the end of the program year, the State, public transportation operator(s), and the MPO(s) shall cooperatively develop a listing of projects (including investments in pedestrian walkways and bicycle transportation facilities) for which funds under 23 U.S.C. or 49 U.S.C. Chapter 53 were obligated in the preceding program year.

(b) The listing shall be prepared in accordance with §450.314(a) and shall include all federally funded projects authorized or revised to increase obligations in the preceding program year, and shall at a minimum include the TIP information under §450.326(g)(1) and (4) and identify, for each project, the amount of Federal funds requested in the TIP, the Federal funding that was obligated during the preceding year, and the Federal funding remaining and available for subsequent years.

(c) The listing shall be published or otherwise made available in accordance with the MPO(s) public participation criteria for the TIP.

This document contains a list of both highway and transit projects in the Northern Middlesex MPO region for which federal funds were obligated during Federal Fiscal Year 2020 (October 1, 2019 - September 30, 2020). The Northern Middlesex MPO has worked cooperatively with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT), the Lowell Regional Transit Authority (LRTA), and member communities to provide this information to the public in accordance with the Northern Middlesex Public Participation Plan.

WHAT IS AN OBLIGATION?

Obligation is defined as the Federal government’s legal commitment to pay the Federal share of a project’s cost. An obligated project is one that has been authorized by the appropriate federal agency, and for which funds have been committed. Although a project has been obligated, the project is not necessarily initiated or completed in the program year, and the amount of the obligation will not necessarily equal the total cost of the project. For any Federal Transit Administration (FTA) project, obligation occurs when the FTA grant is awarded. For FHWA projects, obligation occurs when a project agreement is executed and the State/grantee requests that the funds be obligated.
SUMMARY OF FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECTS IN THE NORTHERN MIDDLESEX REGION

This report indicates that over $18 million in federal funds were obligated for transportation projects in the region in FFY 2020. The funding consisted of $7,229,299 of highway funding and $11,557,040 in FTA transit funding, as shown in Figure 1. Of note, $920,000 was flexed from FHWA to FTA for the funding of several LRTA projects. Table 1 on the following page summarizes the highway and transit TIP obligations for FFY 2020, detailing the total cost programmed into the FFY 2020 TIP, the Federal programmed portion, the Federal amount previously obligated, the federal amount obligated in 2020, the obligation date and the responsible agency. A column has been provided for advance construction (AC), for those projects that cover multiple years of the TIP. None of the projects programmed in the FFY 2020 TIP used AC funds. Each project was further categorized by type, with highway and transit projects presented. Highway projects include intersection improvement projects in Chelmsford (Route 4 at Concord Road) and Tewksbury (Route 133 at River Road). Transit projects included maintenance and rehab of the intermodal terminal in Lowell and operating assistance funds. It should be noted that in 2020 the LRTA received $11,257,040 in CARES ACT funding, a program initiated in response to the COVID-19 pandemic effects on public transit ridership and revenues.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MassDOT ID</th>
<th>Community</th>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Total Amount Requested in FFY 2020 TIP (Federal + Match)</th>
<th>FFY 2020 TIP Programmed Federal Funds</th>
<th>Federal Funds Obligated Prior to FFY 2020</th>
<th>FFY 2020 Obligated Federal Funds</th>
<th>Obligation Date</th>
<th>Remaining Advance Construction funds</th>
<th>Responsible Agency</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>608375</td>
<td>Chelmsford</td>
<td>CHELMSFORD-INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT BOSTON ROAD AND CONCORD ROAD</td>
<td>$2,996,438</td>
<td>$2,397,150</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$2,579,598</td>
<td>8/18/2020</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>MassDOT</td>
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<tr>
<td>609038</td>
<td>Tewksbury</td>
<td>TEWKSBURY-INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT ANDOVER STREET (ROUTE 133) AND RIVER ROAD</td>
<td>$4,329,170</td>
<td>$3,688,863</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$3,729,701</td>
<td>5/7/2020</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>MassDOT</td>
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<tr>
<td>NM0003</td>
<td>Lowell</td>
<td>FLEX FUNDING TO TRANSIT FOR GALLAGHER STAIRWELL AND CORRIDOR PROJECT</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td>2/13/2020</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>LRTA</td>
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<tr>
<td>NM0004</td>
<td>Lowell</td>
<td>FLEX FUNDING TO TRANSIT FOR GALLAGHER INTERMODAL TRANSPORTATION CENTER AND PARKING</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
<td>2/13/2020</td>
<td>$0</td>
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<tr>
<td>NM0005</td>
<td>Lowell</td>
<td>FLEX FUNDING TO TRANSIT FOR GALLAGHER II PARKING GARAGE DECK REPAIRS</td>
<td>$120,000</td>
<td>$120,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$120,000</td>
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<td>$0</td>
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<tr>
<td>NM0006</td>
<td>Lowell</td>
<td>FLEX FUNDING TO TRANSIT FOR LRTA ADMIN OFFICE RENOVATIONS</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>2/13/2020</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>LRTA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Region</td>
<td>Region</td>
<td>OPERATING ASSISTANCE 2020 (Boston UZA Cares Act Funding Award)</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$10,900,527</td>
<td>5/19/2020</td>
<td>$0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Region</td>
<td>Region</td>
<td>OPERATING ASSISTANCE 2020 (Nashua UZA Cares Act Funding Award)</td>
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<td>NA</td>
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<tr>
<td>RTD0007634</td>
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<td>Rehab Intermodal Hub</td>
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<td>5/1/2020</td>
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<td>RTD0007635</td>
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<td>BUY ASSOC CAP MAINT ITEMS</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td>5/1/2020</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>LRTA</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Data Source: Northern Middlesex MPO Transportation Improvement Program, MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning, the Lowell Regional Transit Authority, Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration.