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May 14, 2018

Mr. Steve Woelfel  
MassDOT Representative to CMMPO  
Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission  
Union Station, Washington Square  
Worcester, MA 01604

Re: Central Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization's Draft FY2019-2023  
Transportation Improvement Program

Dear Mr. Woelfel:

On behalf of the 495/MetroWest Partnership, please accept the following as our official comments regarding the draft *Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)* for FFY 2019 to FFY 2023 for the Central Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (CMMPO).

The 495/MetroWest Partnership is a non-profit advocacy organization serving thirty-five communities, over half a million residents, and an employment base of over \$23 billion per year. The Partnership seeks to address regional needs through public-private collaboration by working to enhance economic vitality, improve quality of life and sustain natural resources. The Partnership focuses on helping to alleviate regional constraints and limitations, and conducts numerous initiatives on transportation, workforce housing, brownfields, and water resources.

With our latest economic analysis, we know that the 495/MetroWest region has continued to grow thanks to a diverse economic base and a high quality of life. While this growth has resulted in opportunities and benefits, transportation challenges remain. If ignored, these challenges threaten the quality of life and economic wellbeing of a region that has become an economic engine for the Commonwealth. Our regional transportation challenges affect the state's ability to remain economically competitive. These challenges include: increasing traffic congestion, an increase in vehicle miles traveled, highway capacity issues, gaps in public transit coverage, and aging transportation infrastructure.

While the CMMPO region includes only seven of the Partnership's thirty-five communities, we greatly appreciate the projects included in the Draft TIP which benefit our region. In addition to the FY 19-23 projects, we are pleased to see the ongoing work on two projects, namely the **Reconstruction on Route 9 & Route 20 Ramp Improvements in Northborough and Shrewsbury (Project ID 607442)** and the **Route 9/Lyman St. Intersection and Signal Improvements Project (Project #604864)**. In the current Draft TIP, the Partnership strongly supports the inclusion of the following projects:

### FFY 2019

- Upton—reconstruction of Hartford Avenue North, High Street and Hopkinton Road (Project ID 606125, \$7,250,000 - Phase 1)

### FFY 2020

- Upton—reconstruction of Hartford Avenue North, High Street, and Hopkinton Road (Project ID 608764, \$5,192,824 - Phase 2)

### FFY 2021

- Grafton—reclamation on Route 122A (Main Street), from Providence Road to Sutton T.L. (Project ID 607903, \$7,075,757)
- Upton & Grafton - Resurfacing and Related Work on Route 140 (Project ID 608490, \$9,041,868)

In addition to the projects mentioned above, the Partnership appreciates the MPO funding for the Worcester Regional Transit Authority (WRTA) as they are a longstanding resource for the region. The WRTA has several projects listed in the TIP, and fulfilling these items would aid the WRTA considerably in providing service to the many people who depend on it. The WRTA provides critical services to various populations, including commuters who come to work in our region on the commuter rail. Expansion of WRTA services is needed as the region grows and changes, however existing resources do not allow for expansion and in fact, reduction of services have been proposed. Existing funding is simply not enough to cover the needs of the WRTA to serve its customers and given that this is a consistent theme at several RTAs in the Commonwealth, the Partnership strongly urges MassDOT to consider additional resources for the RTAs.

Given our role on the CMMPO Advisory Committee as well as our work on transportation and transit needs in the 495/MetroWest region, the Partnership recognizes that there is simply not enough revenue to cover the many worthy projects in the queue, which explains, in part, why our region has no projects in FFY 2022 and 2023 and why we have consistently advocated for greater resources for MassDOT.

We thank you for your consideration of our comments. If there are any questions regarding these projects or our commentary on the TIP, please contact Jessica Strunkin at 774.760.0495 x.101, or by email at [Jessica@495partnership.org](mailto:Jessica@495partnership.org). Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Paul F. Matthews  
Executive Director



Jessica Strunkin  
Deputy Director