

Regional Transportation **Advisory Council**

March 13, 2024

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL









Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization

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REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

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Si yon moun vie genyen enfomasyon sa yo nan yon lòt lang, tanpri kontakte Espesya is Boston Region MPO Title VI la nan nimewo 857.702.3700.

Si necesita esta información en otro idioma, por favor contacte la Boston Region MPO al 857.702.3700.

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REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Guidelines

- 1. All participants will join the meeting with muted microphones.
- 2. Please rename yourself to include your first name, last name and affiliation.
- 3. Participants may mute and unmute themselves. Always remain muted unless actively speaking.
- 4. To participate in the discussion, please select the "raise hand" function. Find this by clicking either on the "Participants" button at the bottom of the screen, and a window will pop up with a "Raise Hand" button at the bottom, or the "Reactions" button in the toolbar. The Chair will then call on participants.
- 5. If you are on the phone, you can use *9 to raise your hand.
- 6. If you have any technical difficulties, please contact Stella Jordan via the chat box, sjordan@ctps.org or 857.702.3675.

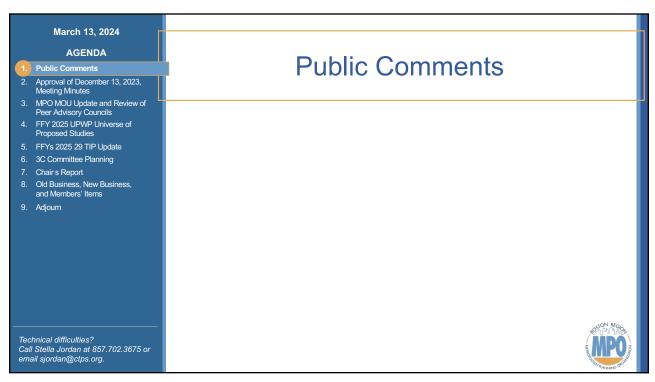
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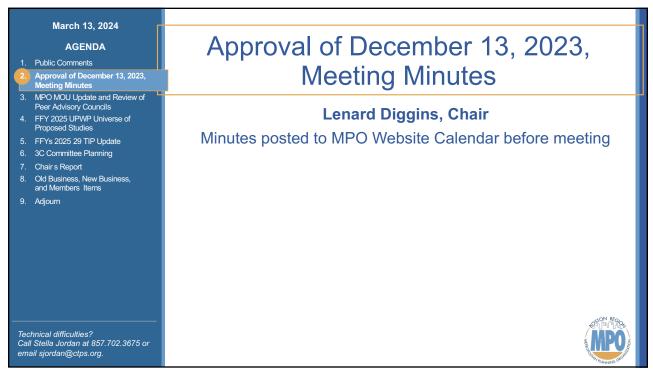
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

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March 13, 2024 AGENDA 1. Public Comments 2. Approval of December 13, 2023, Meeting Minutes 3. MPO MOU Update and Review of Peer Advisory Councils 4. FFY 2025 UPWP Universe of Proposed Studies 5. FFYs 2025 29 TIP Update 6. 3C Committee Planning 7. Chair's Report 8. Old Business, New Business, and Members Items 9. Adjourn

Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Update and Review of Peer Advisory Councils

Stella Jordan, MPO Staff

- Overview of the MPO's MOU update process and Advisory Council component
- Review of peer MPOs' advisory councils (memo posted to the MPO calendar) and discussion of the Boston Region MPO Advisory Council's mission and goals



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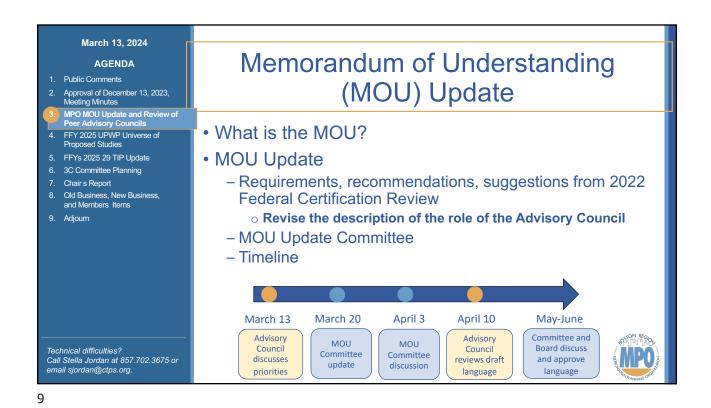


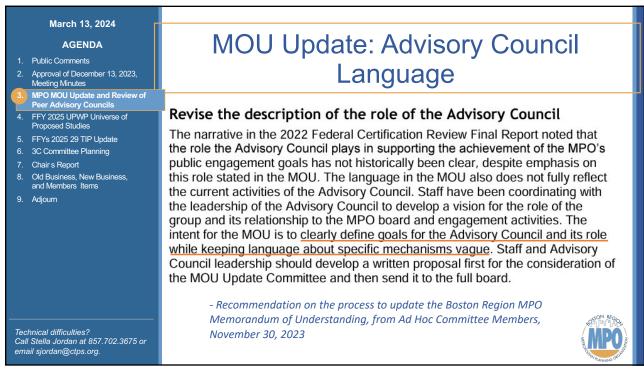
MPO MOU Update and Review of Peer Advisory Councils

March 13, 2024

Stella Jordan, MPO Staff

Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization





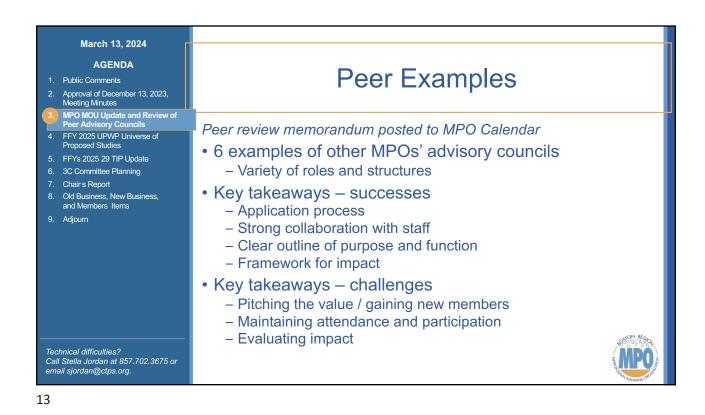
March 13, 2024 **AGENDA** 1. Public Comments Approval of December 13, 2023, Meeting Minutes MPO MOU Update and Review of FFY 2025 UPWP Universe of 5. FFYs 2025 29 TIP Update 6. 3C Committee Planning 7. Chair s Report 8. Old Business, New Business, and Members Items 9. Adioum Technical difficulties? Call Stella Jordan at 857.702.3675 or email sjordan@ctps.org. 11

MOU Update: Advisory Council Language

- Clarify the role and mission of the Advisory Council
- Outline relationship between Advisory Council and MPO board, staff, and engagement activities
- Clearly define goals for the Advisory Council
- Not the place to define specific mechanisms and *logistics*



March 13, 2024 **AGENDA** Defining Our Role, Mission, and Goals 1. Public Comments Approval of December 13, 2023, Meeting Minutes MPO MOU Update and Review of Peer Advisory Councils FFY 2025 UPWP Universe of Prepare the Advisory Council for the future **Proposed Studies** • Establish purpose and mission related to the MPO's FFYs 2025 29 TIP Update 6. 3C Committee Planning decision-making process 7. Chair s Report Old Business, New Business, and Members Items Today's discussion: 9. Adjourn - Consider mission, vision, and goals - Develop ideas and priorities to inform draft Advisory Council update language Draft language will be discussed at April meeting Call Stella Jordan at 857.702.3675 or email sjordan@ctps.org



March 13, 2024 **AGENDA** Discussion 1. Public Comments Approval of December 13, 2023, Meeting Minutes MPO MOU Update and Review of Peer Advisory Councils FFY 2025 UPWP Universe of What stood out in the examples? **Proposed Studies** 5. FFYs 2025 29 TIP Update What should the mission of the Advisory Council be? 6. 3C Committee Planning - Vision? 7. Chair's Report 8. Old Business, New Business, and Members Items - Key goals? 9. Adjourn How can the Advisory Council meaningfully engage with and impact MPO planning and decisionmaking? - Membership structure? – Defined role in projects and programs? Technical difficulties? Call Stella Jordan at 857.702.3675 or email sjordan@ctps.org

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Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Universe of Proposed Studies

Srilekha Murthy, MPO Staff

Discussion of study ideas submitted for funding consideration in the FFY 2025 UPWP and Advisory Council priorities (Universe of Studies posted to MPO Calendar)



Call Stella Jordan at 857.702.3675 or email sjordan@ctps.org.

Technical difficulties?

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FFY 2025 Universe of Proposed Studies

- 121 studies received through public survey, staff surveys, and other comments
- Staff met to categorize studies by general topic area: climate resilience, bicycle/pedestrian, freight, and transit/multimodal
- · Criteria used
 - consistency with the goals of the LRTP, agency priorities, and current focus themes (equity, resilience, safety, and uncertainty)
 - supportive of ongoing program work
 - staff capacity to execute the work
 - regional relevance and applicability



March 13, 2024 FFY 2025 Universe of Proposed **AGENDA** 1. Public Comments **Studies** Approval of December 13, 2023, Meeting Minutes 3. MPO MOU Update and Review of Peer Advisory Councils 23 proposed study ideas FFY 2025 UPWP Universe of - Either as a discrete study or incorporated within program FFYs 2025 29 TIP Update 6. 3C Committee Planning work 7. Chair s Report 8. Old Business, New Business, and Members Items Universe shows studies that can be incorporated within 9. Adjourn an ongoing work program highlighted in pink Technical difficulties? Call Stella Jordan at 857.702.3675 or email sjordan@ctps.org

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FFY 2025 Universe of Proposed Studies

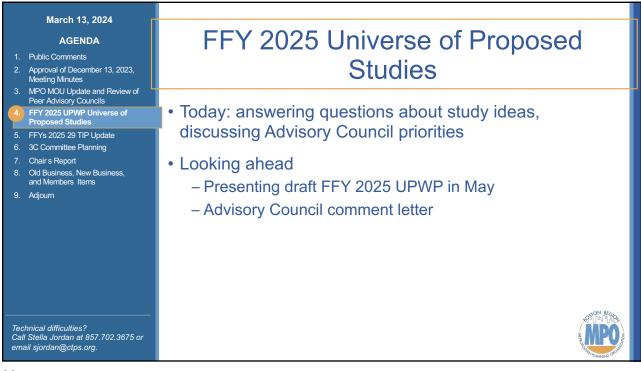
- Ongoing programs will be continue to be funded at a higher level to support continuous MPO work and ensure that staff are able to respond to evolving needs
- Amount for discrete studies is not known yet, but is projected to be limited, similar to FFY 2024 (\$150,000)



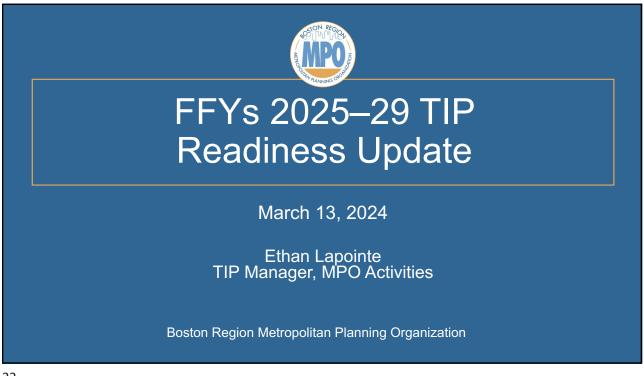
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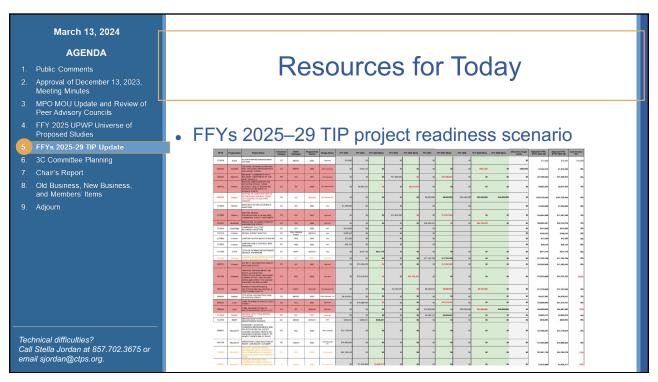
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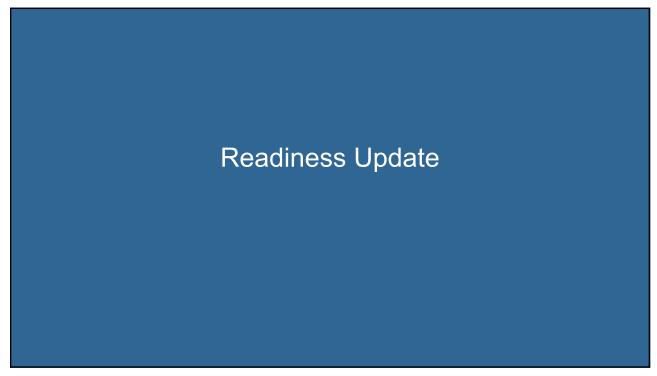
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Draft Financial Outlook for FFYs 2025–29 Programming

Disclaimers:

- Factors in most delays, cost and inflation changes, advance construction
- Does not factor in new projects or new information in coming months

	2025	2025 (New)	2026	2026 (New)	2027	2027 (New)	2028	2028 (New)	2029 (New)	2025-29 Total
Total Available Regional Highway Target Funds	\$128,427,689	\$128,427,689	\$125,285,688	\$125,285,687	\$155,132,143	\$155,132,142	\$158,052,175	\$158,052,175	\$161,030,608	\$727,928,301
Draft Total Programmed Regional Highway Target Funds:	\$125,975,489	\$55,813,413	\$124,667,241	\$90,610,293	\$144,006,044	\$235,817,183	\$149,868,526	\$184,091,988	\$109,840,000	\$676,172,876
Regional Highway Target Funds Remaining (Unprogrammed):	\$2,452,200	\$72,614,276	\$618,447	\$34,675,394	\$11,126,099	-\$80,685,041	\$8,183,649	-\$26,039,813	\$51,190,608	\$51,755,425
Percent Unprogrammed	1.9%	56.5%	0.5%	27.7%	7.2%	-52.0%	5.2%	-16.5%	31.8%	7.1%

Note: Years shown are federal fiscal years.

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Draft Financial Outlook for FFYs 2025–29 Programming

	2025	2025 (New)	2026	2026 (New)	
Total Available Regional Highway Target Funds	\$128,427,689	\$128,427,689	\$125,285,688	\$125,285,687	
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- FFYs 2025 and 2026 have large amounts of unprogrammed funding
- Cause: high volume of delays
 - Only three FFY 2025 regional target projects were **not** delayed
 - Some delayed to 2027 or later, along with several FFY 2026 projects

Note: Years shown are federal fiscal years.

Draft Financial Outlook for FFYs 2025–29 Programming

- FFYs 2027 and 2028 are short by major amounts
- Delays out of FFYs 2025 and 2026 and cost increases are root causes
- FFY 2029 is where most new construction projects may be funded

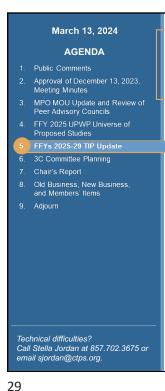
	2027	2027 (New)	2028	2028 (New)	2029 (New)	
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Percent Unprogrammed	7.2%	-52.0%	5.2%	-16.5%	31.8%	

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Draft Financial Outlook for FFYs 2025–29 Programming

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Regional Target Change Summary

- 16 projects recommended for delay
 - o Further delays or deprogramming expected to accommodate fiscal constraint and readiness issues
- 8 projects at risk of delay
- 13 projects saw cost increases above 10%
- There is overlap between the delay categories and cost increases, but not always

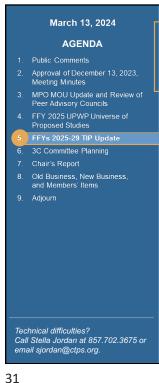




Key Considerations

- This is a snapshot. Items will change as scenarios develop.
- Other MPOs and MassDOT witnessed similar outcomes.
 - These issues are not unique to our region, or municipally proposed projects.





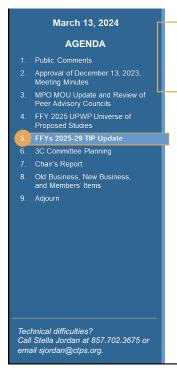
Why are projects delayed?

Issue #1: Most projects were recommended for delay due to difficulty submitting ROW plans and/or environmental permits.

• Theories:

- ROW and permitting are complex legal processes that often require institutional knowledge at the local level.
- Federal funding is not often used for ROW acquisition due to further complexities, which puts strain on local financial resources.
- Staff turnover due to COVID severely hampered both

ROW = right-of-way



Why are projects delayed?

Issue #2: Many projects are not meeting design submission deadlines, or their submissions require revision.

Theories:

- Different design consultants have varying capacity and familiarity with MassDOT requirements. Some have recently restructured.
- Design funding costs borne locally require town meeting approval to move forward, which can delay projects.
- Projects are not 'grandfathered in' if design or pern ''' requirements increase as the project develops.



Why are costs increasing?

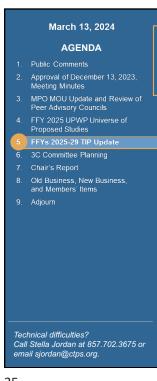
- **Inflation:** Projects with slow design progress often have older cost estimates.
 - Most projects that saw the greatest percent increases were upon estimates from 2019 and early 2020.
- **Permitting:** Permit needs that emerge during design may increase the project scope.
 - Examples: Utility coordination, soil disposal, wildlife crossings, dam removal, and bridge widening
- Asset Degradation: The longer a project takes to deliver, the worse the needs to be addressed become.

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Key Considerations

- Given fiscal constraint issues, there is a strong likelihood that the MPO will be deprogramming projects from the TIP in FFY 2027.
 - Deprogrammed projects may reapply in future TIP cycles if proponents demonstrate design progress.
- Given repeated readiness challenges over the past few TIP development cycles, we expect these challenges to persist until more projects progress their designs.
 - Cost control and design funding countermeasures will require time to unfold.



Upcoming Dates

- March 7: MPO staff present project scores and descriptions to board members
- March 14: Committee discusses scenario strategies and priorities
- March 21: MPO board members discuss and vote on preliminary scenarios
- March 28: Refinement of preliminary scenarios to reflect member priorities
- April 4: MPO board members select a final scenario

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