



# Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Process, Engagement, and Readiness Committee

October 17, 2024



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# Guidelines

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1. All participants will join the meeting with muted microphones.
2. Please rename yourself to include your first name, last name, and affiliation.
3. After roll call, Board members 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.





October 17, 2024

1. Introductions
2. Public Comments
3. Review of Milestones and Future Meetings for FFYs 2026–30 TIP Development
4. Members' Items
5. Adjourn

# Introductions

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# Public Comments

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5. Adjourn

# Review of Milestones and Future Meetings for Federal Fiscal Years (FFYs) 2026–30 TIP Development

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## Ethan Lapointe, MPO Staff

Presentation and discussion of major dates in the development of the FFYs 2026–30 TIP, and review of key challenges and areas of improvement for TIP projects

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# Review of Milestones and Future Meetings for Federal Fiscal Years (FFYs) 2026–30 TIP Development

*Ethan Lapointe*  
*TIP Manager, MPO Activities*

October 17, 2024





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4. Members' Items
5. Adjourn

## Presentation Overview

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- Prior TIP Committee meeting
- Themes from FFYs 2025–29 TIP Development
  - Mid-way break for discussion
- Key TIP dates
  - TIP Applications
  - Project Readiness
  - Scenario Development and Selection
  - Draft Release, Comment, and Endorsement
- Discussion

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# Review of August 20, 2024, Meeting



October 17, 2024

1. Introductions
2. Public Comments
3. Review of Milestones and Future Meetings for FFYs 2026–30 TIP Development
4. Members' Items
5. Adjourn

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## August 20, 2024, TIP Committee Meeting

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- In August, the TIP Committee previewed process changes for the FFYs 2026–30 TIP
- Changes included:
  - Establishing a better process for Transit Transformation project applications
  - Trialing Quarterly Readiness Updates to the MPO board
  - Municipal Pre-Readiness Days
- Today's presentation will reiterate some of these items and provide dates for these changes

# Challenges from FFYs 2025–29 TIP Development



October 17, 2024

1. Introductions
2. Public Comments
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4. Members' Items
5. Adjourn

## Challenges from FFYs 2025–29 Development

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- The Boston Region MPO is taking steps to mitigate major project programming challenges, and full resolution of these issues will take time
- Many challenges in developing the FFYs 2025–29 TIP will persist in developing the FFYs 2026–30 TIP
- These challenges include:
  - Project cost increases and delays
  - Increasing reliance on Advance Construction funding
  - Slackened project application volumes

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2. Public Comments
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5. Adjourn

## Project Cost Increases and Delays

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- At TIP Readiness Days for the FFYs 2025–29 TIP, **16 of 28 projects** were recommended for delay with another 8 flagged as at risk for delay
  - The majority of delays fell within FFYs 2025 and 2026
  - 13 projects had cost increases above 10%
- These cost increases and delays led to:
  - Unprecedented surpluses of funding in FFYs 2025 and 2026, without municipal-proponent projects ready to utilize the sudden funding availability
  - Deficits in FFYs 2027 and 2028, necessitating additional delays that both jeopardized funding for new projects in FFY 2029 and raised the question of removing projects from the TIP

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5. Adjourn

# Advance Construction Funding

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- Advance Construction is the mechanism by which projects are funded across their construction period, rather than in a lump sum in their advertising year
- Historically, adopted TIP Scenarios leveraged Advance Construction to support larger-scale (>\$25 million) projects
  - Recent readiness trends have led to greater reliance on Advance Construction for smaller projects
  - While not atypical, as many other MPOs in Massachusetts utilize this strategy, there are longer-term implications

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4. Members' Items
5. Adjourn

# Advance Construction Funding

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- In the FFYs 2025–29 TIP, Advance Construction was used to:
  - Support long-term advance construction of McGrath Highway, Rutherford Avenue, and Western Avenue in FFY 2029
  - Shift funding from a deficit year of FFY 2028 into FFY 2029
  - Partial-fund new projects in FFY 2029, with their remainder planned in FFY 2030

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4. Members' Items
5. Adjourn

PROJECT NAME	FFY 2029 (Current)	FFY 2030 (Planned)
<b>606226:</b> BOSTON- RECONSTRUCTION OF RUTHERFORD AVENUE	\$45,000,000	\$35,500,000
<b>607981:</b> SOMERVILLE- MCGRATH BOULEVARD CONSTRUCTION	\$30,310,000	\$5,000,000
<b>609246:</b> LYNN- REHABILITATION OF WESTERN AVENUE (ROUTE 107)	\$20,000,000	\$10,897,600
<b>610662:</b> WOBURN- ROADWAY AND INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT WOBURN COMMON	\$9,335,200	\$9,335,000
<b>612738:</b> IPSWICH- ARGILLA ROAD ROADWAY RECONSTRUCTION	\$3,000,000	\$2,368,966
<b>612963:</b> BELLINGHAM- ROADWAY REHABILITATION OF ROUTE 126	\$8,340,000	\$4,362,000
<b>613319:</b> SUDBURY- FRAMINGHAM- BIKE PATH CONSTRUCTION OF BRUCE FREEMAN RAIL TRAIL	\$4,263,000	\$4,263,000
<i>TRANSIT TRANSFORMATION SET-ASIDE</i>	\$6,500,000	\$8,000,000
<i>COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS SET-ASIDE</i>	\$2,500,000	\$3,000,000
<i>BIKESHARE SUPPORT SET-ASIDE</i>	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$84,726,566</b>

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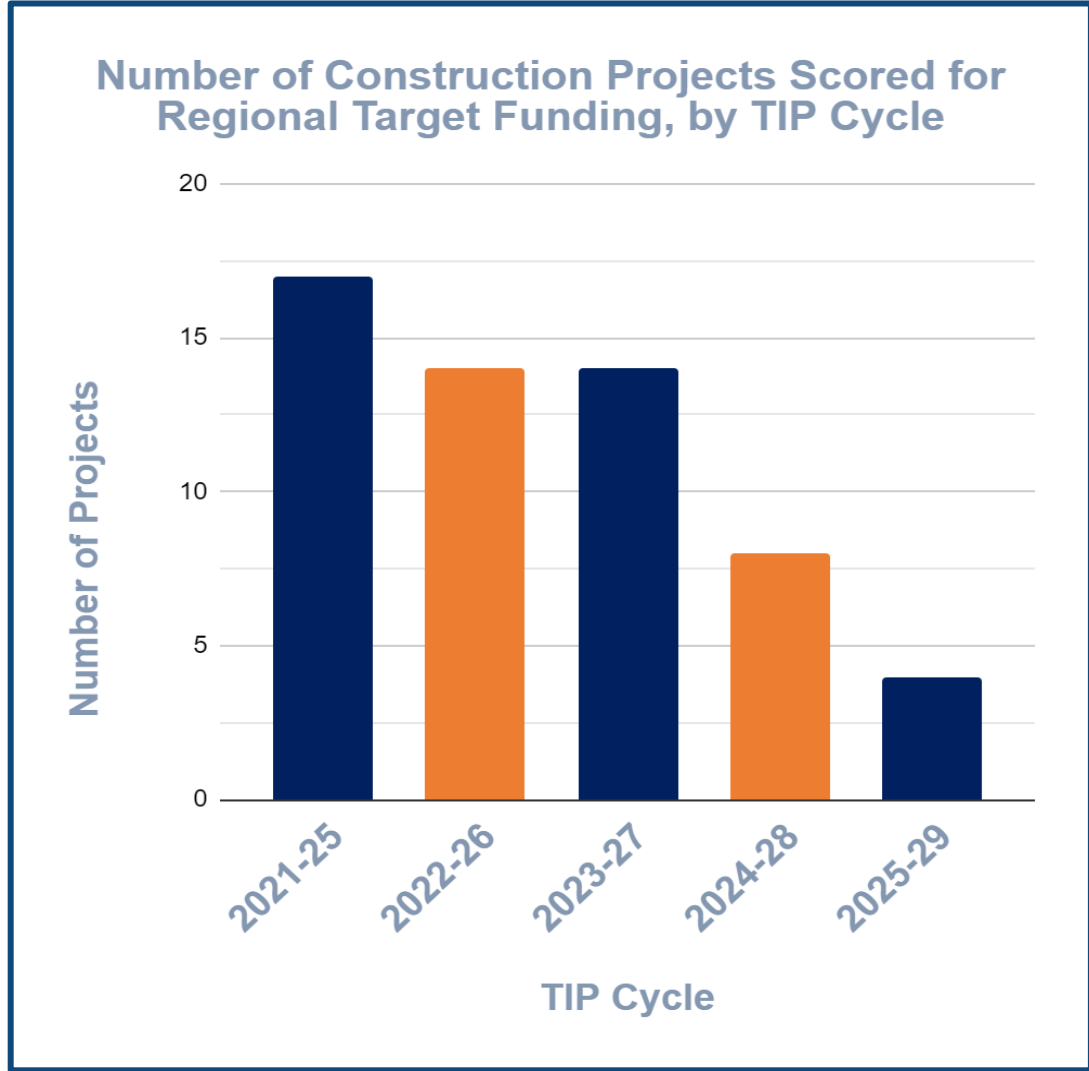
October 17, 2024

1. Introductions
2. Public Comments
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4. Members' Items
5. Adjourn

# Project Application Volumes

- Applications for TIP funding in Core Investment Programs\* have declined markedly since FFYs 2021-25
- Down from 17 applications to 4
- Staff expect this figure to stabilize in FFYs 2026-30, albeit at low application levels for now

\*Core Investment Programs refer to projects outside of the Community Connections Investment Program.



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4. Members' Items
5. Adjourn

# Going Forward

Interventions→	Quarterly Readiness Updates	Municipal Pre-Readiness Days	Proactive Transit Project Solicitation	Project Design Pilot
Challenges↓				
<i>Project cost increases and delays</i>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>		
<i>Surpluses in early fiscal years</i>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	
<i>Constrained funding in later fiscal years</i>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>
<i>Slackened project application volumes</i>				<b>X</b>

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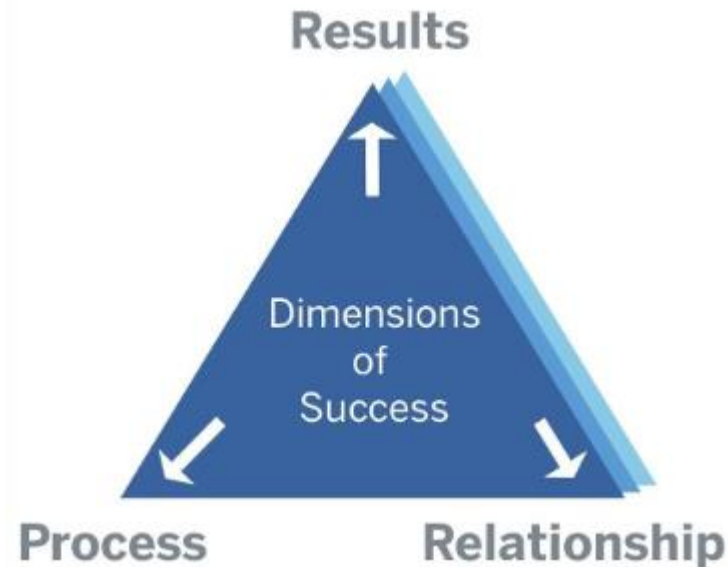
October 17, 2024

1. Introductions
2. Public Comments
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## Positive visioning

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- Acknowledging both that we expect many of these challenges to continue *and* that we're trialing out a few interventions...
- Imagine yourself in June, reflecting on a wildly successful TIP development season
- **What does that success look/feel/sound like to you?**



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# Discussion

# Key TIP Dates

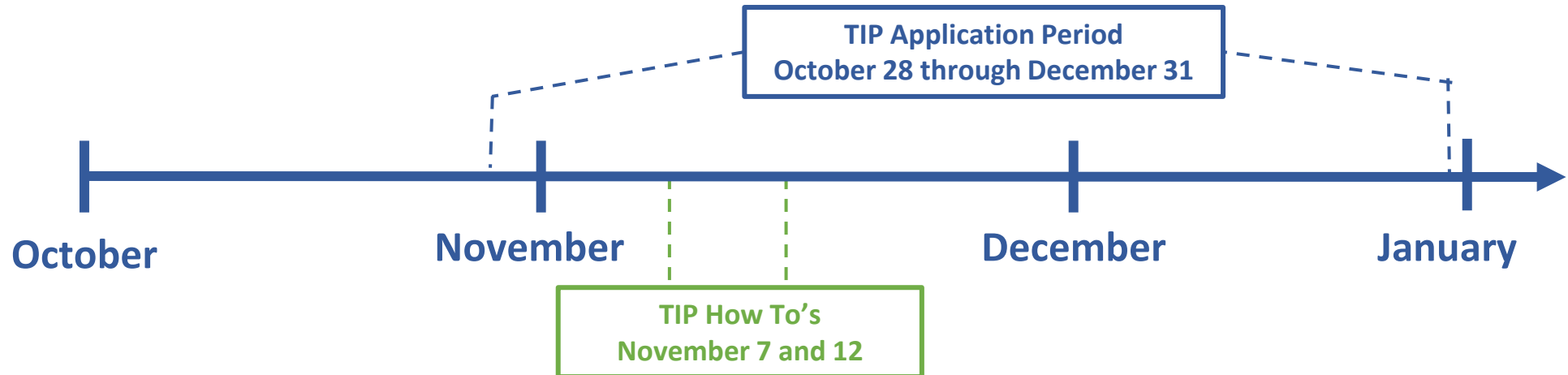


October 17, 2024

1. Introductions
2. Public Comments
3. Review of Milestones and Future Meetings for FFYs 2026–30 TIP Development
4. Members' Items
5. Adjourn

# TIP Application Timelines

- TIP Applications will be accepted October 28 through December 31
  - Application period for *all* applicants
- TIP How-To Discussions for applicants will be held November 7 and 12 at 1:00 PM



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Dates subject to change

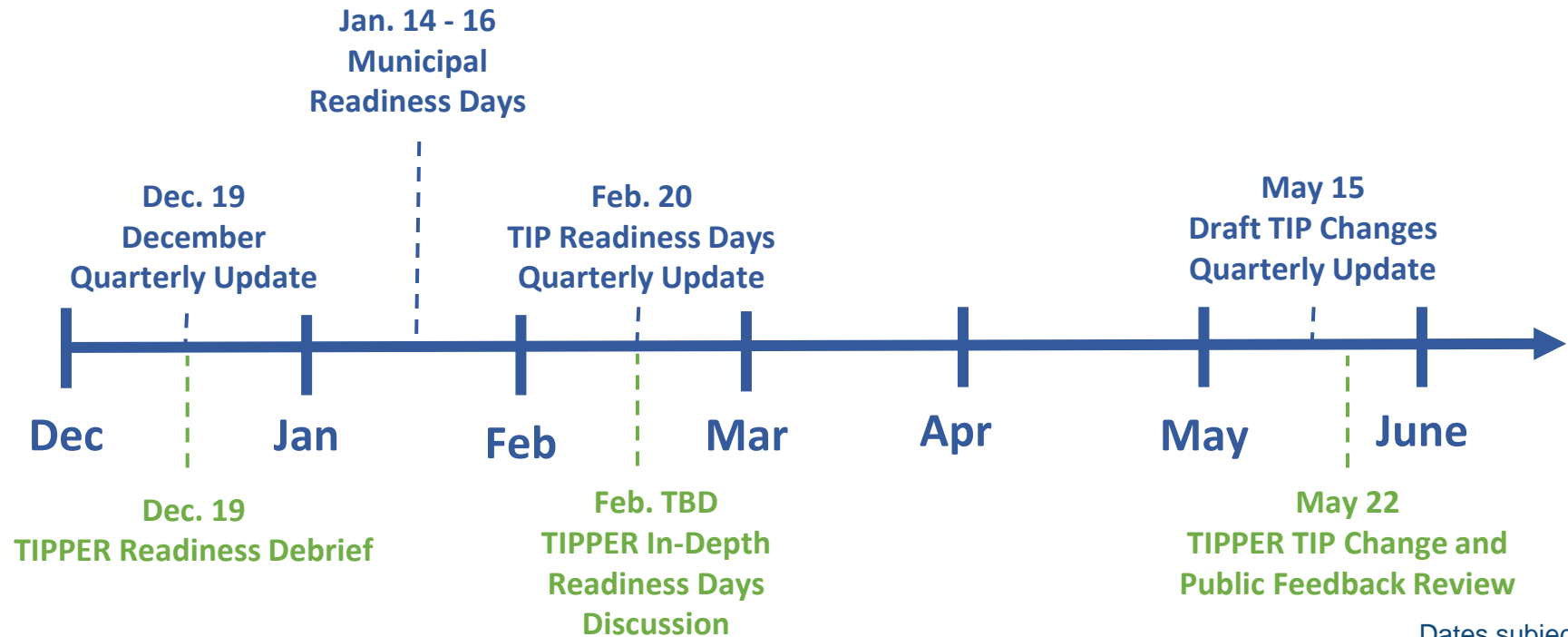


October 17, 2024

1. Introductions
2. Public Comments
3. Review of Milestones and Future Meetings for FFYs 2026–30 TIP Development
4. Members' Items
5. Adjourn

# Project Readiness Updates

- Readiness Updates now include Quarterly Readiness Updates, Municipal Readiness Days, and TIP Readiness Days
- What are Municipal Readiness Days?



Dates subject to change

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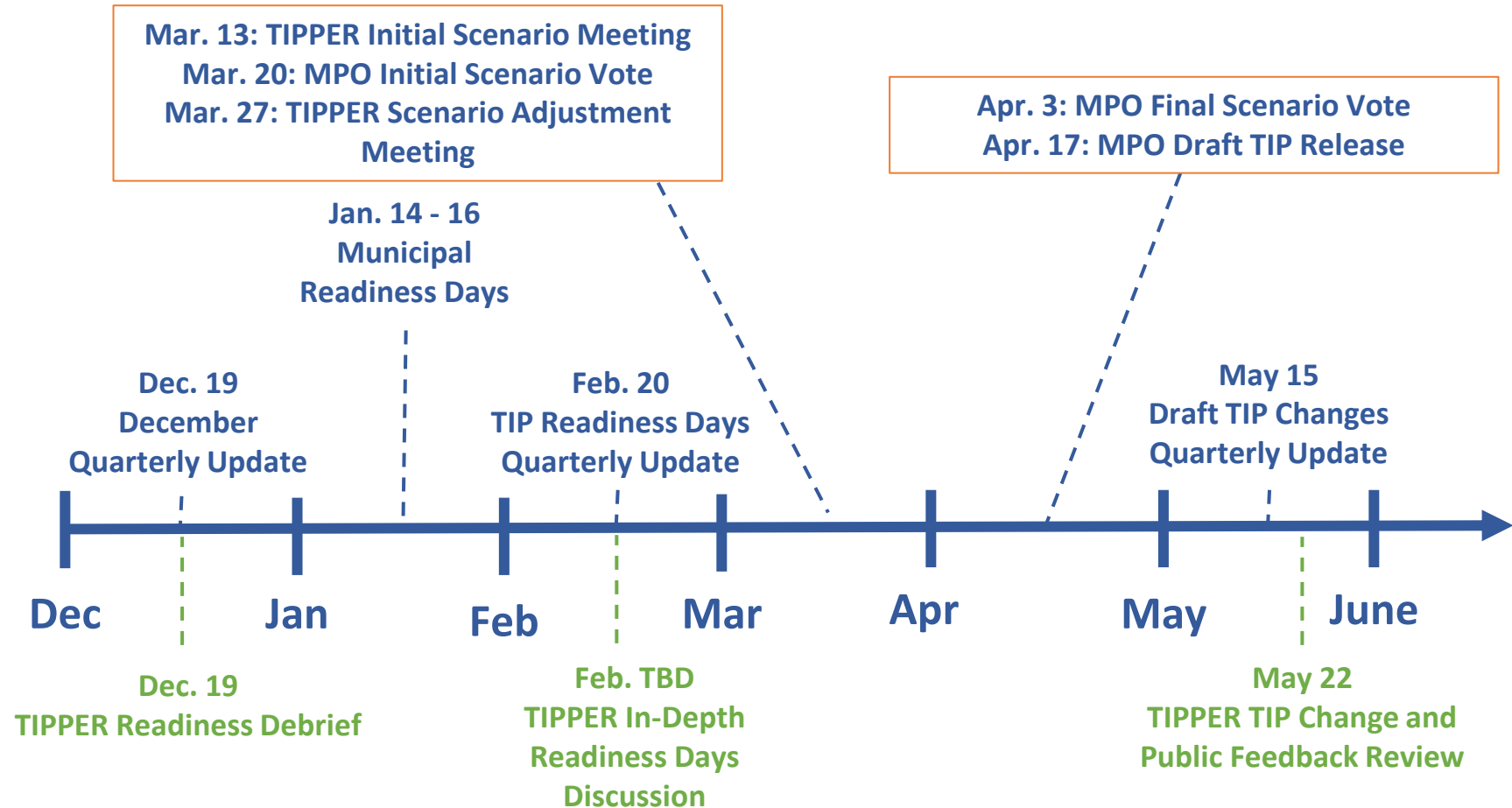




October 17, 2024

1. Introductions
2. Public Comments
3. Review of Milestones and Future Meetings for FFYs 2026–30 TIP Development
4. Members' Items
5. Adjourn

# Scenario Development



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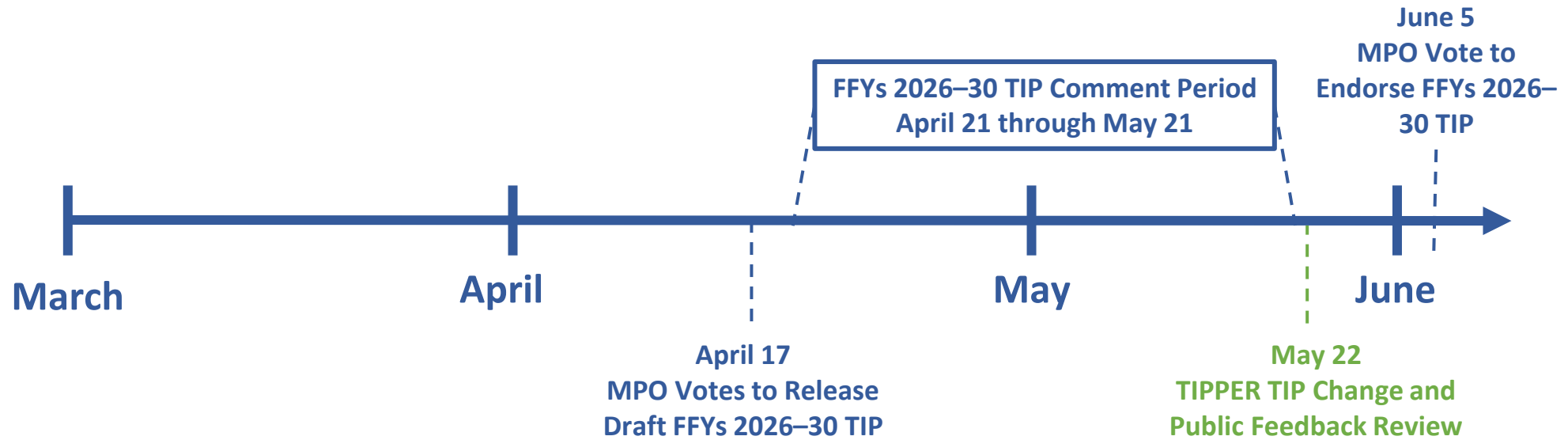


October 17, 2024

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2. Public Comments
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4. Members' Items
5. Adjourn

## FFYs 2026–30 TIP Draft Period

- After a scenario is selected, a vote on the draft TIP is tentatively planned for April 17
  - 30-day public comment period
- May 22 TIP Committee meeting will preview any changes that may emerge between draft and endorsement



Dates subject to change

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October 17, 2024

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2. Public Comments
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4. Members' Items
5. Adjourn

## Dates Summary

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- **Near term:** TIP Applications open at the end of this month
- **December through February:** Gathering and discussing project readiness information
- **February through April:** Developing programming scenarios
- The TIP Applications, and a timeline listing all of these TIP dates and more, will soon be available at [www.ctps.org/tip-dev](http://www.ctps.org/tip-dev)

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Next Steps



October 17, 2024

1. Introductions
2. Public Comments
3. Review of Milestones and Future Meetings for FFYs 2026–30 TIP Development
4. Members' Items
5. Adjourn

## Next Steps

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- The next TIP Committee meeting is scheduled for December 19 at 1:00 PM
- Follows the December Quarterly Readiness Update to be presented at the December 19 MPO Meeting
  - Meant to provide additional information and context
  - Morning MPO meeting update may focus more on Major Capital project progress, afternoon on other project items
  - Details and specifics to come, stay tuned

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# Discussion



October 17, 2024

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- 4. Members' Items**
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## Members' Items

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Reports and notices by TIP Process, Engagement, and Readiness members, including regional concerns and local community issues

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# Adjourn

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