

CITY OF WORCESTER
PUBLIC SERVICE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, April 16, 2026
Levi Lincoln (North) Chamber
Convened: 5:32 P.M.
Adjourned: 6:36 P.M.

MAYOR

Joseph M. Petty

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairperson Robert A Bilotta

Vice Chairperson John P Fresolo

Councilor Luis A Ojeda



CLERK OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Nikolin Vangjeli

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City Hall - 455 Main Street Worcester, Massachusetts

Present Were:

Chairperson Councilor Robert A. Bilotta
Councilor John P Fresolo, who arrived at 6:05 P.M.
Councilor Luis A Ojeda, who participated in the meeting remotely

Also:

Central Mass Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC)
Executive Director Janet Pierce
Central Mass Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC)
Deputy Executive Director Sujatha Krishnan
Central Mass Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC)
Director of Access and Mobility Yahaira Graxirena
Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility Stephen Rolle
WCCA TV Executive Director Mauro DePasquale
Deputy City Clerk Clare M. Robbins, clerk

1. Virtual Attendee Call-In Information

- a. Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021 and in order to ensure active, public engagement, the City of Worcester currently allows for both in-person and remote participation at all City Council and Standing Committee meetings. To partake in the meeting, you may attend the meeting in-person within the meeting location, follow the below link to join via Zoom or dial the direct line as indicated. If you join a Zoom meeting by dialing in with a phone number, you can raise your hand by dialing *9.

Public Service and Transportation Committee Zoom Link:

<https://worcesterma.zoomgov.com/j/1613790984>

Public Service and Transportation Committee Zoom Phone Number: +1 646 828 7666

Public Service and Transportation Committee Zoom Access Code: 161 379 0984

2. Approval of the Minutes

- a. Order - That the City Council Standing Committee of Public Service and Transportation hereby approves the minutes of the Public Service and Transportation Committee meeting on March 26, 2026.

**Chairperson Councilor Bilotta read the item and moved for a roll call vote to adopt the item.
Order adopted on a roll call vote of 2 Yeas and 0 Nays (Ojeda absent)**

3. Miscellaneous Items

- a. Order of Councilor Robert A. Bilotta - Request Standing Committee on Public Service and Transportation invite the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) to a meeting to discuss the ongoing Vernon Street/I-290 Interchange Transportation Study.

12e CC March 10, 2026

Chairperson Councilor Bilotta read the item and recognized the CMRPC Executive Director, the CMRPC Director of Access and Mobility and the CMRPC Deputy Executive Director, who provided a presentation concerning the Vernon Street I-290 Interchange Transportation Study and discussed the current process being used to gather input from the community.

Chairperson Councilor Bilotta recognized the Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility, who discussed the city's involvement in the study and the benefits of getting community involvement and input early in the process.

Chairperson Councilor Bilotta recognized Councilor Ojeda, who discussed outreach to the schools in the neighborhood for input and challenges relative to public outreach to business owners and residents in the area with the CMRPC Director of Access and Mobility.

Chairperson Councilor Bilotta brought forth the following Chairman's Order: Request City Manager work with the Central Mass Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC), the Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility and the Superintendent of Public Schools to provide outreach to residents, businesses and schools in the Vernon Hill and Kelly Square neighborhoods to gather feedback for the Vernon Street/I-290 Interchange Transportation Study.

Chairperson Councilor Bilotta recognized the CMRPC Executive Director, who discussed the needs to get feedback from the public and multifaceted public outreach methods for the study with the Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility.

Chairperson Councilor Bilotta brought forth the following Chairman's Order: Request City Manager work with the Central Mass Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC), the Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility and the Superintendent of Public Schools to provide presentations concerning the Vernon Street/I-290 Interchange Transportation Study to Worcester Public Schools (WPS) students.

Chairperson Councilor Bilotta recognized Councilor Ojeda, who discussed different ways for WPS students to get involved with the traffic study process.

Chairperson Councilor Bilotta moved for a roll call vote to recommend the item be filed.

Recommend File on a roll call vote of 3 Yeas and 0 Nays

Chairman's Orders

Request City Manager work with the Central Mass Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC), the Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility and the Superintendent of Public Schools to provide outreach to residents, businesses and schools in the Vernon Hill and Kelly Square neighborhoods to gather feedback for the Vernon Street/I-290 Interchange Transportation Study.

Request City Manager work with the Central Mass Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC), the Commissioner of Transportation and Mobility and the Superintendent of Public Schools to provide presentations concerning the Vernon Street/I-290 Interchange Transportation Study to Worcester Public Schools (WPS) students.

- b. Order of Gary Rosen - Request Standing Committee on Public Service and Transportation invite representatives from WCCA TV 194 to discuss the progress, achievements and future of the public access TV station and community media center.

12q CC March 10, 2026

Chairperson Councilor Bilotta read the item and recognized the WCCA TV Executive Director, who provided an overview of WCCA TV history and operations.

Chairperson Councilor Bilotta recognized the following speakers:

1. Fred Nathan, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of the item
2. James Broadhurst, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of the item
3. Tom Colletta, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of the item
4. Maureen Schwab, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of the item
5. Adam Rice, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of the item
6. Zara (No last name given), Worcester resident, spoke in favor of the item
7. Frank Rocco, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of the item
8. Jennifer Picherri, Worcester resident, spoke in favor of the item

Chairperson Councilor Bilotta recognized the WCCA TV Executive Director, who discussed the achievements of WCCA TV, the budget challenges relative to declining cable subscriptions and city's budget allocations.

Chairperson Councilor Bilotta recognized Councilor Fresolo and Councilor Ojeda, who spoke concerning the item.

Chairperson Councilor Bilotta brought forth the following Chairman's Order: Request City Manager review the franchise fees associated with Public, Educational, and Governmental (PEG) access support to determine the feasibility of restructuring said fees to provide more funding to WCCA TV.

Chairperson Councilor Bilotta moved for a roll call vote to recommend the item be filed.

Recommend File on a roll call vote of 3 Yeas and 0 Nays

Chairman's Orders

Request City Manager review the franchise fees associated with Public, Educational, and Governmental (PEG) access support to determine the feasibility of restructuring said fees to provide more funding to WCCA TV.