

Minutes of the Virtual Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) Meeting
 Wednesday, March 10, 2021
 Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
 60 Congress Street, Springfield, Massachusetts 01104

Present were:

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
John Alessi	Coordinator, Sustainable Mobility, MassDOT	Peter Frieri	MassDOT District 1
Daryl Amaral	MassDOT District 2 Office, Engineer	Betsy Johnson	Walk/Bike Springfield
Dan Banister	Williamsburg Highway Dept.	Van Kacoyannakis	Civil Engineer, VHB
Glenn Barrington	UMass Transit Services	Tim Keane	Town Engineer, Longmeadow
Liz Biskar	Policy Assistant, MassDOT	Connor Knightly	Project Mgr., West Springfield
Chris Bouchard	DPW Director, South Hadley	Derek Krevat	Transportation Planner, MassDOT
Gary Briere	MassBike	Kien Ho	Vice President, BETA Group
Paul Burns	PVTA Director, Transit Operations	Dan McCormick	UMass- Amherst
Matt Chase	Professional Engineer, VHB	Mike McManus	Superintendent, Holyoke DPW
Michelle Chase	Town Engineer, Agawam	Dan Murphy	City Engineer, Easthampton
Robert Colson	DPW Director, West Springfield	Steve Savaria	Sr. Engineer, Fuss & O'Neill
Mark Cressotti	City Engineer, Westfield	Jason Skeels	Town Engineer, Amherst
Jackie DeWolfe	Director of Sustainable Mobility, MassDOT	Matt Smith	DPW Chesterfield Superintendent
Nick Dines	Town of Williamsburg	Amber Vaillancourt	Coordinator Sustainable Mobility, MassDOT
Wayne Feiden	Northampton Planning Director	Marvin Ward	MassBike Easthampton
PVPC Staff			
Rana Al-Jammal	Senior Planner Specialist	Jeff McCollough	Senior Transportation Planner
Khyati Parmar	Senior Transportation Planner	Dana Roscoe	Principal Planner
Andy McCaul	Senior Transportation Planner	Gary Roux	Principal Planner
Jeff McCollough	Senior Transportation Planner	Louise Sullivan	Admin Support

1. Open Meeting

PVPC Principal Planner Dana Roscoe opened the JTC Zoom meeting at 10:17 a.m. Senior Transportation Planner Andy McCaul performed a roll call and deemed there was a quorum present..

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Mr. Roscoe asked for a motion to approve the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) minutes of the January 13th and the February 17th JTC meetings.

MOVED BY PAUL BURNS, OF THE PIONEER VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY, SECONDED BY WAYNE FEIDEN, OF THE CITY OF NORTHAMPTON, TO APPROVE THE JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC) MEETING MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 13TH AND FEBRUARY 18TH, 2021 MEETINGS. ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIES.

Mr. Roscoe then moved to take up agenda item 3.

3. JTC ByLaws – Update on Recruitment

PVPC Principal Planner Gary Roux reported that JTC membership letters have been sent out to all communities and the Chief Elected Official of every community is required to have appointed one member of the JTC and one alternate JTC member but there are a few communities that have vacancies. He added that each community has one vote. Mr. Roux stated that attempts have been made to add a member of the freight community to the JTC membership but there hasn't been much success. Mr. Roux asked the JTC members to please contact him if they know of someone who could represent the freight community and thereby add to the JTC membership. He added that he can explain the benefits of being a member of the JTC to anyone who may be interested.

Mr. Roux reported that around this time last year, the JTC members were trying to finalize and update the JTC bylaws and clarify the JTC recruitment process but then progress was halted by the pandemic. Mr. Roux explained the latest draft of the JTC Bylaws is going to be reissued and distributed for review by the JTC members. He indicated that the JTC Bylaws will be discussed at the next JTC meeting, and he asked the JTC members to contact him at GmRoux@pvpc.org with any questions or comments they may have.

4. FFY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) - Development

PVPC Principal Planner Gary Roux explained that the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is the annual summary of all the proposed transportation tasks scheduled over the next fiscal year from October 1st of this year until September 30th of next year, 2022. He stated that the UPWP will follow the same development schedule as the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Mr. Roux underscored that if the JTC members have a transportation project that they would like considered for inclusion in the UPWP, they need to provide a letter from their Chief Elected Official addressed to PVPC's Executive Director Kimberly Robinson by no later than Friday, March 26th, in order for the project to be considered for inclusion in the UPWP.

Mr. Roux stated that a draft Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) will be presented to the JTC members at their next JTC meeting in order to obtain their recommendation of the FFY 2022 UPWP to the MPO members for adoption. Mr. Roux encouraged the JTC members to contact him if they have any questions about the qualifications of proposed transportation planning tasks or studies that they would like to have included in next year's UPWP especially welcome are studies emphasizing mobility and safety enhancements. He reminded them that for inclusion of a project in the UPWP, a letter addressed to PVPC's Executive Director Kimberly Robinson by March 26th from their Chief Elected Official is required.

5. FFY 2022 – 2026 TIP Development

- Update Current Schedule
- Developing Draft List Preferred Projects for MPO to Review

PVPC Senior Transportation Planner Andy McCaul remarked that today comments made by MPO members at their February meeting on the TIP highway and transit project list will be reviewed and then the JTC members will identify a preferred list of Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) projects. On March 23rd, the MPO will review the JTC's recommended list of preferred TIP projects; and then between now and April 14th, the JTC will review new information received. On April 14th, the JTC will perform a final review of the FFY 2022 – 2026 TIP based on comments received from the MPO and MassDOT; and then the JTC members will make a recommendation to the MPO that they approve the release of the draft 2022 – 2026 TIP for a required 21 day public review period. On April 27th, the MPO members will review the JTC recommended draft FFY 2022 – 2026 TIP and release it for the 21 day required public review period. On May 12th, there will be a TIP Public Hearing and the JTC will review comments on the draft FFY 2022 – 2026 TIP. Mr. McCaul added that the MPO members will make the final endorsement of the FFY 2022 – 2026 TIP at their May 25th MPO meeting.

Regarding the transit side of the FFY 2022 – 2026 TIP, Mr. McCaul displayed a spreadsheet entitled *Pioneer Valley Transit Authority 5 Year Capital Needs Plan* illustrating the different funding sources of the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA) Plan. Mr. McCaul explained that each fall, the PVTA is required to update this Plan and then submit it to MassDOT. He stated that the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) assists the PVTA with obtaining shop equipment, buses, and improvements to their facilities to ensure their operations and their ability to continue to provide their services.

Moving to the highway side of the TIP, Mr. McCaul displayed the *Draft TIP Investments Report – 2022* which is based on the FFY 2021-2025 TIP. Mr. McCaul stated that the orange column indicates how the TIP projects were programmed in the 2021-2025 TIP and the blue column shows the proposed updates, namely:

- Hadley Reconstruction on Route 9 (605032) Project shows no change
- Holyoke Traffic Signal Upgrades (606450) Project has a cost increase of \$300,000 (note blue column)
- Easthampton Improvements on Route 141 (608577) also has a cost increase of \$300,000 (note blue column)
- Mr. McCaul explained that in order to manage these cost increases and balance the budget, this spreadsheet illustrates a proposal to reduce the funding of the West Springfield Reconstruction of Memorial Avenue (608374) Project by \$600,000.

Indicating the spreadsheet entitled *Draft Tip Investments Report – 2023*, Mr. McCaul reviewed the 4 projects as follows:

- Granby Improvements on Route 202 (606895) Project has a small reduction in project cost
- Wales Reconstruction on Monson Road (608163) Project has a \$1.2 million project cost increase

- West Springfield Reconstruction of Memorial Avenue (608374) Project, which has had its original cost of \$1.75 million reduced by \$600,000 to ensure a balanced budget for the fiscal year, is showing a slight positive balance in FFY 2023.

Mr. McCaul reported that for fiscal year, 2024, the cost for the West Springfield Reconstruction of Memorial Avenue (608374) Project is \$1.3 million less than the cost that had been programmed in the current TIP based on the current's year of expenditure value. Mr. McCaul then reviewed the remaining 3 TIP projects listed for FFY 2024 as follows:

- Springfield Reconstruction of Sumner Avenue at the "X" (608717) Project shows a slight decrease in cost. Because it is now a Year 3 project instead of a year 4 project, there are only 2 years of inflation cost rather than 3 years
- Worthington Reconstruction on Route 143 (609287) Project cost is slightly reduced
- Cummington Reconstruction on Route 9 Retaining Wall (606797) Project is now listed in FFY 2024.

Mr. McCaul explained that the Cummington project was added to FFY 2024 because the TIP had a balance left of approximately \$2.3 - \$2.5 million and TIP project costs are currently not stable. Mr. McCaul further explained that because the Cummington project consists of a retaining wall, it doesn't score well but the project has a quick turn-around time and its cost is a good match for the TIP balance amount. Furthermore, it is an important project because if the retaining wall collapses, it would block all of Route 9 which is a major east-west route. Mr. McCaul underscored that at this time that this is a proposed project and cost changes are proposed.

For FFY 2025, Mr. McCaul presented a description of the following three projects:

- Longmeadow-Springfield Resurfacing on Route 5 (608881) Project has a slight cost increase
- Northampton Downtown Improvements on Route 9 (609286) Project also has a slight cost increase
- Holland Resurfacing on Brimfield Road (608727) appears listed in FFY 2025 as a proposed project because the first part of it was funded in 2028 and because there is a funding surplus in FFY 2025

Mr. McCaul explained that three unfunded transportation projects are proposed in the *Draft TIP Investments Report for FFY 2026* based on their TEC score, design status and project cost, namely:

- Holyoke Resurfacing on Cabot and Race Streets (609065) Project (highest ranked and furthest along in design)
- Chicopee Intersection Reconstruction (609061) Project
- South Hadley Reconstruction of Main Street (608785) Project

PVPC Principal Planner Dana Roscoe thanked Mr. McCaul for his presentation and asked if there were any questions or comments on the draft FFY 2022 – 2026. After a short discussion, Mr. Roscoe moved on to the next agenda item.

6. **Speed Management to Prevent Serious Injuries and Fatalities Project**

Mr. Roscoe called on Jackie DeWolfe, MassDOT Director of Sustainable Mobility, to present MassDOT's Speed Management Project. Ms. DeWolfe began by introducing her associates: Amber Vaillancourt, MassDOT Coordinator of Sustainable Mobility; Liz Biskar, MassDOT Policy Assistant; and John Alessi, MassDOT Coordinator of Sustainable Mobility. Ms. DeWolfe explained that a vehicle's excessive speed not only increases the likelihood of the vehicle being involved in a crash but it also results in an increase in the number and severity of injuries suffered. She emphasized that speed kills because drivers traveling fast don't see well and they aren't able to stop quickly. However, Ms. DeWolfe underscored that using existing speeds of motor vehicles to set speed limits doesn't ensure people's safety. She noted the following statistics:

- When hit by a vehicle traveling at 20 mph, 9 out of 10 pedestrians will survive.
- When hit by a vehicle traveling at 30 mph, 5 out of 10 pedestrians will survive.
- When hit by a vehicle traveling at 40 mph, only 1 out of 10 pedestrians will survive.

Ms. DeWolfe explained that the number of fatalities increases exponentially with vehicle speed. For example, when hit by a vehicle traveling at 50 mph, 75% of the people will die. She underscored that after a driver of a vehicle traveling at 40 mph, applies the brake, the vehicle will travel 164 feet before coming to a stop. Ms. DeWolfe reported that an average of 352 people lost their lives per year in Massachusetts over the past five years. This statistic included: 77 people walking; 51 people driving motorcycles; 9 people riding bikes; and 4 people working in work zones.

Ms. DeWolfe reported that in the past year with 50% less traffic due to COVID-19, the number of deaths didn't decline. There was about the same number of deaths in 2020 as there were in 2019 especially in April 2020 when the rate of fatalities on Massachusetts' roadways doubled. Ms. DeWolfe referred the JTC members to the website, <https://mobility-massdot.hub.arcgis.com/> for 2020 monthly data citing the change in pedestrian and bicycle activity listed by municipality.

Ms. DeWolfe explained that the purpose of *MassDOT's Speed Management to Prevent Serious Injuries and Fatalities Project* is to align speed-related policies, plans, projects and practices in order to promote a Massachusetts roadway system having zero roadway deaths and zero serious injuries. Implementing this project, she said, will ensure that the goals of the 2018 Strategic Highway Safety Plan, the 2019 Pedestrian Plan and the 2019 Bicycle Plan will be achieved. Ms. DeWolfe stated that the project will be implemented by data collection; roadway planning and design; state and local traffic operations; analysis of safety hot spots; education and marketing; safety campaigns; and on-going local funding sources such as the Complete Streets Funding Program, Chapter 90, Safe Routes to School and MassTrails.

Mr. Roscoe thanked Ms. DeWolfe for her presentation and asked if the JTC members had any questions or comments for Ms. DeWolfe and her colleagues. After a short question and answer period, Ms. DeWolfe encouraged the JTC members to email her at Jacqueline.DeWolfe@state.ma.us if they have any further questions or comments.

7. **Other Business**

Betsy Johnson announced that the virtual Walk Boston Annual Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 24th, from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Ms. Johnson explained that there is no charge to attend the meeting by logging on to WalkBoston.org and there will be a panel representing national, regional and local perspectives.

Mr. Roux announced that the community portion of the draft Safety Compass was sent out with today's JTC agenda. Mr. Roux explained that more portions of the Safety Compass will be sent out and a full complete Safety Compass will be released in the next few months. He asked the JTC members to contact him or Khyati Parmar at kParmar@pvpc.org if they have any questions or comments.

Mr. Roux announced that the *Community Green House Gas Emissions Based on Vehicle Miles Traveled Estimates of the 2010 Base Year Model* Technical Report, dated February 2021, has been sent out to the JTC members. He explained that this report was a requirement of the 2020 update of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and it provides estimates of pollutants contributed by communities based on transportation/roadway miles.

Mr. Roux provided a link to an internet survey on the use of pavement management in Massachusetts communities, <https://forms.gle/h6X5FNfxrbFF3D9EA>

Mr. Roux reported that responses have been received, and he encouraged the JTC members to participate in the survey even if their community doesn't have a pavement management system.

There being no further business, Mr. Roscoe stated that the next JTC meeting is scheduled for April 14th and the next MPO meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 23rd at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Roscoe adjourned this meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Relevant Documents Emailed for this March 10, 2021 JTC Meeting:

- *Joint Transportation March 10, 2021 Meeting Agenda*
- *Minutes of the January 13, 2021 and February 17, 2021 Joint Transportation Committee Meetings*
- *Handout on the FFY 2020 UPWP*
- *FFY 2022 – 2026 TIP Development Schedule*
- *FFY2022 Unified Planning Work Program for the Pioneer Valley MPO*
- *Draft Safety Compass*
- *Community GHG Technical Report*
- *MassDOT Management Survey*