

Minutes of the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) Meeting

Wednesday, September 14, 2016
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
60 Congress Street, 2nd Floor Large Conference Room
Springfield, Massachusetts 01104

Present were:

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Mike Bolduc	MassDOT District 2	Jeff Hoynoski	MassDOT District 2
Mark Cressotti	City of Westfield	Nick Lapoint	Fuss & O'Neill, Inc.
Jim Czach	West Springfield DPW	Yem Lip	Holyoke DPW
Peter Frieri	MassDOT I	Mike McManus	City of Easthampton
JoAnne Higgins	Holland Board of Assessors	Matt Smith	Town of Chesterfield
Brian Johnson	Holland Highway Department	Peter Shumway	Springfield DPW
Kien Ho, P.E., PTOE	Beta Group, Inc.		
Dick Kihart	Ware DPW		
PVPC Staff			
Rana Al-Jammal	Senior Planner Specialist	Khyati Parmar	Senior Transportation Planner
David Elvin	Senior Planner	Gary Roux	Principal Planner
Amir Kouzehkanani	Principal Transportation Planner/Manager	Dana Roscoe	Principal Planner
Andy McCaul	Senior Transportation Planner	Louise Sullivan	Admin Support
Jeff McCollough	Senior Transportation Planner		

1. Introductory Remarks

Jim Czach opened the meeting at 10:22 a.m. and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Mr. Czach asked for a motion to approve the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) minutes of July 13, 2016.

MOVED BY MARK CRESSOTTI OF THE CITY OF WESTFIELD, SECONDED BY MATT SMITH OF THE TOWN OF CHESTERFIELD, TO APPROVE THE JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC) MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 13, 2016. ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIES.

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

3. Review of the July 25, 2016 Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Meeting and the Actions Taken by the MPO

PVPC Principal Planner Dana Roscoe stated that the main agenda item discussed at the July 25th Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Meeting was an endorsement by the MPO members of the FFY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Mr. Roscoe reported that in June, the FFY 2016-2019 TIP wasn't completely programmed for the out years because many transportation projects were at the pre-25% design phase and it had been difficult deciding among the unprogrammed projects before the July 25th MPO meeting. At the July 13th JTC meeting, JTC Chair Jim Czach discussed potential transportation projects for the out years of the TIP that were at least the 25% design phase. Mr. Czach recommended

moving the West Springfield Memorial Avenue Reconstruction and Complete Street Project (608374) into the FFY 2021 TIP even though the project hasn't reached the 25% design phase yet because it is a significant link between the Memorial Avenue Rotary Replacement Project which includes Route 147 eastbound and westbound (Memorial Avenue and Riverdale Road) and the Route 147 bridge projects.

Mr. Roscoe reported that on July 25th, the MPO members discussed the list of proposed TIP projects. He related that there was a motion from the floor for an amendment to add \$15.9 million to the highway component for the construction of the new Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA) Bus Operating and Maintenance (O&M) Facility at 649-665 Cottage Street in Springfield. Mr. Roscoe explained that when Steve Woelfel, MassDOT Director of Strategic Planning representing MPO Chair, Stephanie Pollack, called for a vote on this amendment to approve \$15.9 million in funding for the PVTA in FFY 2020, there were four "no" votes and two abstentions. Mr. Roscoe noted that the amendment did not pass and he added that Mr. Woelfel said there was a need for a continued discussion of TIP projects over the upcoming months. Mr. Roscoe stated that following that vote, a motion was made and unanimously approved to endorse the FFY 2017-2021 TIP without considering the proposed amendments for the out years and with the intent to further discuss proposed projects for funding. Mr. Roscoe indicated that in the TIP that is currently out for public review, FFY 2017 is fully programmed; FFY 2018 is partially programmed; and there are opportunities beyond that.

Mr. Czach interjected saying he plans on submitting a Project Needs Form (PNF) for the West Springfield Memorial Avenue Reconstruction and Complete Streets Project and advocating for it to be included in the FFY 2020 or FFY 2021 TIP. Mr. Czach reported that the Town of West Springfield funded the Memorial Avenue Project with Municipal funds and the project has been awarded \$247,500 in casino mitigation money from the Massachusetts Gaming Commission. Mr. Czach underscored that this is a Complete Streets Program and he is trying to finalize the inclusion of there being three lanes on Memorial Avenue. Mr. Czach added that MassDOT has just completed the Memorial Avenue Rotary Replacement Project and will be adding bike lanes to the Memorial Bridge.

Mr. Czach then moved to take up agenda item 4.

4. Review and Discussion of Potential Projects to be Included in Out Years of the 2017-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

PVPC Principal Planner Dana Roscoe noted that there are now opportunities for submission of potential transportation projects to be included in the FFY 2017 TIP and the FFY 2018 TIP. Mr. Roscoe explained that every year the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) takes monies from states that don't spend all their allocated money and the FHWA reallocates the monies to states that can spend the funds. Mr. Roscoe indicated that this year redistribution funds were received and as a result, a District One project programmed in FFY 2017 on Route 9 in Goshen received redistribution funds and a District Two project programmed in FFY 2018 on Route 32 also received redistribution funding. Mr. Roscoe underscored that if there are transportation projects in communities that can advance to 100% PS&E that don't require right-of-way in the next 12 months, they should be submitted for consideration. He added that there is \$6 million in unallocated funds available in FFY 2017. Mr. Roscoe underscored that the JTC members should bring a list of proposed TIP projects to the next JTC meeting so that the FFY 2017-2021 TIP can be reprogrammed.

Mr. Czach then moved to the next item on the agenda.

5. Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA) – Current Activities

David Elvin, PVPC Senior Planner, reported that the PVTA's Fast Break Smart Card public hearings have been completed and the PVTA is continuing to do outreach with a roll out for the Fast Break Card scheduled for later this year. Mr. Elvin explained that when the Fast Break Card is tapped on the bus's farebox, the fare is automatically paid by a "tap and ride" technology. Mr. Elvin noted that PVTA riders will be able to purchase a single, reloadable Fast Break Card later this year. Mr. Elvin reported that the PVTA has three more service change public hearings coming up in early October: namely, improving the frequency of the X98 so that there will be a bus every half hour; cutting from 10 to 8 runs per day of the M40 Express in order to deal with traffic congestion; and having the Tiger Trolley in South Hadley travel to the Transportation Center via the Route 116 bridge in order to serve Lyman Street. Mr. Elvin indicated that the move-in date for PVTA buses into Union Station is currently scheduled for late January. Mr. Elvin asked the JTC members to notify the PVTA if any of the JTC members have locations in their communities where PVTA solar-powered signs can be placed because the signs indicate when the next bus will arrive.

Mr. Czach then thanked Mr. Elvin for his update and he moved to address the next agenda item.

6. Pioneer Valley High Crash Locations Report Update

PVPC Principal Planner Gary Roux stated that the current update to the *Top 100 High Crash Intersections in Pioneer Valley 2011-2013* is the third iteration of the Top 100 Crash Intersections report. Mr. Roux reported that there is now information about bicycle crashes available for inclusion in the report, and a draft Top 100 Crash Intersections report is being prepared. Mr. Roux noted that for the first time every community is submitting their crash data into the registry and to MassDOT and as a result, additional crash statistics have been added to this draft *Top 100 High Crash Intersections in Pioneer Valley 2011-2013* report as well. Mr. Roux explained that the PVPC is aware that some of its communities that have experienced crashes don't appear on the top 100 crash locations report, and he stated that PVPC staff will be working on an approach to correct this in their upcoming work program.

Mr. Roux then called on Khyati Parmar to present an update to the Pioneer Valley High Crash Report. Ms. Parmar reported that there is new data being used for the draft High Crash report. She indicated that new locations have been added along with Springfield data and non-motorist crash clusters. Ms. Parmar explained that a buffer is drawn around an area to determine a crash cluster. Jeff McCollough asked how the boundaries of a cluster are determined. Ms. Parmar replied that the MassDOT definition of a crash cluster is a grouping of at least two crashes at a specific location and each crash cluster is accompanied with information regarding the number of crashes specifying number of fatal, injurious, and property damage only crashes. Ms. Parmar reported that the inclusion of the information concerning severity allows for the calculation of an intersection's Equivalent Property Damage Only (EPDO). She underscored that EPDO is a value created by weighting each crash based on its severity and then aggregating the totals. In this system, she said, a crash that results in property damage only is assigned a value of one; a crash that includes an injury (while not including a fatality) is assigned a value of five; and a fatal crash is assigned a value of ten. Ms. Parmar stated that the Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) and MassDOT provide cleaned data for the 100 top crash locations report which is data from which incorrect, incomplete or improperly formatted data has been removed. Ms. Parmar reported that data concerning rotaries, interstate crashes and ramps is excluded from the report.

Ms. Parmar reported that the methodology used in preparing the High Crash report includes “Equivalent Property Damage Only” (EPDO). She explained that in this method, numerical weighting factors (EPDO scores) related to the societal costs of fatal and non-fatal injuries, and property damage-only crashes are assigned to crashes by severity to develop an equivalent property damage-only score that considers frequency and severity of crashes. Ms. Parmar stated that the sites are ranked from high to low EPDO scores and she noted that a site’s EPDO score tends to be skewed upward for any site experiencing fatal crashes. Ms. Parmar called the JTC members’ attention to the two documents distributed at today’s meeting entitled *Top 10 Non Motorized Crash Clusters in the Pioneer Valley (2003-2013)* and *Top 100 Crash Intersections in Pioneer Valley (2011-2013)* and she pointed out the totals for the City of Westfield, Springfield, Chicopee and Northampton. Ms. Parmar then compared the listing of the top 100 communities in the 2007 – 2009 time frame with the listing of the top 100 communities in the 2011 – 2013 time frame and she reported that in the most recent time frame Amherst and Hadley are now included and South Hadley is no longer listed in the top 14 locations listed in the newer time frame. Ms. Parmar added that 37 new intersections made the most recent top 100 list and the cities of Westfield and West Springfield changed places.

Ms. Parmar concluded her presentation by listing the next steps for implementing the draft update of the High Crash report, namely:

- Use the data to identify new locations that need traffic improvements
- Have the *Non Motorist Crash Clusters Update* show every community
- Identify rural communities outside the Urban Core (Future Task)
- Draft Report for Public Review scheduled for the end of September 2016

Mr. Czach thanked Ms. Parmar for her presentation and he moved on to agenda item 7.

7. Massachusetts Complete Street Program Update Item 7 42:22

PVPC Senior Transportation Planner Jeff McCullough stated that many of the JTC members’ communities have been contacted and encouraged to register their communities for the Complete Streets Program because it’s a great program and there is funding available to provide for it. Mr. McCollough pointed out the document distributed today entitled *Complete Streets Local Policies: Municipality – Enactment Date – Type of Measure* which delineates Massachusetts communities involved in the Complete Streets Program. Mr. McCollough indicated that to be eligible for the program and for up to \$50,000 in technical assistance and \$400,000 in construction funding, a municipality must meet three primary requirements:

- Attendance of a municipal employee at a Complete Streets training
- Passage of a Complete Streets Policy that scores 80 or above out of a possible 100 points (Tier 1)
- Development of a Complete Streets Prioritization Plan (Tier 2)

Mr. McCollough announced that MassDOT is hosting *the 2016 Moving Together Conference* on Thursday, September 29, 2016, 7:45am – 4:00pm at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel, 50 Park Plaza on Arlington Street. He reported that sessions will focus on improving bicycling, walking and transit including MassDOT’s Complete Streets Funding Program. Mr. McCollough emphasized that the conference sold out last year and he urged the JTC members to go to the Baystate website and register for the conference. Mr. McCollough underscored that the Complete Streets Program registration deadline is September 15, 2016 and the next deadline will be in May 2017.

8. Other Business

Mr. Czach asked if anyone had any other business. Principal Transportation Planner/Manager Amir Kouzehkanani requested an agenda item for the next JTC meeting regarding communities that are spending money on private road maintenance. Mr. Kouzehkanani underscored that private roads with only 3-4 houses on them are being maintained by small communities that don't have much money to spend.

9. Adjourn

Mr. Czach called for a motion to adjourn today's meeting.

MOVED BY MARK CRESSOTTI OF THE CITY OF WESTFIELD, SECONDED BY MATT SMITH OF THE TOWN OF CHESTERFIELD, TO ADJOURN THE JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2016. ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIES.

This JTC meeting was adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

Relevant documents distributed at this meeting:

- Joint Transportation Committee September 14, 2016 Meeting Agenda
- Minutes of the July 13, 2016 Joint Transportation Committee Meeting
- Top 10 Non Motorized Crash Clusters in the Pioneer Valley (2003-2013)
- Top 100 Crash Intersections in Pioneer Valley (2011-2013)
- 2017 Pioneer Valley Region MPO Transportation Improvement
- Complete Streets Local Policies
- 2017 – 2021 Project Listing – May 2016 (STP)
- PVPC TIP Days Project Listing – April 2016
- More MGM Casino Mitigation Money Awarded for Memorial Avenue Project in West Springfield
- Congratulations, Master Roads Scholars: David Desrosiers, P.E., Granby and Matthew Sokop, Springfield