

Minutes of the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) Meeting

Wednesday, March 11, 2015

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

Present were:

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Marie Angelides	Town of Longmeadow	Dick Grannells	Southwick DPW
Mike Bolduc	MassDOT District 2	Jeff Hoynoski	MassDOT District 2
Jeff Burkott	City of Holyoke	Connor Knightly	Springfield DPW
Matt Chase	VHB	Thom Martens	Ware DPW
Mark Cressotti	City of Westfield	Peter Shumway	Springfield DPW
Jim Czach	Springfield DPW	Matt Smith	Chesterfield DPW
Wayne Feiden	City of Northampton	Steve Williams	Belchertown DPW
Peter Frieri	MassDOT District 1		
PVPC Staff			
Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Rana Al-Jammal	Sr. Planner Specialist	Dana Roscoe	Principal Planner
Amir Kouzehkanani	Principal Transportation Planner	Gary Roux	Principal Planner
Andrew McCaul	Transportation Planner	Louise Sullivan	Admin Support
Jeff McCollough	Senior Transportation Planner		

1. Introductory Remarks

Jim Czach opened the meeting at 10:20 a.m. and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Mr. Czach announced that there hasn't been a quorum for the past three JTC meetings but there is a quorum at today's JTC meeting which enabled Mr. Czach to ask for a motion to approve the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) minutes of September 10, 2014, November 12, 2014, December 10, 2014, along with the minutes of last month's February 11, 2015 meeting.

MOVED BY MARK CRESSOTTI OF THE CITY OF WESTFIELD, SECONDED BY DICK GRANNELLS OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWICK, TO APPROVE THE JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC) MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2014, NOVEMBER 12, 2014, DECEMBER 10, 2014, AND FEBRUARY 11, 2015. ALL IN FAVOR OF THE MINUTES, NONE OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIES.

Mr. Czach then asked PCPC Transportation Planner, Andrew McCaul, to address agenda item #3.

3. Update Transportation Documents Currently Out For Public Review

- ***Proposed Amendments to 2015-2018 TIP***

Mr. McCaul called the JTC members attention to the distributed document entitled *2015 – 2018 Pioneer Valley Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Proposed Amendments*. Mr. McCaul explained that the 2015 – 2018 Pioneer Valley Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Proposed Amendments were released 30 days ago for a required 30-day public review and that the first page of this document summarizes the proposed amendments. Mr. McCaul reported that during the 30-day review period, only one comment was received and that comment concerned the third bulleted item listed under FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2015: Part 1B: Federal Aid Bridge Projects, namely *Add STP-TE funding for South Hadley Route 116 (608136) for \$100,000*. Mr. McCaul stated that MassDOT requested that the South Hadley Route 116 Project be moved from FFY 2015 to FFY 2016.

Mr. Czach requested that a motion be made in which the JTC members recommend the *2015 – 2018 Pioneer Valley Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Proposed Amendments* with one change to the MPO members for their endorsement.

MOVED BY WAYNE FEIDEN OF THE CITY OF NORTHAMPTON, SECONDED BY DICK GRANNELLS OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWICK TO RECOMMEND THAT THE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION ENDORSE THE 2015 – 2018 PIONEER VALLEY TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) PROPOSED AMENDMENTS INCLUDING MOVING THE SOUTH HADLEY ROUTE 116 PROJECT (608136) FROM FFY 2015 TO FFY 2016. ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY WAS PASSED.

- ***Draft Pioneer Valley Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan***

Mr. McCaul stated that since there were no significant changes requested for the *Pioneer Valley Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan*, a motion was needed for a recommendation from the JTC members for endorsement by the MPO of the *Pioneer Valley Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan*. Mr. Czach asked if there were any questions. There being none, Mr. Czach called for a motion.

MOVED BY STEVE WILLIAMS OF THE TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN, SECONDED BY MARK CRESSOTTI OF THE CITY OF WESTFIELD TO RECOMMEND THAT THE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION ENDORSE THE PIONEER VALLEY COORDINATED PUBLIC TRANSIT-HUMAN SERVICES TRANSPORTATION PLAN. ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY WAS PASSED.

Mr. Czach called on PVPC Principal Planner, Gary Roux, to address agenda item #4.

4. 2016 Update to the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

Mr. Roux began by saying that an outline of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) document was presented to the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) at the last MPO meeting which was held on February 3, 2015. Mr. Roux reported that at that meeting, Deputy Executive Director Clinton Bench of the MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning requested that a delineation of the Pioneer Valley's needs and strategies appear at the beginning of the RTP document.

Mr. Roux reiterated that in order for transportation improvement projects to be populated into the RTP, state-wide financial projections are needed from MassDOT. Mr. Roux reported that these financial projections are supposed to arrive next week and if so, a draft list of transportation projects will be added to the RTP document and presented at the next JTC meeting. Mr. Roux added that regional population and employment statistics have not been received and this creates a potential problem because the “baby boomer generation” is retiring and fewer workers means less cars on the road. Mr. Roux underscored that these statistics are needed in order to make projections regarding traffic volumes in the future.

Mr. Roux stated that MassDOT has requested that a draft RTP document be completed by June 2015 and that the final RTP document be completed for August 2015. Mr. Roux noted that the PVPC staff will do its best to meet that schedule but feels that more time is needed. Mr. Roux added that the PVPC staff will meet with MassDOT to discuss these completion dates in two weeks to learn what options they have.

Mr. Roux reported that a draft of the PowerPoint entitled “2016 Regional Transportation Plan” shown at the last JTC meeting has been completed and now runs just over 15 minutes. He stated that the PowerPoint will be shown at tomorrow’s MPO meeting and if it’s met with approval, it will be made available to everyone on the www.pvpc.org website and also distributed to community websites. Mr. Roux said that the PowerPoint will be shown at the end of this JTC meeting and any feedback from JTC members who stay to view it will be most welcome.

Mr. Roux asked the JTC members to turn to the document entitled *Draft PVMPO Performance Based Planning and Programming Framework*. Mr. Roux underscored that the incorporation of performance measure planning is a major requirement of the update of the RTP. Mr. Roux explained that the RTP needs a realistic, regional target that reflects the achievement of the goals that have been set up by the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21). Mr. Roux reported that the federal expectation is that the PVMPO Performance Based Planning and Programming Framework only needs to illustrate that the new rules and performance measure requirements are understood and that procedures have been set up to achieve them.

Mr. Roux explained that while the PVMPO needs to demonstrate how its regional targets are being achieved at tomorrow’s MPO meeting, it is difficult to formulate PVMPO regional targets when the state’s regional targets are still unknown as a result of the state’s final planning rule not yet having been published. Mr. Roux indicated that according to the federal planning rule, MassDOT sets its targets first and then the PVMPO has six months after that to set its targets which results in the state actually having a whole year to set its targets. Nevertheless, Mr. Roux underscored that in order to achieve a conforming RTP document, PVMPO targets need to be formulated now even though the state’s regional targets are still unknown.

Mr. Roux then pointed to the column entitled *Regional Target* in the *Draft PVMPO Performance Based Planning and Programming Framework* document saying that this column has been populated with draft regional targets, some of which are similar to the state’s regional targets. Mr. Roux stated that the first regional target concerns structurally deficient bridges and after a short discussion of bridge funding, Mr. Roux moved on to the next regional target focusing on pavement condition. Mr. Roux stated that the state target is to have 65% of all pavement be in good or excellent condition and the regional target is to increase the average Overall Condition Index (OCI) for the region by 5% by the year 2025. After discussing this 5% increase in pavement OCI over the next years with the JTC members, Mr. Roux moved on to discussions of the remaining regional

targets delineated in the *Draft PVMPO Performance Based Planning and Programming Framework* document and he made note of many of their suggestions in order to incorporate them in the draft RTP and update the document. Mr. Roux concluded his presentation by saying that the plan for tomorrow's MPO meeting is to update the *Draft PVMPO Performance Based Planning and Programming Framework* document based on comments made at today's JTC meeting. He added that the document will be discussed at tomorrow's MPO meeting and the JTC members will be updated on the PVMPO performance measures at their next JTC meeting scheduled for April 8th.

5. Development Schedule for 2016 Draft Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Mr. Roux noted that the annual Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) follows the same development schedule as the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). He explained that the UPWP identifies the planning priorities and activities to be carried out within a metropolitan planning area and that UPWPs manage the work programs funded by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

Mr. Roux stated that neither MassDOT nor the FHWA have provided guidance yet on the emphasis areas they would like to have included in the UPWP but he indicated that most likely the guidance will be safety and congestion mitigation driven. Mr. Roux encouraged the JTC members to come forward if they have a local safety study specifically if it's already part of a congestion management process or is related to the top 100 High Crash Locations report. Mr. Roux advised them to obtain a letter from the chief elected official of their community requesting the work to be done. He added that work on UPWP projects won't begin until October 1, 2015.

6. Development Schedule for Draft 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- *TEC Sheets Completed and Returned to PVPC by March 11, 2015*
- *TIP Sub-Committee Meeting on March 26, 2015 @ 9:00 a.m. at PVPC*
- *Draft TIP ready for JTC Review at April JTC Meeting*

Mr. Roscoe reported that the Transportation Evaluation Criteria (TEC) is used to populate the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the next three years.. Mr. Roux interjected that if a project is already at the 75% design phase, its score using the old system will be converted to a 100% scale. Mr. Roscoe explained that the TEC sheets were due yesterday and that PVPC staff will sit down with the members on March 26th and review everyone's projects and then will populate the TIP for FFY 2016, FFY 2017 and FFY 2018. Mr. Roscoe reported that there are 22 entities represented on the TIP as it exists now but we've received TEC forms from only ten. Mr. Roscoe underscored that if JTC members are serious about their projects, they need to complete their TEC sheets. Mr. Roscoe stated that TEC forms have been received from the districts but 12 communities have not yet responded. He said the communities that are delinquent are Longmeadow, Holyoke, Tolland, Goshen, Chicopee, Chesterfield, Williamsburg, Amherst, Worthington, West Springfield and Springfield but Springfield may be resolved.

7. Other Business

Mr. Czach asked if there was any other business to take up and Mr. Roscoe reminded the JTC members about tomorrow's MPO meeting scheduled for 10:30 a.m. on March 12th and also reminded the members about the TIP Sub-Committee Meeting for the TEC Evaluation Day on March 26th at 9:00 a.m. here at the PVPC.

7. Adjourn

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

MOVED BY MARK CRESSOTTI OF THE CITY OF WESTFIELD, SECONDED BY STEVE WILLIAMS OF THE TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN, TO ADJOURN THE JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING OF March 11, 2015.

This JTC meeting was adjourned at 11:23 a.m.

Relevant documents distributed at this meeting:

- Joint Transportation Committee March 11, 2015 Meeting Agenda
- *Minutes of the February 11, 2015 Joint Transportation Committee Meeting*
- *2015 – 2018 Pioneer Valley Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Proposed Amendments*
- *2015 – 2018 Pioneer Valley Transportation Improvement Program Transportation and Transit Projects*
- *Draft PVMPO Performance Based Planning and Programming Framework*
- *Draft Project Status - STP*