

# Minutes of the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) Meeting

Wednesday, April 12, 2017

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

## Present were:

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Jessica Allan	Easthampton, City Planner	Nick Lapointe	Fuss & O'Neill, Inc.
Mike Bolduc	MassDOT District 1	Quinn Malloy	MassDOT GIS Transportation Planner
Glenn Barrington	UMass	Mike McManus	Holyoke DPW
Randy Brown	Southwick DPW	Dan Murphy	Easthampton
Dan Call	Westfield	Dawn Nims	Town of Agawam Engineering
Matt Chase	VHB	Bryan Pounds	MassDOT Office of Transportation
Michelle Chase	Town of Agawam Engineering	Jim Reidy	South Hadley
Mark Cressotti	Westfield	Josh Rickman	PVTA
Jim Czach	West Springfield DPW	Dave Roberts	Town of Granville
Peter Frieri	MassDOT District 1	Matt Smith	Chesterfield
Klen Ho	Beta Group	Matt Sokop	Springfield
Jeff Hoynoski	MassDOT District 2	Marvin Ward	MassBike
Betsy Johnson	Walk/Bike Springfield	Steve Williams	Belchertown
Andrew Krar	Town of Longmeadow		
<b>PVPC Staff</b>			
Rana Al-Jammal	Senior Transportation Planner	Jeff McCollough	Senior Transportation Planner
David Elvin	Principal Planner	Dana Roscoe	Principal Planner
Amir Kouzehkanani	Principal Transportation Planner	Gary Roux	Principal Planner
Andy McCaul	Senior Transportation Planner	Louise Sullivan	Admin Support

## 1. Introductory Remarks

Jim Czach opened the JTC meeting at 10:23 a.m. and he asked everyone to introduce themselves.

## 2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

Mr. Czach asked for a motion to approve the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) minutes of March 8, 2017.

MOVED BY MARK CRESSOTTI OF THE CITY OF WESTFIELD, SECONDED BY JIM REIDY OF THE TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY, TO APPROVE THE JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC) MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 8, 2017. ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIES.

**Mr. Czach called on Josh Rickman to give an update of current PVTA activities (Agenda Item #7) because Mr. Rickman had another meeting to attend.**

## 7. Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA) – Current Activities

Joshua Rickman, PVTA Director of Operations and Planning, reported that the Westfield Transit Pavilion now named the Olver Transit Pavilion will have opening ceremonies on April 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Rickman also reported that the electric bus charger will be fully installed Thursday of this week. Mr. Rickman explained that Governor Baker's budget has allocated \$80 million to the Massachusetts Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs) which is \$6 million less

than initially proposed. Mr. Rickman stated that if this funding amount isn't increased, a \$1.8 million shortfall may result in transit service reductions and as a result, the PVRTA is working to have its funding restored.

Mr. Czach thanked Mr. Rickman for his update and he then moved to address Agenda Item #3

**3. Presentation: MassDOT GIS Role in Chapter 90 Funding (Quinn Molloy, MassDOT)**

Quinn Molloy, MassDOT GIS Municipal Coordinator, stated that the GIS Services Department is located in the Office of Transportation Planning which is managed by Kevin Lopes. Ms. Molloy explained that the primary function of the GIS Services is to maintain the Road Inventory and submit data to the Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS) for funding which is a national level highway information system that includes data on the extent, condition, performance, use and operating characteristics of the nation's highways and all public roads. Currently, Ms. Malloy reported, MassDOT's GIS services consist of collecting, organizing and maintaining data; assisting in data analysis and developing custom applications. Ms. Malloy added that the GIS Services Department has two goals: (1) to increase the quality of its data; and (2) to improve municipal access to GIS for transportation queries.

Ms. Molloy then showed a PowerPoint slide entitled GEODOT and she explained that geoDOT is a portal created by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) Office of Transportation Planning to support the Massachusetts Open Data Initiative. This initiative hopes to increase government transparency and accountability; encourage other beneficial public/private data use; and allow anyone to leverage the potential of MassDOT data through the development of applications and services that address public and private demands. Ms. Malloy stated that JTC members can obtain a profile of their municipality and their GIS person can download information from geoDOT. Ms. Molloy explained that geoDOT's Open Data Portal features live data exploration tools and visualizations; filtered and dynamic data downloads; and API integration for web developers. Ms. Molloy gave an overview of geoDOT's applications and services as follows:

<b>Applications and Services</b>	<b>Description</b>
Custom Requests	Map/Data requests
Data and Maps	Download by category
Inventory Editor	Esri Roads and Highway Interface
Reports	PDF downloads of: Road Inventory Editor, Bike Inventory Household Travel Survey, Local Highway Finance, Web Mapping Tool
ArcGIS training	ArcGIS Online is Esri's web/server based GIS interface
Training Videos	AGOL training videos (AGOL is another name for geoDOT)
Maps (Map tutorials are available)	Create your own web map from the basic AGOL template
Open Data	New Esri platform for data access and download and all publically available spatial data is maintained by MassDOT with available formats; SHP, XML, CSV, etc.

Ms. Molloy pointed out a feature of geoDOT called geoDOT Local which is a digital portal for local data development, GIS-T, and state interaction. New to geoDOT, she said, is pictometry access which is easily accessed through GeoDOT Local and has the latest available imagery for each region of the state (ranges from 2008-2014).

Ms. Molloy underscored that MassDOT has three goals:

- To provide new tools and work flows to municipalities and regional entities
- To allow municipalities to be completely in control of their own data updates with state oversight
- To provide Municipal entities with much better knowledge of local conditions and changes

Ms. Molloy announced new components for road inventory, namely, digital interface, annual reporting tools, customizable tools and ability to make frequent edits. Ms. Molloy explained that updating road inventory data may lead to an increase in Chapter 90 funding for JTC members. She pointed out that:

- If a road isn't in MassDOT's database, it will not be in the final mileage total
- If a town is maintaining a road, it should be owned by the town
- The MassDOT database should be confirmed by each town semi-annually

Also helpful, Ms. Molloy stated, are the Highway Project Viewer and the Pot Holes Dashboard. She then provided the JTC members with hyperlinks to three geoDOT tools (see below) and **Andy McCaul, PVPC Senior Transportation Planner** interjected and said he will provide other hyperlinks:

**RIMDV** - [gis.massdot.state.ma.us/dataviewers/rimunicipal/](http://gis.massdot.state.ma.us/dataviewers/rimunicipal/)

**GeoDOT Local** - <http://massmpos.maps.arcgis.com/>

**Road Inventory Interactive Map** - <http://gis.massdot.state.ma.us/maptemplate/roadinventory>

#### **4. 2018-2022 TIP Project Recommendation for MPO to Review and Release for Public Review at April 25 Meeting**

PVPC Principal Planner Dana Roscoe reported that there are three additional cost changes to the current FFY 2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) projects that do not have an impact on the current TIP: the *Agawam-West Springfield Bridge Replacement Over the Westfield River* (605384) has a cost increase from \$23.1 to \$29.3 million; the *Amherst-Bridge Replacement Over Mill River* (607528) has increased in cost from \$2 million to \$3 million; and the *Southwick Congamond Road Reconstruction* (604033) has a cost increase from \$7.1 million to \$7.2 million. Mr. Roscoe noted that \$100,000 in STP funds is being used for the Southwick Congamond Road project leaving a balance of \$800,000 in STP funds. Mr. Roscoe added that these three TIP projects will go out for a required 21-day public review period. There being no questions on the FFY 2017 TIP, Mr. Roscoe moved on to the FFY 2018 – 2022 TIP.

Mr. Roscoe explained that the TIP projects with highest TEC scores are moved to the front of the list in the FFY 2018 – 2022 TIP but the result of that is that the large ticket TIP projects are creating opportunities only for less costly TIP projects. Mr. Roscoe stated that the first five years, the FFY 2018 – 2022 TIP, have been populated with projects with as high a TEC score as would work with the available balance in an attempt to stretch available dollars to the fullest. Mr. Roscoe said that he expects everyone will advocate for his project but he emphasized that the TIP document must be fiscally constrained. For example, Mr. Roscoe stated that the *West Springfield-Reconstruction of Memorial Avenue (Route 147) From Colony Road to the Memorial Avenue Rotary* (608374) is a \$14M TIP project but because it appears in Year 5, an inflation factor has to be added and then it becomes an \$18 million dollar project. Mr. Roscoe explained that every TIP project has this constraint which means that an inflation factor has to be added for each year which results in a cost increase for the project. Mr. Roscoe further explained that currently, only the *Hadley Reconstruction on Route 9, from Middle Street to Maple/South Maple Street* (605032) Project is programmed over multiple years because it exceeds the amount available in one year. He added that unless the West Springfield (608374) project doubles in size, it's not a project that will be programmed over multiple years.

Mr. Roscoe indicated that he would begin today's discussion with Year 1, the FFY 2018 TIP. Mr. Roscoe was asked about TIP projects that are pre-25% design. Mr. Roscoe stated that the West Springfield (608374) project is a perfect example of a project that's pre-25% design and became listed in the TIP. Mr. Roscoe reported that when Jim Czach presented the *West Springfield-Reconstruction of Memorial Avenue (Route 147) From Colony Road to the Memorial Avenue Rotary* (608374) to the JTC members, a vote was taken that approved including it in the TIP because it has regional significance as a high priority project and has a designer under contract. Jim Czach indicated that this West Springfield project is now listed in the FFY 2022 TIP.

Mr. Williams asked if a more recent TIP project could be discussed and a discussion of several projects ensued. Mr. Williams, at one point, wanted to make a motion but Mr. Czach stated that a motion wasn't needed at this time because projects were still being discussed. Mr. Roscoe explained that the PVPC staff will compile a draft TIP document and its job is to recommend on April 25<sup>th</sup> that the MPO members approve its release for a 21-day public review. Mr. Roscoe added that the MPO members can either release the FFY Draft FFY 2018-2022 TIP for a 21-day public review or they can modify it. Mr. Pounds commented that the Draft TIP can be changed during the 21-day public review by comments that are submitted.

Mr. Roscoe said he wanted to take a moment to mention the wild card. He stated that each year the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) redistributes unused funds to states able to use those funds and every fiscal year, Massachusetts has successfully received \$50 million dollars in surplus funding from other states because there were transportation projects in Massachusetts that were ready to go. Mr. Roscoe explained that even if a community's project does not receive redistribution funds, a project that does receive the surplus funding will then free up the funding that had been allocated to it thus making it available to other transportation projects that are ready to advance. As an example, Mr. Roscoe said that this year, a Town of Goshen project that had been programmed for \$17 million, came off the list and made \$3 million more dollars available. Therefore, Mr. Roscoe underscored that the JTC members needs to get their projects ready because when a project falls off the TIP because of redistribution funds, their project could be placed on the list. Mr. Williams agreed and underscored that everyone who has a project needs to get it reviewed and placed on the TIP.

After more TIP projects were discussed, Mr. Williams again spoke of a motion being made, Mr. Czach said that before a motion is made, there should be a discussion of all the TIP projects year by year. At this point, Mr. Williams and Marvin Ward both withdrew the motion they had made earlier. Mr. Czach asked if there were any questions regarding the FFY 2018 TIP. Randy Brown responded by making a motion to approve the FFY 2018 TIP.

MOVED BY RANDY BROWN OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWICK, SECONDED BY MARK CRESSOTTI OF THE CITY OF WESTFIELD, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE PIONEER VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO) RELEASE THE DRAFT FFY2018 – 2022 PIONEER VALLEY TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) FOR A REQUIRED 21-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING PROPOSED AMENDMENTS: MOVE THE *AGAWAM-WEST SPRINGFIELD BRIDGE REPLACEMENT OVER THE WESTFIELD RIVER* (605384) PROJECT INTO THE FFY2018 TIP WITH A COST INCREASE FROM \$23.1 TO \$29.3 MILLION; MOVE THE *AMHERST-BRIDGE REPLACEMENT OVER MILL RIVER* (607528) PROJECT INTO THE FFY2018 TIP WITH A COST INCREASE FROM \$2 MILLION TO \$3 MILLION; AND MOVE THE *SOUTHWICK CONGAMOND ROAD RECONSTRUCTION* (604033) PROJECT INTO THE FFY2018 TIP WITH A COST INCREASE FROM \$2 MILLION TO \$3 MILLION. ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY WAS PASSED.

Mr. Czach then took up the FFY 2019 TIP and he asked if there were any questions or comments. The JTC members discussed several projects: the passenger rail project; the Belchertown project; the Holyoke-West Springfield project, and the Springfield Cottage Street and Berkshire Avenue project. Then Mr. Czach stated that there are \$18.5 million dollars of projects that are at the 25% design stage or greater that we are going to put into FFY 2019 and he said he wanted a motion. Mr. Roscoe indicated that the subject projects are the two Northampton projects, (607893) and (607502), a project in Ware (607987) which will remain; then add from FFY 2020, the Agawam project, the Belchertown project (608412) that isn't on this list and the Springfield project isn't on this list and that totals \$18 million dollars with a \$6 million dollar gap to be filled. Mr. Czach this list will change and now we need to make the projects fit.

Mr. Czach underscored that he was looking for a motion to add the Holyoke-West Springfield-Amherst project and the projects that Mr. Roscoe just delineated. Mr. Williams made the motion and Mr. Cressotti seconded the motion and Mr. Czach said now there would be a discussion. There was a short discussion and then Mr. Roscoe stated that everyone agreed on Year 1 and it's finite. Next, Mr. Roscoe indicated will be to put together scenarios for Year 2 because the numbers will meld in different ways and the proposals that the MPO chooses on April 25<sup>th</sup> will result in what Years 3, 4 and 5 will look like.

Mr. Williams interjected that Mr. Czach and Mr. Cressotti will not be available to attend next week's meeting to vote on the TIP projects in the Out Years (2020-2022) of the Draft 2018-2022 TIP on Tuesday, April 18th. After more discussion, Mr. Czach stated that he was still looking for finalization of the motion made regarding the FFY 2019 TIP. Mr. Czach asked if the motion should be finalized or left for next week's JTC meeting. More discussion ensued regarding TIP projects. Then Mr. Czach stated that there was a motion on the floor and he called for the motion.

MOVED BY STEVE WILLIAMS OF THE TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN, SECONDED BY MARK CRESSOTTI OF THE CITY OF WESTFIELD, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE PIONEER VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO) RELEASE THE DRAFT FFY2018 – 2022 PIONEER VALLEY TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) FOR A REQUIRED 21-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING PROPOSED AMENDMENTS. ADD TO THE FFY 2019 TIP: THE HOLYOKE-WEST SPRINGFIELD-AMHERST PROJECT, THE NORTHAMPTON (607893) PROJECT, THE NORTHAMPTON (607502) PROJECT, THE WARE (607987) PROJECT, THE AGAWAM PROJECT, THE BELCHERTOWN PROJECT (608412) AND THE SPRINGFIELD PROJECT.

Mr. Czach explained that he needed to leave the meeting at this point and he stated that the JTC members will need to meet again next week to vote on the TIP projects in the Out Years (2020-2022) of the Draft 2018-2022 TIP on Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:15 a.m. in order to be able to recommend the Draft 2018-2022 TIP for release for a 21-day public review period to the MPO members at their April 25<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mr. Czach said he would be out of town and the JTC members accepted Matt Sokop's offer to chair the meeting on April 18th.

## **5. Regional Freight Route Planning**

PVPC Senior Planner Andy McCall stated that Gary Roux has submitted the document entitled *Critical Rural and Urban Freight Corridors* which includes a draft listing of potential freight corridors to MassDOT and Mr. Roux will recommend to the MPO that the draft *Critical Rural and Urban Freight Corridors* document be released for public review at the April 25<sup>th</sup> MPO meeting. Mr. McCall urged the JTC members to submit any comments during the 21-day public review period.

Mr. Czach thanked Mr. McCaul for his report and he asked Mr. McCaul to take up the next agenda item.

## **6. Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Development Schedule**

PVPC Senior Planner Andy McCall explained that the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) document is the summary of the transportation planning work that will be undertaken within the metropolitan planning area during the next fiscal year. Mr. McCall called the JTC members' attention to the document entitled *DRAFT FFY 2018 Unified Planning Work Program Funding Profile* which reflects a breakdown of proposed spending for planning projects. Mr. McCall underscored that if any of the JTC members has a pressing project eligible for the UPWP, they should contact Gary Roux as soon as possible. Mr. McCall then called for a motion to recommend that the UPWP be approved for a 21-day public review by the MPO members on April 25<sup>th</sup>.

MOVED BY DAN MURPHY OF THE CITY OF EASTHAMPTON, SECONDED BY MARVIN WARD OF MASSBIKE, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO) RELEASE THE PROPOSED FFY 2018 DRAFT UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) FOR A TWENTY-ONE - DAY PUBLIC REVIEW. ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIES.

Mr. Czach then thanked Mr. McCaul for his update and he moved to take up Agenda Item 8. (See page 1 for Agenda Item 7)

## 8. Other Business

PVPC Senior Planner Jeff McCollough reminded the JTC members that Bike Week 2017 will be held on May 13-21. He added that the first organizational meeting for Bike Week has been held; the website is live; and a new calendar of bike week events will be distributed. Mr. McCollough asked the JTC members to see him after today's meeting if they are interested in participating. Matt Sokop announced that the City of Springfield has been approved for the *Complete Streets Program* and Michelle Chase said that the Town of Agawam has also been approved for the *Complete Streets Program*. Mr. McCaul reported that several towns have been awarded bridge projects and he said he will email the list of the projects to the JTC members. Bryan Pounds added that the bike share initiative is moving along with no issues.

## 9. Adjourn

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

MOVED BY MATTHEW SOKOP OF THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, SECONDED BY DAN MURPHY OF THE CITY OF EASTHAMPTON , TO ADJOURN THE JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC) MEETING AT 1:52 P.M.. ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIES.

### Relevant documents distributed at this April 12, 2017 JTC Meeting:

- Joint Transportation Committee April 12, 2017 Meeting Agenda
- Minutes of the March 8, 2017 Joint Transportation Committee Meeting
- Draft Critical Rural and Urban Freight Corridors – (Pioneer Valley)
- 2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- STP Project Priority Ranking (March 2, 2017)
- 2018-2022 Transportation Improvement Program
- Project List (FFY 2018)
- DRAFT FFY 2018 Unified Planning Work Program Funding Profile