

Minutes of the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) Meeting

Wednesday, June 8, 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
Gary Briere	Mass Bike	Connor Knightly	Springfield DPW
Randy Brown	Southwick DPW	Nick Lapointe	Fuss & O'Neill, Inc.
Matt Chase	VHB	Yem Lip	Holyoke DPW
Michelle Chase	Town of Agawam	Marie Mazza	Town of Longmeadow
Mark Cressotti	City of Westfield	Mike McManus	City of Easthampton
Jim Czach	West Springfield DPW	Dawn Nims	Town of Agawam
JT Gaucher	Ludlow DPW	Bryan Pounds	MassDOT Office of Transportation (OTP)
Kien Ho	Beta Group/Ludlow	Matt Smith	Town of Chesterfield
PVPC Staff			
Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Rana Al-Jammal	Senior Planner Specialist	Andy McCaul	Senior Transportation Planner
Patrick Beaudry	Manager of Communications and Public Engagement	Jeff McCollough	Senior Transportation Planner
David Elvin	Senior Planner	Dana Roscoe	Principal Planner
Joshua Garcia	Municipal Services Coordinator	Lynn Shell	Admin Support

1. Introductory Remarks

Jim Czach opened the meeting at 10:24 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 May 11, 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 MAY 11, 2016. ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIES.

Before moving to the next agenda item, Mr. Czach explained that PVPC Principal Planner Gary Roux was unable to attend today's JTC meeting and that Senior Transportation Planner, Andy McCaul will address agenda item 3.

3. Draft 2017 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Mr. McCaul provided a brief update regarding the Draft 2017 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) noting that a copy of the Table of Contents was included with today's meeting handouts. Mr. McCaul remarked that at the May 11th JTC meeting, Gary Roux had indicated that he was looking for additional items of work under

Task 2.2. Mr. McCaul stated that since that meeting, at the request of Agawam and West Springfield, a project pertaining to the Morgan-Sullivan Bridge has been added to the UPWP and he noted that as of this morning, an updated version of the entire document was sent to JTC members. Mr. McCaul further noted that except for this addition, the document is basically identical to the way in which Mr. Roux described it at the previous JTC meetings. At this point, Mr. McCaul called for a motion to recommend the Draft 2017 UPWP to the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for their release for public review.

MOVED BY MARK CRESSOTTI OF THE CITY OF WESTFIELD, SECONDED BY MATT SMITH OF THE TOWN OF CHESTERFIELD, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO) RELEASE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW, THE DRAFT 2017 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP). ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY WAS PASSED.

Mr. Czach then moved on to agenda item #4.

4. Review, Discussion and Recommendation of Section 1A (Federal Aid Target Funds) for the Proposed Draft 2017-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Dana Roscoe, PVPC Principal Planner, reminded JTC members that when the MPO last met in March they released a number of projects for public review which included amendments to projects in the 2016 TIP, namely:

- Ludlow/Wilbraham Bridge (#608252)
- Belchertown/Warren Bridge (#607524)
- Springfield I-91 Viaduct (#607731)
- Storm water work on I-391 in Chicopee and Springfield (#608211)
- Springfield North End Pedestrian Path Construction (#607589)

Mr. Roscoe added that those items will continue to be available for public review until the next MPO meeting. Mr. Roscoe reminded JTC members that an MPO meeting had been scheduled for May 17th, however, it was reported at the May JTC meeting that the statewide Capital Investment Plan (CIP) had not been endorsed and the state was not prepared to move forward with the May 17th MPO meeting which was postponed until June 22nd. Mr. Roscoe then asked Bryan Pounds, MassDOT State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Coordinator/MPO Liaison, to comment on the status of the CIP.

Mr. Pounds stated that there had been questions about the Wilbraham project, however, he noted that they have since decided to move forward with that project in this fiscal year. In addition, Mr. Pounds noted that there were some additional costs that they wanted to look at and he reported that they addressed that cost overrun with additional statewide funds. Mr. Pounds stated that as regards the CIP, the final board vote has been postponed until June 20th but he noted that they still plan to go forward with the proposed 2017-2021 TIP in all the regions. Mr. Pounds observed that some concerns had been expressed about the CIP versus the STP, however, he reassured JTC members that if a project was programmed in the STP then it made it to the CIP.

Mr. Roscoe thanked Mr. Pounds for his update. He then reminded JTC members that at the May JTC meeting, there was a discussion about projects in Southwick, Springfield and Longmeadow having exceeded their budgets which meant possibly having to move the Wilbraham Boston Road project (#607869) from 2016 into 2017 to maintain fiscal constraint. Mr. Roscoe reported that the PVPC has been working with MassDOT and he pointed

out that MassDOT has been very accommodating, noting that they have allowed the projects in Wilbraham, Springfield, Longmeadow and Southwick to be programmed at their amended increased dollar amount. Mr. Roscoe stated that the end result is an increase in our available funds through statewide funding categories of approximately \$3 million and he reported that everything that is currently programmed in 2016 is expected to go forward in 2016. At this point, Mr. Cressotti expressed his appreciation for the cooperative work with the Commonwealth and he thanked Mr. Pounds for his efforts.

Mr. Roscoe noted that copies of the Draft 2017-2021 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) had been distributed at today's meeting and he stated that he would like to ask JTC members to recommend that the MPO release the document for public review. Mr. Roscoe pointed out that as of today, the Wilbraham Boston Road project is moving forward in 2016 which will allow the Palmer project (#608253) to be accommodated in 2017. He stated that this allows us to program to within \$600,000 of our Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds and within \$100,000 of our Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funds, as well as within \$ ½ million of our Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funds, adding that with this proposed list of projects as it is presented today, there is just over \$1 million on the table for 2017. Mr. Roscoe remarked that there are opportunities if a project is at 0% or 25% and he stated that a list of preliminary projects is presented here for 2018 which allows for \$4 million of additional programming. Mr. Roscoe stated that 2019 is almost fully programmed and he noted that there are a lot of opportunities in 2020 and 2021. He added that the projects that are not advancing have an opportunity to move forward if the design status moves forward.

At this point, Mr. Czach asked if there were any questions regarding the Draft 2017-2021TIP. In response to a question raised by Mr. Cressotti regarding statewide CMAQ funds, Mr. Pounds reported that the statewide programs are almost finished and the plan is to tentatively release them on Monday, June 13th. He added that he cannot report what those projects are at this time.

Mr. Pounds then referred to the Hadley Reconstruction Project (#605032) which is programmed in 2020 noting that he believes there is another piece to this project. Mr. Hoynoski added that there are three pieces to the Hadley project. Mr. Roscoe stated that he believed the total cost of the project exceeded our original target and for that reason the project was designed in three phases. Mr. Pounds then indicated that one other phase could be added. Mr. Hoynoski explained that this project involves the widening of Route 9, basically from the Middle Street Route 47 intersection. He noted that it involves widening the road from two to four lanes and adding sidewalks and bike lanes. Mr. McCaul asked if the plan is to still include the Maple Street intersection or if that would be a separate project. Mr. Hoynoski stated that there is another sidewalk project being proposed in 2017 for continued sidewalks from Maple Street towards Amherst. Mr. McCollough stated that the Norwottuck Rail Trail Advisory Committee was interested in tying the sidewalk intersection along South Maple to the Norwottuck and he asked if the scope includes anything in that gap. Mr. Hoynoski stated that currently he did not know that answer. Mr. Lapointe stated that as far as he understands, the Town of Hadley will be doing that on their own. At this point, Mr. Lapointe stated that he would like to suggest that JTC members make sure they are coordinating with Rich Massey and the project manager in Boston prior to moving forward on their projects, noting that MassDOT has to schedule assigned public hearings if projects are not programmed on the TIP.

Mr. Czach stated that he would like to reiterate Mr. Cressotti's comments regarding the efforts of MassDOT and he thanked Mr. Pounds for finding additional funds for the TIP, noting that it is appreciated by the region. There being no further questions, Mr. Czach called for a motion to recommend the Draft 2017-2021 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) to the MPO for public review.

MOVED BY MATT SMITH OF THE TOWN OF CHESTERFIELD, SECONDED BY JT GAUCHER OF THE TOWN OF LUDLOW, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE PIONEER VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO) RELEASE THE DRAFT 2017 - 2021 PIONEER VALLEY TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) FOR PUBLIC REVIEW. ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY WAS PASSED.

Mr. Czach recommended that if any JTC member has a project on any of the TIPs, they should attend the upcoming June 22nd MPO meeting.

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

Mr. Czach stated that Joshua Rickman, Director of Operations and Planning for the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA) could not attend today's JTC meeting and Mr. Czach then moved to address agenda item 6.

6. Pioneer Valley Regional Coordinated Council (RCC) Meeting scheduled for June 29, 2016 @ 2pm at PVPC

PVPC Senior Planner David Elvin stated that Mr. Rickman sends his regrets from the Proterra Electric Bus Factory in Greenville, South Carolina where he is currently inspecting and accepting completion of three of the new all-electric buses that the PVTA will be receiving during the summer.

Mr. Elvin then reported that there will be a change affecting the riders on the PVTA's American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Van Fleet and its Dial-a-Ride Senior Service Van Fleet which have been operating co-mingled. Mr. Elvin stated that PVTA has been experiencing some on-time problems due to an increased demand for the Senior Service vans, so they are going to try separating the fleets. Mr. Elvin announced that beginning on July 18th there will be a dedicated fleet for ADA riders and a dedicated fleet for Senior Service riders. He noted that there will be a change in the reservation process, adding that there will be two upcoming public meetings about this change. Mr. Elvin stated that one meeting will take place in Springfield on Monday, June 27th in the PVPC 2nd floor large conference room and the other meeting will take place on Tuesday, June 28th at the Northampton Senior Center. Mr. McCollough asked if the reservation window for either of those riders would change. Mr. Elvin stated that there will be no change in policy for ADA riders given that the ADA is a required service which is closely monitored by the Federal Transit Administration. However, he noted that since the Senior Service van is not a federally required service, there will be more negotiations with those riders about when they can take trips.

Mr. Elvin next reported that on May 24th in Westfield there was a groundbreaking on the new transit pavilion. He stated that this project is now underway and construction will be finished in the spring of 2017.

Finally, Mr. Elvin stated that a meeting of the Regional Coordinating Council (RCC) will take place in the PVPC 2nd floor conference room on June 29th at 2:00 p.m. Mr. Elvin noted that the RCC has been meeting for the last couple of years, focusing on improving human service transportation needs in the Pioneer Valley. Mr. Elvin stated that health care providers and Councils on Aging are very interested in serving people in areas of the region that are currently underserved by transit and he noted that the RCC put together a resource package of various options that are available for people who are unable to drive. Mr. Czach recommended that JTC members inform their Councils on Aging about the June 29th meeting of the Pioneer Valley Regional Coordinating Council.

In response to a question from Mr. Roscoe about Union Station, Mr. Elvin stated that it is his understanding that buses will begin operating out of Union Station at the beginning of 2017. He noted that the PVTA is beginning an intensive internal planning process to reassign buses to the new 17 bus bays designated there for the PVTA.

Mr. Czach thanked Mr. Elvin for his report and he then moved on to address agenda item #7.

7. Other Business

Mr. Czach reminded JTC members that the next MPO meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 22nd at 10:00 a.m. at the PVPC and he stated that anyone with projects on any of the TIPs should attend. Mr. Czach also noted that at the March JTC meeting there was a discussion about Chapter 90 and he stated that he would like to revisit that discussion later this year, noting that he may include it on the September agenda. As regards the JTC summer meeting schedule, Mr. Czach noted that many people have vacations in July and August and, depending on what happens at the upcoming MPO meeting, he asked JTC members if there would be any opposition to not meeting until September, adding that it might be worthwhile to wait until September when we have a full agenda. There being no opposition from JTC members, Mr. Czach stated that he would like to move forward with that plan.

Mr. McCaul stated that he sent out another link regarding the freight survey. He noted that a number of people have not yet responded and he asked those who have not completed the survey to please do so.

Mr. McCaul then announced that at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 15th at the Palmer Public Library, the PVPC will be holding an MPO Caucus for our region's eastern tier communities. He noted that our MPO membership needs to be updated every two years, adding that the four other sub regions have already been defined and the membership updated. Mr. McCaul stated that four elected officials have expressed interest in representing the eastern tiers. Mr. Roscoe explained that there is a member from each of the Boards of Selectmen in Ludlow, Longmeadow and Ware who would like to be on the MPO, and he noted that the current member sitting for that tier would like to continue, adding that he is from Belchertown. Mr. Roscoe stated that those four individuals are vying for one seat and one alternate and he noted that those attending the June 15th meeting will decide who will have the seat and who will be the alternate. Mr. McCaul stated that each municipality from that region has a vote and he asked JTC members to coordinate with their elected officials. He pointed out that the person attending the meeting could be a JTC member or another member of the community and does not have to be the elected official. Mr. McCaul stated that he will be hosting the meeting which he expected would last for about one hour.

At this point, Mr. Pounds noted that there are some items to look for that he had not yet provided, namely, the Highway Statewide list and the 2017-2021 Transit list which he anticipated would be generated prior to the June 22nd MPO meeting. Mr. Pounds stated that he believed there was also going to be a transit amendment to add a Community Transit grant.

Gary Briere then provided an update on the National Bike Travel Weekend which took place June 3-5. He noted that it involved thousands of rides across the United States and he stated that an event was held here in the Pioneer Valley with riders from as far away as Iowa and Illinois. Mr. Briere stated that there has been very positive feedback to bike travel in the Pioneer Valley which he felt is a tribute to the work being done by the towns, MassDOT and planning commissions in their efforts to accommodate cycling. Mr. Briere remarked that there are not many places in America that have better cycling and road touring than the Pioneer Valley but he noted that many others do a better job of promoting. He added that this could be a great opportunity for our economic development over the coming years. As regards upcoming events, Mr. Briere reported that there will be an event in September which involves a ride from the New York border to downtown Boston. He also noted that here in the Pioneer Valley, there will be a River Valley Ice Cream Ride on Saturday, July 30th beginning in Turners Falls and there will also be a Riverway Bike Ride in August. Mr. Briere added that next year a couple of tours will be introduced involving four states, encompassing 300 miles, and beginning and ending in Northampton. Mr. Czach

then thanked Mr. Briere for his update.

Mr. McCollough stated that if anyone has a PVTA bus stop and needs a bike rack, they should let him know and PVPC will work with the PVTA.

8. Adjourn

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

MOVED BY GARY BRIERE OF MASS BIKE, SECONDED BY MATT SMITH OF THE TOWN OF CHESTERFIELD, TO ADJOURN THE JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING OF JUNE 8, 2016. ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIES.

This JTC meeting was adjourned at 11:03 a.m.

Relevant documents distributed at this meeting:

- Joint Transportation Committee June 8, 2016 Meeting Agenda
- Minutes of the May 11, 2016 Joint Transportation Committee Meeting
- Table of Contents - Pioneer Valley Unified Planning Work Program, FY 2017
- 2016 Pioneer Valley Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- 2016 – 2019 Pioneer Valley Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Proposed Amendments, March 2016
- 2016 – 2019 Pioneer Valley Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Proposed Amendments, June 2016
- Draft 2017-2021 Pioneer Valley Region MPO Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP)
- PVPC TIP Days Project Listing - April 2016
- 2017-2021 Project Listing – May 2016 (STP)