

Minutes of the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) Meeting

Wednesday, August 13, 2014

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

Present were:

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Rick Adamcek	Town of Pelham, Highway Dept.	Jeff Hoynoski	MassDOT District 2
Roland Barbeito	Agawam DPW	Thom Martens	Ware DPW
Randy Brown	Southwick DPW	Kate Moszta	MassDOT District 1
Alex Bublik	Northampton DPW	Nick Ottomaniello	Springfield DPW
Michelle Chase	Agawam – Town Engineer	Jimmy Pereira	MassBike – Springfield
Mark Cressotti	City of Westfield	Don Podolski	MassBike – Pioneer Valley
Jim Czach	Springfield DPW	Jim Reidy	South Hadley DPW
Peter Frieri	MassDOT District 1	Peter Shumway	Springfield DPW
Dick Grannells	Southwick DPW	Kyle Webb	Springfield DPW
PVPC Staff			
Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Rana Al-Jammal	Sr. Planner Specialist	Dana Roscoe	Principal Planner
Chris Curtis	Chief Planner/Section Manager	Gary Roux	Principal Planner
Andrew McCaul	Transportation Planner	Louise Sullivan	Administrative Specialist
Dmitriy Mayboroda	Transportation Planner II		
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 asked for a motion to approve the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) minutes of June 11, 2014.

MOVED BY DICK GRANNELLS OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWICK, SECONDED BY PETER SHUMWAY OF THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, TO APPROVE THE JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC) MEETING MINUTES OF JUNE 14, 2014. ALL IN FAVOR OF THE MINUTES, NONE OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIES.

Mr. Czach asked Dana Roscoe to address agenda item #3.

3. Pioneer Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Meeting

Mr. Roscoe announced that on June 18, 2014, the Pioneer Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) endorsed the FFY 2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the FFY 2015 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) as recommended by the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC). Mr. Roscoe reported that at the June 18th MPO meeting, Steve Woelfel, the Director of Strategic Planning at the Office of Transportation Planning, Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) agreed to collaborate with Mark Cressotti of the City of Westfield to obtain a funding source for Westfield's *Columbia Greenway Rail Trail Construction Project* (603783) which was removed from the TIP because statewide funding is no longer available to cover its cost. Mr. Cressotti reported that there has been some success in obtaining funding for the Columbia Greenway project and he and Mr. Woelfel are working to obtain additional funding.

Mr. Roscoe stated that Fiscal Year 2014 ends on September 30, 2014 and all Pioneer Valley regional transportation projects need to be advertised by September 30th. Mr. Roscoe asked PVPC Transportation Planner Andrew McCaul to give an update on the projects that have not yet been advertised. Mr. McCaul reported that there are four unadvertised projects that will be advertised before September 30th. Mr. McCaul stated that the roadway improvement project in Belchertown will be advertised on August 23rd and the Chicopee intersection at the Broadway Bridge will be advertised on September 13th. Mr. McCaul added that advertising dates for a Pelham bridge project and an additional Chicopee project have not yet been announced but will be advertised before the September 30th deadline.

Mr. Roscoe stated that the next MPO meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 16th at 10:30 a.m. which will be followed by a Project Selection Advisory Council meeting from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Mr. Roscoe explained that Richard Davey, Secretary of Transportation and Chief Executive Officer, MassDOT will attend the September 16th MPO meeting and convene the Project Selection Advisory Council¹ meeting. Mr. Roscoe indicated that the Project Selection Advisory (PSA) Council is required to deliver formal recommendations on statewide and regional project evaluation criteria by December 31, 2014. Mr. Roscoe asked Peter Frieri about a recent PSA Council meeting held in Pittsfield and Mr. Frieri replied that the meeting concerned Transportation Evaluation Criteria (TEC) being used and revised in the various Massachusetts planning regions. Mr. Roscoe added that the PSA Council meetings scheduled for September 16th at the PVPC and for September 24th at the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission are critical to the completion of the Project Selection Advisory Council's draft document delineating its project selection criteria recommendations that will be presented on October 20th to the Cape Cod Commission in Hyannis.

Mr. Czach urged the JTC members to attend the Project Selection Advisory Council meeting scheduled for September 16th and he called on Principal Planner and Traffic Manager Gary Roux to address agenda item #4.

¹ The Project Selection Advisory Council was established by the Massachusetts Legislature in Section 11 of Chapter 46 of the Acts of 2013 and is required to review existing statewide and regional project evaluation criteria and develop uniform criteria and a transparent prioritization formula to be used in the development of a comprehensive state transportation plan.

4. Safe Routes to School (SRTS)

Mr. Roux reported that recently he and Jeff McCullough were contacted by the new western Massachusetts liaison for the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program and asked if the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) would consider signing on as a supporting partner organization. Mr. Roux explained that the PVPC is and has been supporting the SRTS program but in order to formally assert support for SRTS, he asked the JTC members for a motion recommending that the PVPC become a SRTS Supporting Partner Organization. Mr. Roux stated that the JTC members' recommendation will then be presented to the Executive Committee for the Executive Director Tim Brennan's approval and signature.

MOVED BY MARK CRESSOTTI OF THE CITY OF WESTFIELD, SECONDED BY JIM REIDY OF THE TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION BECOME A SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL (SRTS) SUPPORTING PARTNER ORGANIZATION. ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIES.

Mr. Czach moved on to agenda item #5.

5. Update Transportation Evaluation Criteria (TEC) Currently Out for Public Review

Mr. Roux reported that an online Transportation Projects Survey was created as a result of the MPO's request that the JTC members enhance the public's participation in the updating of the Transportation Evaluation Criteria (TEC) by increasing opportunities for individuals to identify the transportation projects that they deem most important. Mr. Roux stated that the survey was launched on July 15, 2014 and he indicated that over one thousand emails were sent out along with media releases published in newspapers and promoted on television stations and community websites. Mr. Roux added that as of August 7, 2014, 430 responses to the survey have been received.

Mr. Roux explained that the draft Transportation Evaluation Criteria (TEC) document consists of eight categories and the first Transportation Projects Survey question asks: "What types of projects are important to you. Please rank from 1 to 8 with 1 being the most important." Mr. Roux displayed the results of the first question in a pie chart in his PowerPoint presentation and those survey results are delineated below:

Rank	Transportation Improvement Project	Percentage Ranking the Project #1
1	Enhancements to Alternative Modes	28.1%
2	Roadway Surface Improvements	27.7%
3	Bridge Projects	13.0%
4	Improving Safety	10.2%
5	Reducing Traffic Congestion	6.3%
6	Environmental Resources	5.6%
7	Promoting Growth and Development	4.9%
8	Preserving Regional Assets	4.2%

Mr. Roux discussed the possibility that the **Roadway Surface Improvements** category and the **Improving Safety** category might have scored higher percentages if the **Bridge Projects** category hadn't been included in the first survey question.

Mr. Roux skipped Question 2 which asked for the survey taker's zip code and then went on to report the results of Question 3: "What modes of travel do you use?" **Note:** Percentages reported in table below were estimated based on the bar chart slide in Mr. Roux's PowerPoint presentation entitled *Transportation Projects Survey Results*.

Mode of Travel	Primary Mode > 3 times/week	Secondary Mode 1-3 times/week	Infrequent Mode 1-2 times/month
Personal Vehicle	88%	9%	1%
Pedestrian	27%	38%	26%
Bicycle	10%	24%	30%
Public Transportation	4%	4%	21%
Carpool	3%	6%	19%

Mr. Roux then reported some of the comments made by the survey respondents as follows:

- 41 commented on the need for expanded or improved bike/ped amenities
- 27 expressed the need for expanded and/or improved public transportation
- 18 would like expanded rail service
- 10 expressed the need for traffic calming including roundabouts and road diets
- Others suggested charging stations, way finding, tolls and improving the efficiency of project development and implementation

Referring to today's handout entitled *Proposed Transportation Project Evaluation Criteria - Current Draft Out for Public Review*, Mr. Roux stated that based on comments received from JTC members, the subcategory highlighted in pink entitled *Improves Substandard Signal Equipment* was thought to be redundant and was recommended for removal. Mr. Roux described how the four points allocated to the *Improves Substandard Signal Equipment* sub-category could be reallocated to other sub-categories and he detailed other proposed category realignments based on comments received.

Mr. Roux announced that a meeting in which Transportation Improvement Projects (TIP) projects will be scored using the new proposed TEC scoring has been scheduled for Wednesday, September 3rd from 10 a.m. to 12 noon in the PVPC's Conference Room 1A. Mr. Roux explained that a list has been prepared of many different types of projects to be evaluated and scored using the proposed new TEC criteria and the final total scores will be determined by consensus. Mr. Roux underscored that the seating will be limited and he urged the JTC members to RSVP if they plan on attending the meeting.

Mr. Czach reminded the JTC members that the *Transportation Projects that are Important to You Survey* is available on the www.pvpc.org website and he urged them to take the survey if they haven't already done so. Mr. Czach then moved on to agenda item #6.

6. Other Business

Mr. McCaul announced that the Massachusetts Department of Transportation's *State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)* for Federal Fiscal Years 2015-2018 has been released. Mr. McCaul explained that the STIP is a prioritized listing of highway, bridge, intermodal and transit projects expected to be undertaken over the next four Federal Fiscal Years. These draft project listings, he said, are a compilation of roadway, bridge, intermodal and transit projects as developed by the Commonwealth's ten Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and the three non-MPOs. Mr. McCaul reminded the JTC members that he had emailed them a hyperlink to the website where these projects are listed for review and he encouraged them to send their comments to the MassDOT STIP Coordinator by September 7, 2014.

After a short discussion of the TEC categories, Mr. Roscoe advised that the next JTC meeting will be held on October 8th but will have to be held in a different venue to be announced. There being no other business items, Mr. Czach called for a motion to adjourn

7. Adjourn

MOVED BY JIM REIDY OF THE TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY, SECONDED BY MARK CRESSOTTI OF THE CITY OF WESTFIELD, TO ADJOURN THE JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING OF AUGUST 13, 2014.

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

Relevant documents distributed at this meeting:

- Joint Transportation Committee August 13, 2014 Meeting Agenda
- Joint Transportation Committee June 11, 2014 Meeting Minutes
- *Proposed Transportation Project Evaluation Criteria – Current Draft Out for Public Review*
- *Massachusetts Safe Routes to School*