

Minutes of the Tuesday, July 24, 2018 Meeting of the  
Pioneer Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)  
held at the  
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission  
60 Congress Street, Springfield, MA 01104-3419

**MPO Members Present:**

Steve Woelfel	Executive Director, Office of Transportation Planning, Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) Representing MPO Chair Stephanie Pollack, Massachusetts Secretary of Transportation and Chief Executive Officer
George Archible	Belchertown Board of Selectmen
Jim Czach*	Chairman, Joint Transportation Committee & Town Engineer, Town of West Springfield
Walter Gunn	Chairman, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC)
Charles Kaniecki	Chairman, Southamptton Board of Selectmen
Richard Kos	Mayor, City of Chicopee
Richard Masse	MassDOT District Two Office (Northampton) Representing Jonathan Gulliver, MassDOT Highway Administrator for the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT)
Ken Miller*	Assistant Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
Brian Sullivan	Mayor, City of Westfield
Sandra Sheehan	Administrator, Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA)
Doug Slaughter	Town of Amherst Selectboard

(\* denotes non-voting member)

**Guests and PVPC Staff Present:**

Mike Bolduc	MassDOT District Two Office (Northampton)
Daniel Call	City of Westfield
Matt Chase	Senior Project Manager, Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc., (VHB)
Michelle Chase	Town Engineer, Town of Agawam
Mark Cressotti	Vice-Chair of the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) and City Engineer, City of Westfield
Peter Frieri	MassDOT District One Office (Lenox)
Soyna Gray	MassDOT District One Office (Lenox)
Jeff Hoynoski	MassDOT District Two Office (Northampton)
Randall Kemp	Highway Superintendent, Town of Southamptton
Nicholas Lapointe	Senior Transportation Engineer, Fuss & O'Neill
Andrew McCaul	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Jeff McCollough	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Michael McManus	Superintendent, Holyoke Department of Public Works
Dana Roscoe	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Gary Roux	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Steve Savaria	Senior Transportation Engineer, Fuss & O'Neill
Gabe Sherman	Project Manager, MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning (OTP)
Louise Sullivan	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Support Staff
Steve Williams	Director, Department of Public Works, Town of Belchertown

1. Chairman's Call to Order, Welcome and Opening Remarks

Stephen Woelfel, Deputy Executive Director, Office of Transportation Planning, Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) Representing MPO Chair Stephanie Pollack, Massachusetts Secretary of Transportation and Chief Executive Officer, Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT), called the July 24, 2018 meeting of the Pioneer Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to order at 10:03 a.m. Mr. Woelfel then welcomed and thanked all those in attendance and called for introductions from the MPO members.

Following introductions, Mr. Woelfel moved to take up the minutes of the previous MPO meeting held on May 22, 2018.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting of the Pioneer Valley MPO Held on May 22, 2018

Mr. Woelfel called for a motion to approve the minutes of the previous Pioneer Valley MPO meeting which was held on May 22, 2018.

MOVED BY WALTER GUNN, CHAIRMAN, PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION (PVPC), SECONDED BY DOUG SLAUGHTER, TOWN OF AMHERST SELECTBOARD, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 22, 2018 PIONEER VALLEY MPO MEETING AS PRESENTED. THERE BEING NO FURTHER COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS, THE MOTION WAS THEN APPROVED BY THE MPO MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Woelfel then moved to address the next agenda item

3. Review, Discussion and MPO Approval to Release Proposed Amendments to the Pioneer Valley Long Range Regional Transportation Plan for the Required 21-day Public Review

Mr. Woelfel called on PVPC Principal Planner Gary Roux to review a series of proposed amendments to the Pioneer Valley region's Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). Mr. Roux called the MPO members' attention to the handout document in today's meeting packet entitled *Air Quality Conformity Determination – July 2018*. Mr. Roux explained that the release of this *Air Quality Conformity Determination document* for a 21-day public review and comment is being requested due to a recent court action that involved the air quality conformity determination process. Mr. Roux reported that many years ago there was a budget test and currently, there is a set emissions budget for Massachusetts for both volatile organic compounds (VOX) and nitrogen oxides (NOx). Mr. Roux explained that as a result of this recent court action, PVPC staff is returning to the old budget test and now needs to demonstrate that the Pioneer Valley's Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is beneath the established budget for this region. He indicated that the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) has run their statewide model and they have included nonexempt projects. Mr. Roux stated that a nonexempt project is a project that's expected to add capacity to the transportation system and MassDOT has included two Pioneer Valley nonexempt, road-widening projects in the statewide model: the Boston Road Reconstruction Project in Wilbraham and the Route 9 Project in Hadley.

Mr. Roux again referred to the *Air Quality Conformity Determination* document and asked the MPO members to turn to page 6 of the document which indicates that western Massachusetts is a Nonattainment Area and also indicates

that the emissions from the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG), the Pioneer Valley MPO and the Berkshire Region MPO are beneath the Budget for both VOC and NOx emissions estimates. Mr. Roux explained that the reason for updating the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is because there is language in the RTP that states that the projects in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) must originate from a conforming plan. Mr. Roux underscored that without this air quality conformity update, the RTP is not in conformance thereby the TIP is not in compliance. Mr. Roux stated that the MPO members will be asked in August to endorse this *Air Quality Conformity Determination* document but today the request is to release it for a 21-day public review and comment period.

Mr. Woelfel then called for a motion to approve the 2018 *Air Quality Conformity Determination* document as an amendment to the Pioneer Valley Long Range Regional Transportation Plan for a 21-day public review and comment period.

MOVED BY BRIAN SULLIVAN, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF WESTFIELD, SECONDED BY RICHARD KOS, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CHICOPEE, TO APPROVE THE RELEASE OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE PIONEER VALLEY LONG RANGE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN FOR THE REQUIRED 21-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW AS RECOMMENDED BY THE PVPC STAFF

THERE BEING NO FURTHER QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS, THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE MPO MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Woelfel then moved to take up agenda item #4.

4. Review, Discussion and MPO Endorsement of both the Annual 3C Self Certification Document and the Air Quality Self Certification Document

Mr. Woelfel called on PVPC Principal Planner Dana Roscoe to address the MPO Endorsement of both the Annual 3C Self Certification Document and the Air Quality Self Certification Document. Mr. Roscoe stated that there are two documents that the MPO signs off on each year. Mr. Roscoe indicated that the first document is the *Certification of the 3C Planning Process* which states: *Concurrent with the submittal of the proposed TIP to the FHWA and the FTA, the MPO shall certify that the metropolitan transportation planning process is being carried out in accordance with all applicable requirements.* Mr. Roscoe stated that the second document, entitled *Pioneer Valley MPO Endorsement Sheet*, states: *This will certify that the 2019 – 2023 TIP for the Pioneer Valley Region’s MPO is in compliance with all applicable requirements in the State Regulation 310 CMR 60.05: Global Warming Solutions Act Requirements for the Transportation Sector and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation.* Mr. Roscoe requested a motion to obtain the signatures of the MPO members on these two documents.

Mr. Woelfel then called for a motion to endorse the annual 3C Certification Document of the Pioneer Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization’s transportation planning process and the Air Quality Self Certification document.

MOVED BY SANDRA SHEEHAN, ADMINISTRATOR, PIONEER VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY (PVTA), SECONDED BY SELECTMAN GEORGE ARCHIBLE OF THE TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN, TO ENDORSE THE ANNUAL CERTIFICATION OF THE 3C TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCESS FOR THE PIONEER VALLEY REGION ALONG WITH THE AIR QUALITY SELF-CERTIFICATION DOCUMENT. THERE BEING NO FURTHER QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS, THE MOTION WAS THEN UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Mr. Woelfel then moved to take up the next agenda item.

5. Update from PVPC Principal Planner Gary Roux on the Recently Launched ValleyBike Share Program

Mr. Woelfel called on PVPC Principal Planner Gary Roux to deliver an update on the recently launched ValleyBike Share Program. Mr. Roux reported that the ValleyBike Share Program, which was launched on June 28th, has been partially funded by the MPO with CMAQ funding as part of the FFY 2017 TIP. Mr. Roux presented a PowerPoint slide show comprised of photos of the electric-assisted bicycles and the docking stations. He explained that a motor engages when a rider on a ValleyBike Share bicycle encounters a hill. Mr. Roux indicated that the ValleyBike Share Program currently has 27 stations of 50 planned stations operational. He added that that the bicycles are available in the City of Springfield, the City of Northampton, the City of Holyoke, the Town of South Hadley, and the Town of Amherst which includes the University of Massachusetts campus.

Mr. Roux called the JTC members' attention to the large projection screen displaying the [www.valleybike.org](http://www.valleybike.org) website's interactive map with blue icons signifying active ValleyBike docking stations and yellow icons indicating the locations of future docking stations under construction but not yet active. Mr. Roux explained that if an icon is selected, it will reveal how many bikes are available at that location. Mr. Roux indicated that most of the future docking stations under constructions are located on the University of Massachusetts (UMass) campus. He added that there will be a ValleyBike kick-off event held at the UMass campus in the fall when the students return for classes and at that time, most of the docking stations represented as yellow icons on this map will be operational.

Mr. Roux announced that ValleyBike Share is offering founding memberships that provide an unlimited number of 60-minute rides during the first year for \$90.00 with an additional fee charged for any rides that last more than an hour. Mr. Roux added that an unlimited number of rides of up to 45 minutes will cost \$80.00 a year or \$20.00 a month; day passes will cost \$6.00; and a single ride of up to 45 minutes will cost \$2.00. Mr. Roux indicated that later this year, there will be a survey of ValleyBike users in order to enable an analysis of the available usage and tracking data in order to provide a sense of how people are using the ValleyBike Program.

Mr. Woelfel thanked Mr. Roux for his presentation and he then moved to take up the next agenda item.

6. Review, Discussion and MPO approval to Release Amendments to the FFY 2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Required 21-day Public Review

Mr. Woelfel called on PVPC Principal Planner Dana Roscoe to discuss amendments to the FFY 2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Mr. Roscoe reported that a cost increase from \$8,019,013 to \$8,977,713 for the Bridge Replacement - Lyman Street over First Level Canal in Holyoke has created a need for a TIP amendment to the FFY 2018 TIP which requires MPO approval in order to release the FFY 2018 TIP for the required 21-day public review. Mr. Woelfel then called for a motion to endorse the recommended amendment to the Pioneer Valley region's current, FFY 2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

MOVED BY WALTER GUNN, CHAIRMAN, PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION (PVPC), SECONDED BY DOUG SLAUGHTER, TOWN OF AMHERST SELECTBOARD,, TO APPROVE THE RELEASE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE PIONEER VALLEY REGION'S CURRENT FFY 2018 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) FOR THE REQUIRED 21-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD SUBJECT TO MODIFICATIONS AND CORRECTIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN OUTLINED BY PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION (PVPC) STAFF

Mr. Woelfel asked if there were any questions or further discussion needed regarding the subject motion.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS, THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE MPO MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Woelfel then moved to take up the next agenda item.

7. Report from Jim Czach, the Chairman of the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC), on Important Transportation Issues and Projects Discussed Since the Last MPO Meeting was Held on May 22, 2018

Mr. Woelfel called on JTC Chairman Jim Czach to report on issues and projects discussed at the last meeting of the Pioneer Valley region's Joint Transportation Committee (JTC). Mr. Czach reported that at the last JTC meeting, which was held on July 11th, the JTC members discussed the ValleyBike Share Program.

Mr. Woelfel thanked Mr. Czach for his report and he then moved to take up the next agenda item.

8. Updates from MassDOT District One and District Two Officials on Relevant Transportation Issues and Projects of Interest to the Pioneer Valley MPO Members

Mr. Woelfel called on Peter Frieri of the MassDOT District One office in Lenox to present District One's updates on relevant transportation issues and projects. Mr. Frieri reported on the following two District One TIP projects:

- *Resurfacing and Related Work on Route 9 over the Westfield River* in the Town of Cummington (Project #607939) was recently awarded its PS&E and is waiting for Notice to Proceed (NTP)
- *Bridge Replacement Project on Chester Road over Smart Brook* in the Town of Middlefield (Project #608249) is at the 75% design stage and is currently under review by MassDOT
- *Route 143 Reconstruction and Related Work – (Phase I)* in the Town of Worthington, Project #606912 will be completed by the end of summer.

Mr. Woelfel next called on Mike Bolduc of the MassDOT District Two office in Northampton to present District Two's updates on relevant transportation projects within its jurisdiction. Mr. Bolduc reported on the following TIP Projects:

- The Intersection Improvements at Route 187 and 57 in the Town of Agawam (Project #604203) has its PS&E due this week and it will be advertised in August
- The Improvements at Interchange 19 at Route 9 and Damon Road in the City of Northampton (Project #604597) is still working on its right-of-way (ROW) and its PS&E and is scheduled to be advertised in September
- The *Reconstruction of Western Avenue, Phase I*, in the City of Westfield (Project #603449) is at PS&E and has been environmentally cleared and scheduled to be advertised this month.
- The *Reconstruction of Glendale Road, Phase 2* in the Town of Southampton (Project #604738) was advertised on July 14th and a bid opening is scheduled for September.
- The *Resurfacing on Heritage, Front and Dwight Street* in the City of Holyoke (Project #607256) has reached 100% design stage with its PS&E scheduled for August 3rd and its advertising scheduled for late August.
- The *Amherst- Hadley- Northampton- Transit Signal Priority Upgrades at Various Locations Route 9* (Project 608786) has its PS&E currently under review and work is progressing with the consultant to resolve some issues.
- The *Bridge Construction I-91 over Hockanum Road* in Northampton (Project 606552) has been continued until 2020.
- The Bridge Replacement over Lyman Street in Holyoke (Project 600936) is at 100 % and has been environmentally cleared but may need a continued ROW search
- The Bridge Rehabilitation P-01-005, Main Street Over Quaboag River in Palmer (Project #608870) was advertised on June 23rd and has its bid opening scheduled for August 14th
- The Bridge Cleaning and Painting over Westfield Road in Holyoke (Project #607959) has been advertised and the bid was awarded to Allied Painting. This project is waiting for its Notice to Proceed (NTP)

There being no further questions or comments from MPO members, Mr. Woelfel thanked Mr. Frieri and Mr. Bolduc for their District One and District Two project updates and he moved to take up the next agenda item.

9. Updates from Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA) Administrator Sandra Sheehan on Relevant Public Transit Issues and Projects of Interest to the Pioneer Valley MPO Members

Mr. Woelfel called for a report and update from Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA) Administrator Sandra Sheehan. Ms. Sheehan announced that the PVTA has been working with MGM Springfield for over a year in order to provide service to the Springfield downtown area. Ms. Sheehan reported that an electric bus called “the loop” will provide service between the different hotel and major attraction areas. Ms. Sheehan added that PVTA will provide assistance with Springfield’s traffic mitigation plan during MGM’s opening day, August 24th, and provide service from the Big E grounds into Springfield.

Ms. Sheehan reported that PVTA staff is working with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) on an update to its Title VI Report. Ms. Sheehan further reported that PVTA staff is working on its Transit Management Plan that is due to the Federal Transit Authority (FTA) by October 1st. Ms. Sheehan said a draft Transit Management Plan will be presented to the MPO members for their review.

Ms. Sheehan reported that the Massachusetts Legislature’s Conference Committee has provided funding for the Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs) at \$88 million. She stated that the formula is actually \$82 which is \$455,000 over last year for PVTA. She added that there’s \$2 million plus another \$4 million to be allocated by MassDOT. Ms. Sheehan reported that

PVTA has reached out to MassDOT requesting \$2 million dollars to offset its deficit and PVTA has provided comments to a MOU sent by MassDOT. Ms. Sheehan stated that the hope is that Governor Charlie Baker won't change the \$88 million granted and that MassDOT will provide \$2 million dollars in funding so that the PVTA won't have to reduce service in the fall as planned.

Mr. Woelfel thanked Ms. Sheehan for her report and he then moved to take up the final agenda item.

#### 10. Other Business

Mr. Woelfel asked if there was any other business to be discussed and Mr. Roscoe called the MPO members' attention to the distributed document entitled *2018 Status*. Mr. Roscoe stated that the highlighted projects have been advertised and the projects not highlighted do not yet have an advertising date. Mr. Roscoe stated that the FFY 2019 – 2023 TIP has been completely programmed. He urged those MPO members, who are in the towns where projects have not yet been advertised, to do what they can to achieve advertising dates.

Mr. Woelfel asked if there was any other business to conduct and there being none, Mr. Woelfel called for a motion to adjourn the July 24, 2018 Pioneer Valley MPO meeting.

MOVED BY WALTER GUNN, CHAIRMAN, PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION (PVPC), SECONDED BY BRIAN SULLIVAN, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF WESTFIELD, TO ADJOURN THE JULY 24, 2018 MEETING OF THE PIONEER VALLEY REGION'S MPO. THERE BEING NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, THE MAY 22ND MPO MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 10:25 A.M. WITHOUT OBJECTION

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy W. Brennan, Executive Director  
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

#### **List of Documents and Other Items Distributed at the July 24, 2018 MPO Meeting**

1. *Pioneer Valley Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Meeting Notice and Agenda: July 24, 2018*
2. *Minutes of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Meeting: Wednesday, May 22, 2018*
3. *2018 Pioneer Valley Region Transportation Improvement Program*
4. *Air Quality Conformity Determination*
7. *2018 TIP Project Status*
8. *2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Bridge Section Summary of Proposed Changes July 24, 2018*