

Minutes of the Virtual Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) Meeting  
 Wednesday, January 13, 2021  
 Pioneer Valley Planning Commission  
 60 Congress Street, Springfield, Massachusetts 01104

**Present were:**

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Daryl Amaral	MassDOT District 2 Office, Engineer	Betsy Johnson	Walk/Bike Springfield
Dan Banister	Williamsburg Highway Dept.	Van Kacoyannakis	Civil Engineer, VHB
Glenn Barrington	UMass Transit Services	Tim Keane	Town Engineer, Longmeadow
Chris Bouchard	DPW Director, South Hadley	Andy Krar	City Engineer, Springfield
Gary Briere	MassBike	Derek Krevat	Transportation Planner, MassDOT
Randy Brown	DPW Director, Southwick	Nick LaPoint	Fuss & O'Neill
Paul Burns	PVTA Director, Transit Operations	Tracie Lenhardt	VHB Project Manager
Matt Chase	Professional Engineer, VHB	Dan McCormick	UMass- Amherst
Michelle Chase	Town Engineer, Agawam	Mike McManus	Superintendent, Holyoke DPW
Jeremy Cigal	Civil Engineer, City of Westfield	Dan Murphy	City Engineer, Easthampton
Mark Cressotti	City Engineer, Westfield	Charlene Nardi	Williamsburg Town Administrator
Jim Czach	West Springfield DPW	Peg O'Neal	Worthington Exec. Asst. Selectboard
Dave Desrosiers	Superintendent, Granby DPW	Bob Peirent	Engineer, Holyoke
Nick Dines	Town of Williamsburg	Carmen Rosado	Stavros
Wayne Feiden	Northampton Planning Director	William Sayre	Williamsburg Select Board
Peter Frieri	MassDOT District 1	Jason Skeels	Town Engineer, Amherst
Kien Ho	Vice President, BETA Group	Marvin Ward	MassBike Easthampton
		Steve Williams	Belchertown DPW
<b>PVPC Staff</b>			
Andy McCaul	Senior Transportation Planner	Dana Roscoe	Principal Planner
Jeff McCollough	Senior Transportation Planner	Gary Roux	Principal Planner
		Louise Sullivan	Admin Support

**1. Open Meeting**

Jim Czach opened the JTC Zoom meeting at 10:07 a.m. and he 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 the November 18, 2020 meeting.

MOVED BY PAUL BURNS, OF THE PIONEER VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY, SECONDED BY MARK CRESSOTTI, OF THE CITY OF WESTFIELD, TO APPROVE THE JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC) MEETING MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 18, 2020 MEETING. ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIES.

Mr. Czach then moved to take up agenda item 3.

**3. Pioneer Valley Transportation Evaluation Criteria (TEC) – FFY 2019-2021 Review**

PVPC Senior Transportation Planner Andy McCaul announced that 2021 was the third year since the last assessment of the Pioneer Valley Transportation Evaluation Criteria (TEC). Mr. McCaul reported that the average TEC score per year in 2017 was 35.2; in 2016, 34.0; in 2015, 32.3 in 2015 for an average change of 3.0. In comparison, the average TEC score per year in 2019 was 35.73; in 2020, 36.85; in 2021, 38.36 for an average change of 2.63.

Mr. McCaul explained that for the FFY 2019 – 2021 TEC scoring analysis, 39 projects with three years of scoring were evaluated with the lower score between FFY 2019 and 2020 compared to the FFY 2021 score. The Holyoke Resurfacing and Signal Improvements at 15 Intersections (606450) Project had the highest increase in TEC points. Mr. McCaul stated that 20 projects had an increase in TEC points, 17 projects had no change and 2 projects had a decrease in points. He added that the largest decrease was a 4 point decrease in the Southwick Route 57 (606141) project. Mr. McCaul displayed a table entitled *Average Points by Criteria – Rural vs. Urban* which delineated all 39 projects by criteria broken down by rural and urban projects and listing the available points awarded to each criteria in the far right column. The number of TEC points scored by the urban projects was 37.23 and the number of TEC points scored by the rural projects was 27.45.

Next, Mr. McCaul displayed a *2019 – 2021 Transportation Evaluation Criteria TEC Categories* table illustrating the average number of points scored in each category and in the far right column the number of points available for each category. He reported that there were 5 categories in the evaluation that performed below average in points compared to the amount of points available, numbers 2, 9, 11, 18 and 39 as listed below:

	<b>TEC Categories</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Available Points</b>
3	In a Congestion Management Process Area	0.76	5.0
9	Improves efficiency, reliability and attractiveness of public transit	0.23	4.0
11	Reduces traffic congestion	1.87	7.0
18	Reduces number and severity of collisions	2.18	7.0
39	Implements ITS Strategies	0.00	2.0

Mr. McCaul stated that category 39, *Implements ITS Strategies*, has never scored a point over the last three years but since it is a federally important category, it needs attention. He added that no project has ever received a point for Category 41, *Health Impact Assessment*, so this category will be removed and its points assigned to another category or categories. Mr. McCaul then displayed a line graph entitled *TEC Scoring Analysis FFY 19-21* saying that rural projects score higher than rural projects. His next slide, entitled *Transportation Evaluation Criteria (TEC) – Points Urban vs. Rural (2019-2021)* reflected the percentage of points received and the average

score of rural projects compared to urban projects further illustrating the extent to which urban projects scored higher than rural projects from 2019 to 2021. The next slide, *2019-2021 Transportation Evaluation Criteria (TEC) – Project Type*, displayed the distribution of points for each category by three project types: Bike/Pedestrian, Intersection or road project. Another line graph, *TEC Scoring Analysis FFY 2019-21*, graphically showed the scores attained by these three project types.

Mr. McCaul concluded his TEC Scoring Analysis presentation saying that PVPC staff will be considering changes to the TEC once the Transportation Improvement Program process has been completed. He urged the JTC members to send him comments or questions regarding the TEC.

#### **4. 2021 – 2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP): Discussion**

PVPC Senior Transportation Planner Andy McCaul announced that currently there is a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendment out for public review that was released in December which consists of:

- Adding the FFY 2021 Monson / Palmer Bridge —Park St/Boston Rd EB over Quaboag River (697688) for \$10,207,987
- Reducing the cost of the FFY 2022 Northampton I-91 Bridge (606552) AC Funds from \$10,293,810 to \$3,370,385
- Removing all FFY 2023 AC Funds (\$9,861,497) for the Northampton Bridge (606552) Project
- Removing all FFY 2024 AC Funds (\$4,474,545) for the Northampton Bridge (606552)Project

Mr. McCaul explained that a transit amendment is also currently out for public review but no comments have been received. The transit amendment consists of a Helping to Obtain Prosperity for Everyone (HOPE) Grant of \$680,000 for the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA) which will enable the Pioneer Valley Transit Review and Improvement Planning Study. This Planning Study will comprehensively assess public transportation and include recommendations for improved transit services and facilities, new transit routes, innovative technology, integrated fare collection systems, new low or no-emission fleet, and locations of transit hubs and intermodal centers.

Mr. McCaul then discussed the Massachusetts Department of Transportation’s State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) in its electronic form, “eSTIP,” and the cost changes in the TIP projects listed. Mr. McCaul reported that he plugs the recommendations he receives into the eSTIP and it’s easier to review the cost changes in this eSTIP format. He stated that the TIP projects listed are intersection improvements and roadway reconstruction projects and they all have incurred cost changes.

Mr. McCaul reported that the Hadley Route 9 (605032) project which is programmed over two years has experienced a \$750,000 cost increase; the Springfield Intersection (608782) project has experienced a cost increase of \$133,000; the Amherst Route 9/116 (608084) project has experienced a cost increase of \$200,000; the Westfield Court St/Western Ave., Phase 2 (607773) project has had a cost increase of \$50,000 \$360,000 and the West Springfield (608374) over three years has a cost reduction of \$1.7 million.

Mr. McCaul explained that because a fiscally constrained TIP is needed, changes will have to be made but new data is needed before changes will be recommended. He noted that in February, the FFY 2021 TIP will be addressed and the groundwork for the FFY 2022 – 2026 TIP will be developed.

Mr. Czach thanked Mr. McCaul for his update and he moved on to agenda item 5.

**5. FFY 2022 – 2026 TIP Development**

• **Review Draft Schedule and Kick off TEC update**

PVPC Senior Transportation Planner Andy McCaul explained that each year a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development Schedule is distributed. The FFY 2022 – 2026 TIP Development Schedule will be mailed hopefully this week along with a letter to the Chief Elected Officials of PVPC's 43 municipalities with the JTC Representatives included as part of the letter. Mr. McCaul noted that a similar letter and schedule will be emailed to the PVPC Commissioners, Alternate Commissioners and JTC members. The letter will include information for updating JTC Representation especially since there are 5 or 6 municipalities without representation on the JTC.

Mr. McCaul displayed the FFY 2022 – 2026 Transportation improvement Program (TIP) Development Schedule and noted that TIP Project Universe will be presented to the MPO members at their January 26th meeting and the MassDOT Project Review Committee (PRC) will meet on January 29th. Mr. McCaul indicated that all TEC forms need to be sent into the PVPC by February 8th. He noted that MassDOT "TIP Days" will occur on Tuesday, February 9th and Wednesday February 10th during which PVPC Transportation staff members meet with all the MassDOT sections to review TIP projects that may be funded in the next TIP cycle. Mr. McCaul remarked that the JTC meeting will have to be rescheduled for Wednesday, February 17th; however, that is a school vacation week. Mr. Czach stated he will not be able to attend the February 17th JTC meeting during school vacation week and Alternate Chairman Mark Cressotti agreed to take his place.

Mr. McCaul stated that the updated TIP Project Universe will be presented to the MPO members at their February 23rd meeting; and the MPO members will review the JTC's recommendation of the preferred list of TIP projects at their March 23rd meeting. Mr. McCaul noted that the JTC's final review of the TIP based on MassDOT project updates and MPO comments is scheduled for April 14th with the draft 2022-2026 TIP being released by the MPO for the required 21-day, April 28 through May 18 public review period. Mr. McCaul added that on May 12, the JTC reviews comments received on the draft TIP and there is a TIP Public Hearing followed by MPO endorsement of the final TIP on May 25th.

Mr. Czach thanked Mr. McCaul for his excellent presentation and he then moved on to agenda item 6.

**6. Other Business**

Mr. Czach asked if there was anything anyone wanted to present to the JTC members. There being no other business to discuss, Mr. Czach asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**7. Adjourn**

MOVED BY MARK CRESSOTTI, OF THE CITY OF WESTFIELD, SECONDED BY MARVIN WARD, MASSBIKE EASTHAMPTON, TO ADJOURN THIS JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC) MEETING AT 11:05 A.M. ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIES.

**Relevant Documents Emailed for this January 13, 2021 JTC Meeting:**

- *Joint Transportation January 13, 2021 Meeting Agenda*
- *Minutes of the November 18, 2020 Joint Transportation Committee Meeting*
- *FFY 2021 - 2025 TIP – Project Status*
- *January 13, 2021 Meeting Slides*
- *TEC Scoring Analysis*
- *Draft TIP List January 2021*

JTC Minutes 1-13-21/admin/Transp/JTC/minutes