

Minutes of the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) Meeting

Wednesday, October 12, 2016

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

60 Congress Street, 2nd Floor Large Conference Room

Springfield, Massachusetts 01104

Present were:

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Glenn Barrington	UMass	Peter Frieri	MassDOT District 1
Maggie Chan	City of Northampton	Joe Giffune	Friends of the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail
Matt Chase	VHB	Dick Grannells	Southwick DPW
Mark Cressotti	City of Westfield	Jeff Hoynoski	MassDOT District 2
Dan Cull	City of Westfield	Randy Brown	Southwick DPW
Jim Czach	West Springfield DPW	Yem Lip	Holyoke DPW
David Desrosiers	Granby DPW	Mike McManus	City of Easthampton
Wayne Feiden	City of Northampton	Bryan Pounds	MassDOT Office of Transportation
PVPC Staff			
Amir Kouzehkanani	Principal Transportation Planner/Manager	Gary Roux	Principal Planner
Andy McCaul	Senior Transportation Planner	Dana Roscoe	Principal Planner
Jeff McCollough	Senior Transportation Planner	Louise Sullivan	Admin Support

1. Introductory Remarks

Jim Czach opened the meeting at 10:23 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 September 14, 2016 but then realized there wasn't a quorum, so he postponed approval of the September 14th minutes until the next JTC meeting.

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

3. Review and Discussion of Potential Projects to be Included in the 2017-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

PVPC Principal Planner Dana Roscoe reported that as a result of Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) projects being moved particularly TIP projects in MassDOT District One being funded due to redistribution of funding, the current Fiscal Year, Year 1, is over programmed by six million dollars. Mr. Roscoe stated that any or all suggestions for this funding opportunity are welcome. Mark Cressotti replied that the City of Westfield is seeking to advance its Western Avenue Project which was delayed by being moved from FFY 2017 to FFY 2018. Mr. Cressotti noted that this project includes roadway improvements, traffic calming measures, and a multiple-use trail using \$2.5 million dollars of earmarked funding. Mr. Cressotti stated that the project's budget is just under \$5 million and the City of Westfield believes it can advance this project and advertise it this fiscal year. Mr. Cressotti explained that the right-of-way issues are minor and there are

temporary easements for the entire length of Western Avenue. He added that the license process has begun; responses from MassDOT will be submitted on Friday; and there's a plan to schedule a public hearing.

Mr. Roscoe stated that there is \$2.5 million programmed for the Western Avenue Project in FFY 2018 and now Mr. Cressotti is asking for the project to be programmed for FFY 2017. Mr. Cressotti commented that the project is at the 25% design phase and it has had several public information meetings held. Mr. Czach interjected that it's already fiscal year 2017 and he asked Mr. Cressotti if he was confident that the permits and right-of-way can be obtained. Mr. Cressotti said he was confident but Jeff Hoynoski said that based on the project's right-of-way needs and the lack of a hearing, it would be questionable moving it to 2017.

Mr. Roscoe indicated that if Mr. Cressotti has brought the Westfield Western Avenue Project to the MassDOT District's attention, it's now a negotiation between him and the district. Mr. Roscoe stated that he is fully supportive of the project but he will not override any concerns that the district has regarding the project. Mr. Czach asked Mr. Cressotti if he could work it out with the district and Mr. Cressotti said he could. Mr. Czach then asked if anyone else had any potential projects for Year 1.

Joe Giffune stated that as a member of the Friends of the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail, the members were disappointed that monies that were programmed for the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail Project were moved from FFY 2017 to FFY 2019. Mr. Giffune underscored that if there's any money available, the rail trail project is beyond 75% design and the Friends of the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail request that the project be pulled back to FFY 2017. A short discussion then ensued underscoring the importance of the Greenway Rail Trail Project to the City of Westfield along with its surrounding communities and the competition for funding which favors roadway projects over bike trails which were referred to as alternative transportation infrastructure by Mr. Giffune. The discussion ended with Jeff McCollough encouraging the JTC members to obtain the right-of-way for their projects.

Mr. Czach asked if there were any other transportation projects to be discussed because in November, the JTC will be reexamining the TIP and there isn't often \$6 million dollars available. Mr. Roscoe responded that the Town of Holland proposed a project but then divided it into two projects and obtained a project number for each: 604962 for the original project which is now Phase 1 and the other part, Phase 2, now has an ID project number of 608727. Mr. Roscoe stated that the thought was to move Phase 1 which is the part that doesn't need right-of-way into FFY 2017 but Mr. Hoynoski said that the district isn't sure that right-of-way is not needed. Mr. Cressotti inquired about the value of the Phase 1 project and Mr. Hoynoski reported that it was just under \$1.5 million. Mr. Cressotti added that he believed that there were at least two other projects that had been mentioned at a previous JTC meeting as candidates for funding and if so, representatives advocating for those projects should be sure to attend the November JTC meeting with the necessary paperwork. Mr. Roscoe underscored that as a last resort, District 2 could propose to flex STP dollars over to interstate maintenance projects that are already underway.

Mr. Czach then moved to take up agenda item 4.

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

Andy McCaul, PVPC Senior Planner, reported that that the Union Station and the Westfield Transit Center projects are rapidly advancing and the PVTA has received its three electric buses which will go into service once the charging stations are in place. Mr. McCaul reported that charging stations have been installed in

Springfield and Holyoke. Mr. Cressotti asked about the completion date for Union Station and Mr. Roscoe responded that it will be in late January or early February of 2017.

Mr. Czach then thanked Mr. McCaul for his update and he moved to address the next agenda item.

5. Complete Streets Work Shop

Advanced Complete Streets 201 Training Workshop: October 14th from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
La Quinta Inn & Suites, 100 Congress St., Springfield, Massachusetts

PVPC Principal Planner Jeff McCollough underscored that there are still openings for this week's Complete Streets Training Workshop which will be held next door at the La Quinta Inn & Suites. Mr. McCollough reported that the first round of Complete Streets training closed in September, and he urged the JTC members to attend the upcoming training because it's a way to add to and cushion their Chapter 90 funding. Mr. McCollough reviewed the requirements to be eligible for the program and for up to \$50,000 in technical assistance and \$400,000 in construction funding:

- Attendance of a municipal employee at a Complete Streets training
- Passage of a Complete Streets Policy that scores 80 or above out of a possible 100 points (Tier 1)
- Development of a Complete Streets Prioritization Plan (Tier 2)

Mr. McCollough emphasized that 41 of our 43 Pioneer Valley communities have completed the Complete Streets Level One training. Mr. McCollough stated that the JTC members do not have to attend the extra upcoming training to obtain funding. He said that they just need to develop a policy -- not an ordinance -- and then adopt the policy which can be un-adopted in the future. Mr. McCollough stated that the JTC staff can help write the policy and there are also consultants available to help them.

Mr. Czach thanked Mr. McCollough for his presentation and he moved on to agenda item 6.

6. Adjourn

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

MOVED BY MARK CRESSOTTI OF THE CITY OF WESTFIELD, SECONDED BY DICK GRANNELLS OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWICK, TO ADJOURN THE JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING OF OCTOBER 12, 2016. ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIES.

This JTC meeting was adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

Relevant documents distributed at this meeting:

- Joint Transportation Committee October 12, 2016 Meeting Agenda
- Minutes of the September 14, 2016 Joint Transportation Committee Meeting
- 2017 Pioneer Valley Region MPO Transportation Improvement Projects
- 2017 – 2021 Project Listing – May 2016 (STP)
- PVPC TIP Days Project Listing – April 2016