

Minutes of the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) Meeting

Wednesday, December 14, 2016
 Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
 60 Congress Street, 2nd Floor Large Conference Room
 Springfield, Massachusetts 01104

Present were:

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Gary Briere	MassBike	Andy Krar	Longmeadow
Mark Cressotti	City of Westfield	Nick LaPoint	Fuss & O'Neill
Jim Czach	West Springfield DPW	Emily Swanson	Representative-4th Hampden District
Wayne Feiden	City of Northampton	Yem Lip	Holyoke DPW
Peter Frieri	MassDOT District 1	Dawn Nims	Town of Agawam Engineering
Dick Grannells	Southwick DPW	Don Podolski	MassBike
Jeff Hoynoski	MassDOT District 2		
PVPC Staff			
Chris Curtis	Chief Planner/Section Manager	Jeff McCollough	Senior Transportation Planner
David Elvin	Senior Planner	Dana Roscoe	Principal Planner
Amir Kouzehkanani	Principal Transportation Planner	Gary Roux	Principal Planner
Andy McCaul	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 Meetings

The November 9, 2016 minutes could not be approved because there wasn't a quorum at today's meeting.

Mr. Czach stated that the minutes will be reviewed at the January JTC meeting and he moved to take up the next agenda item.

3. Review, Discussion, and Recommendation of Projects to be Included as a Proposed Amendment to the 2017-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), for Review and Release by the MPO

PVPC Principal Planner Dana Roscoe noted that a continuing effort is being made to find a solution to the six million dollar plus under programming in the current fiscal year of the 2017-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Mr. Roscoe reported that two projects currently on the TIP have incurred slight cost increases, namely: the Southwick Congamond Road Project has an increase of \$320,000; and the Ludlow (605011) Project's cost has increased its programmed amount by \$300,000 but the project hasn't reached the 75% design phase yet. Mr. Roscoe stated that these two cost increases decrease the surplus amount due to under programming to \$5.7 million but there is one highway project that's been proposed in Goshen and he called on Peter Frieri. Mr. Frieri explained that District One's Goshen West Street Project is a 1.8-mile reconstruction project which was at 25% design in

September and is expected to be at 75% - 100% design in mid to late January 2017. Mr. Frieri stated that the project's original cost was \$3.5 million but since some time has passed, he estimated that the project's cost will probably be around \$4 million. Mr. Roscoe underscored that the stumbling block for every proposed transportation project in the last three months has been right-of-way. He added that there have been potential projects, such as the Holland Project and 2 or 3 Westfield projects, but these projects haven't been able to make it through a preliminary right-of-way process. Mr. Roscoe then told Mr. Frieri that if the Goshen West Street Project is accepted at \$4 million, the funding surplus will fall to \$1.7 million. Mr. Roscoe then asked Wayne Feiden to speak about a proposed Northampton transportation project.

Mr. Feiden put forth a request to amend the Bike Share Station Project, currently shared by four towns, by an increase of \$172,000 which will be used to expand the project by pouring concrete station pads and adding another bike share station in South Hadley. Mr. Feiden explained that MPO funding is used for capital costs and ongoing costs are paid by user fees and sponsors. He reported that Northampton has found sponsors for 6-7 stations and South Hadley has found sponsors for two stations. Mr. Roscoe indicated that adding the \$172,000 for amending the Bike Share Station Project, will bring the surplus funding amount down to the \$1.5 million dollar range. Mr. Roscoe reported that he recently learned that MassDOT Rail and Transit are thinking of making track improvements to the Northampton rail station and extending its platform which would provide more opportunities to fill the six million dollar under programming gap. Mr. Roscoe stated that the JTC members are not in a position to vote on these proposals at today's meeting due to a lack of quorum; however, Mr. Roscoe underscored that a quorum is needed at the next JTC meeting scheduled for January 11, 2017 because a MPO meeting is scheduled for January 31st. Mr. Roscoe explained that at the January 11th, JTC meeting, the JTC members need to recommend the transportation projects to be included in the proposed amendments to the 2017-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to be released for public review by the MPO.

Mr. Roscoe noted that one of the key reasons for the six million dollar funding surplus is because in August of this year, a project in the Town of Goshen programmed for FFY 2017 was advanced more quickly upon receipt of redistribution funds. Mr. Roscoe explained that each year for the past five years Massachusetts has received \$50 million dollars in surplus funding from other states in what has become known as the "August Redistribution." Mr. Roscoe reported that because the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is looking to receive another \$50 million dollars in August 2017, that funding opportunity may exceed the regional target and assist transportation projects that are ready to advance.

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

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

David Elvin, PVPC Senior Planner, reported that the PVTA is providing an opportunity for JTC members to ride one of their three new Proterra Catalyst electric buses tomorrow at 10:00 a.m., December 15, at the Holyoke Transportation Center on the P21 express route that connects Holyoke, Chicopee and Springfield. Mr. Elvin also reported that PVTA's Operator for the Springfield area routes did dimensional testing in Union Station on Sunday morning, November 20th, in order to determine if the PVTA's buses will fit in the new boarding bays. Mr. Elvin that the testing revealed that an adjustment is needed for the awning over the door and the PVTA is now training its bus drivers for the opening of Union Station which is tentatively scheduled to open in late January or early February.

Mr. Czach called on PCPV Principal Planner Gary Roux to address agenda item 5.

5. Final Top 100 High Crash Intersection Report

Mr. Roux explained that at last month's JTC meeting, the *Final Top 100 High Crash Intersection Report* was discussed and since that November 9th JTC meeting, many comments on the report have been received and these comments appear in the document distributed today entitled *Comments Received on Draft Top 100 High Crash Intersections Report*. Mr. Roux asked the JTC members to turn to the first page (page 16) of the 4-page document entitled *Top 10 Bike/Ped Crash Clusters – 2016* and he referred to the last paragraph which stated that transportation improvements have been implemented at eight of the 10 bike/ped crash clusters. Mr. Roux pointed out that page 4 (page 19) of the handout illustrates the number of crashes and breaks them down over the years. He added that a column has been added to the chart based on the comments received.

Mr. Roux reported that the most common comment delineated in the *Comments Received on Draft Top 100 High Crash Intersections Report* was a question about the ranking of intersections in the responders' communities but they seemed satisfied as to where their locations appeared in the list. Mr. Roux stated that a number of intersections that appear in the top 100 list have had transportation improvement projects completed recently which may have resulted in improved safety. He indicated that these locations still appear in the top 100 list because the crash data was collected before the improvements were completed. Mr. Roux also called the JTC members attention to the document entitled *MassDOT Crash Data Portal Fields* reflecting such details as the year, city/town, manner of collision, and road surface along with other data. Mr. Roux underscored that this *Final Top 100 High Crash Intersection Report* will be left open for public comment until the January 11th JTC meeting.

Mr. Czach called on Gary Roux once again to address agenda item 6.

6. Top Crash Locations by Municipality

Mr. Roux reported that a template has been designed to be used for all communities and the distributed document entitled *Pioneer Valley Transportation Safety Compass: Huntington* is an example of a two-page, draft template for the Town of Huntington. Mr. Roux encouraged the JTC members to provide their input on the format and types of data to be included in the next initiative tentatively titled *Top High Crash Locations by Community* that will be worked on this program year. Mr. Roux stated that to begin the initiative, a rural community was chosen because a rural community is not likely to have a location in the top 100 crash listing and is less likely to have crashes occurring at intersections. Mr. Roux pointed to the draft Huntington document as an example of a possible template that could be used for every community but he noted that the map at the bottom of the first page is too small and probably needs street detail for the major streets. Mr. Roux asked the JTC members for feedback as to what they liked or didn't like about the template noting that they may not be interested in road conditions or weather data.

Mr. Czach responded that he would like a list of the top 10 crash locations under municipal jurisdiction to use if he's embarking on a project involving an intersection on the top ten list because it will enable him to tell management in his town or city that this location is on the top ten list. Mr. Roux replied that there may have to be a separate format for each town or city. Mr. Roux pointed out that the draft Huntington template illustrates single vehicle crashes and what can be learned from the Huntington template is that Huntington's safety problem is single vehicle crashes at night because people are speeding. Dick Grannells commented that GPS or GIS locations of accidents would be more helpful for documenting crashes that are hundreds of feet from an intersection. Mr. Roux replied that the GPS data is in the database and it might be possible to go into the data and drill down to pinpoint crash locations. However, Mr. Roux said he will ask MassDOT if crash data is being reported at the site of an accident or by someone located at a computer and selecting a point based on the crash report.

Mr. Roux noted that the feedback he received at today's meeting indicates that he should present a template for urban locations and a template for rural locations at next month's JTC meeting. Mr. Roux urged the JTC members to send him an email with their thoughts and comments about how their communities could be represented in a template document.

7. Other Business

Mr. Czach reported that representatives of Longmeadow, Southwick and Westfield are involved in the Chapter 90 Study Group and he stated that the first Chapter 90 meeting will be held after the January 11th JTC meeting, and at that time, it can be decided if the meeting should convene before or after a JTC meeting, a bike/ped meeting or a MPO meeting.

Jeff McCollough reported that there will be a federal highway sponsored workshop concerned with biking held in April 2017 and more information will be forthcoming.

8. Adjourn

This JTC meeting was adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

Relevant documents distributed at this December 15, 2016 meeting:

- *Joint Transportation Committee December 15, 2016 Meeting Agenda*
- *Minutes of the November 9, 2016 Joint Transportation Committee Meeting*
- *2017 Pioneer Valley Region MPO Transportation Improvement Projects*
- *2017 – 2021 Project Listing – May 2016 (STP)*
- *Top 10 Bike/Ped Crash Clusters – 2016*
- *MassDOT Crash Data Portal Fields*
- *Comments Received on Draft Top 100 High Crash Intersections Report*
- *Pioneer Valley Transportation Safety Compass: Huntington*
- *Project Budget: ValleyBike Share*