

# Minutes of the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) Meeting

Wednesday, November 12, 2014  
 Pioneer Valley Planning Commission  
 60 Congress Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Large Conference Room  
 Springfield, Massachusetts 01104

**Present were:**

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Roland Barbeito	Agawam DPW	Jim Gracia	Easthampton DPW
John Bechard	VHB	Dick Grannells	Southwick DPW
Alex Bublik	Northampton DPW	Heather Hannon	MassDOT District 1
Randy Brown	Southwick DPW	Jeff Hoynoski	MassDOT District 2
Michelle Chase	Agawam – Town Engineer	Yem Lip	Longmeadow DPW
Mark Cressotti	City of Westfield	Thom Martens	Ware DPW
Jim Czach	Springfield DPW	Matt Sokop	Holyoke DPW
Peter Frieri	MassDOT District 1		
<b>PVPC Staff</b>			
Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Rana Al-Jammal	Sr. Planner Specialist	Jeff McCollough	Senior Transportation Planner
Andrew McCaul	Transportation Planner	Dana Roscoe	Principal Planner
Amir Kouzehkanani	Principal Transportation Planner	Gary Roux	Principal Planner
		Louise Sullivan	Admin Support

**1. Introductory Remarks**

Jim Czach opened the meeting at 10:18 a.m. and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

**2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Mr. Czach was not able to ask for a motion to approve the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) minutes of September 10, 2014 because there was not a quorum so Mr. Czach tabled the approval of the minutes until the December JTC meeting.

Mr. Czach then asked Principal Planner, Gary Roux, to address agenda item #3.

**3. 2016 Update to the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)**

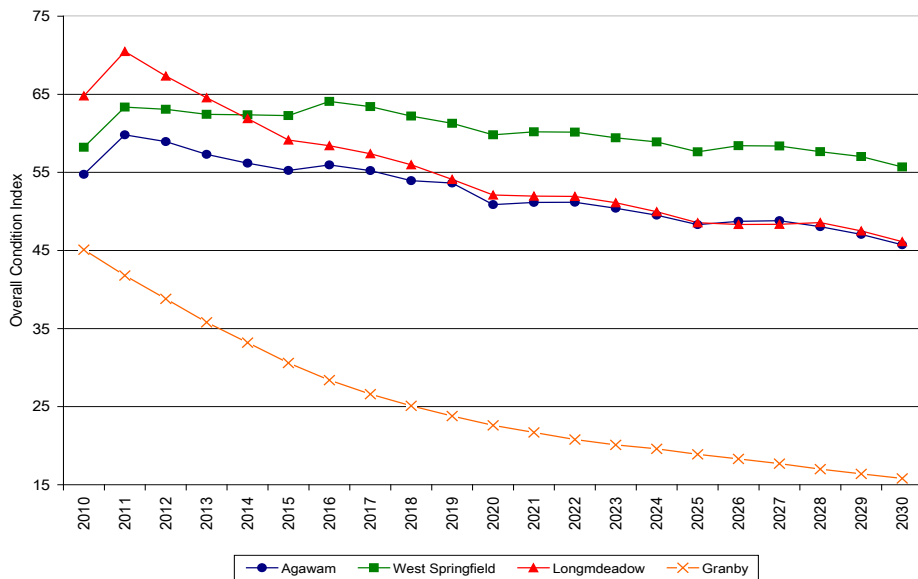
Mr. Roux announced that the JTC is on schedule with its five planned Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Focus Groups and he reported that the Bicycle and Pedestrian Focus Group met on September 10<sup>th</sup> after the last JTC meeting; the Transit Focus Group met on November 5<sup>th</sup>; the Environment, Sustainability and Climate Change Focus Group met on November 6; the Infrastructure Focus Group will meet after today’s meeting; and the Freight Focus Group will meet next week on November 20<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Roux underscored that feedback and recommendations are needed from the focus groups as well as from the JTC members. Mr. Roux said that the JTC members will be provided with summaries of all the focus group meetings and that recommendations will be brought to the members for their consideration before the public RTP kick-off campaign. Mr. Roux indicated that a RTP PowerPoint will be made available online and for public access by the end of the calendar year. Mr. Roux then pointed out the document entitled *2016 Update – Pioneer Valley Regional Transportation Plan Outline* which delineates the content of the draft RTP currently under development. Mr. Roux explained that because the final U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) planning rule has not yet been finalized, the

challenge is to develop a draft plan that addresses the performance measures required by the *Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act* (MAP-21) and MassDOT’s GreenDOT goals (some of which aren’t related to transportation goals) knowing that the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) may need to be amended once the regional performance measures have been finalized. Mr. Roux stated that MAP-21 requires state-wide performance measures be adopted first then regional performance measures need be adopted six months later. Mr. Roux he added that performance measures don’t need to be adopted until the final U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) planning rule has been finalized.

Mr. Roux summarized the highlights of the *2016 Update – Pioneer Valley Regional Transportation Plan Outline* document in order to give the JTC members an idea of the proposed 2016 update to the RTP and after his review of the RTP outline, there was a short discussion. Mr. Roux stated that the *2016 Update – Pioneer Valley Regional Transportation Plan Outline* document has been emailed to all the JTC members and he urged them to provide feedback on the RTP goals and performance measures. Then Mr. Roux requested any photos appropriate for inclusion in the RTP that the JTC members might have that they’d be willing to share and turn over ownership rights to the photos to the PVPC.

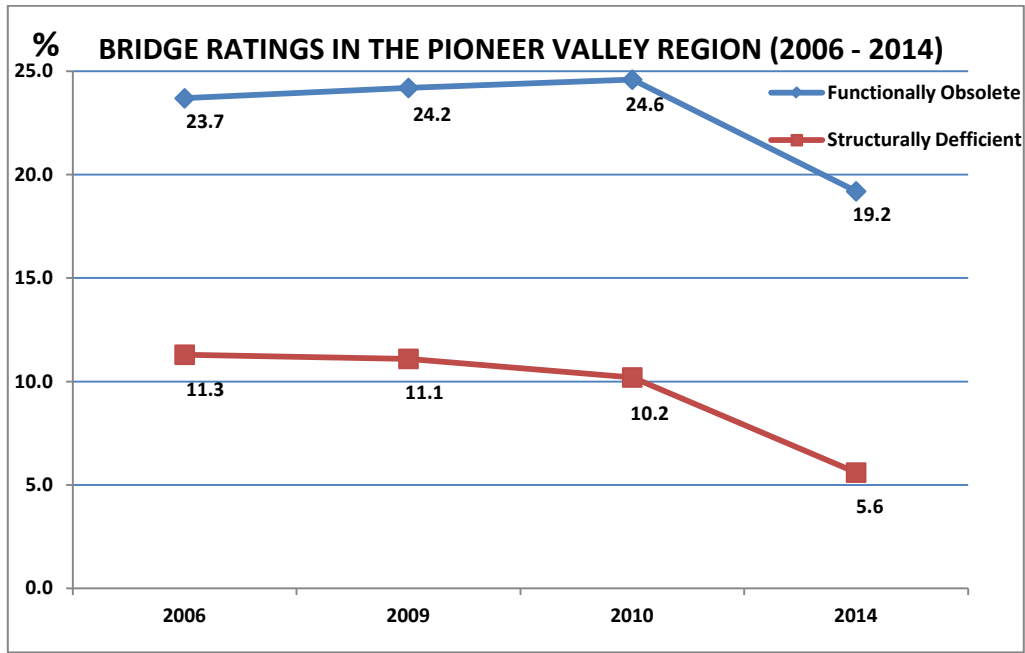
**a. Local data needed for RTP Update including Pavement Data**

Mr. Roux reported that the JTC members asked the PVPC staff to demonstrate the local need for increased Chapter 90 funding for transportation projects and he called the JTC members attention to the PowerPoint slide entitled *The Problem – Nearly 75% regional roadway miles are not eligible for federal aid* which reflects pavement data (see below).

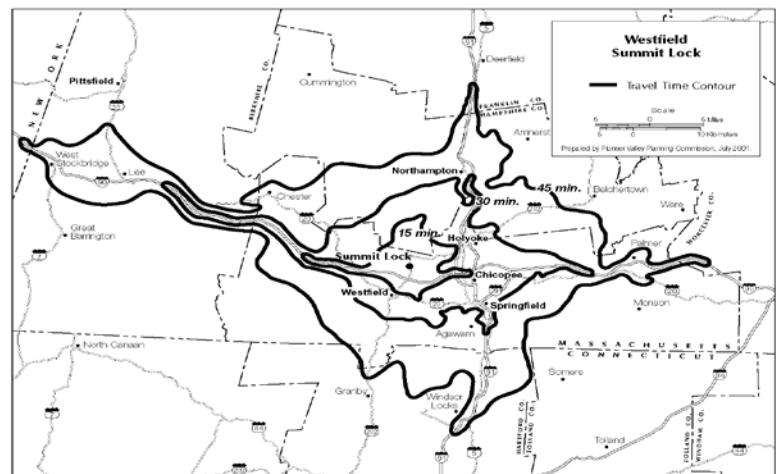


Mr. Roux explained that the above chart illustrates a projected downward deterioration trend in the condition of the local pavement in the towns of Agawam, West Springfield, Longmeadow and Granby over time. Mr. Roux noted that West Springfield doesn’t show a downward trend initially and though the reason for that is not known, it could be explained by West Springfield having used a higher estimate for investment in local roads that went beyond its Chapter 90 allocation. Mr. Roux indicated that the federal aid system does not show as great a downward trend in pavement deterioration as shown in the above chart because the percentage of roadway mileage shown in this chart reflects local roads that are maintained by the communities. Mr. Roux added that since this chart was made, pavement information for Belchertown and other communities has been received and will be added to it. Mr. Roux urged the JTC members to contact Amir Kouzehkanani in order to share their pavement data if they collect it on their own.

Mr. Roux explained that the next PowerPoint slide entitled *Bridge Ratings in the Pioneer Valley Region (2006 – 2014)* illustrates that the percentage of functionally obsolete and structurally deficient bridges in the Pioneer Valley region has decreased. Mr. Roux stated that the number of bridges has increased in the region but it may be that the definition of what is considered a bridge has changed. What is certain, he said, is that the Accelerated Bridge Program (ABP) has had a dramatic impact on the condition of our region’s structurally deficient bridges with 191 construction contracts valued at \$2.2 Billion advertised through April 2014.



Mr. Roux indicated that the next PowerPoint slide entitled *Travel Times in the Pioneer Valley - Westfield* (see chart at right) is based on data from 2001 and focuses on the Westfield Summit Lock industrial area which is comprised of a number of regional distribution centers and reflects three Travel Time Contours, namely, 15 minute, 30 minute and 60 minute. Mr. Roux stated that the travel time data that has been collected will be helpful in the congestion management process and for tracking regional performance measures. He added that there are plans to have a data digest written to illustrate the accessibility of various locations in the Pioneer Valley region for economic development purposes.



Mr. Roux reported that key areas were targeted for mapping where travel time information could prove valuable and he proceeded to scroll through PowerPoint Travel Time Contour maps of the University of Massachusetts Amherst, Palmer, Springfield, Northampton and East Longmeadow. Mr. Roux urged the JTC members to notify him if they know of other areas that should be targeted.

**b. JTC Member Priority Ranking Performance Measure**

Mr. Roux directed the attention of the JTC members to the *Draft PVMPO Performance Based Planning and Programming Framework* document which delineates the RTP goals, emphasis areas, objectives, statewide

performance measures, local performance measures, state targets, regional targets, MPO actions and tracking mechanisms. Mr. Roux explained that this is a draft document reflecting potential goals and objectives and it contains performance measures that are being used at the state-wide level. Mr. Roux underscored that this document has been distributed in an attempt to solicit feedback from the JTC members as to what priority should be assigned to various emphasis areas and performance measures listed in the document. Mr. Roux indicated that the first **Statewide Performance Measure, “# Statewide Structurally Deficient Bridges”** (which is part of the RTP Goal providing a dependable transportation system and prioritizing the repair of existing streets, roads, and bridges) is located at the very top of page 1 and he explained that the **Statewide Performance Measures** track the number of structurally deficient bridges and functionally obsolete bridges in our region and **Local Performance Measure** of that first goal tracks the percentage of structurally deficient bridges and functionally obsolete bridges in our region.

Mr. Roux underscored that all of the performance measures in this draft PVMPO document relate back to the draft Transportation Evaluation Criteria (TEC) document with the exception of bridge projects because they are not scored by the TEC. Using roadway improvement and pavement quality as an example, Mr. Roux stated that TEC points are awarded based on the overall condition index (OCI) of the roadways and/or pavement so these performance measures affect the evaluation of Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) transportation projects. Mr. Roux concluded his presentation by urging the JTC members to prioritize and rank the RTP goals on a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 being most important. Mr. Roux added that several RTP goals can be ranked as #1, #2, #3, #4 or #5. Mr. Roux indicated that there is a space at the end of the document where the JTC members can write in anything that is missing or can list a specific regional goal that should be added to the RTP.

#### 4. Other Business

Mr. Czach asked if there was any other business. Mr. Roux interjected saying if any of the JTC members have not yet received the final impact report from MGM regarding the casino, one can be directly requested from MGM and the deadline for comments is December 5th. Mr. Czach reminded the JTC members that the Infrastructure Focus Group would be meeting today at 12:30 p.m. There being no other business items, Mr. Czach called for a motion to adjourn

#### 5. Adjourn

MOVED BY MATT SOKOP OF THE CITY OF HOLYOKE, SECONDED BY DICK GRANNELLS OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWICK, TO ADJOURN THE JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 12, 2014.

This JTC meeting was adjourned at 11:23 a.m.

#### **Relevant documents distributed at this meeting:**

- Joint Transportation Committee October 12, 2014 Meeting Agenda
- *Draft PVMPO Performance Based Planning and Programming Framework*
- *2016 Update Pioneer Valley Regional Transportation Plan Outline*
- *Travel Time Contours 2001 and 2014 – Westfield*
- *(Draft) Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) GreenDOT Goals*