

Minutes of the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) Meeting

Wednesday, February 11, 2015
 Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
 60 Congress Street, 2nd Floor Large Conference Room
 Springfield, Massachusetts 01104

Present were:

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Roland Barbeito	Agawam DPW	Jim Gracia	Town of Easthampton
Mike Bolduc	MassDOT District 2	Jeff Hoynoski	MassDOT District 2
Alex Bublik	Northampton DPW	Yem Lip	Longmeadow DPW
Matt Chase	VHB	Jim Reidy	South Hadley DPW
Michelle Chase	Town of Agawam	Mark Santos	Town of Pelham
Mark Cressotti	City of Westfield	Matt Sokop	Holyoke DPW
Jim Czach	Springfield DPW	Brandon Wilcox	Federal Highway Administration- FHWA
PVPC Staff			
Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Amir Kouzehkanani	Principal Transportation Planner	Dana Roscoe	Principal Planner
Dmitriy Mayboroda	Transportation Planner II	Gary Roux	Principal Planner
Andrew McCaul	Transportation Planner	Louise Sullivan	Admin Support
Jeff McCollough	Senior Transportation Planner		

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 December 12, 2014 because there was not a quorum so Mr. Czach tabled the approval of the minutes until the March 11th JTC meeting.

Mr. Czach then asked Principal Planner, Dana Roscoe, to address agenda item #3.

3. Update Pioneer Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Meeting Held on February 3, 2015
Proposed Amendments to 2015-2018

Mr. Roscoe indicated that relatively minor changes to the 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) were reported at last week's MPO meeting held on February 3rd and he delineated the changes as follows:

- The Monson-Palmer – Route 32 Resurfacing and Related Work Project (606663) was removed from the FFY 2015 TIP because the project was funded by the state in FFY 2014 thus releasing \$1.8 million dollars
- The Springfield-North End at Brightwood Project (605222) increased in cost and absorbed the \$1.8M
- The Southampton Safe Routes to School Project (607453) has been moved from FY 2015 to FY 2016

- The Northampton Intersection Improvements Project at the Route 5, Pleasant Street and Conz Street Roundabout (605066) incurred a cost increase from \$1,592,248 to \$2,106,590. Jim Czach reported that the increase occurred because an intersection needing signalization near Baystate Health was added.
- Stormwater Retrofits in Longmeadow, Springfield and Westfield are being moved from FY 2016 to FY 2015
- The Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA) is purchasing 16 buses

Mr. Roscoe reported that the proposed amendments to the 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) are out for a required 30-day public review and the 2015-2018 TIP will be endorsed at next month's MPO meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 12th.

Approval of New Transportation Evaluation Criteria (TEC)

Mr. Roscoe reported that on February 3rd, the MPO members endorsed the proposed changes to the new Transportation Evaluation Criteria (TEC) and it will be used in the upcoming TIP cycle. Mr. Roscoe stated that Andy McCaul will be emailing the new TEC and the list of all the proposed transportation projects to the JTC members. Mr. Roscoe underscored that the JTC members should return their project information on either the old TEC template or if their projects are at the 25% design phase or less, they should return their project information on the new TEC template. Mr. Roscoe underscored that the JTC members' project information is due on March 11th.

Draft Pioneer Valley Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan

Mr. Roscoe called on Jeff McCollough to present an update on the *Draft Pioneer Valley Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan*. Mr. McCollough reported that the MPO members released updates to the *Pioneer Valley Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan* for the required 30-day public review period. Mr. McCollough explained that the Coordinated Human Services Plan:

- Identifies the transportation needs of individuals with disabilities, older adults, and people with low incomes
- Provides strategies for meeting these needs and
- Prioritizes transportation services for funding and implementation.

Mr. McCollough indicated that the Pioneer Valley Coordinated Human Services Plan is prepared by the Pioneer Valley MPO in order to allow organizations in the region to be eligible to receive funding in the Federal Transit Administration's Section 5310 transit funding program which provides capital and operations funding for services provided to the elderly and to persons with disabilities. In discussing eligibility, Mr. McCollough reported that the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) Community Transit Grant Program is an annual competitive grant application process administered by the Rail & Transit Division (RTD) of MassDOT. The application process typically begins in mid-January or early February with applicant training sessions, followed by a one-month open application period during the month of February. Mr. McCollough noted that applications will still be accepted in March and he stated that applicants usually obtain assistance in the application process from the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA).

Mr. Czach called on PVPC Transportation Planner, Andrew McCaul, to address agenda item #4.

4. 2016 Update to the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

Mr. McCaul introduced a PowerPoint entitled *2016 Regional Transportation Plan* and he noted that when it is completed, it will be a video that can be posted to the JTC members' community websites. Mr. McCaul explained that the PowerPoint is an overview of the Regional Transportation Plan that will be available on the www.pvpc.org website and he underscored that input from the JTC members regarding the PowerPoint will be greatly appreciated.

Mr. McCaul explained that the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is a long-range planning document that is being updated and currently the first 7 chapters are in draft form. More specifically, Mr. McCaul stated that the RTP:

- Outlines the direction of transportation planning improvements
- Identifies existing and future regional transportation needs
- Presents strategies to alleviate deficiencies in the regional transportation system
- Demonstrates Air Quality Conformity
- Is financially constrained
- Advances both construction projects and planning studies
- Is equitable for all transportation users

Pointing to the PowerPoint slide entitled *Vision, Goals, and Emphasis Areas*, Mr. McCaul explained the Vision by saying that the Pioneer Valley region strives to create and maintain a safe, dependable, environmentally sound and equitable transportation system that advances performance-based strategies and projects by:

- Promoting sustainable development and healthy and livable communities
- Providing for the efficient movement of people and goods
- Advancing the economic vitality of the region

Mr. McCaul pointed out that the RTP is focused on 13 goals and he listed them as follows:

- Safety
- Operations and Maintenance
- Environment
- Coordination
- Energy Efficiency
- Cost Effectiveness
- Intermodal Access
- Multimodal Choices
- Economic Productivity
- Quality of Life
- Environmental Justice
- Land Use
- Climate Change

Mr. McCaul explained that the RTP emphasizes the following:

- Safety and Security
- The Movement of People
- The Movement of Goods
- The Movement of Information
- Sustainability

Mr. McCaul then showed 5 PowerPoint slides entitled Safety, Transit, Congestion, Freight and Bicycle and Pedestrian which were very informative. He followed up with a slide entitled MAP-21 which identified the 7 National Goals of the *Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21)* as:

- Safety
- Infrastructure condition
- Congestion reduction
- System reliability
- Freight movement and economic vitality
- Environmental sustainability
- Reduced project delivery delays

Referring to the next two slides, Mr. McCaul emphasized the performance based planning required by MAP-21 and he described the GreenDOT Sustainability Initiative. Next, Mr. McCaul pointed to the slide entitled Transportation Challenges and he said that a PowerPoint slide would be created for each of the challenges which were listed as follows:

- Impact of MGM Casino Development in Springfield
- New Springfield Bus Garage
- Population Forecasts – Baby Boomers Retirement Impacts
- Rising Maintenance Costs
- Development and Tracking Performance Measures
- Long Range Alternatives for Interstate I-91
- Need for Additional or New Sources of Transportation Revenue

Mr. McCaul noted that having this PowerPoint appear on the PVPC website and on community websites will enable the number of public presentations of the RTP to be scaled back to about two presentations instead of the 6 or 7 public meetings held in the past. Mr. McCaul concluded his presentation by asking the JTC members to submit any recent photos they may have that are transportation-related and he once again urged the JTC members to send in any comments or information that will enhance the PowerPoint.

5. Development Schedule for Draft 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Mr. Roscoe stated that the task of populating the 2016-2019 is beginning and he asked the JTC members to look at the document entitled *Draft Project Status - STP* which reflects all the projects that are going to be developed in the next three years and report anything that is missing. Mr. Roscoe underscored the importance of the JTC members reporting anything that is missing from this document. Mr. Roscoe reminded the JTC members that they need to submit their TEC sheets by March 11th and a **TIP Sub-committee meeting at which their projects will be reviewed has been scheduled for Thursday, March 26th, at 9:00 a.m.**

6. Other Business – Including the Massachusetts Complete Streets Program

Mr. McCollough reported that last year when the state legislature passed the transportation bond bill, MassDOT was charged with funding the Complete Streets Program. He noted that originally \$50M was committed but the amount was reduced to five million dollars for the program state-wide. Mr. McCollough defined “Complete Streets” as streets that provide accommodations for users of all transportation modes including, but not limited to, walking, cycling, transit, automobiles and freight. Mr. McCollough indicated that in order to obtain funding, a community has to meet stipulated requirements in order to be certified as a “Complete Streets” community and then it has to be approved by MassDOT as a “Complete Streets” community. Mr. McCollough commented that most of the JTC members’ projects satisfy the “Complete Streets” criteria but MassDOT hasn’t finalized the “Complete Streets” Program yet. Mr. McCollough reported that 16 communities in Massachusetts have a Complete Streets” Program along with policies in place. Mr. Czach added that draft guidance on the Complete Streets” Program is available but it’s still a work in progress.

7. Adjourn

MOVED BY JIM REIDY OF THE TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY, SECONDED BY MATTHEW SOKOP OF THE CITY OF HOLYOKE, TO ADJOURN THE JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 11, 2015.

This JTC meeting was adjourned at 11:03 a.m.

Relevant documents distributed at this meeting:

- Joint Transportation Committee February 11, 2015 Meeting Agenda
- *Minutes of the December 10, 2014 Joint Transportation Committee Meeting*
- *2015 – 2018 Pioneer Valley Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Proposed Amendments*
- *2015 – 2018 Pioneer Valley Transportation Improvement Program Transportation and Transit Projects*
- *Draft Project Status - STP*
- *Proposed Category Realignment (TEC) Based on Comments*
- *RTP Update for the Pioneer Valley MPO – Draft Development Schedule*
- *MassDOT Complete Street Program Objectives*
- *Massachusetts Municipal Chapter 90-I CS Policy Elements*