

Minutes of the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) Meeting

Wednesday, April 15, 2015

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

Present were:

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Mike Bolduc	MassDOT District 2	Dick Grannells	Southwick DPW
Alex Bublik	Northampton DPW	Joanne Higgins	Town of Holland
Matt Chase	VHB	Jeff Hoynoski	MassDOT District 2
Michelle Chase	Town of Agawam	Brian Johnson	Town of Holland
Mark Cressotti	City of Westfield	Yem Lip	Longmeadow DPW
Jim Czach	Springfield DPW	Thom Martens	Ware DPW
David Desrosiers	Granby DPW	Katherine Maszta	MassDOT District 1
Peter Frieri	MassDOT District 1	Matt Sokop	Holyoke DPW
Jim Gracia	Town of Easthampton	Matt Smith	Chesterfield DPW
		Steve Williams	Belchertown DPW
PVPC Staff			
Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Rana Al-Jammal	Sr. Planner Specialist	Dana Roscoe	Principal Planner
Amir Kouzehkanani	Principal Transportation Planner	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 10:19 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 March 11, 2015.

MOVED BY DICK GRANNELLS OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWICK, SECONDED BY MARK CRESSOTTI OF THE CITY OF WESTFIELD, TO APPROVE THE JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC) MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 11, 2015. ALL IN FAVOR OF THE MINUTES, NONE OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIES.

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

3. Update to the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

Mr. Roux reported that the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) will be released for a 30-day public review period in late June in time for the MPO to endorse the RTP before the July 31st deadline. Mr. Roux explained that there was a delay in receiving the financial projections and the population and employment projections from the state but he reported that comments on the regional population and employment projections have now been submitted. Mr. Roux stated that with the financial projections in hand, it's time to begin "seeding" the RTP with transportation improvement projects.

Mr. Roux referred the JTC members to the graphic distributed at today's meeting which illustrates the 2012 and the 2016 RTP funding. He pointed to the darker shaded area at the top right of the graphic saying that it represents the financial projections from the current 2012 RTP funding which exceeded the \$1,200,000,000 mark. Below that area, Mr. Roux said, is a lighter shaded area representing the financial projections from the current update to the RTP. Mr. Roux explained that there is a great disparity shown between the 2012 RTP and the current RTP update because of the way the transportation revenue and expenses were estimated by the state. He said that in 2012, MassDOT estimated a 3% growth in revenue and a 3% inflationary growth in the cost of all projects. Then, he said, in 2016, MassDOT estimated a 1.5% financial growth in revenue with a 4% inflationary growth on the cost of all projects. Mr. Roux indicated that a 4% inflationary rate versus a 1.5% revenue rate is problematic and the Regional Planning Agencies (RPAs) have made the state aware of it. Mr. Roux noted that there will be less discretionary money in the later years of the RTP to fund transportation projects especially the bigger ticket projects that aren't in any level of design or planning.

Mr. Roux indicated that at the next JTC meeting in May, the JTC members will receive a draft list of proposed transportation projects to be funded through the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) that will be included in the 2016 RTP. Mr. Roux added that the RTP movie is now available for viewing on the www.pvpc.org website in English and in Spanish and can be made available on request in other languages.

Mr. Czach called on PVPC Principal Planner, Gary Roux, to address agenda item #4.

4. Development 2016 Draft Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Mr. Roux called the JTC members attention to the document entitled *Pioneer Valley Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Draft Amendment* saying that it was a two-part document. Mr. Roux stated that an amendment is needed for *Task 3.3 - Interstate Route I-91 Corridor Planning Assistance* which is part of the current UPWP work plan for Fiscal Year 2015. Mr. Roux explained that initially, several proposed UPWP activities of Task 3.3 were related to performing a long-range study of the *Interstate Route I-91* area but these activities have been withdrawn by request and an amendment to the UPWP needs to specify that the funding for the *Interstate Route I-91* long-range study be reallocated. Mr. Roscoe stated that the MPO members will be asked to release the amended *Pioneer Valley Unified Planning Work Program* for a required 30-day public review period at their upcoming May 21st MPO meeting followed by an endorsement in June of the UPWP concurrent with the endorsement of the TIP.

Mr. Czach asked if the JTC members wished to make a motion to recommend that the Pioneer Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) endorse the amendment to the UPWP that specifies that the funding for the *Interstate Route I-91* long-range study be reallocated today or wait to make the motion at the next JTC meeting scheduled for May 13th. Mr. Cressotti said he would make the motion.

MOVED BY MARK CRESSOTTI OF THE CITY OF WESTFIELD, SECONDED BY DICK GRANNELLS OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWICK, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE PIONEER VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO) ENDORSE THE AMENDMENT TO THE FFY 2015 PIONEER VALLEY UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP). ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIES.

Mr. Roux reported that staff is awaiting guidance from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) stipulating which areas should be emphasized in the UPWP in addition to traffic counting, data collection, congestion management, and safety to mention a few. Mr. Roux stated that a major task is the updating of the *Top 100 High Crash Intersections in the Pioneer Valley Region 2007 – 2009*. Mr. Roux underscored that a draft UPWP will be available for the May 13th JTC meeting and he urged the JTC members to submit any projects they may have for consideration as soon as possible especially if it's related to a high-crash intersection.

5. Discussion Transportation Evaluation Criteria (TEC) – Preliminary Findings Based TIP Subcommittee Mtg.

Mr. Roux asked the JTC members to refer to the document entitled *Summary of Comments on PVPC Transportation Evaluation Criteria (TEC)* that resulted from the TEC Evaluation Day held on March 26th by the TIP Subcommittee. Mr. Roux reported that as a result of discussions that occurred at the March 26th meeting, three major concerns were identified that need immediate attention, two of which concern the awarding of TEC points and the other is related to the *Top 100 High Crash Intersections in the Pioneer Valley Region 2007 – 2009* report. Mr. Roux added that there was also a discussion on March 26th of ways in which the explanation of how points are awarded could be made clearer and how consistency in awarding points could be ensured.

Mr. Roux urged the JTC members to submit any comments they may have to him or Andy McCaul regarding the method in which points are awarded by the TEC because the draft TEC will have to be presented to the MPO members at either their June or their July MPO meeting in order for the MPO members to release it for a 30-day public comment at their July meeting.

6. Development Draft 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- *Updated Project Listing*
- *Proposed Draft TIP2016-2019*

Mr. Roscoe began by saying that once a year, PVPC transportation staff has an opportunity to participate in a TIP Day teleconference along with MassDOT's District One, District Two, and its environmental, bridge, right-of-way and other sections. Mr. Roscoe reported that as a result of this April 10th TIP Day teleconference, PVPC staff created the document distributed at today's JTC meeting entitled *Pioneer Valley MPO FFY 2016-2019 TIP Day Information*. Mr. Roscoe underscored that the overarching message resulting from the TIP Day teleconference was that the transportation projects in this region are not proceeding through the design process and are not ready. Mr. Roscoe stated that this 4-page *TIP Day Information* document reflects approximately \$100 million dollars worth of work. He underscored that with targets of \$18 million in 2015, \$18 million in 2016, \$18 million in 2017, \$23 million in 2018 and \$23 million in 2019 totaling \$100 million, the projects listed on these four pages should be doable in the next five years providing they successfully move through the design phase.

Mr. Roscoe then discussed in detail the first nine projects listed in the document entitled *Pioneer Valley MPO FFY 2016-2019 TIP Day Information*:

ID#	Project Description
607869	Wilbraham - Reconstruction of Boston Road (Route 20) from Dudley Street to East of Dumaine Street
604446	Westfield – Reconstruction of Route 187 (Little River Road) and Shaker Road
605011	Ludlow – Reconstruction of Center Street (Route 21) from West of Beachside Drive to Gas Line
180525	Northampton – Reconstruction of Damon Road from Route 9 Intersection to Route 5 Intersection
604968	Westfield – Columbia Greenway Rail Trail Construction from Cowles Court to Westfield River Bridge
605385	Springfield – Signal & Intersection Improvements @ Roosevelt Avenue & Island Pond, Roosevelt & Alden
603477	Southwick – Intersection Improvements at Four Locations on Route 57 (Feeding Hills Road)
606555	Northampton – Roundabout Construction at Intersection Routes 5/10 (North King Street) and Hatfield Street
602911	Chicopee – Connecticut Riverwalk & Bikeway Construction from Boat Ramp near I-90 to Nash Field

Mr. Roscoe stated that this TIP Day Information document is only for discussion and no vote is required. He urged the JTC members to move their transportation projects along to reach 100% design. Mr. Roscoe emphasized that when projects are at 100%, ways can be found to bring them to fruition. Mr. Roscoe underscored that the JTC members need to provide updates to their submitted transportation projects regarding missing information or changes, and if a project was bumped from FFY 2016 to FFY 2017, it is their responsibility to prove that the project is worthy. Mr. Roscoe indicated that two weeks before the May 13th JTC meeting, a proposed draft FFY 2016-2019 TIP similar to this 4-page, TIP Day document will be emailed and the JTC members will be asked on May 13th to recommend the proposed draft TIP to the MPO members so that they can release it for a required 30-day public comment period at the May 21st MPO meeting.

7. Bay State Bike Week – May 9-17, 2015

Mr. Czach asked Jeff McCollough to discuss Bay State Bike Week. Mr. McCollough reported that Bay State Bike Week began in the Pioneer Valley and is now state-wide. Mr. McCollough stated that the PVPC has been holding Bay State Bike Week for 12 years and every year the event has grown in popularity. Mr. McCollough urged the JTC members to get involved in the annual bike week by hanging up the posters that were distributed at today’s meeting and he suggested they consider having a breakfast or holding a raffle in their communities. Mr. McCollough said to contact him if they needed more information.

8. Other Business

- *Joint Transportation Committee Self-Identification Survey*

Mr. McCollough stated that JTC members have been asked to complete an anonymous self-identification survey. Mr. McCollough explained that that participation in completing the survey is voluntary and that the survey gathers race, ethnicity, household income, gender and language data to satisfy federal Title VI information requirements, as requested in the MPO’s federal recertification review. He said the survey takes less than 60 seconds to complete and is available online at https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/JTC_Self-Identification_Survey_PVPC

Mr. Czach asked if there was any other business to take up and David Desrosiers announced that the Massachusetts Highway Association (MHA) is sponsoring a trip to Boston to show appreciation to Governor Charlie Baker and the Legislature for the extra \$130 million dollars received this year. Mr. Desrosiers said that a 57-passenger bus is scheduled to leave West Springfield on May 12th at 6:00 a.m. to arrive in Boston at 8:00 a.m. with a stop for lunch on the way back to West Springfield.

9. Adjourn

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

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 MARCH 11, 2015.

This JTC meeting was adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

Relevant documents distributed at this meeting:

- *Joint Transportation Committee April 15, 2015 Meeting Agenda*
- *Minutes of the March 15, 2015 Joint Transportation Committee Meeting*
- *2015 Pioneer Valley Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Proposed Amendments*
- *2016 – 2019 Pioneer Valley Transportation Improvement Program Transportation and Transit Projects*
- *Pioneer Valley MPO FFY2016 – 2019 TIP Days Information*
- *Pioneer Valley Unified Planning Work Program - Draft Amendment*