



### **3. Regional Transportation Model Update – Draft Report**

Rana Al-Jammal, PVPC Senior Transportation Planner, reported that the Regional Transportation Demand Model was completed over the last few months. Ms. Al-Jammal reported that the model is running with a 2010 base year with future build out years projected consecutively in ten year increments from the base year to cover the 30-year span of the long range transportation plan resulting in build out years selected for 2020, 2030 and 2040. Ms. Al-Jammal explained that this Regional Transportation Demand Model is based on long range transportation and land use scenario planning analysis. Ms. Al-Jammal stated that this model is being used in the I-91 long range study to evaluate the effectiveness and impacts of proposed alternatives over the next 30 years. Ms. Al-Jammal explained that the model was rerun for each of the 2020, 2030 and 2040 build out years using appropriate inputs to estimate the Average Daily Traffic Flow on the regional roadway network and used to calculate the Average Daily Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) by multiplying link flow by link length. Ms. Al-Jammal said that VMT was estimated for model years 2010, 2020, 2030, and 2040 based on the 2010 census data and the total estimated VMT in base year 2010 for the model was 13,726,171. Ms. Al-Jammal added that the total VMT was projected to increase over the next thirty years with growth rates slowing down with time.

Ms. Al-Jammal pointed to her PowerPoint slide entitled *Estimated Future Vehicle Miles Traveled* which reflected the VMT for 2010, 2020, 2030, and 2040 for the PVPC's 43 cities and towns and she indicated that the VMT tabulated by community validated the growth patterns projected by the communities in the Pioneer Valley. Ms. Al-Jammal stated that in general, the chart shows growth until 2030 and then shows it leveling off or decreasing in certain areas of the Pioneer Valley region.

Ms. Al-Jammal displayed her remaining 6 PowerPoint slides and she reported the following:

- The average daily traffic flows on the South End, Memorial, and North End bridges are projected to significantly increase from 2010 to 2020;
- Traffic volume will increase in 2030 most likely due to the Route 9 widening projects that will add a lane to it by 2030;
- Estimated traffic flow volumes for Route 20, within the western part of the Pioneer Valley region, are projected to increase in Westfield and part of West Springfield over the next 30 years due to Westfield State University and the development of the Westfield Transportation Center;
- Estimated traffic flow volumes for Route 20, within the eastern part of the Pioneer Valley region through the communities of Springfield, Wilbraham, Palmer, and Brimfield are projected to increase in the next 30 years;
- Estimated traffic flow volumes for Route 202, within the communities of South Hadley, Granby, and Belchertown in the northern part of the Pioneer Valley region, are projected to increase over the next 30 years especially where Route 202 intersects with Route 181 in the center of Belchertown, which provides access to I-90 Exit 8 in Palmer;

Ms. Al-Jammal concluded her presentation by stressing to the Coordinating Council members that they can contact her or Gary Roux if they have projects that need an analysis of travel demand impacts due to changes in traffic flow or areas of congestion.

Mr. Czach moved on to agenda item #4.

**4. Proposed Amendments to 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

Dana Roscoe, PVPC Principal Planner, reported that at the last JTC meeting held two weeks ago on April 27<sup>th</sup>, it appeared there were going to be cost increases to the Longmeadow Converse Street Reconstruction Project (606445) from \$2,742,048 to \$3,800,000 and to the Springfield Roosevelt Avenue and Island Pond Intersection Improvements Project (605385) from \$2,297,372 to \$2,851,676. Mr. Roscoe explained that because those cost increases exceeded the funding target, the remedy to return to fiscal constraint is to move the Wilbraham Boston Road Reconstruction Project (607869) from FFY 2016 to FFY 2017. Mr. Roscoe indicated that this proposal to move the Wilbraham project from FFY 2016 to FFY 2017 will result in \$900,000 in unallocated funds.

Mr. Roscoe reported that at the last JTC meeting, the possibility of programming the ValleyBike bike share project for 2016 was discussed but there are several contracting requirements involved in the project. Bryan Pounds, MassDOT STIP Coordinator/MPO Liaison, MassDOT Office of Transportation recommended that the bike share project be placed in FFY 2017 for various reasons and he said that MassDOT will support the project.

Jeff Hoynoski, MassDOT District 2, interjected that MassDOT is still trying to identify the exact cost increases for the Longmeadow (606445) and the Springfield (605385) projects. Mr. Hoynoski noted that the Wilbraham project (607869) has had its right-of-way (ROW) submitted to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) but is still waiting for approval though it appears that approval will be forthcoming. Mr. Roscoe stated that he would prefer to program the Wilbraham project (607869) for FFY 2016 but doing so would over-program funding by close to \$300,000. Mr. Roscoe underscored that he would favor programming the Wilbraham project (607869) for FFY 2016 with the assumption that the total cost of the Longmeadow (606445) and the Springfield (605385) projects can be reduced by \$300,000. Mr. Roscoe added that he would rather propose over-programming by \$300,000 than under-programming by \$900,000 but he underscored that his objective is to present a fiscally constrained program. Mr. Pounds stated that in a month, there will be a better idea as to how to proceed because the costs of the two projects will be finalized.

Mr. Roscoe suggested that the Wilbraham project (607869) be put out for a required 30-day public review which will provide 30 days in which the cost increase to the Longmeadow Converse Street Reconstruction Project (606445) from \$2,742,048 to \$3,800,000 and the cost increase to the Springfield Roosevelt Avenue and Island Pond Intersection Improvements Project (605385) from \$2,297,372 to \$2,851,676 may be approved or may not be reduced. Mr. Pounds and Mr. Hoynoski both spoke in favor of deferring a motion to make a recommendation to the MPO to put the Wilbraham project (607869) out for a required 30-day public review. Mr. Czach interjected that the JTC needs to make a recommendation to the MPO and he expressed approval of Mr. Roscoe favoring over-programming rather than losing \$900,000 in funding. Mr. Roscoe commented that putting the 2016 – 2019 TIP out for public review will allow 30 days in which the Springfield project manager and the Longmeadow project manager can hopefully reduce the costs of their projects. Mr. Roux emphasized that the JTC members understand the role of the JTC as a recommending body and that they should be allowed to make a recommendation to the MPO that will indicate what the JTC's preferred strategy is. Mr. Czach then called for a motion.

MOVED BY DAVID DESROSIERS OF THE TOWN OF GRANBY, SECONDED BY JIM REIDY OF THE TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE PIONEER VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO) RELEASE THE 2016 – 2019 PIONEER VALLEY TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) FOR A REQUIRED 30-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW SUBJECT TO A PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO MOVE THE WILBRAHAM BOSTON ROAD

RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT (607869) FROM FFY2016 TO FFY 2017. ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY WAS PASSED.

Mr. Czach then addressed agenda item #5

**5. Proposed Draft 2017-2021 TIP for JTC Review, Discussion and Recommendation to MPO for Release for Public Comment**

Mr. Roscoe explained that the FFY 2017 funding target is \$22,438,689 and the TIP projects being proposed for FFY 2017 are as follows:

Proj. ID	Description
605011	Ludlow – Reconstruction – Center Street – Route 21
PVBS01	Pioneer Valley Regional Bike Share (Phase 1)
606903	Holyoke – Improvements to Lower Westfield Road on I-91 (Interchange 15)
608023	Amherst – Hadley – Sidewalk & Wheelchair Ramp construction on Route 9
607869	Wilbraham – Reconstruction of Boston Road (Route 20)
604033	Southwick – Reconstruction Congamond Rd. (Rt. 168) from College Highway to the state line
608126	Goshen – Resurfacing & Related Work on Route 9 (work being done by District 1)

Mr. Roscoe reported that District 2 would like to have the *Palmer – Resurfacing and Related Work on Route 67* Project (608253) which is currently listed for FFY 2018 moved into FFY 2017. Mr. Roscoe indicated that if the Wilbraham Project (607869) moves from FFY 2017 to FFY 2016, this Palmer Project (608253) could be programmed in FFY 2017.

Mr. Roscoe explained that the FFY 2018 funding target is \$23.3 million and the TIP projects being proposed for FFY 2018 are as follows:

Proj. ID	Description
604203	Agawam – Intersection improvements at Route 187 & Route 57
604597	Northampton – Improvements at Route 9 and Damon Road (I-91 Interchange 19)
603449	Westfield – Route 20 Access Improvements on Court Street and Western Avenue
604738	Southampton – Reconstruction of Glendale Road
608236	Northampton – Reconstruction of Damon Road from Route 9 to Route 5
608253	Palmer – Resurfacing and Related Work on Route 67

Mr. Roscoe stated that the FFY 2018 TIP is under-programmed by approximately \$3.8 million at this time.

Mr. Pounds announced that Trey Wadsworth, MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning, has notified him that in order for the Pioneer Valley MPO to release a TIP, the statewide programs need to be completed and they aren't scheduled to be completed for another month. Mr. Roscoe replied that as a result, the May 17<sup>th</sup> MPO agenda will be moved to the agenda for the MPO meeting which is scheduled for June 22<sup>nd</sup> resulting in the TIP being released on June 22<sup>nd</sup> and endorsed at an August MPO meeting. Mr. Roscoe asked Mr. Pounds if the coordination between MassDOT's Capital Investment Plan (CIP) and the TIP is causing a delay in the completion of the statewide programs. Mr. Pounds replied, "Yes, because it sets our program targets – the programs come first and then the projects are inserted." At this point, Mr. Roscoe called Mr. Pounds and the JTC members' attention to the "zebra sheet," the document entitled *2017 – 2021 Project Listing – May 2016 (STP)*, and he explained that the

fourth column in the table entitled *CIP IN/OUT* indicates whether a TIP project has been programmed or not. Then Mr. Roscoe asked how the TIP projects can be programmed if the word *OUT* appears in this column which indicates that the project is not included in the CIP. Mr. Pounds responded that MassDOT's CIP will be finalized on May 25th and then there will be no question as to the projects' in or out status. Mr. Czach injected and advised the JTC members that if a *NO* appears on the zebra sheet's fourth column beside their project, they should submit a letter to MassDOT requesting that their project be included in the CIP. Mr. Czach and Mr. Roscoe both encouraged the JTC members to advance their projects to the 25% design phase.

## **6. Draft 2017 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

Principal Planner Gary Roux referred the JTC members to a brief handout entitled *Pioneer Valley Unified Planning Work Program, Fiscal Year 2017, October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017, Draft Document (May, 2016)*, and he noted that this draft document provides a short summary of the full version of the *FFY 2017 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)*. Mr. Roux explained that the UPWP describes all the anticipated transportation planning activities over the course of the upcoming federal fiscal year to be carried out with funding from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Mr. Roux reported that the draft UPWP successfully addresses the FHWA's emphasis areas and guidelines including the *Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act*. He added that the full version of the UPWP will be updated with the geographical distribution of its planning dollars and will be ready for distribution by tomorrow.

Mr. Roux reported that since last month, the following local requests have been included in the UPWP:

- Easthampton — Congestion Study
- Palmer — Sidewalk inventory
- Springfield — Roadway safety audit at the intersection of Frank B. Murray and Main Streets
- Undefined — Bridge project that requires full closure to determine impacts on traffic

Mr. Roux stated that a full version of the UPWP will be emailed to the JTC members prior to the June JTC meeting, and he reminded the members to advise him of any ideas they may have for a small study. Mr. Czach stated that the UPWP would be delayed by a month so that it can share the time frame for release of the 2016 – 2019 TIP.

Mr. Czach thanked Mr. Roux for his presentation and moved on to address agenda item #7

## **7. Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA) – Current Activities**

Mr. Czach introduced Joshua Rickman, Director of Operations and Planning for the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA). Mr. Rickman announced that the PVTA's request for a new operations and maintenance facility in Springfield was not included in MassDOT's CIP; and the PVTA is earnestly trying to obtain funding for the project because without the facility, the PVTA cannot expand its activities such as providing housing for the PVTA's articulated buses.

Mr. Czach then moved on to address agenda item #8.

## **8. Other Business**

Mr. McCollough reminded the JTC members about the annual Baystate Bike Week scheduled for May 14<sup>th</sup> – May 22<sup>nd</sup>, and Mr. Roux announced that another link for the freight survey would be emailed to the members. Mr.

Roux reported that he has only received six surveys so far and he underscored that the survey contains only 6 questions and he would greatly appreciate receiving a completed survey from each of the 43 communities.

## 9. Adjourn

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

MOVED BY DAVID DESROSIERS OF THE TOWN OF GRANBY, SECONDED BY JIM REIDY OF THE TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY, TO ADJOURN THE JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING OF MAY 11, 2016. . ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIES.

This JTC meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

### Relevant documents distributed at this meeting:

- *Joint Transportation Committee May 11, 2016 Meeting Agenda*
- *Minutes of the April 27, 2015 Joint Transportation Committee Meeting*
- *2016 – 2019 Pioneer Valley Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Proposed Amendments, March 2016*
- *Pioneer Valley Unified Planning Work Program, Fiscal Year 2017, October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017, Draft Document (May, 2016)*
- *PVPC TIP Days Project Listing - April 2016*
- *2017-2021 Project Listing – May 2016*
- *2017 Pioneer Valley Transportation Improvement Program*
- *2010 Regional Transportation Model Update – Draft Report – April, 2016*
- *Bay State Bike Week – May 14 – 22 (poster)*