

Minutes of the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) Meeting

Wednesday, March 13, 2019

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

60 Congress Street, 2nd Floor Large Conference Room

Springfield, Massachusetts 01104

Present were:

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Price Armstrong	PVTA Manager-Planning & Analysis	Tyrone Holt	Civil Engineer, Springfield
Mike Bolduc	MassDOT District 2	Jeff Hoynoski	MassDOT District 2
Elizabeth Botelho	City of Chicopee	Betsy Johnson	Walk/Bike Springfield
Gary Briere	MassBike	Van Kacoyannakis	Civil Engineer, VHB
Randy Brown	DPW Director, Southwick	Derek Krevat	Transportation Planner, MassDOT
Dan Call	Westfield Columbia Rail Trail	Andy Krar	Town Engineer, Longmeadow
Vladimir Caceres	Civil Engineer, Springfield	Mike McManus	Superintendent, Holyoke DPW
Michelle Chase	Town Engineer, Agawam	Peg O'Neal	Town of Worthington
Jeremy Cigal	Civil Engineer, City of Westfield	Jim Reidy	Superintendent, South Hadley
Stephen Crane	Town Manager, Longmeadow	Doug Roberts	Superintendent, Granville DPW
Jim Czach	West Springfield DPW	Diane Rossini	Assistant Engineer, Northampton
Dave Desrochers	DPW Director, Granby	Jay Scott	Longmeadow Engineering
Andrew Dice	Longmeadow	Jason Skeels	Town Engineer, Amherst
Nick Dines	Town of Williamsburg	Christian Stanley	Owner, Valley Malt, Hadley
Wayne Feiden	Northampton Planning	Matt Smith	Superintendent, Chesterfield
Peter Frieri	MassDOT District 1	William Van Duzer	Engineer, Milone and MacBroom
Matt Gamelli	Utilities Engineer, Westfield	Marvin Ward	MassBike Easthampton
PVPC Staff			
Patrick Beaudry	Mgr. of Public Affairs	Khyati Parmar	Senior Transportation Planner
Amir Kouzehkanani	Principal Transportation Planner	Dana Roscoe	Principal Planner
Andy McCaul	Senior Transportation Planner	Gary Roux	Principal Planner
Jeff McCollough	Senior Transportation Planner	Louise Sullivan	Admin Support

1. Introductory Remarks

Jim Czach opened the JTC meeting at 10:21 a.m. and he 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 the February 20, 2019 meeting.

MOVED BY WAYNE FEIDEN OF THE CITY OF EASTHAMPTON, SECONDED BY JIM REIDY OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHAMPTON, TO APPROVE THE JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC) MEETING MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 20, 2019 MEETING. ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIES.

Mr. Czach then moved to take up agenda item 3.

3. 2020 Unified Planning Work Program - Development

PVPC Principal Planner Gary Roux called the JTC members' attention to the two-sided document entitled *Status of FFY2019 UPWP Products* which reflects the status of all the current *2020 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)* proposed tasks scheduled over the current fiscal year on page 1 and on the flip side, page 2, are the products that have been identified for federal fiscal year 2020 which will run from October 1st of this year until September 30, 2020. Mr. Roux reported that three projects are somewhat delayed but will be completed in the 2020 UPWP, namely, an analysis of snow removal on the turnpike, the Longmeadow Safety Study at Bliss and Williams Streets, and freight recommendations which will be instead included in the update to the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). Mr. Roux underscored that all the other UPWP projects are on schedule and a draft 2020 UPWP will be made available in April. Mr. Roux added that the draft 2020 UPWP will go out for a required 21-day public review period in April with potential endorsement at the MPO meeting to be scheduled in May.

Mr. Roux reminded the JTC members about the addendum to the *At Grade Shared Use Path Crossings Study* that was discussed at the last JTC meeting in February. Mr. Roux reported that the *At Grade Shared Use Path Crossings Study* has been included as a work item in the current UPWP. Mr. Roux indicated that another work item that's been included is a safety project that will combine the regional *Top 100 High Crash Intersections* report with an update of the *Pioneer Valley Safety Compass* because most communities do not have a crash location in the top 100. Mr. Roux stated, however, that this project may not be completed in one year but work on it can begin and be continued into next year. Mr. Roux asked the JTC members to notify him if they have something in mind that they would like to have included in the UPWP.

Mr. Czach thanked Mr. Roux and he moved on to agenda item #4.

4. 2020 - 2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – Scenario

PVPC Senior Planner Andrew McCaul called the JTC members' attention to the document entitled *2020 – 2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development Schedule*. Mr. McCaul pointed to the notation for today, March 13th, which indicates that the *JTC Reviews TIP Scenarios and Identifies a Preferred Slate of Projects*. Mr. McCaul explained that the PVPC staff would like to establish a preferred list of TIP projects today that are ready to be advertised this year, and at next month's JTC meeting, a final list of projects will be needed because MassDOT needs to align its state transportation improvement program and begin creating its Capital Investment Program (CIP). However, he noted that the preferred list of TIP projects won't be finalized until a final recommendation from the JTC members is made in April.

Mr. McCaul, referencing the four-page, single-side Zebra Sheet comprised of 4 scenarios, stated that Scenario 1 most resembles closely the list of TIP projects that was adopted in the FFY 2019 – 2023 TIP. Mr. McCaul indicated that for the 2019 element, there's a notation of a cost reduction option of \$500,000 for either the Westfield #607773 project or the Chicopee #608236 project. He explained that if the FFY 2020 target commitment can be reduced by \$500,000 considering these two projects and the Northampton #608236 project as well, this scenario can be selected; and as a result, 100% of the target money can be committed and no money will be lost.

Mr. McCaul explained that the Hadley #605032 project, which needs to be funded in 2021, has experienced a cost increase so it was level funded, but in 2022, the project's total cost is highlighted in yellow because some money has to be absorbed. That cost increase means that the commitment to the West Springfield #608374 project has to be reduced in 2022. Therefore, the total cost of the West Springfield #608374 project, which is funded over two years, is highlighted in 2023 because cost overruns have to be absorbed.

Mr. McCaul stated that in 2023, the Holyoke Exit 17 #606156 project has been removed because it has received statewide funding and as a result, \$6 million dollars in funds became available. As a result, the 2nd portion of the West Springfield #608374 project can be funded in 2023. In 2024, there are three projects highlighted in purple indicating that they are new projects: Springfield at the X, #608717; Northampton; #605048 and Wales, #608163. Mr. McCaul stated that he prefers Scenario 1 and Mr. Czach said that Scenario 1 most reflects the list of TIP projects that was adopted in the FFY 2019 – 2023 TIP.

Scenario 2

Mr. McCaul explained Scenario 2 by saying that the Westfield #607773 project at approximately \$8 million dollars is removed from Year 1 and put into Year 2. The Westfield #607773 project is replaced with the Northampton #607502 (*Intersection Improvements at King, North & Summer Streets and at King & Finn Streets*) project AND with the Springfield #608718 (*Intersection Improvements at Berkshire, Cottage & Harvey Streets*) project thus removing a little over \$8 million dollars from the TIP and adding \$5.5 million to the TIP which leaves just over \$2 million dollars available in Year 1 (2020).

Therefore, Mr. McCaul stated, in Year 2, 2021, additional money needs to be absorbed because the Westfield #607773 project is being moved into Year 2 resulting in \$6 million dollars coming out of Year 2 and putting \$8 in which causes a domino effect affecting the Hadley AC #605032 project. Now, Mr. Caul said, additional money is being pushed out of 2021 for the Hadley #605032 project and moved into 2022 for Hadley at \$13,932,231. He said it's the same effect as on West Springfield's #608374 project with it moving out of 2022 into 2023. Mr. McCaul added that the Granby #606895 project also has to be moved from 2022 into 2023 to keep 2022 within the budget. In 2023, under this option, there is room for the Worthington #609287 project because of the removal of the Holyoke project.

In Scenario 3, the Springfield #608782 (*Intersection Improvements at Cottage, Industry & Robbins*) project and the Northampton #607502 project move forward causing a surplus of \$1.5 million dollars. Then the Westfield project is moved into 2021 which forces the funding out for two AC projects and causes the Granby #606895 project to move from 2022 to 2023. Thus, in 2023, the Holyoke project is out; the Worthington #609287 stays and the Longmeadow #608881 project is forced to move out.

In Scenario 4, Mr. McCaul indicated that there is some flexibility for Springfield and Northampton. Scenario 4 moves just the two Springfield projects: Springfield #608782 (*Intersection Improvements at Cottage, Industry & Robbins*) project and the Springfield #608718 (*Intersection Improvements at Berkshire, Cottage & Harvey Streets*) project. Therefore, \$6 million dollars is brought in and \$8 million dollars is moved out which forces the Granby project to be moved out but the Longmeadow project stays and Worthington is moved. The Northampton #605048 is put into 2023 and the Springfield "X" #608717 is put into 2024 but the Wales project can't be moved in.

Mr. McCaul explained that the potential issue with Scenarios 2, 3 and 4 is that \$1.5 million dollars is being left available in Year 1 which could potentially go to other projects but which means that \$2 million dollars that is now being committed to other projects in the out years has to be absorbed.

Elizabeth Botelho then explained the Chicopee #604434 project and after a discussion of the Chicopee project, Mr. Roscoe remarked that there are two more weeks before the March MPO meeting when the MPO members will review a preferred list of TIP projects and in that time frame, there may be additional statewide funding available to assist the Chicopee project. Then Jeremy Cigal initiated a discussion about the Westfield project followed by Price Armstrong advocating for the PVTA because it's underfunded by \$1.2 million dollars in Governor Baker's budget.

Mr. McCaul explained that if there can be agreement on two potential scenarios, the MPO members can decide which scenario will be implemented. Mr. Czach asked if everyone agreed and Peg O'Neal replied that she would like the Worthington project to be included in either Scenario 2 or 3 and Andy Krar replied that Longmeadow prefers Scenario 1. Mr. Czach noted that Scenario 1 follows the existing TIP most closely but some communities are in favor of the other scenarios. Mr. Czach stated that the TIP is not being finalized today. Mr. Roscoe underscored that two scenarios will be presented to the MPO members on March 26th and the MPO will put a draft TIP out for the required 21-day public review period.

Dave Desrochers noted that it appears that everyone would like to recommend Scenario 1 and he suggested that a motion be made in favor of Scenario 1 providing that PVPC staff can implement it and if not, a second scenario be recommended. Mr. Czach agreed and called for a motion.

MOVED BY ANDREW KRAR OF THE TOWN OF LONGMEADOW, SECONDED BY JIM REIDY OF THE TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY, TO RECOMMEND TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) SCENARIO 1 IF FEASIBLE AND IF NOT, TO RECOMMEND A SECOND SCENARIO

Mr. Czach asked if there were any questions or further discussion needed regarding the subject motion. A short discussion ensued then Mr. Czach said he was comfortable with recommending Scenario 1 and he called for a vote.

ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIES. (19 hands up)

Mr. Feiden asked the motion to be amended to include Valley Bike in fiscal year 2024 as a component in Scenario 1.

MOVED BY WAYNE FEIDEN OF THE CITY OF NORTHAMPTON, SECONDED BY MARVIN WARD OF MASSBIKE EASTHAMPTON, TO APPROVE THE INCLUSION OF VALLEYBIKE SHARE IN FISCAL YEAR 2024 AS PART OF SCENARIO 1 AS RECOMMENDED. ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIES.

The JTC members then discussed having a motion to designate that Scenario 2 be the backup scenario for Scenario 1 if Scenario could not be implemented. Mr. Czach called for a motion.

MOVED BY MIKE MCMANUS OF THE CITY OF HOLYOKE, SECONDED BY DAVE DESROCHERS OF THE TOWN OF GRANBY, TO RECOMMEND TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) SCENARIO 2 AS A BACKUP SCENARIO IF 1 SCENARIO FAILS TO BE IMPLEMENTED

Mr. Czach asked if there were any questions or further discussion needed regarding the subject motion. A short discussion ensued after which Mr. Czach called for a vote.

SEVENTEEN IN FAVOR, TWO OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIES.

Another short discussion ensued and Price Armstrong made a motion combining \$1.2 million for BikeShare and \$400,000 for the PVTA then Price said it was \$500,000 and not \$400,000. Mr. Feiden seconded it. Mr. Czach stated that a recommendation has been made for Scenario #1 with the addition of Bikeshare assuming that additional money is found to make up for some of the over-ages and that Bikeshare would be included in 2024.

MOVED BY PRICE ARMSTRONG OF THE PIONEER VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY, SECONDED BY WAYNE FEIDEN OF THE CITY OF NORTHAMPTON, TO RECOMMEND TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) SCENARIO 2 AS RECOMMENDED TO PROVIDE A BACKUP SCENARIO IF SCENARIO 1 FAILS TO BE IMPLEMENTED WITH THE INCLUSION IN FISCAL YEAR 2024 OF VALLEY BIKESHARE FOR \$1.2 MILLION AND THE PIONEER VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY P-21 EXPRESS FOR \$500,000

There being no questions or comments, Mr. Czach then called for a vote on Scenario 2.

14 IN FAVOR, ONE OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIES

Mr. Czach thanked Mr. McCaul for his presentation and he moved on to agenda item #5

5. Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) - Update

Mr. Roux reported that the updated draft Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is on schedule for presentation to the Pioneer Valley Municipal Policy Organization (MPO) members at their June meeting with a request for their endorsement of the RTP planned for July. Mr. Roux stated that draft versions of Chapters 1: *Vision, Goals and Emphasis Areas* and Chapter 2: *The Transportation Planning Process* of the RTP have been distributed today and Chapter 5: *Regional Profile* will be distributed at the April JTC meeting. He indicated that transportation projects will be discussed at the May JTC and will need to be completed. Mr. Roux asked the JTC members to review Chapters 1 and 2 of the RTP and to send their written comments into him.

Mr. Czach thanked Mr. Roux for his presentation and he moved on to agenda item #6.

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

PVTA Manager Price Armstrong reported that Governor Charlie Baker's budget has been published and there is a \$1.2 million dollar cut in funding for the PVTA. Mr. Armstrong stated that the PVTA hopes that the state legislature will appropriate needed funding for the regional transit authorities so that there won't have to be service cuts. Mr. Armstrong indicated that because the PVTA plans to move its existing Springfield– based operations from 2840 Main Street to Cottage Street on April 1st, there is interest in the construction projects that will be starting soon in that area and possibly impacting PVTA operations and traffic flow. Mr. Armstrong announced that beginning in April, Paul Burns, PVTA Operations Director, will be representing the PVTA at JTC meetings. Mr. Armstrong asked if there were any questions for him and there being none, Mr. Czach moved on to the next agenda item.

7. Other Business

- Federal Certification Review — April 18th

PVPC Principal Planner Gary Roux reported that every four years, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) requires a Federal Certification Review. Mr. Roux explained that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in collaboration with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission will meet in this conference room on April 18th to conduct the Pioneer Valley Federal Certification Review. Mr. Roux stated that there will be a public participation opportunity after the April 25th MPO meeting. Mr. Roux added that next week the FHWA will be providing the PVPC staff with a list of questions that will need to be answered and he will continue to provide the JTC members with updates.

Senior Transportation Planner Jeff McCollough announced that there are flyers on the table with details on this year's 20th Annual PVPC Bike Week.

8. **Adjourn**

Mr. Czach asked if anyone had any other business and there being none, he called for a motion to adjourn.

MOVED BY MARVIN WARD OF MASSBIKE EASTHAMPTON, SECONDED BY JIM REIDY OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHAMPTON TO ADJOURN THE JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC) MEETING AT 11:40 A.M. ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIES.

Relevant Documents Distributed at this February 20, 2019 JTC Meeting:

- *Joint Transportation Committee March 13, 2019 Meeting Agenda*
- *Minutes of the February 20, 2019 Joint Transportation Committee Meeting*
- *Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development Schedule 2020 - 2024*
- *2020 – 2024 STP Project List – March 12, 2019*
- *Support Information – TIP Days*
- *Status of FFY2019 UPWP Products*
- *Scenarios 1, 2, 3 and 4*
- *2020 Update to the Regional Transportation Plan*
- *2020 Regional Transportation Plan for the Metropolitan Planning Organization*