

## Minutes of the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) Meeting

Wednesday, April 10, 2019  
 Pioneer Valley Planning Commission  
 60 Congress Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Large Conference Room  
 Springfield, Massachusetts 01104

**Present were:**

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Mike Bolduc	MassDOT District 2	Jeff Hoynoski	MassDOT District 2
Elizabeth Botelho	City of Chicopee	Betsy Johnson	Walk/Bike Springfield
Paul Burns-Johnson	PVTA Manager-Planning & Analysis	Van Kacoyannakis	Civil Engineer, VHB
Gary Briere	MassBike	Derek Krevat	Transportation Planner, MassDOT
Randy Brown	DPW Director, Southwick	Andy Krar	Town Engineer, Longmeadow
Dan Call	Westfield Columbia Rail Trail	Dmitriy Mayboroda	Sr. Project Engineer, McMahon Assoc.
Chris Cignoli	Springfield DPW Director	Mike McManus	Superintendent, Holyoke DPW
Mark Cressotti	City Engineer, Westfield	Dan Murphy	City of Easthampton
Kate Crochiere	Granville DPW	Peg O'Neal	Town of Worthington
Jim Czach	West Springfield DPW	Doug Roberts	Superintendent, Granville DPW
Nick Dines	Town of Williamsburg	Charley Rose	Selectboard - Worthington
Mike Dionne	Commission for the Blind (MCB)	Steve Savaria	Fuss & O'Neill
Wayne Feiden	Director of Planning, Northampton	Matthew Sokop	Engineer, Springfield
Peter Frieri	MassDOT District 1	Marvin Ward	MassBike Easthampton
<b>PVPC Staff</b>			
Patrick Beaudry	Manager of Public Affairs	Dana Roscoe	Principal Planner
Amir Kouzehkanani	Principal Transportation Planner	Gary Roux	Principal Planner
Andy McCaul	Senior Transportation Planner	Louise Sullivan	Admin Support
Jeff McCollough	Senior Transportation Planner		

**1. Introductory Remarks**

Jim Czach opened the JTC meeting at 10:18 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 March 13, 2019 meeting.

MOVED BY WAYNE FEIDEN OF THE CITY OF NORTHAMPTON, SECONDED BY MARK CRESSOTTI OF THE CITY OF WESTFIELD, TO APPROVE THE JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC) MEETING MINUTES OF THE MARCH 13, 2019 MEETING. ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIES.

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

**3. Composition of the JTC – Review and discussion of membership and voting eligibility on the JTC**

Calling the JTC members' attention to the distributed document entitled *Pioneer Valley Joint Transportation Committee Bylaws*, PVPC Principal Planner Gary Roux stated that the JTC is composed of one representative and one alternate from each of the 43 communities that comprise the Pioneer Valley Regional Planning district and each are voting members of the JTC. Then Mr. Roux directed the JTC members' attention to the fourth page entitled *Joint Transportation Committee (JTC)* in the handout, draft document entitled *Pioneer Valley Unified Planning Work Program: Fiscal Year 2020, October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020*. Mr. Roux explained that the *Joint Transportation Committee (JTC)* page 4 lists the names of the current JTC members who are representatives of local, regional and state governments, as well as private groups and individuals involved in providing transportation facilities, services and transportation planning. Mr. Roux asked the JTC members to review the list of names and notify him if there is someone whose name is missing from the list.

Mr. Roux reminded the JTC members that a recommendation was received two years ago as a result of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Authority (FTA) Certification Review stating that an assessment should be made to determine whether pedestrian and ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) community members should have voting representation on the JTC. Mr. Roux explained that last year a recommendation was approved by the JTC members to appoint a representative from the bike/ped community and the ADA community as non-voting members who would attend JTC meetings for a year and then their appointments would be reviewed. At the January 10, 2018 JTC meeting, a motion was approved to nominate Stavros as a representative of the ADA community so that if Ms. Jennifer Lee (who has attended a few JTC meetings in the past year) wasn't able to attend a JTC meeting, someone representing Stavros could attend in her place. An additional motion that day was approved to appoint Betsy Johnson and Dan Call as co-representatives of the pedestrian community to serve for one year in a non-voting capacity.

Mr. Roux stated that it is now appropriate to take vote today to recommend to the MPO someone to serve as a voting member of the JTC and someone to be the alternate. Mr. Czach called for a motion

MOVED BY WAYNE FEIDEN OF THE CITY OF NORTHAMPTON, SECONDED BY GARY BRIERE OF MASSBIKE, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE MPO APPOINT BETSY JOHNSON AS A VOTING MEMBER AND DAN CALL AS ALTERNATE VOTING MEMBER OF THE JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC) TO REPRESENT THE PEDESTRIAN COMMUNITY. ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIES.

Paul Burns-Johnson, PVTA Manager-Planning & Analysis, who was attending his first meeting of the JTC, explained the importance for Stavros to have a "seat at the table" as a full voting member. After a short discussion, Mr. Czach called for a motion.

MOVED BY PAUL BURNS-JOHNSON OF THE PIONEER VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY (PVTA), SECONDED BY MARK CRESSOTTI OF THE CITY OF WESTFIELD, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE MPO APPOINT A MEMBER AND AN ALTERNATE OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITY ACT (ADA) COMMUNITY AS VOTING MEMBERS OF THE JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC) WITH THE NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION AND THE INDIVIDUALS IDENTIFYING AS ADA AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES TO BE NAMED AT A LATER DATE.

Mr. Czach asked if there were any questions or comments and there being none, he called for a vote.

ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIES.

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

**4. Update 2020 Unified Planning Work Program – Development**

PVPC Principal Planner Gary Roux called the JTC members' attention once again to the draft document entitled *Pioneer Valley Unified Planning Work Program: Fiscal Year 2020, October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020*. Mr. Roux explained that the *Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)* describes all the anticipated transportation planning activities that will be carried out in the upcoming fiscal year. Mr. Roux noted that the UPWP is divided into four elements which he explained as follows:

- Work Element 1 consists of management tasks including the development of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Environmental Justice and Title VI planning.
- Work Element 2 involves data collection including GIS (Geographic Information System).
- Work Element 3 includes transportation planning consisting of ten tasks that support the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The ten tasks include an update of the Regional Top 100 High Crash Intersections and Pioneer Valley Safety Compass reports, an addendum to the *At Grade Shared Use Path Crossings Study*, the use of MassDOT's biking metrics, an update of congested corridor rankings, a detailed study of all of the off ramps and congestion on the interstate system and a southern service area fixed route onboard customer survey in cooperation with the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA).
- Work Element 4 consists of transportation planning activities that support the day to day operations of the regional transportation system.

Mr. Roscoe pointed out that on page 15 of the *Pioneer Valley Unified Planning Work Program: Fiscal Year 2020 (UPWP)* document, there is a *Funding Profile* of the UPWP and on page 48, there is an *Estimated Completion Schedule of Planning Activities*. Mr. Roscoe indicated that a full draft *2020 Pioneer Valley Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)* will be sent to the Office of Transportation Planning and to MassDOT. He added that a full draft version of the UPWP will also be presented at the MPO meeting scheduled for April 23rd, and the JTC will recommend that the UPWP be released for a 21-day public review with endorsement scheduled for the MPO May meeting. Mr. Czach then called for a motion.

MOVED BY MATTHEW SOKOP OF THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, SECONDED BY GARY BRIERE OF MASSBIKE, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE MPO APPROVE THE PROPOSED DRAFT *PIONEER VALLEY UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM: FISCAL YEAR 2020 (UPWP)* FOR A 21-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD

Mr. Czach asked if there were any questions or comments and there being none, he called for a vote.

ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIES.

Mr. Czach thanked Mr. Roux and he moved on to agenda item #5.

**5. 2020 - 2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) –**

As a review, Mr. Czach delivered a summary of the last MPO meeting saying that two scenarios were presented to the MPO members on March 26th. Because the first scenario was not financially constrained, Scenario 2 was selected. Mr. Czach reported that because of the MPO's direction, some of the TIP projects were adjusted financially, and he directed the JTC members' attention to the document entitled *Summary of Proposed Changes to the 2019-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) - April 2019*. Mr. Czach stated that the *Traffic Signal Upgrades at 15 Intersections along High and Maple Streets* project, #606450 in Holyoke was not on the TIP list at the last JTC meeting because it had been granted state funding. PVPC Senior Planner Andrew McCaul explained that the Holyoke #606450 project has always had a statewide commitment for just under \$5 million but it experienced a cost increase and the state could no longer fund it under the statewide funding program. Then the MPO moved the Holyoke project into 2022 to meet its deficit because there weren't adequate funds available for it to remain where it was programmed. At this point, MPO guidance directed that all new projects be removed from 2023 and 2024 leaving JTC staff to populate years 3 and 4 of the TIP at their next meeting. At this point, the Springfield "X" #608717 project, the Wales #608163 project and the Northampton Route 5 Resurfacing #605048 were taken out of the conversation.

Mr. McCaul reported that to compensate for the Holyoke project being placed into the 2022 TIP, the West Springfield #608374 project had its funding reduced and it became an Advanced Construction (AC) project to be funded in 2022 and 2023. Mr. McCaul reported that the MPO requested accurate cost updates for the TIP projects being discussed on March 26th. He indicated that since that date, JTC staff was told that there were several items in the "X" project that are considered non-participating costs that are not federal aid eligible and that shouldn't have been included in the cost of the project. Because this reduced the overall funding commitment for the "X" project, JTC staff worked with MassDOT and came up with a modified scenario in which the Wales #608163 project is back in 2023 and the "X" project is back in 2024. Mr. McCaul stated the result is that the TIP is now fiscally constrained with about \$340,000 under programmed in year 1; zero in year 2; zero in year 3; just under \$300,000 under programmed in year 4; and just under \$100,000 under programmed in year 5.

Mr. McCaul stated that the impacts which resulted in the MPO Scenario as reflected in today's distributed document entitled *MPO Scenario* are the Granby #606895, the Worthington #609287 and the Longmeadow #608881 project being bumped a year. These three projects are still on the TIP but because of fiscal constraint and the addition of the Holyoke #606450 project in year 3 and TIP project cost increases, these projects have had to be moved to the outer years. Mr. McCaul underscored that based this information, this MPO Scenario is feasible. Mr. McCaul added that the Northampton Route 5 #605048 TIP project wasn't feasible.

At this point, Andy Krar asked about the \$1.8 million dollar grant that was mentioned at the March 26 MPO meeting and Derek Krevat replied that because of guidance from federal highway it's MassDOT's discretion as to how the \$1.8 million will be spent.

Mr. McCaul called the JTC members attention to the document entitled *2020 Draft PVTA TIP* and he stated that the Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs) are still working with MassDOT to have the document finalized. He added that a motion to recommend that the MPO release this document for a 21-day public review period will be needed.

Mr. Czach then called for a vote.

MOVED BY WAYNE FEIDEN OF THE CITY OF NORTHAMPTON, SECONDED BY MATTHEW SOKOP OF THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE MPO APPROVE THE PROPOSED 2020 DRAFT PVTA TIP FOR A 21-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD

Mr. Czach asked if there were any questions or comments and there being none, he called for a vote.

ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIES.

Mr. Roscoe interjected in order to further discuss the Springfield “X” project because it was the TIP project that dominated the discussion at the March 26th MPO meeting. Mr. Roscoe explained that the issue with the “X” project was that its cost estimate was much greater than the cost for it shown here today. Mr. Roscoe explained that on March 26th, Mayor Domenic Sarno and Springfield DPW Director Chris Cignoli said they could grow the Springfield “X” TIP project to make it eligible for Advanced Construction (AC) at an estimated project cost of \$20 or \$25 million which would allow it to be programmed over two fiscal years. Instead, MassDOT reviewed the project’s estimate and removed its non-participating costs which shouldn’t have been included in the cost of the project. This reduced the Springfield “X” project’s cost to \$10 million. Mr. Roscoe indicated that the City of Springfield will be receiving a letter to inform them that the project’s cost has dropped from \$15 million to \$10 million.

Mr. Czach then moved on to agenda item #6

#### **6. Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) - Update**

Mr. Roux reported that distributed at today’s meeting are a one-page handout entitled *2020 RTP Chapter Status*, a draft version of Chapter 8: *Congestion*, and a one-page, two-sided mock-up of Chapter 5. Mr. Roux remarked that the goal is to whittle 500 pages down to 200 pages. Mr. Roux explained that he will be emailing a link to all the RTP chapters that have been completed so far along with an appendix to the JTC members. He noted that the document cannot be uploaded to the PVPC website until it’s released by the MPO. Mr. Roux stated that the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is on schedule with three chapters in draft form already released; another six chapters scheduled to be completed by the end of April; five chapters to be completed by the end of May; and another three chapters to be completed in June for a total of 17 chapters. Mr. Roux commented that the MPO members will be asked to release the draft RTP at their June 25th meeting for a 21-day public review period and endorsement will be requested at the July 23rd MPO meeting. He urged the JTC members to continue to submit their questions and/or comments. Mr. Czach thanked Mr. Roux for his presentation and he moved on to agenda item #7.

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

PVTA Paul Burns, PVTA Operations Director, reported that he has only been in his position for three days and will have more information to report at the next JTC meeting.

#### **8. Other Business**

- Federal Certification Review — April 18th

Mr. Roscoe reported that every three years, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) requires a Federal Certification Review which will occur next week. Mr. Roscoe called the JTC members attention to the document entitled *Summary of Proposed Changes to the 2019-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – April 2019*.

Mr. Roscoe reported that in the *Regionally Prioritized Projects* Section, there is a project description change for the Worthington #606912 project. Then there are two additional projects; the *Palmer-Ware Resurfacing of Route 32* and the *Longmeadow Rehabilitation of Ponds Road* that are being proposed to be included in the 2019 element of the TIP. Also, Mr. Roscoe reported that the cost of the *Westfield Columbia Greenway Rail Trail* (center section) #603782 has had a cost increase from \$6,532,895 to \$7,474,369. Mr. Roscoe underscored that these four changes will be proposed as amendments at the April 22rd MPO meeting and will go out for a required 21-day public review period and then endorsed at the May MPO meeting.

- Baystate Bike Week – May 11 to May 19

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

Mike Bolduc announced that a MaPIT training is scheduled for May 7th at 9 a.m. and he asked the JTC members to check the MassDOT website for details.

## 9. Adjourn

Mr. Czach asked if anyone had any other business and there being none, he called for a motion to adjourn at 11:30 a.m. (A motion to adjourn was not made.)

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

- *Joint Transportation Committee April 10, 2019 Meeting Agenda*
- *Minutes of the March 13, 2019 Joint Transportation Committee Meeting*
- *Summary of Proposed Changes to the 2019-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – April 2019*
- *Pioneer Valley Joint Transportation Committee Bylaws*
- *2020 – 2024 STP Project List – April 2019*
- *2020 Draft PVTA TIP*
- *Pioneer Valley Unified Planning Work Program Fiscal Year 2020 – October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020*
- *MPO Scenario*
- *2020 Update to the Regional Transportation Plan – Chapter 5: Regional Profile*
- *2020 Update to the Regional Transportation Plan – Chapter 8: Congestion*
- *2020 RTP Status*