

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

Wednesday, June 12, 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	Van Kacoyannakis	Civil Engineer, VHB
Elizabeth Botelho	City of Chicopee	Derek Krevat	Transportation Planner, MassDOT
Paul Burns-Johnson	PVTA Manager-Planning & Analysis	Andy Krar	Town Engineer, Longmeadow
Gary Briere	MassBike	Nick LaPoint	Fuss & O'Neill
Dan Call	Westfield Columbia Rail Trail	Mike McManus	Superintendent, Holyoke DPW
Mark Cressotti	City Engineer, Westfield	Dan Murphy	City of Easthampton
Jim Czach	West Springfield DPW	Jim Reidy	Superintendent, South Hadley DPW
Nick Dines	Town of Williamsburg	Doug Roberts	Superintendent, Granville DPW
Peter Frieri	MassDOT District 1	Ela Soja	Chicopee DPW
Nick Giordina	BL Companies	Marvin Ward	MassBike Easthampton
Jeff Hoynoski	MassDOT District 2		
Betsy Johnson	Walk/Bike Springfield		
PVPC Staff			
Constance Engler	Senior Transit Planner	Dana Roscoe	Principal Planner
Amir Kouzehkanani	Principal Transportation Planner	Gary Roux	Principal Planner
Peter Kuusisto	Transit Planner	Louise Sullivan	Admin Support
Andy McCaul	Senior Transportation Planner		
Jeff McCollough	Senior Transportation Planner		

**1. Introductory Remarks**

Jim Czach opened the JTC meeting at 10:24 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 May 8, 2019 meeting.

MOVED BY JIM REIDY OF THE TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY, SECONDED BY MARK CRESSOTTI OF THE CITY OF WESTFIELD, TO APPROVE THE JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC) MEETING MINUTES OF THE MAY 8, 2019 MEETING. ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIES.

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

### 3. Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) - Update

- Chapter Information

PVPC Principal Planner Gary Roux reported that all but two chapters of the Pioneer Valley Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) can be accessed at <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/owtprx5iemkn2n4/AADPvu6bjcV2ESapexCvlfI3a?dl=0>

Mr. Roux explained that by the end of the week the RTP Executive Summary will be completed and online maps will have been hyperlinked to transportation projects delineated in the RTP document. Mr. Roux announced that the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) is holding a series of three public information meetings to solicit comments for the 2020 update to the RTP. Representatives from the PVPC transportation section will be at each meeting to give a brief presentation on the RTP and to address questions and comments. All meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m. and will be held on the dates and locations listed below:

Date	Location	Address
June 25, 2019	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission 2nd Floor Large Conference Room	60 Congress Street, Springfield, MA
June 26, 2019	Northampton City Hall 2nd Floor Hearing Room	210 Main Street, Northampton, MA
June 27, 2019	Westfield City Hall - Room 201	59 Court Street, Westfield, MA

Mr. Roux asked the JTC members to share the above meeting dates and locations within their communities and to contact him if they would like to receive an electronic notice to post on their community websites.

- Problem Statements

Mr. Roux then called the JTC members' attention to the one-page document entitled *RTP Problem Statements*. Mr. Roux explained that a total of 10 problem statements were developed based on the comments received from the RTP focus groups. He stated that PVPC staff members added RTP Problem Statements 8, 9 and 10. Mr. Roux then asked the JTC members for their feedback or thoughts regarding the 10 problem statements.

JTC Member	Problem Statement	Comment or Question	Responses
Derek Krevat and Betsy Johnson	#2: Expanded regional passenger rail and transit service is integral to education, economic development and workforce development and #4 (see below for #4). Ms. Johnson commented that problem statements 8, 9 and 10 aren't stated as problems.	Some of the problem statements, especially #2 and #4 read more like statements and recommendations rather than problem statements. Derek suggested phrasing them as a problem or an action.	Mr. Roux replied that the real goal of these problem statements is to have people understand the RTP goals and strategies. He said he would consider Mr. Krevat and Ms. Johnson's comments.
Gary Briere	#4: Intermodal connections are necessary to support and enhance transportation options for downtown areas and village centers.	Within the next 5 years, the integration of various motorized transportation elements and their intermodal connections will be less about infrastructure and more about policy and how resources are shared.	Marvin Ward and Betsy Johnson responded and agreed that we need to be cognizant of intermodal connections.
Nick Dines, Marvin Ward and Dan Call	#7: The environment for bicycling and walking is hampered by barriers including narrow road and bridge crossings, unconnected off-road trail networks, lack of sidewalks, lack of uniformity in signs and maintenance.	Include the word "transit" after the word "walking" as follows: <i>bicycling, walking and transit is hampered by barriers</i> . Dan Call asked that the word "maintenance" be clarified.	Mr. Roux replied that the word "transit" will be included.  Mr. Roux stated that "maintenance" will be clarified in Chapter 15: <i>Financial Element</i> .

JTC Member	Problem Statement	Comment or Question	Responses
Betsy Johnson	#8: Regional transportation system needs to be prepared for safe and seamless integration of automated vehicles.	Does automated mean autonomous?	Mr. Roux replied that the wording could change to read technology innovations such as autonomous vehicles
Dan Call and Dan Murphy	#9: The regional transportation system must continue to evolve to meet the needs of both an aging population and young adults.	Dan Call suggested adding the word “safely” before the word “meet.” Dan Murphy suggested the word “children” be included with “population and young adults.”	Mr. Roux agreed to add both “safely” and “children.”
Mark Cressotti	#10: More consistency is required in regulating land use development in cities and towns.	Mr. Cressotti asked for further explanation of #10.	Mr. Roux reported that one of the RTP’s goals is to encourage walking and other modes of transportation. He added that more consideration needs to be given regarding the impacts that future land use might have on future modes of transportation and transit as well as on pedestrians.

• Draft RTP — Recommendation to MPO

Mr. Roux stated that the FFY 2020 RTP will be updated based on the JTC members comments and suggestions. Mr. Roux then asked the JTC members to make a recommendation that the MPO members approve the release of the draft FFY 2020 RTP for a required 21-day public comment period.

MOVED BY GARY BRIERE OF MASSBIKE, SECONDED BY BETSY JOHNSON OF WALK/BIKE SPRINGFIELD, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE MPO RELEASE THE FFY 2020 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN (RTP) FOR A REQUIRED 21-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT AND REVIEW PERIOD. ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIES.

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

**4. PVPC Traffic Count Program – 2019 MassDOT Locations**

PVPC Principal Transportation Planner Amir Kouzehkanani called the JTC members’ attention to the document entitled *2019 MassDOT Traffic Count Locations – PVPC Region*. Mr. Kouzehkanani stated that the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) has a very active traffic counting program. Mr. Kouzehkanani explained that each year the PVPC performs traffic count installations based on a list received from MassDOT. He indicated that today’s handout entitled *2019 MassDOT Traffic Count Locations – PVPC Region* lists 48 locations where MassDOT is requiring a traffic count to be performed. Mr. Kouzehkanani explained a location means an intersection and a four-way intersection requires a four traffic count installation. Other reasons for a traffic count to be performed, he said, is when a traffic count is required for an in-house transportation project; required for a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP); or requested by a community under District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA).

Mr. Kouzehkanani reported that each community is entitled to two traffic count installations per year at no cost but that doesn't mean if a community hasn't requested a traffic count for ten years that it can receive 20 free traffic counts. Mr. Kouzehkanani further reported that over the past few years, two new traffic counters have been added that are capable of counting bike lanes. He explained that the length of time for a traffic count installation is usually 48 hours in duration and the counts are averaged into one-day counts. Mr. Kouzehkanani indicated that typically the traffic counting season is from May through October. Mr. Kouzehkanani noted that of the 48 required count locations on the 2019 MassDOT list of locations, there is only one location listed that is in MassDOT District One. Mr. Roscoe underscored that if any of the JTC members are planning street cleaning on any of the routes that will be affected by the MassDOT required traffic count installations, they need to notify PVPC staff.

Mr. Kouzehkanani underscored that if there are any requests for the two free traffic counts, the JTC members need to submit them so that they can be scheduled depending on the community. He noted that traffic counts don't begin for Northampton, Amherst or Hadley until the fall because of the many colleges in those communities. He explained that there is a traffic count request form that needs to be filled out that can be found on [www.PVPC.org](http://www.PVPC.org). Mr. Kouzehkanani emphasized that every request for a traffic count needs to be accompanied by a traffic count request form signed by a chief elected official.

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

#### **5. Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Meeting – May 28, 2019**

PVPC Senior Planner Andrew McCaul explained that at the May 28th MPO meeting the MPO members accepted the JTC members' recommendation to endorse the proposed series of amendments to the Pioneer Valley Region's current FFY 2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and to also endorse the FFY 2020 draft TIP as amended based on revisions recommended by staff. Mr. McCaul reported that the draft FFY 2020 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) was endorsed as well as the Annual Certification of the 3C Transportation Planning Process for the Pioneer Valley region. In addition, Mr. McCaul reported that the MPO members endorsed an amendment to the Pioneer Valley JTC By-Laws in order to allow the granting of voting member status to both the Americans with Disability (ADA) representative and a pedestrian representative to the JTC.

Mr. McCaul explained that all the MassDOT District One and District Two TIP projects are on track, and if a JTC member's project hasn't been advertised yet, its status should be checked. Mr. McCaul added that a highlight of the May 28th meeting was an update on the status of the FFY 2020 Regional Transportation Plan (RTA) presented by Mr. Roux. Mr. Roux remarked that the FY 2020 RTA will be presented to the MPO members on June 25th.

Mr. Czach then moved on to agenda item #6

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

PVTA Paul Burns, PVTA Operations Director, reported that the FY 2020 PVTA budget is still under consideration but he doesn't anticipate any significant issues with funding this year unless the budget changes. Mr. Burns then announced two service increases. He reported that the B7 shuttle on June 26th will begin running on the State Street corridor and run to and from Union Station to the Raymond Jordan Senior Center every half hour. Also, five trips have been added to the B20 express service route.

## 7. Other Business

Ms. Johnson distributed the MassBike and Mass in Motion *Springfield Bike Summit: Connecting Bikes + Health*. Ms. Johnson stated that the target audience is anyone involved with transport implementation or planning at the municipal level. She reported that the Summit will feature experts in community organizing, engineering, equity, education, land use planning and public health. The *Springfield Bike Summit* will be held on June 27th, 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Central Library Community Room at 220 State Street in Springfield. Ms. Johnson asked the JTC members to spread the word about this to DPW officials and planners.

PVPC Transit Planner Peter Kuusisto asked the JTC members for their assistance with an employer survey focusing on worker access to the workplace using transit and/or transportation. Mr. Kuusisto stated that he will email a hyperlink to all the JTC members and said that the surveys must be completed by the end of next month.

## 9. Adjourn

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

MOVED BY GARY BRIERE OF MASSBIKE, SECONDED BY JIM REIDY OF THE TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY TO ADJOURN THE JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC) MEETING AT 11:10 A.M. ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIES

### Relevant Documents Distributed at this June 12, 2019 JTC Meeting:

- *Joint Transportation Committee June 12, 2019 Meeting Agenda*
- *Minutes of the May 8, 2019 Joint Transportation Committee Meeting*
- *2019 MassDOT Traffic Count Locations – PVPC Region*
- *RTP Problem Statements*
- *Meeting Notice: Regional Transportation Plan Public Meeting*
- *Pioneer Valley MPO Region ADA Transition Plan*