

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

Wednesday, January 9, 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
Randy Brown	Southwick DPW	Jeff Hoynoski	MassDOT District 2
Dan Call	Westfield Columbia Rail Trail	Betsy Johnson	Walk/Bike Springfield
Matt Chase	VHB	Andy Krar	Town Engineer, Longmeadow
Michelle Chase	Town Engineer, Agawam	Jennifer Lee	Stavros/PVRCC
Jeremy Cigal	City of Westfield	Nick LaPoint	Fuss & O'Neill Inc.
Mark Cressotti	City Engineer, Westfield	Christopher Parker	Wendell Webmaster
Jim Czach	West Springfield DPW	Bob Peirent	Engineer, Holyoke
David Desrosiers	Highway Superintendent, Granby	Jennifer Richard	MassDOT District 2
Nick Dines	Town of Williamsburg	Danny Rebelo	Sr. Proj. Engineer, Beta Group, Inc.
Wayne Feiden	Northampton Planning	Jim Reidy	South Hadley DPW
Michael Fisher	BL Companies	Doug Roberts	Superintendent, Granville DPW
Peter Frieri	MassDOT District 1	Jay Scott	Longmeadow Engineering
Paul Furgal	McMahon Associates	Matt Sokop	City of Springfield
Dick Grannells	Asst. to DPW Dir., Southwick	Matt Smith	Highway Superintendent, Chesterfield
Frank Haney	Longmeadow DPW	Marvin Ward	MassBike Easthampton
<b>PVPC Staff</b>			
Rana Al-Jammal	Senior Transportation Planner	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 October 10, 2018 meeting.

MOVED BY MARVIN WARD OF MASSBIKE EASTHAMPTON, SECONDED BY MARK CRESSOTTI OF THE CITY OF WESTFIELD, TO APPROVE THE JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC) MEETING MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 9, 2019 MEETING. ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIES.

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

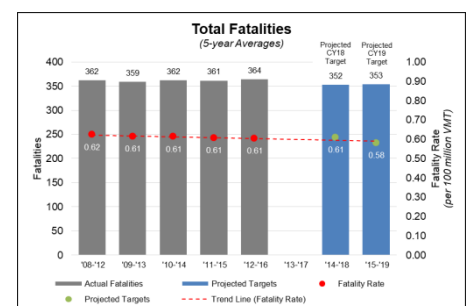
### 3. Safety Performance Measures – Update

PVPC Principal Planner Gary Roux stated that this time last year, there was a discussion at the JTC meeting regarding Safety Performance Measures and their significance for the MPO. Mr. Roux stated Safety Performance Measures and Targets are required under the *Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act* of 2012 (MAP-21 - Section 1203) and also under *Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act* (FAST) Act of 2015. Mr. Roux indicated that five annual safety targets are required by these federal acts in 2019:

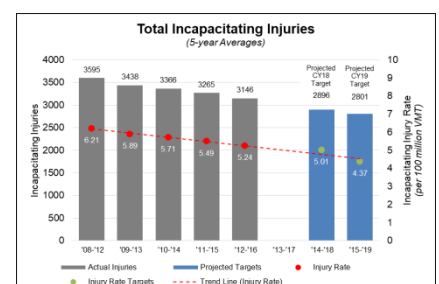
- Total number of fatalities
- Rate of fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled (VMT)
- Total number of serious or incapacitating injuries
- Rate of incapacitating injuries per 100 million VMT
- Total number of combined incapacitating injuries and fatalities for non-motorized modes

Mr. Roux stated that the Pioneer Valley MPO has 180 days after the state adopts their Safety Performance Measure targets to adopt its targets. He explained that there is a choice. The MPO can adopt the state targets which place the burden of reporting on the state or the MPO can adopt its own set of specific targets which place the burden of reporting on the Pioneer Valley JTC and MPO. Mr. Roux underscored that the decision was made to adopt the state's targets at this point in time but their targets have different deadline as to when a new set of targets needs to be adopted. Mr. Roux reported that federal Performance Measure 1 (PM1) Safety Measure targets were last adopted in February 2018; Pavement/Bridge Performance (PM2) targets were adopted in November 2018 and System; and System Performance Measure targets which are Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) Program-related were also adopted in November 2018.

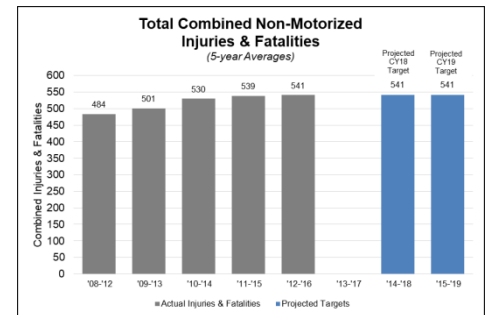
Pointing to a PowerPoint slide illustrating 5-year rolling averages showing ranges for *Total Fatalities* as set by MassDOT for Calendar Year 2019, Mr. Roux explained that the 5-year total of actual fatalities are for years 2008 – 2012, years 2009– 2013, years 2010– 2014, years 2011– 2015 and years 2012– 2016. Mr. Roux pointed out the trend line shown in red saying the total fatalities increased slightly from 361 during 2011- 2015 to 364 during 2012- 2016. He added that the projected 2019 target is 353 fatalities as compared to the 2018 target of 352 for a slight increase. Note PowerPoint slide shown here.



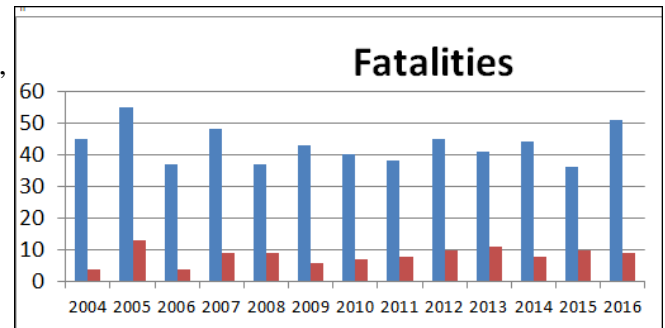
Mr. Roux reported a downward trend for total incapacitating injuries from 2008 to 2016 showing 3595 during 2008- 2012 as compared to 3146 incapacitating injuries for 2012- 2016. Similarly, the projected 2018 target for years 2014- 2018 of 2896 incapacitating injuries dropped to 2801 as a target for 2015- 2019.



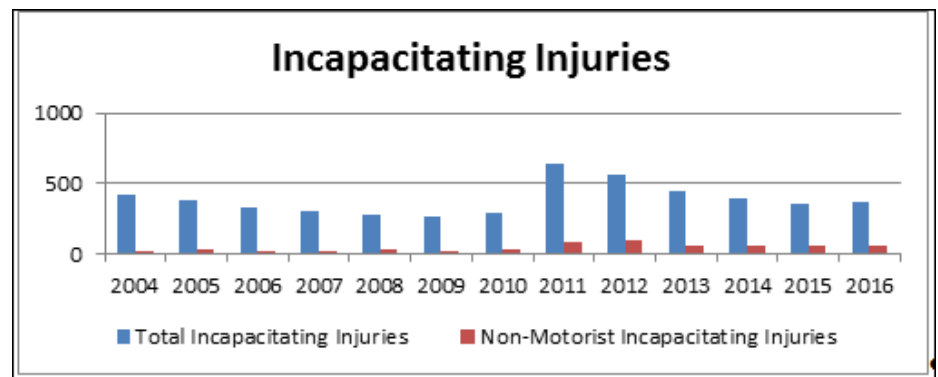
For the *Total Combined Non-Motorized Injuries & Fatalities*, Mr. Roux reported an opposite trend which shows the number of injuries and fatalities increasing in every 5-year band. However, the targets for 2018 and 2019 remain the same. Mr. Roux underscored that no one wants to see this increase in injuries and fatalities. He said everyone wants to see a decrease with the total not rising about 541 total injuries and fatalities so for the purpose of establishing a projected target for 2018 and 2019, 541 total injuries and fatalities is the projected target for both years.



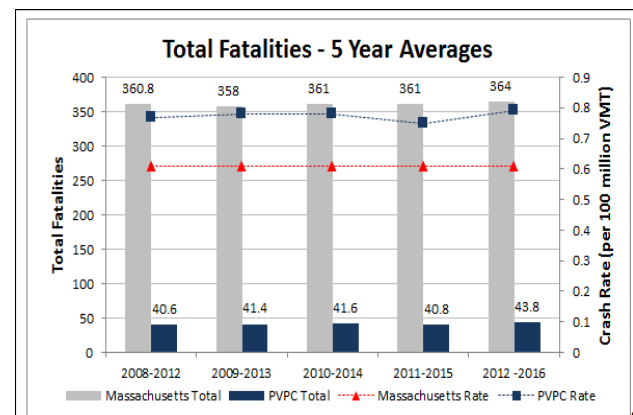
Mr. Roux then discussed Pioneer Valley historic crash data for All fatalities, non-motorist fatalities, total incapacitating injuries, and non-motorist incapacitating injuries. Mr. Roux stated that there was quite an increase in total fatalities in 2016 compared to 2015 but there was a slight decrease in non-motorist fatalities. (See bar graph where all fatalities that occurred in the Pioneer Valley are shown in blue and non-motorist fatalities are shown in red.)



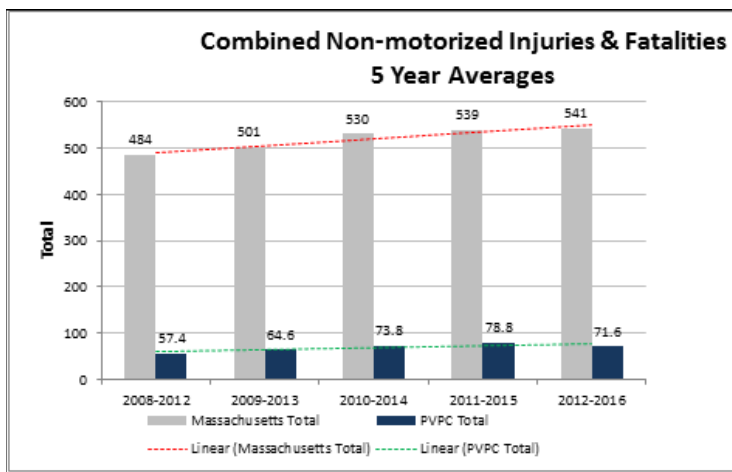
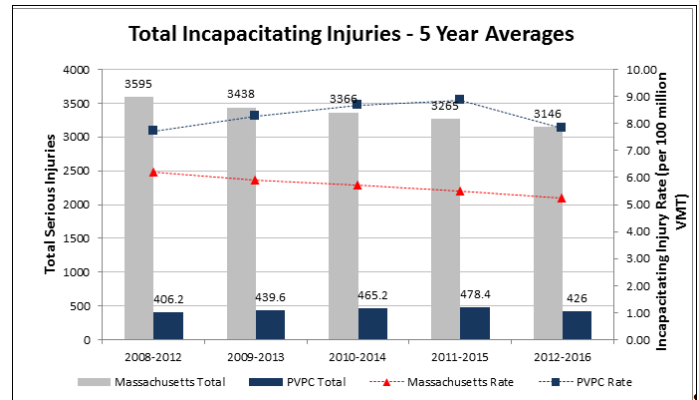
On the other hand, Mr. Roux reported that there was a huge spike in incapacitating injuries in excess of 600 in 2011. He attributed the large increase to the City of Springfield because at that time, Springfield crash data was added for the first time to the totals of fatalities. (Note the *Incapacitating Injuries* bar chart to the right where total incapacitating Pioneer Valley injuries are depicted in blue and non-motorist incapacitating injuries are shown in red.)



Mr. Roux then compared the total fatalities that occurred in Massachusetts with the number that occurred in the Pioneer Valley. Trend lines showing the crash rate per 100 million vehicle miles traveled (VMT) are in red for Massachusetts and in black for the Pioneer Valley. Mr. Roux reported the Pioneer Valley crash rate had a small increase in the five-year period of 2012-2016 as compared to the 2011-2015 time period. Note the chart illustrating *Total Fatalities – 5 Year Averages*.



A similar comparison between the Massachusetts total incapacitating injuries and the Massachusetts crash rate (shown in red) and the Pioneer Valley total incapacitating injuries and its crash rate (in blue) is shown on in the chart **Total Incapacitating Injuries – 5 Year Averages**. Mr. Roux reported that the incapacitating injuries show a slight drop in totals and in crash rate for both Massachusetts and the Pioneer Valley between 2011-2015 and 2012-2016.



However, Mr. Roux reported that for the **Combined Non-motorized Injuries and Fatalities 5 Year Averages** the Massachusetts totals statewide are showing a trend in the positive direction as shown on the left. Mr. Roux stated that the MPO will be asked to adopt new safety performance targets in 2019 and the state targets will be adopted.

Mr. Czach called for a motion from the JTC members to recommend that the MPO adopt the federal Performance Measure 1 (PM1) Safety Measure targets for 2019.

MOVED BY MARVIN WARD OF MASSBIKE EASTHAMPTON, SECONDED BY MARK CRESSOTTI OF THE CITY OF WESTFIELD, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE PIONEER VALLEY MPO MEMBERS ADOPT THE FEDERAL PERFORMANCE SAFETY MEASURE 1 (PM1) TARGETS IN 2019. ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIES.

Mr. Roux stated that the MPO members have until February 2019 to adopt the federal Performance Measure 1 (PM1) safety targets. He indicated that the motion will be brought to the MPO members at their January meeting.

Mr. Czach asked if there were any questions or additional comments. There being none, the motion was approved by the JTC members present.

ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIES.

Mr. Czach moved on to agenda item 4.

#### **4. 2020 Regional Transportation Plan Development - Update**

PVPC Principal Planner Gary Roux called the JTC members attention to the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) draft survey. Mr. Roux reported that the focus groups have been completed and we are pleased with useful information that was obtained from them. Mr. Roux added that the focus group meetings were well attended and he plans to present a draft vision, goals, needs, and strategies based on comments from the focus groups to the MPO members at the end of this month. The video featuring people responding to “what is the Regional Transportation Plan” has proven to be helpful. Mr. Roux underscored that this RTP survey has been designed to encourage conversation and the feedback of the JTC members on not only what should be included in the RTP but also the types of TIP projects to be undertaken would be greatly appreciated.

Mr. Roux paused in his presentation in order to distribute double-sided survey documents and he emphasized that this a proposed 7-question survey. He asked the JTC members what their reaction was to the first required question, namely: *What does the term “regional transportation” mean to you?* Marvin Ward, Betsy Johnson and Dan Call all made several suggestions regarding question #4: *What is the most important future transportation improvement project that should be included in the RTP?* and #6: *What is your preferred mode of transportation?* Mr. Roux stated that he will make revisions and send the survey out to the JTC members sometime next week and they will have 5 - 6 weeks to respond to it.

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

PVPC Senior Planner Andy McCaul called the JTC members’ attention to the spreadsheet document entitled *Draft 2020-2024 TIP Project List* and he asked the JTC Members if their projects are listed on the spreadsheet. Mr. McCaul stated that at this time, PVPC staff is not concerned about project cost or design reflected on the spreadsheet. Mr. McCaul indicated that if JTC members have a project that’s been through PRC, has a number and has been approved and the project is not on this list, they need to provide him with the necessary information so the project can be tracked. Mr. McCaul emphasized that if a project is scheduled for the next PRC meeting, it won’t be appear on this list at this time.

Mr. McCaul then called the JTC members’ attention to the document entitled *Proposed 2020 – 2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development Schedule* which is still in draft form. Mr. McCaul indicated that he will be emailing each municipality by the end of this week with current TEC forms for each municipality’s review. He added that the deadline for submittal of the TEC forms at this time is February 13th. Mr. McCaul stated that he will be mailing a letter to each municipality’s chief elected officials to ensure that they are aware that this process is occurring.

Mr. McCaul stated that a list similar to this *Proposed 2020 – 2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development Schedule* will be submitted to the MPO in two weeks. Mr. McCaul indicated that TIP days need to occur before the TIP subcommittee meeting. He said that MassDOT has blocked out 3 days to do all 15 RPA TIP days. The hope is to have the Pioneer Valley TIP day scheduled for Tuesday, February 12th so that the subcommittee can meet on Wednesday, February 13th rather than on February 20th as previously scheduled. Mr. McCaul underscored that the meeting on February 13th will provide needed information and a good idea of the project universe before the MPO meets on February 26th. Mr. McCaul reported that there will be CMAQ consultation and by the end of March, there will be scenarios for the MPO members to review. There will be fine

tuning in April and the JTC members will be asked to provide a recommendation for the draft TIP to the MPO in late April. In May, there will be a public hearing, a JTC meeting on May 8th and an MPO meeting will be held on May 28th.

Mr. McCaul explained that on TIP day, he puts out a sign-in sheet at 8:30 a.m., people sign up and then take their turn in the order of the sign-in sheet. Mr. McCaul said an on-line poll could be done in order to have five-minute blocks. He said that he could send the poll to everyone and then people could sign up for one or two blocks depending on how many TIP projects they have. People can come in for a half-hour rather than having to stay all morning. Mr. Roscoe interjected that if it's a new project it will take more time than an existing project.

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

**6. At Grade Shared Use Path Crossings - Update**

Mr. Roux explained that the *At Grade Shared Use Path Crossings Study* was emailed out to all the JTC members and was posted to the PVPC website. As a result, a great many comments were received and several have been incorporated in the study. Mr. Roux reported that adding an addendum to the study has been proposed as part of the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

Mr. Roux stated that comments on the *At Grade Shared Use Path Crossings Study* will be accepted until Friday, January 18th and after that, the document will be finalized.

Mr. Czach then moved onto the next agenda item.

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

PVPC Principal Planner Dana Roscoe stated that Price Armstrong was not able to attend today's meeting and that Administrator Sandra Sheehan asked him to address two issues that are related to the funding cuts that the PVTA has experienced during its last three funding cycles. First, Ms. Sheehan wants to make municipalities aware of the idea of providing advertising on bus shelters. Mr. Roscoe asked Wayne Feiden if there might be any restrictions or prohibitions against advertising on the shelters in Northampton. Mr. Feiden replied it depends on the district but in Northampton, sponsorship is recognized as different from advertising. For example, Florence Bank sponsored advertisements for Valley Bike. Mr. Roscoe stated that a lot of the small municipalities don't have bus shelters but the larger ones do. Mr. Roscoe added that Ms. Sheehan needs to determine the regulations for signs and advertisements in the various communities with bus shelters.

Mr. Roscoe stated that the other issues is that during the last PVTA funding cycle, a RTA Task Force was developed and it has been meeting. An outreach meeting with their group is scheduled for next Thursday, January 17th, from 4 – 6 p.m. at UMass and Ms. Sheehan is hoping that many people will come to the meeting to testify on behalf of public transportation.

## **8. Other Business**

Mr. Czach asked if anyone had any other business and Betsy Johnson replied that the draft MassDOT Bicycle Plan has been released and comments are due before January 30th. Ms. Johnson suggested that the JTC members view the plan online.

Bob Peirent announced that Pete Sutton of MassDOT will be attending the Holyoke Bike/Ped meeting on February 4th and he will provide an email from Price Armstrong regarding that meeting which can be circulated.

## **9. Adjourn**

Mr. Roscoe announced that the next MPO meeting is scheduled for January 22nd at 10:00 a.m. He reported that there is one action item regarding transit funding for Section 5310 that will be put out for the required 21-day public review period. He added that he's not aware of any amendments required on the highway side.

Mr. Czach asked if there was a motion to adjourn.

MOVED BY MARK CRESSOTTI OF THE CITY OF WESTFIELD, SECONDED BY JIM REIDY OF THE TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY TO ADJOURN THE JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC) MEETING AT 11:22 A.M. ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIES.

### **Relevant Documents Distributed at this January 9, 2019 JTC Meeting:**

- *Joint Transportation Committee January 9, 2019 Meeting Agenda*
- *Minutes of the November 14, 2018 Joint Transportation Committee Meeting*
- *Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Survey*
- *Proposed 2020 – 2024 Transportation Improvement Program*
- *2020 – 2024 TIP Project List*
- *MassDOT Task Force on RTA Performance and Funding Public Meeting Schedule*