

Minutes of the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) Meeting

Wednesday, February 20, 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 | Peter Frieri | MassDOT District 1 |
| Mike Bolduc | MassDOT District 2 | Nick Giardina | BL Companies |
| Elizabeth Botelho | City of Chicopee | Dick Grannells | Asst. to DPW Dir., Southwick |
| Gary Briere | MassBike | Andy Krar | Town Engineer, Longmeadow |
| Dan Call | Westfield Columbia Rail Trail | Guilford Mooring | Superintendent, Amherst DPW |
| Michelle Chase | Town Engineer, Agawam | Bob Peirent | Engineer, Holyoke |
| Mark Cressotti | City Engineer, Westfield | Danny Rebelo | Sr. Proj. Engineer, Beta Group, Inc. |
| Jim Czach | West Springfield DPW | Jay Scott | Longmeadow Engineering |
| Nick Dines | Town of Williamsburg | Matt Sokop | City of Springfield |
| Wayne Feiden | Northampton Planning | Marvin Ward | MassBike Easthampton |
| Michael Fisher | BL Companies | | |
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| PVPC Staff | | | |
| 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 | | |
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1. Introductory Remarks

Jim Czach opened the JTC meeting at 10:50 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 January 9, 2019 meeting.

MOVED BY MATTHEW SOKOP OF THE CITY OF WESTFIELD, SECONDED BY MARVIN WARD OF MASSBIKE EASTHAMPTON, 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. 2020 Unified Planning Work Program - Development

PVPC Principal Planner Gary Roux stated that at this time of year, PVPC staff begins to develop not only the *Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)* but also the draft *2020 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)*. Mr. Roux explained that the UPWP is the summary of all the proposed transportation tasks scheduled over the next fiscal year from October 1st of this year until September 30th of next year, 2020. Mr. Roux encouraged the JTC members to make suggestions for the UPWP and he underscored that PVPC staff members are always happy to meet with JTC members who have requests for a project to be included in the UPWP.

Mr. Roux reported that updating the *At Grade Shared Use Path Crossings* study is being planned and because there have been requests to include additional locations as part of the study, an addendum has been discussed. Mr. Roux stated, however, that at this time, it makes sense to also begin an update of the *Pioneer Valley Safety Compass* and the regional *Top 100 High Crash Intersections* reports. Mr. Roux explained that the regional *Top 100 High Crash Intersections* report identifies the intersections, roadway segments, and rotaries with the highest number of crashes. Mr. Roux added that based on feedback from transportation planning representatives from member communities, PVPC staff developed the concept of the *Safety Compass* which summarizes crash data trends for each of the 43 communities in the Pioneer Valley. He reported that there has been discussion about merging together the *Safety Compass* and the *Top 100 High Crash Intersections* report. Mr. Roux said if this were to be done, crash data through 2016 would be entered and he noted that in the regional *Top 100 High Crash Intersections* report, there was only data from 2011, 2012 and 2013; however, 2014 crash data appeared in the *2014 Safety Compass*. Mr. Roux then asked the JTC members if they thought merging the two studies was feasible for the upcoming fiscal year and if so, how would they suggest the crash data be formatted to be more useful.

Mr. Roux stated that the draft *2020 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)* will go out for a 21-day public review period in April and a recommendation will be made that it be endorsed in May. Mr. Roux asked the JTC members to send their thoughts and comments to him regarding the UPWP as well as their comments regarding the *Safety Compass* and the *Top 100 High Crash Intersections* reports..

4. 2020 - 2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – Updated Project Listing

PVPC Senior Planner Andrew McCaul called the JTC members attention to the document entitled *2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development Schedule*. Mr. McCaul indicated that the JTC members are on schedule with a discussion to begin today of the draft *2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program's Transportation Evaluation Criteria (TEC)* rankings. Mr. McCaul stated that based on recent information received from the state, there is a change in language for March 13th in the *2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development Schedule* document. Mr. McCaul explained that on March 13th, more than one scenario will need to be discussed for funding the TIP. He further explained that because MassDOT needs to begin creating their Capital Investment Program (CIP), it is calling for a preferred list of TIP projects to be prepared on March 13th. Then on March 26th, the Pioneer Valley MPO members will review a preferred list of TIP projects but this list won't be finalized until a final recommendation from the JTC members is made in April.

Mr. McCaul then called the JTC members' attention to the first page of the "zebra sheet" document entitled *2020-2024 STP Project List – February 15, 2019*. Mr. McCaul indicated that a correction is needed on page 1 to the Holyoke #606450, *Traffic Signal Upgrades at 15 Intersections along High and Maple Streets* project. He stated that

the *Transportation Evaluation Criteria (TEC)* score is listed as 45.5 and it should be 63.0. Mr. McCaul stated that the second to last project listed on page 3: the *Resurfacing and Related Work on Cabot Street and Race Street (Center City Connector)*, Project #609065 in Holyoke has no TEC score but it has been scored 53.5. Mr. McCaul then held up the document entitled *Support Information – TIP Days* and he stated that the projects listed are currently programmed in the TIP and the information has been updated based on last week's TIP Day. He added that the *Funds* column is not accurate because several costs have been recently updated.

Next, Mr. McCaul pointed to the document entitled *Draft 2020-2024 Target Projects* saying this is not a list of recommended TIP projects; the list is based on information in the current TIP and costs have been updated. Mr. McCaul indicated that Year One, 2020, funded at \$26,190,492 is over programmed by approximately \$400,000 and Year Two, 2021, is also over programmed. Mr. McCaul reported that the *Improvements and Related Work on Union Street (Route 141) from Payson Avenue to High Street*, Project #608577, in Easthampton has been discussed and officials concurred that the project would be a better fit for 2022. Mr. McCaul further reported that the *Reconstruction on Route 9, from Middle Street to Maple and South Street*, Project # 605032, in Hadley has been proposed for funding over two years, and the two Springfield projects in 2021: *Intersection Improvements at Berkshire Avenue, Cottage and Harvey Streets*, Project #608718 and *Intersection Improvements at Cottage Street, Industry Avenue and Robbins Road*, Project #608782 are at the 25% design phase and waiting for their public hearings. Mr. McCaul then briefly reviewed the TIP projects in 2022, 2023 and 2024. A rather lengthy discussion among the JTC members then ensued. Mr. McCaul noted that a solution to the over programming and TIP project scheduling is not needed today. Mr. McCaul underscored that there will be an opportunity for more discussion and input at the March JTC meeting and he added that the preferred TIP project list will be presented to the MPO members first before the final project list is presented. Mr. Czach emphasized that the next JTC meeting will be important and scenarios will be reviewed.

5. At Grade Shared Use Path Crossings - Final

Mr. Roux began by thanking all the JTC members for their comments on the *At Grade Shared Use Path Crossings Study*. He noted that based on the comments received, the *At Grade Shared Use Path Crossings Study* was updated and finalized, and there is a copy on the www.pvpc.org website. Mr. Roux reported that several comments indicated that there were side paths and locations that were not included in the study. He explained that these locations and side paths will appear in the addendum and through consultation, a few locations that need to be examined in depth will be identified.

Mr. Czach thanked Mr. McCaul 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 it's somewhat disconcerting; however, there is hope for the Regional Transit Authority (RTA) Task Force. Mr. Armstrong indicated that there was an RTA Task Force meeting scheduled to be held in Amherst that was cancelled and the Task Force had a February 15th deadline (today is February 20th). Mr. Armstrong stated that he has not been attending the Task Force meetings but Administrator Sandra Sheehan has kept him informed. Mr. Armstrong noted that when the Task Force completes its work, the hope is that the result will be a funding level that keeps up with inflation costs.

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Mr. Armstrong reported that the PVTA plans to move its existing Springfield– based operations from 2840 Main Street to Cottage Street on April 1st. Mr. Armstrong stated that there will be some adjustments to the G2 and the G2 Express service which will enable riders to have an express trip to Industrial Street where there are many social services available. Mr. Armstrong noted that the Loop currently runs a 60 minute service and that will change to a 40 minute service. He added that the PVTA is collaborating with MassDOT on the Route 9 TIP project in Amherst which will be chaotic but will result in better transit service.

Mr. Czach then moved on to the final agenda item.

7. Other Business

Senior Transportation Planner Jeff McCollough urged the JTC members to take a PVPC calendar entitled *Catalyst for Regional Progress: 2019 Calendar & Major Accomplishments* as they leave the conference room after today's meeting.

8. Adjourn

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

MOVED BY BOB PEIRENT OF THE CITY OF HOLYOKE, SECONDED BY DICK GRANNELLS OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWICK TO ADJOURN THE JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC) MEETING AT 11:50 A.M. ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIES.

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

- *Joint Transportation Committee February 20, 2019 Meeting Agenda*
- *Minutes of the January 9, 2019 Joint Transportation Committee Meeting*
- *Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development Schedule*
- *Draft 2020 – 2024 Target Projects*
- *2020 – 2024 STP Project List – February 15, 2019*
- *Support Information – TIP Days*