

Minutes of the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) Meeting

Wednesday, March 11, 2020

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

60 Congress Street, 2nd Floor Large Conference Room

Springfield, Massachusetts 01104

Present were:

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Mike Bolduc	MassDOT District 2	Van Kacoyannakis	Civil Engineer, VHB
Randy Brown	DPW Director, Southwick	Andy Krar	Town Engineer, Longmeadow
Paul Burns-Johnson	PVTA Mgr.-Planning & Analysis	Peter Landon	Landon Bone Baker Architects
Dan Call	Westfield Columbia Rail Trail	Mike McManus	Superintendent, Holyoke DPW
Matt Chase	VHB	Peg O'Neal	Town of Worthington
Tom Christensen	DPW Deputy Super., E. Longmeadow	Doug Roberts	DPW Superintendent, Granville
Jeremy Cigal	Civil Engineer, City of Westfield	Carmen Rosado	Stavros
Jim Czach	West Springfield DPW	Grey Russell	Vanasse Hangen Brustlin (VHB) Mgr.
Nick Dines	Town of Williamsburg	Steve Savaria	Fuss & O'Neill
David Desrosiers	Highway Superintendent, Granby	Jason Skeels	Town Engineer, Amherst
Douglas Ellis	City Engineer, Chicopee	Matt Smith	Highway Superintendent, Chesterfield
Peter Frieri	MassDOT District 1	Michael Suprenant	DPW Director, Ludlow
Wayne Feiden	Northampton Planning Director	Marvin Ward	MassBike Easthampton
Betsy Johnson	Walk/Bike Springfield		
PVPC Staff			
Rana Al-Jammal	Senior Transportation Planner	Dana Roscoe	Principal Planner
Patrick Beaudry	Manager of Public Affairs	Gary Roux	Principal Planner
Amir Kouzehkanani	Principal Transportation Planner	Louise Sullivan	Admin Support
Andy McCaul	Senior Transportation Planner		

1. Introductory Remarks

Jim Czach opened the JTC meeting at 10:15a.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 19, 2020 meeting.

MOVED BY DAVID DESROSIERS OF THE TOWN OF GRANBY, SECONDED BY MARVIN WARD OF MASSBIKE EASTHAMPTON TO APPROVE THE JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC) MEETING MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 19, 2020 MEETING AS AMENDED. ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIES.

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

3. Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Development

PVPC Principal Planner Gary Roux stated that two Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) documents have been distributed at today's meeting: the *FFY 2021 Unified Planning Work Program Draft Funding Profile* and the *Draft Estimated Completion Schedule of Planning Activities – FFY 2021 UPWP*. Mr. Roux explained that the *FFY 2021 Unified Planning Work Program Draft Funding Profile* reflects the estimate of funding sources available going into the work based on guidance received from MassDOT. Mr. Roux further explained that the *Draft Estimated Completion Schedule of Planning Activities – FFY 2021 UPWP* has the same schedule as the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). He indicated that the plan is to have a draft *FFY 2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)* ready to present at the April JTC meeting. Then after JTC approval, the draft *FFY 2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)* will go before the MPO members for review at the April MPO meeting. He added that the *FFY 2021 Unified Planning Work Program* will be scheduled for endorsement at the May MPO meeting.

Mr. Roux stated that significant guidance was received for the FFY 2021 UPWP from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) which will be incorporated in the FFY 2021 Draft UPWP. Mr. Roux underscored that if the JTC members are interested in proposing a project to be included in the UPWP, they need a letter from their chief elected official and there will be further discussion of the UPWP at the April JTC meeting.

Mr. Czach thanked Mr. Roux for his update and he moved on to agenda item 4.

4. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – TIP 2020 Project Status and 2021 – 2025 Development Schedule

- 2020 Project Status
- 2021-2025 Development

PVPC Senior Transportation Planner Andy McCall called the JTC members attention to page 1 of the handout document entitled *2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – Project Status March 2020*. Mr. McCall explained that this document reflects the total cost of the 2020 TIP projects along with the amount of federal and state funding. He emphasized that the costs have been updated and are different from last month's costs. Mr. McCall underscored that last month the TIP was over programmed by \$2 ½ million and now it is over programmed by \$5.569425 million. He explained that most of the TIP projects have incurred small cost increases, and he pointed out the last column of the document entitled *Difference* which illustrates the amount of cost increase typed in red.

Mr. McCall indicated that page 2 of the *2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – Project Status March 2020* document illustrates the proposed amendment to the 2020 TIP. He explained that because the state has identified \$4.6 million in Springfield Urbanized Area Highway Infrastructure Program funds, it is absorbing the cost of the entire Springfield *Intersection Improvements at Berkshire Avenue, Cottage and Harvey Streets* (608718) project and the Northampton *Reconstruction of Damon Road* (608236) project. As a result, Mr. McCall reported that instead of being over programmed by \$5.6 million, the 2020 TIP is now over programmed by just under one million which is still a problem needing a solution. He reported that there have been discussions with MassDOT District 2 and Derek Krevat and Bryan Pounds of the Massachusetts Office of Transportation

Planning regarding the status of the regional bike projects, PV0001 and PV0002 but that funding is already committed and can't be adjusted at this time. Mr. McCall asked if there is any funding available or a source of funding available to eliminate the over programming and he asked for questions unless Mr. Roscoe or Mike Bolduc of MassDOT District 2 have comments.

Mr. Roscoe stated that the two projects having the largest dollar amounts are the Northampton *Reconstruction of Damon Road* (608236) project and the Chicopee *Reconstruction & Related Work on Fuller Road, from Memorial Drive to Shawinigan Drive* (604434) Project. Mr. Roscoe discussed the potential for lowering the costs of the Springfield (608718) intersection project and the Chicopee Fuller Road with MassDOT officials this morning. He reported that there was discussion of advertising dates and the possibility of the cost of asphalt going down as the price of oil drops. Mr. Roscoe added that MassDOT officials mentioned community participation particularly regarding the Chicopee Fuller Road project. Mr. Bolduc commented that the Chicopee project is at 100% but because of its cost increase, it is still under review.

Mr. Krevat then spoke via speaker phone and Mr. Roscoe restated what was said for clarity. Mr. Roscoe stated that the Northampton Intersection Improvement's at King Street, North Street & Summer Street, King Street & Finn Street (607502) project cost is \$200,000 less than previously programmed. MassDOT has additional HIP funding that will be applied to the Northampton Damon Road (608236) project; these cost changes will result in a FFY 20 deficit of about \$600,000. Mr. Roscoe underscored that the \$600,000 deficit needs to be resolved by the March 24th MPO meeting because the MPO members need to release the 2020 TIP in March for a required 21-day public review. Mr. Roscoe recommended that MassDOT's Office of Transportation Planning (OTP) work with the City of Chicopee and the City of Northampton to either reduce the scope of their projects or find income to balance the \$600,000. Mr. Roscoe further recommended that that the JTC members recommend a cost reduction of these two projects rather than recommend that they be moved to FY 2021.

MOVED BY WAYNE FEIDEN OF THE CITY OF NORTHAMPTON, SECONDED BY MARVIN WARD OF MASSBIKE EASTHAMPTON TO RECOMMEND TWO PROPOSED AMENDMENTS: THE JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC) MEMBERS RECOMMEND A COST REDUCTION OF THE NORTHAMPTON INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT KING STREET, NORTH STREET & SUMMER STREET, KING STREET & FINN STREET (607502) PROJECT AND ALSO RECOMMEND A COST REDUCTION OF THE CHICOPEE RECONSTRUCTION & RELATED WORK ON FULLER ROAD, FROM MEMORIAL DRIVE TO SHAWINIGAN DRIVE (604434) PROJECT FOR A TOTAL OF \$600,000 BEFORE THE MARCH 24TH MPO MEETING.

ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIES.

Mr. McCall stated that the document entitled *2021 – 2025 Draft Working List for TIP Development – March 2020* reflects the out years of the current FFY 2021 – 2025 updated costs. Mr. McCall explained that this document illustrates that the TIP is over programmed by the following amounts:

- \$2.7 million in Year One
- \$600,000 in Year Two
- \$3.4 million in Year Three
- almost \$2 million in Year Four.

Mr. McCall noted that the focus should be on Year One illustrated below because it is the most important year.

Municipality	SID	Project Description	Amount Over Programmed
Westfield	607773	WESTFIELD- IMPROVEMENTS & RELATED WORK ON ROUTE 20	\$8.6 million
Springfield	608782	SPRINGFIELD-INTERSECTIONIMPROVEMENTSAT COTTAGE STREET,ROBBINSROADANDINDUSTRY AVE.	Just over \$3million
Amherst	608084	AMHERST-IMPROVEMENTS&RELATEDWORKONROUTES9&116	Just over \$6million
Hadley	605032	HADLEY- RECONSTRUCTIONONROUTE9,FROMMIDDLESTREETTOMAPLE/SOUTHMAPLE STREET – PHASE 1	\$11million

Mr. Roscoe advised the JTC members to share every idea or options regarding the TIP projects then allow the districts a month to develop a plan. A short discussion ensued about the four Year One projects listed above.

Mr. Roscoe stated that PVPC staff members will develop at least one scenario, maybe more than one, regarding programming the funds over the five years. He indicated that Mr. McCall will make note of the information shared at today’s meeting and reach out to the districts and TIP project proponents. Mr. Roscoe underscored that the JTC members must recommend a draft TIP at the April MPO meeting because the MPO members need to send out a draft TIP for the required 21-day public review. Therefore, Mr. Roscoe emphasized that because TIP scenarios need to be completed before the next JTC meeting, JTC members need to communicate their ideas before then. Mr. Czach underscored that those JTC members that want their project on the TIP need to attend the April JTC meeting.

Mr. Czach then moved to take up agenda item 5.

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

Paul Burns, PVTA Manager of Transit Planning and Analysis, asked that the Pioneer Valley JTC members continue to support CMAQ funding for the P20E I-91 Express route that runs from Union Station to the Holyoke Mall. He stated that the express route will be converted to an electric bus route that will include a stop in Springfield and also at the Amazon facility which will increase ridership. Mr. Burns reported that the PVTA is working with the Quaboag Connector to reconfigure the service in the Palmer – Ware area and add dedicated connections to Springfield and other communities. Mr. Burns further reported that the PVTA is adopting a new procedure to disinfect its buses on a daily basis and it is responding as the environment changes.

6. Other Business

PVPC Principal Planner Gary Roux announced that last month, he emailed Chapters 4 - 6 of the draft Pioneer Valley Regional Freight Plan to individual freight providers and the JTC members but he hasn’t received any comments. Mr. Roux encouraged the JTC members to submit any comments they may have to him by the end of this month.

There being no other business to conduct, Mr. Czach called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

10. Adjourn

MOVED BY MARVIN WARD OF MASSBIKE EASTHAMPTON, SECONDED BY NICK DINES OF THE TOWN OF WILBRAHAM, TO ADJOURN THE JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC) MEETING AT 11:15 A.M. ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIES.

Relevant Documents Distributed at this March 11, 2020 JTC Meeting:

- *Joint Transportation Committee March 11, 2020 Meeting Agenda*
- *Minutes of the February 19, 2020 Joint Transportation Committee Meeting*
- *2021 – 2025 Draft Working List for TIP Development – March 2020*
- *2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – Project Status March 2020*
- *2021 – 2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development Schedule*
- *FFY 2021 Unified Planning Work Program Draft Funding Profile*
- *Readiness Day Briefing for MPO Projects – Pioneer Valley MPO – February 12, 2020 – Derek Krevat*
- *Draft Estimated Completion Schedule of Planning Activities – FFY 2021 UPWP*