

Minutes of the Virtual Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) Meeting

Wednesday, April 9, 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, Springfield
Mark Cressotti	City Engineer, Westfield	Dan McCormick	Beta Group
Jim Czach	West Springfield DPW	Mike McManus	Superintendent, Holyoke DPW
Nick Dines	Town of Williamsburg	Dan Murphy	City Engineer, Easthampton
Peter Frieri	MassDOT District 1	Peg O'Neal	Town of Worthington
Wayne Feiden	Northampton Planning Director	Charlie Rose	Selectman, Town of Worthington
Betsy Johnson	Walk/Bike Springfield	Jason Skeels	Town Engineer, Amherst
Derek Kravat	Transportation Planner, MassDOT	Marvin Ward	MassBike Easthampton
PVPC Staff			
Amir Kouzehkanani	Principal Transportation Planner	Dana Roscoe	Principal Planner
Andy McCaul	Senior Transportation Planner	Gary Roux	Principal Planner
Jeff McCollough	Senior Transportation Planner	Louise Sullivan	Admin Support

1. Introductory Remarks

Jim Czach opened the JTC Zoom meeting at 10:20a.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 11, 2020 meeting.

MOVED BY WAYNE FEIDEN OF THE CITY OF NORTHAMPTON, SECONDED BY MARK CRESSOTTI OF CITY OF WESTFIELD TO APPROVE THE JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC) MEETING MINUTES OF THE MARCH 11, 2020 MEETING. 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 explained that the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) summarizes the planning tasks to be undertaken beginning October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021 and it follows the same development schedule as the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Mr. Roux stated that the UPWP is a required program which is based on guidance received from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT). He indicated that the JTC members will be asked at

today's meeting to recommend that the MPO representatives endorse the draft FFY 2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) at their April 28th MPO meeting.

Mr. Roux stated that included in the FFY 2021 UPWP is a study of Main and Park Streets in the Town of Belchertown and Betsy Johnson commented that the Belchertown study is a result of an extensive walk-audit program that WalkBoston completed with Mass In Motion focused on safety improvements for pedestrians in communities similar to Belchertown. Mr. Roux further stated that among the many important tasks of the FFY 2021 UPWP will be finalization of the Regional Safety Compass; a safety study of Route 20 in West Springfield; user surveys centering on the Westfield Columbia River Greenway Trail and the Southwick Rail Trail and a user survey of the northern tier PVTA routes but that survey will be delayed until students are back at UMass Amherst.

Mr. Czach asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the FFY 2021 UPWP and there being none, he asked for a motion for release of the draft FFY 2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for a 21-day public review period at the April 28th MPO meeting and a recommendation for endorsement of the UPWP by the MPO representatives at their May MPO meeting.

MOVED BY MARVIN WARD OF THE MASSBIKE EASTHAMPTON, SECONDED BY WAYNE FEIDEN OF THE CITY OF NORTHAMPTON TO RECOMMEND THAT THE MPO REPRESENTATIVES RELEASE THE DRAFT FFY 2021 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) FOR A 21-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD AT THEIR APRIL 28TH MEETING AND TO ALSO RECOMMEND ENDORSEMENT OF THE UPWP AT THE MAY MPO MEETING

ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIES.

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

4. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP): – Review FFY 2020 Amendment Schedule

- FFY 2020 TIP Currently out for Public Review
- As part of the public participation process, PVPC will be accepting public comments on the TIP amendments

PVPC Senior Transportation Planner Andy McCaul explained that at the last JTC meeting in March, it was reported that several TIP projects had increased in cost. In Year One, the Northampton Damon Road (608236) Project increased in total project cost from \$10,043,653 to \$11,274,259; however, MassDOT funded the \$1,230,606 increase with Highway Infrastructure Program (HIP) funds. Also, the Springfield Intersections Project (608718) had a total project increase from \$2,280,751 to \$3,154,158 that was funded in its entirety with HIP funds. Mr. McCaul reported that to date, one public comment has been received from MassDOT District 2 stating that one of the Chicopee Electric Department line items was incorrect and needs to be increased upward by \$900,000 dollars causing over programming by \$800,000 in 2020. The recommendation given by District 2 is that the City of Chicopee lower the Chicopee Fuller Road (604434) Project cost by \$800,000. Mr. McCaul underscored that PVPC staff will work with the City of Chicopee to ensure a resolution before the April 28th MPO meeting.

Mr. Czach thanked Mr. McCaul for his review and he moved on to agenda item 5.

5. Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP): JTC will review the list of projects presented to the MPO at the March meeting. JTC will review list and make a recommendation for the Draft 2021-2025 TIP to the MPO for their review and release for the 21 day public review

PVPC Senior Transportation Planner Andy McCaul reported that at the last JTC meeting there was a review and discussion of the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) which included MassDOT's request that a preferred list of TIP projects be identified based on MPO comments and project updates. Mr. McCaul noted that the MassDOT Review Committee (PRC) will meet on April 16th for discussion of the draft 2021-2025 TIP and on April 28th, the MPO will review the JTC recommended draft FFY 2021-2025 TIP and then release the TIP for a 21-day public review period. He added that at the next JTC meeting on May 13th, the JTC will review comments made on the draft TIP currently out for public review, and on May 26th, the MPO will review TIP comments received during the public review period before its final TIP endorsement.

Referring to the *2021-2025 Draft Working List for TIP Development*, Mr. McCaul pointed out that the FFY 2021-2025 TIP is over programmed in 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024. Mr. McCaul reported that the JTC members in March felt that the *Hadley Reconstruction on Route 9 (605032)* Project could be moved from 2021 to 2022 which necessitated a reduction in the cost of the *West Springfield Reconstruction of Memorial Avenue (608374)* Project to absorb the cost increase that resulted from moving the Hadley project's Advanced Construction (AC) cost from 2021 to 2022. Mr. McCaul further reported that in 2023, it was determined that the West Springfield project could be AC constructed over 3 yrs which would slightly reduce the project in 2023 then add almost \$4 million in 2024. Mr. McCaul stated that at that time, the TIP was out of fiscal constraint and the only option was to move Worthington out of 2024 and into 2025 along with a couple new projects in order to have a slate of projects to submit to MassDOT.

Mr. McCaul reported that Years 1, 2 and 3 are funded to the penny with no opportunity for changes. Mr. McCaul then asked the JTC members to look at the FFY 2024 and 2025 handout spreadsheets and he said that Fuss and O'Neill was asked to review the cost of the *Springfield Reconstruction of Sumner Avenue at Dickinson Street and Belmont Avenue (the "X") (608717)* Project. Mr. McCaul remarked that PVPC staff reviewed the *Longmeadow Resurfacing and Intersection Improvements (608881)* Project and asked MassDOT to review the *Easthampton and Southampton Improvements and Related Work on Route 10 (608423)* Project. The Easthampton project was split away from Southampton but because its cost had increased significantly, the Easthampton project was moved out of 2024 to avoid over programming.

Mr. McCaul called the JTC members' attention to the spreadsheet entitled *FFY 2024* which reflects Phase II of the *Worthington Reconstruction and Related Work on Route 143* and he reminded them that Phase I was funded in FFY 2019. Mr. McCaul noted the presence in 2024 of the Springfield project at the "X", the West Springfield Memorial Avenue project, and the *Longmeadow-Springfield Resurfacing and Intersection Improvements on Longmeadow Street and Converse (608881)* Project. He commented that either the Worthington project or the Longmeadow project needs to be removed from 2024. Mr. McCaul stated that if the Worthington project remains in 2024 and the Longmeadow project is moved to 2025, the TIP becomes under programmed by \$250,000. If the Longmeadow project is left in 2024 along with the Springfield X project and the West Springfield project, there is \$5 million in under funding and there isn't a \$5 million dollar project that would be shovel ready in the next five years.

Mr. McCaul explained that there are two options: Option 1 and Option 2. Option 1: If the Longmeadow project is moved into 2025 and the Worthington project is funded in FFY 2024, there are three projects that can be funded as well which comprise the top unfunded projects on the Zebra list. The first project listed is the *Granville Reconstruction of Route 57 (608736)* for \$12 million which won't fit. So the next three projects ready by design status and TEC score are the *Holyoke Resurfacing and Related Work on Cabot Street and Race Street (Center City Connector) (609065)* Project with a TEC score of 56; the *South Hadley Main Street Road Improvement (608785)* Project with a TEC score of 38 and the *Southampton Rehabilitation of East Street (604653)* Project with a TEC score of 31.

Mr. McCaul pointed to the 2025 Option 2 PowerPoint slide and said that the *Northampton Downtown Complete Streets Corridor and Intersection Improvements on Main Street (609286)* Project is the highest scored TIP project in the Universe with a TEC score of 80 so it is listed under 2025 Option 2. He stated that the Worthington Project and Northampton can't be in 2025 together because of the inflation factor so for Option 2, it's the Northampton project and the Longmeadow Project for FFY 2025.

Mr. McCaul then asked for feedback and discussion from the JTC members present. After a fairly short discussion period, Mr. Czach called for a show of hands to determine which of the two options was preferred. The voting for the Worthington project for FFY 2024 (which includes Springfield's "X" project, West Springfield's Memorial Avenue project and Worthington's Route 143 Phase II project) was 8 in favor and 2 against.

The voting for the Longmeadow Option for FFY 2024 (which includes Springfield's "X" project, West Springfield's Memorial Avenue project and Longmeadow's Route 5 and Converse Street project) was 2 in favor and 8 against.

A lengthy discussion then ensued. Margaret O'Neal spoke of Route 143 being the main thoroughfare in Worthington which is a small town. She underscored that the road is degrading and as time passes, it becomes more and more expensive to repair. Peter Frieri responded that the Worthington project will be receiving its final design this summer and Mr. Czach stated that the Worthington project is farther along in design than the Longmeadow project. Mr. Czach asked if a project that's move ready should be chosen or a project with a higher TEC score. Mr. McCaul replied that in a perfect world we fund the higher scoring project but when there's not enough available funding; there are large projects funded over multiple years; and readiness and regional equity need to be ensured, concessions have to be made. Most important, he said, is to decide how to best spend all of the dollars.

Mr. Czach called for another vote on the Worthington vs. Longmeadow Option because it seemed to him that the JTC members wanted more discussion. So once again the raised hand votes were taken. There were 8 votes for the Worthington Option with 3 opposed and for the Longmeadow Option; there were 3 in favor and 8 votes against. Mr. Czach concluded that the Worthington Option had been chosen for FFY 2024.

Mr. McCaul moved on to a lengthy discussion of Option 1 and Option 2 in FFY 2025 after which Mr. Czach called for a vote on the two options. There were 3 votes in favor of Option 1 and 8 votes not in favor of Option 1. For Option 2, there were 8 in favor and 3 against.

MOVED BY RANDY BROWN OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWICK, SECONDED BY MARVIN WARD OF THE MASSBIKE EASTHAMPTON TO RECOMMEND THAT THE PIONEER VALLEY MPO RELEASE THE DRAFT FFY 2021-2025 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) FOR THE REQUIRED 21-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD AS PRESENTED BY PVPC STAFF.

ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIES.

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

6. Public Transit Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) - Review

PVPC Senior Transportation Planner Andy McCaul reported that the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA) has an internal process based on their Transit Management Plan which is used to develop their capital expenditures. Mr. McCaul reported that PVPC staff has been working with the PVTA over the past few months and in Year One, the PVTA has close to a \$31 million dollar budget. Two important line items in that budget are two electric, 40-foot bus purchases and capital purchases both of which were submitted for Volkswagen mitigation funds. Another line item supported by Volkswagen mitigation funds is for the replacement of 6 electric 40-foot buses in FFY 2024.

MOVED BY MARVIN WARD OF MASSBIKE EASTHAMPTON, SECONDED BY NICK DINE OF THE TOWN OF WILLIAMSBURG TO RECOMMEND THAT THE MPO RELEASE THE DRAFT FFY 2021-2025 TRANSIT TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FOR THE REQUIRED 21-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW

ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIES.

Mr. Czach thanked Mr. McCaul for his update and he moved on to agenda item 7.

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

Mr. Czach announced that Paul Burns, PVTA Manager of Transit Planning and Analysis was not present at the meeting.

8. Other Business

a. Pioneer Valley Regional Freight Plan – Comments due by April 30, 2020

Mr. McCaul stated that Gary Roux would appreciate comments on the Pioneer Valley Regional Freight Plan which is out for public review by April 30th.

Mike Bolduc commented that MAPit has incorporated a new bridge program but the program will be down for a month so users won't be able to initiate a new project

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 WAYNE FEIDEN OF THE CITY OF NORTHAMPTON, 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 April 9, 2020 JTC Meeting:

- *Joint Transportation Committee April 9, 2020 Meeting Agenda*
- *Minutes of the March 11, 2020 Joint Transportation Committee Meeting*
- *2021 – 2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development*
- *FFY 2021 Unified Planning Work Program*
- *Summary of Proposed Changes to the 2020 TIP*
- *2020 Pioneer Valley Region Transportation Improvement Program*
- *2021 – 2025 Draft Working List for TIP Development – March 2020*
- *2021-2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – Project Status March 2020*
- *2021 – 2025 TIP Draft Project Listing – How to Achieve Fiscal Constraint*
- *FFY 2021 and 2022*
- *FFY 2023 and 2024*
- *FFY 2024*
- *FFY 2024 Options*
- *FFY 2025 – Worthington in FFY 2024*
- *FFY 2025 – Longmeadow in FFY 2024*
- *FFY 2021 Transit TIP*
- *FFY 2022 Transit TIP*
- *FFY 2023 Transit TIP*
- *FFY 2024 Transit TIP*
- *FFY 2025 Transit TIP*