

Minutes of the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) Meeting

Wednesday, January 11, 2017

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
60 Congress Street, 2nd Floor Large Conference Room
Springfield, Massachusetts 01104

Present were:

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Jessica Allan	Easthampton	Wayne Feiden	City of Northampton
Mike Bolduc	MassDOT District 2	Peter Frieri	MassDOT District 1
Gary Briere	MassBike	Craig Markham	Longmeadow
Randy Brown	Southwick	Dawn Nims	Town of Agawam Engineering
Dan Call	Westfield	Bryan Pounds*	MassDOT Office of Transportation
Maggie Chan	Northampton	Jim Reidy	South Hadley
Matt Chase	VHB	Josh Rickman	PVTA
Mark Cressotti	Westfield	Jason Skeels	Amherst DPW
Jim Czach	West Springfield DPW	Matt Smith	Chesterfield
David Desrosiers	Granby	Matt Sokop	Springfield
		*On Speaker Phone	
PVPC Staff			
Rana Al-Jammal	Senior Planner Specialist	Jeff McCollough	Senior Transportation Planner
David Elvin	Senior Planner	Dana Roscoe	Principal Planner
Joshua Garcia	Municipal Services Coordinator	Gary Roux	Principal Planner
Amir Kouzehkanani	Principal Transportation Planner	Lynn Shell	Admin Support
Andy McCaul	Senior Transportation Planner		

1. Introductory Remarks

Jim Czach opened the JTC meeting at 10:22 a.m. and he asked everyone to introduce themselves.

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

Mr. Czach noted that there are three sets of meeting minutes that will need to be approved today given that the JTC has not had a quorum for the past two meetings. Mr. Czach then asked for a motion to approve the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) minutes of September 14, 2016, November 9, 2016 and December 14, 2016.

MOVED BY MARK CRESSOTTI OF THE CITY OF WESTFIELD, SECONDED BY WAYNE FEIDEN OF THE CITY OF NORTHAMPTON, TO APPROVE THE JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC) MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 14, 2016, NOVEMBER 9, 2016 AND DECEMBER 14, 2016. ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIES.

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

3. Review, Discussion, and Recommendation of Projects to be Included as a Proposed Amendment to the 2017-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), for Review and Release by the MPO

PVPC Principal Planner Dana Roscoe referred to a document which had been distributed entitled, *2017-2021 Pioneer Valley Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Proposed Amendments – January 2017*. Mr. Roscoe pointed out that the TIP is under programmed in 2017, noting that the Goshen Route 9 Resurfacing Project moved

forward under a different funding source which created an opportunity in 2017 of more than \$4 million. Mr. Roscoe then asked Peter Frieri from MassDOT District 1, to talk about another project in Goshen that is ready to go, namely the West Street Reconstruction project. Mr. Frieri stated that this is a municipal project which has been developed by the Town of Goshen for several years. He noted that the current cost is about \$3.5 million but he expected that it will increase to \$4 million. Mr. Frieri stated that they are anticipating 75-100% submission at the end of January or early February and he believed that this is a viable project for 2017. Mr. Roscoe also pointed out that there were cost increases for the Southwick Congamound Road reconstruction project and the Ludlow Center Street reconstruction project. Mike Bolduc, MassDOT District 2, noted that the Ludlow project is listed at \$5.4 million, however, he stated that the cost is now estimated at \$5.8 million and it is expected to increase a little more.

Mr. Roscoe stated that at the December 14th JTC meeting, Wayne Feiden had requested additional funding for the Pioneer Valley Regional Bike Share Project, however, the JTC could not vote at that time since they did not have a quorum. Mr. Roscoe then asked Mr. Feiden to provide a recap of his request. Mr. Feiden noted that the Pioneer Valley Regional Bike Share Project was already approved with 4 towns participating and they would now like to add the Town of South Hadley with two bike share stations. In addition, the City of Northampton would like to increase their bike share stations from 7 to 8. Mr. Feiden also noted that they will need concrete pads for the bike share stations and he stated that the additional amount of funding being requested is \$172,000.

Mr. Czach then called for a motion to approve additional funding in the amount of \$172,000 for the Pioneer Valley Regional Bike Share Project.

MOVED BY WAYNE FEIDEN OF THE CITY OF NORTHAMPTON, SECONDED BY JIM REIDY OF THE TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY, TO APPROVE ADDITIONAL FUNDING IN THE AMOUNT OF \$172,000 FOR THE PIONEER VALLEY REGIONAL BIKE SHARE PROJECT.

Mr. Cressotti asked how this would fit in with the available funds. Mr. Roscoe noted that we are about \$1 million under programmed and even with cost increases in Goshen and Ludlow we would be under that \$1 million cap. He also reported that the MassDOT Rail Section is conducting a \$1.6 million platform extension project in Northampton, noting that they have secured \$600,000 and they are looking for other sources to complete that funding. Mr. Roscoe stated that if we cannot program all of our funds, they would be happy to receive any remaining funds. At this point, Matt Sokop stated that the City of Springfield has a project that he would like to put forward for consideration. Mr. Czach stated that the JTC will need to act on the motion that is on the table before discussing other possibilities. Bryan Pounds, MassDOT State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Coordinator/MPO Liaison, commented that the Town of South Hadley would need to be included in the scope for the Bike Share Project if it does not already include South Hadley. Mr. Roux stated that he would verify that information. Mr. Czach asked if there were any other comments or questions regarding the subject motion but none were forthcoming.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS, THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Mr. Czach then asked Mr. Sokop to elaborate on the project he is proposing for Springfield. Mr. Sokop explained that this is a wayfinding program for pedestrians in the City's metro area, noting that it is along the lines of the complete streets theory of getting out of the car and walking around. Mr. Sokop stated that everything will be sign-based and the current estimated cost is \$600,000, adding that it is all within the right-of-way. A discussion followed regarding Project Review Committee (PRC) approval and Mr. Pounds stated that if the project needs PRC approval, it would require the 6 digit ID number in order to be programmed. He added that he could consider the project but

at this point he did not have enough information to make a determination. Mr. Roux suggested that this project could potentially qualify for Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds. Mr. Pounds noted that the next CMAQ consultation meeting will take place towards the end of February or early March. Following a brief discussion, Mr. Pounds stated that the proposed Springfield project should be left out for now, noting that there is still time to add it in. Mr. Czach confirmed that the JTC will not vote on this project today and Mr. Roscoe noted that the MPO has the option to address the project at the January 31st MPO meeting. Mr. Roscoe also pointed out that the proposed changes to the 2017 TIP include two transit amendments which will also be presented to the MPO for consideration and 30 day public review.

Mr. Czach called for a motion to approve the proposed amendments to the 2017-2021 Pioneer Valley Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and to recommend that the MPO release the document for 30 day public review.

MOVED BY WAYNE FEIDEN OF THE CITY OF NORTHAMPTON, SECONDED BY MATT SOKOP OF THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE 2017-2021 PIONEER VALLEY TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AND TO RECOMMEND THAT THE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO) RELEASE THE DOCUMENT FOR THIRTY-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW. ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIES.

Mr. Roscoe noted that Mr. McCaul has asked JTC members to update their Transportation Evaluation Criteria and he stated that we will start to program the 2018 TIP in February.

Mr. Czach then moved to take up agenda item 4.

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

PVPC Senior Planner David Elvin gave an update on behalf of Joshua Rickman, PVTA Director of Operations and Planning, who was unable to attend today's JTC meeting. On behalf of Mr. Rickman, Mr. Elvin first responded to a question about Uber raised by Mark Cressotti at the last JTC meeting. Mr. Elvin reported that the PVTA met with Uber in December and they are having ongoing discussions about potential service collaborations. Mr. Elvin noted that there are several regulatory issues that would need to be addressed but Mr. Rickman concluded that PVTA is very interested in this service. Mr. Elvin next gave an update on the City of Springfield's Bus Stop Consolidation Project. He explained that there are twice as many bus stops in the City as are needed which creates problems for vehicles due to buses pulling out more often into traffic. In addition, Mr. Elvin noted that reducing the number of stops would create parking spaces in the City at no cost. He stated that there have been meetings with neighborhood groups and there will be more meetings coming up. Mr. Elvin also noted that an online interactive map is available on the PVTA website which provides helpful information on the number of people using a bus stop each day as well as the distance to the next stop. Mr. Elvin next reported that the grand opening of Union Station is scheduled for Monday, April 17th and he added that the Westfield Transit Pavilion will open the following week. Finally, Mr. Elvin reported that the PVPC is assisting the Quaboag Community Development Corporation and the Town of Ware with planning for a new van service, namely the Quaboag Connector, which will be operating in the Quaboag region starting on January 23rd. Mr. Czach then thanked Mr. Elvin for his report and he moved to take up agenda item 5.

5. Final Top 100 High Crash Intersection Report

Mr. Roux stated that we did not have a quorum at the last JTC meeting and therefore we continued to keep our *Final Top 100 High Crash Intersection Report* out for public review. He reported that all of the comments have been incorporated into the draft final report, noting that no additional feedback was received since the last JTC meeting.

Mr. Roux proposed that the JTC recommend finalizing the *Final Top 100 High Crash Intersection Report* based on the comments received.

MOVED BY MARK CRESSOTTI OF THE CITY OF WESTFIELD, SECONDED BY MATT SMITH OF THE TOWN OF CHESTERFIELD, TO RECOMMEND FINALIZING THE FINAL TOP 100 HIGH CRASH INTERSECTION REPORT BASED ON THE COMMENTS WHICH WERE RECEIVED.

At this point, Mr. Roux was asked to discuss the overall trends regarding the *Top 100 High Crash Intersection Report*. Mr. Roux stated that the lower numbers may be the result of the good planning and projects that have been happening. He also noted that the records at the state level are constantly improving and there are also less severe types of injuries and this would result in a lower score as well. Mr. Roux also reported that some of the statewide initiatives to enhance the enforcement and education aspect are having an effect. Mr. Roux stated that he would like to continue to look at the trend lines to see if this is truly a positive trend.

Mr. Czach asked if there were any other comments or questions regarding the subject motion but none were forthcoming.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS, THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Mr. Roux then referred to the crash summary information entitled *Pioneer Valley Transportation Safety Compass – Huntington* which had been distributed and he noted that this template was discussed at the December JTC meeting. Mr. Roux stated that hopefully by having a safety compass by community, it will be possible to provide better information on where the problems might lie within each specific community. Mr. Roux noted that based on the feedback received, we agreed to begin to compare the rural community with an urban community. Mr. Roux then referred to a handout that had been prepared listing the crash summary information for the City of Westfield, noting that the Westfield format shows some of the same types of data that is available in the Huntington summary and he pointed out that a section on non-motorized crashes was added based on comments received from JTC members. Mr. Roux asked that JTC members provide feedback on the format for the urban community.

Mr. Cressotti suggested looking at the driver contribution codes to see if anything is triggered by location. He also asked if the data could be shared so that each community could conduct their own analysis. Mr. Roux responded that the data is all geo coded and PVPC could export the data base to each community. He pointed out, however, that the data will be a few years behind. Mr. Feiden asked if it would be possible to have another column for the driver contributing code that is for multiple vehicle crashes. Mr. Roux explained that there is a contributing code for each vehicle and they are all in the same cell. He noted that this would be very labor-intensive when working with a larger community. Mr. Roux stated that he is asking MassDOT if they could eventually have different fields for each vehicle. Mr. Feiden asked if it is possible to include total crashes by population. Mr. Roux stated that population would make sense and he noted that it would be easy to add population to this table. Mr. Cressotti also suggested that perhaps the average daily traffic (ADT) would be something to look into as we move forward. Mr. Roux agreed and he stated that he has relayed that to MassDOT. Mr. Briere asked about the category entitled “non-motorized crashes” noting that there was clearly a vehicle involved. Mr. Roux stated that he would change the heading to something that makes more sense. Mr. Roux stated that for the February JTC meeting, he hopes to have a sample template for both the rural and the urban communities and he plans to present a complete draft later this year.

Mr. Czach thanked Mr. Roux for his update and he then asked Mr. Roscoe to address the next agenda item.

6. Metropolitan Planning Organization Meeting (MPO) – January 31, 2017

Mr. Roscoe reported that the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) will meet on January 31st and he noted that the main agenda item will be the JTC's recommendation for proposed amendments to the 2017-2021 TIP for FFY 2017. Mr. Roscoe reported that MassDOT has requested that going forward we program an MPO meeting for the 4th Tuesday of every month. He added that the meeting would be cancelled if we don't have an agenda or cannot accommodate a meeting. Mr. Roscoe explained that the January MPO meeting will take place on the 5th Tuesday because PVPC's Executive Director, Tim Brennan, was not available on the 4th Tuesday in January. Mr. Roscoe noted that the MPO meeting is a public meeting. He recommended that anyone with a project on the TIP should attend the meeting and he underscored the importance of being available to answer any questions that may come up regarding a specific project. Mr. Czach also urged JTC members to attend the MPO meeting if they have a project on the TIP. Mr. Czach then moved to take up agenda item 7.

7. Incorporating On-Road Bike Networks into Resurfacing Projects

Jeff McCollough reported that PVPC has been working with the Federal Highway Administration to coordinate a workshop in early April on *Incorporating On-Road Bike Networks into Resurfacing Projects*. Mr. McCollough stated that this workshop is based on some new guidance on how to do that cost effectively noting that the workshop will include Peter Lagerway, Regional Office Director for the Toole Design Group in Seattle. Mr. Roux remarked that this will be an all day event and he noted that when PVPC receives the materials from our federal partners, a *Save the Date* will be sent to the JTC membership.

8. Other Business

Mr. McCollough reported that 2017 is our 18th year for Bay State Bike Week which will take place May 13th – 21st. Mr. McCollough asked JTC members to let him know if anyone is interested in getting involved in this event.

Mr. Czach stated that he had three items of business to discuss. First, he stated that the Chapter 90 Subcommittee will meet on February 8th at approximately 11:30 a.m. following the February JTC meeting and he noted that a draft agenda will be sent out either with the JTC agenda or shortly thereafter. Mr. Czach stated that he has heard from a number of communities including Cummington, Easthampton, Westfield, Southwick, Springfield, West Springfield, Longmeadow and Granby and he asked JTC members to let him know if anyone else would like to participate. Mr. Czach explained that he would like to look at the formula for Chapter 90 as well as revenue sources for the Pioneer Valley region and he would like to discuss the idea of having a regional taxation program specifically for transportation projects similar to a program that has been very successful in Colorado. Mr. Czach stated that it is important to look beyond Chapter 90 and to find ways to bring more money into our region and he noted that creating a new revenue source may be our best option right now.

Mr. Czach next reminded JTC members that originally the JTC had recommended the West Springfield Memorial Avenue project for the 2017-2021 TIP. Mr. Czach stated that both the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA) and the Town of West Springfield were trying to secure the same funding and he noted that the response of the MPO was to leave the years open. Mr. Czach noted that the PVTA is no longer seeking that funding and he reported that he has started to advance the West Springfield project. He remarked that it will hopefully be going to the next PRC and he stated that the project is at 25% design. Mr. Czach stated that he will probably update the MPO on his project in January. Mr. Roscoe stated that as we look forward, it would be important to get more projects programmed that are ready to go should opportunities present themselves. He believed that in the next couple of

years there will be opportunities to advance projects if the JTC has projects that are ready to go.

Finally, Mr. Czach asked if anyone had any experience with Micro Seal. Mr. Brown stated that some work was done in the Town of Southwick during the past year and he noted that overall it went very well although he would recommend it on a side street rather than a main road that has heavy traffic. Mr. Brown offered to discuss this further with Mr. Czach following today's JTC meeting.

At this point, Mr. Pounds announced that MassDOT is looking to align the commentaries this year for the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and the Capital Investment Plan (CIP). He explained that what this essentially means for the Pioneer Valley region and for all the other MPOs in the state is that this year he will be looking to send out the FFY 2018-2022 TIP for a 21 day public comment period at the end of April and the TIP would be endorsed at the end of May. In response to a question raised by Mr. Cressotti, Mr. Pounds explained that for various reasons during the last two years the region was given an extra month to send out the TIP but he noted that normally TIPs are sent out in May and endorsed in June, and this year, in order to align with the CIP process, the TIPs will be sent out in April and endorsed in May. A brief discussion followed and Mr. Pounds responded to a series of questions that were raised. Mr. Czach then thanked Mr. Pounds for his update.

8. Adjourn

Mr. Czach called for a motion to adjourn today's meeting.

MOVED BY JIM REIDY OF THE TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY, SECONDED BY DAVID DESROSIER OF THE TOWN OF GRANBY, TO ADJOURN THE JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC) MEETING OF JANUARY 11, 2017. ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIES.

This JTC meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Relevant documents distributed at this January 11, 2017 JTC meeting:

- Joint Transportation Committee January 11, 2017 Meeting Agenda
- Minutes of the September 14, 2016 Joint Transportation Committee Meeting
- Minutes of the November 9, 2016 Joint Transportation Committee Meeting
- Minutes of the December 14, 2016 Joint Transportation Committee Meeting
- 2017-2021 Pioneer Valley Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Proposed Amendments – January 2017
- 2017 Pioneer Valley Region MPO Transportation Improvement Projects
- 2017 – 2021 Project Listing – May 2016 (STP)
- Total Crashes by Community 2011-2014
- Pioneer Valley Transportation Safety Compass: Huntington
- Westfield: Total 2136 Crashes Between 2012-2014