

# Minutes of the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) Meeting

Wednesday, October 11, 2017

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

## Present were:

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Daryl Amaral	MassDOT District 2	Peter Frieri	MassDOT District 1
Price Armstrong	PVTA	Jeff Hoynoski	MassDOT District 2
Glenn Barrington	UMass	Betsy Johnson	WalkBike Springfield
Mike Bolduc	MassDOT District 2	Andrew Krar	Town of Longmeadow
Randy Brown	Town of Southwick	Nick Lapointe	Fuss & O'Neill, Inc.
Matt Chase	VHB	Dan Murphy	City of Easthampton
Michelle Chase	Town of Agawam	Dawn Nims	Town of Agawam Engineering
Jeremy Cigal	City of Westfield	Jim Reidy	Town of South Hadley
Jim Czach	West Springfield DPW	Jason Skeels	Amherst DPW
Chris Fontaine	Southwick DPW Intern	Steve Williams	Town of Belchertown
<b>PVPC Staff</b>			
Rana Al-Jammal	Senior Transportation Planner	Dana Roscoe	Principal Planner
Andy McCaul	Senior Transportation Planner	Gary Roux	Principal Planner
Jeff McCollough	Senior Transportation Planner	Lynn Shell	Admin Support

## 1. Introductory Remarks

Jim Czach opened the JTC meeting at 10:20 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 September 13, 2017.

MOVED BY JIM REIDY OF THE TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY, SECONDED BY STEVE WILLIAMS OF THE TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN, TO APPROVE THE JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC) MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2017. ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIES.

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

## 3. Pioneer Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization Meeting (MPO) – Meeting Scheduled for October 24, 2017

PVPC Principal Planner Dana Roscoe reminded JTC members that a meeting of the Pioneer Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is scheduled for the last Tuesday of every month and if there are not sufficient agenda items to substantiate a meeting, the meeting is cancelled. He reported that the last MPO meeting took place in August, noting that there was no MPO meeting in September. Mr. Roscoe stated that MassDOT has indicated that there will be some changes to the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) that will require convening a meeting of the MPO in October and he noted that MassDOT GIS Transportation Planner Quinn Malloy will be giving a presentation at that meeting. Mr. Roux reported that he will also be talking to MPO members about the Pioneer Valley Safety Compass and he will provide them with a draft of the document. Mr. Roscoe stated that when he receives either the TIP amendments or adjustments, Mr. McCaul will send that information to JTC members so that

they will know if any of their projects are impacted. Mr. Roux also noted that depending on time and interest, PVPC can continue to brief the MPO on the JTC's TEC conversations.

Mr. Czach thanked Mr. Roscoe for his update and he moved to take up agenda item 4.

**4. JTC Recommendations Regarding the Expansion of JTC Voting Ranks and Representation on the Committee to Include a Person or Organization Chosen or Appointed to Act or Speak for Pedestrian and/or ADA Issues in the Pioneer Valley Region as Relevant to Transportation Planning and Project Programming Process (as noted in the PVMPO Certification Review)**

As regards the expansion of JTC voting ranks, Mr. Czach stated that two candidates have expressed interest in becoming representatives, namely, Betsy Johnson and Dan Call, and he stated that there are two other potential candidates including Highland Valley Elder Services and Stavros. Mr. Czach stated that he is planning to contact Stavros and he hopes to have more candidates on the ballot for the JTC to eventually vote on. He asked JTC members to let him know if they would like to suggest a potential candidate for this role. Mr. Czach noted that the JTC representative will be a non-voting member for the first year. Mr. Czach stated that he is not prepared to take action on this item today and voting will likely take place at a future JTC meeting.

Mr. Czach then moved to take up the next agenda item.

**5. Pioneer Valley Safety Compass**

PVPC Principal Planner Gary Roux gave an update on the *Pioneer Valley Safety Compass*. Mr. Roux stated that today he will be providing JTC members with a USB drive with all of the crash data for their community and he noted that as part of today's presentation, he will be showcasing data for the City of Agawam. Mr. Roux first referred to a map for Agawam noting that every crash in the community is color coded. He stated that the data is summarized by calendar year 2012 to 2014 and he explained that this is the most recent data available through the MassDOT *Crash Portal* which is the easiest way for the PVPC to obtain the data. Mr. Roux noted that it is possible to obtain data at the community level however it would be a very time-consuming process to put the data into this format and to summarize it for all 43 communities. Mr. Roux stated that in an urban area, the community's top 10 crash locations are identified on page 1 of the report as well as the total number of crashes at that location, and the Equivalent Property Damage Only (EPDO) methodology. Mr. Roux commented that as regards rural locations, in many cases it was not possible to find 10 crash locations; therefore, PVPC staff identified the highest prominent area of crashes based on the specific situation for that community. He noted that as discussed by the JTC during the summer, a slightly different track has been prepared for urban and rural communities.

Mr. Roux then referred to page 2 of the report which lists the *Key Findings* and he noted that needs vary with each community. He also noted that page 2 includes data for the *Location of Crashes; Total Non-Motorized Crashes; Roadway Classification; and Driver Contribution Codes for Single Vehicle Crashes*. As regards the *Location of Crashes*, Mr. Roux stated that the way in which the crashes are identified on the crash report by the police officer dictates how this is summarized and he pointed out that there are many ways to classify the crash. Mr. Roux then referred to the table under the heading *Roadway Classification*. He noted that this data may be more significant for the communities that have the interstate running through them, adding that it can be helpful to know the number of crashes that occurred on the interstate versus the local street system. As regards the *Driver Contributing Codes*, Mr. Roux explained that in an urbanized area, this is only for the single vehicle crashes and in rural areas it is for every crash. He pointed out that there can be multiple contributing codes to a crash and when there are multiple vehicles and multiple contributing codes, it is difficult to sort out and summarize. He also stated that some of the definitions for the contributing codes are subjective, given that they are assigned at the discretion of the officer at the scene.

Mr. Roux stated that some JTC members will be receiving a PDF of the Safety Compass report today and some members will receive the report during the following week. Mr. Roux added that he hopes to make the report available as a draft on the PVPC website early next week and he asked JTC members to provide him with questions or comments on the draft report prior to the November JTC meeting. Mr. Roux stated that he would welcome suggestions on how this report could be improved in the future, although unfortunately due to time constraints, PVPC cannot change the formatting at this point. Mr. Roux also stated that at the district level if anyone is interested in having this type of data available for all the communities in their district, the PVPC could provide that information. Mr. Czach then asked if anyone had any questions for Mr. Roux. Mr. Armstrong pointed out that data reporting across police departments is uneven and he asked if that might improve over the coming years. Mr. Roux stated that there have already been a lot of improvements and he noted that the MassDOT Safety Division has been identifying ways that they can enhance training for local police departments so they can provide better information.

Mr. Czach thanked Mr. Roux for his update and he moved to take up agenda item 6.

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

Price Armstrong, PVTA Senior Transit Operations Analyst, noted that Josh Rickman recently resigned from the PVTA and he reported that Krystal Oldread has been hired as the new Planning and Operations Director. Mr. Armstrong next stated that the PVTA implemented a number of service reductions for FY18. He noted that the PVTA has been told to expect level funding this year and they are budgeting at level funding for the next fiscal year based on the Governor's budget. Given that PVTA's costs are going up, Mr. Armstrong stated that PVTA expects to be looking at service reductions and possible fare increases for FY19, adding that the PVTA is fortunate to have PVPC staff helping them through that process.

Mr. Armstrong then provided an update on some of PVTA's current projects. He first noted that the PVTA is currently engaging in the public process for updating the Public Participation Plan. He also reported that many ADA landing pads have been poured in the City of Springfield, noting that they identified 160 locations. Mr. Armstrong next reported that a lot of progress has been made on the new Cottage Street PVTA Bus Operations & Maintenance Facility and he noted that the PVTA will be moving into the facility in January of 2019. He also noted that PVTA just submitted an FTA grant to move their paratransit operations from the City of Chicopee into the Main Street facility in Springfield, noting that the fixed-route operations will move to the Cottage Street location. Mr. Armstrong reported that the PVTA also received their Community Transit Grant Program award and he stated that they were awarded 17 fully accessible vans in addition to a travel training grant. Mr. McCollough asked if the PVTA will need to hire staff to approach the task of travel training. Mr. Armstrong responded that based on their budget, PVTA will not be hiring more staff. He stated that they are planning to contract out this work and they hope to soon issue the Request for Proposals (RFP). In response to a question raised by Ms. Al-Jammal regarding moving the paratransit operations, Mr. Armstrong explained that the provider was renting the facility in Chicopee and the idea is that the PVTA would not renew that lease, noting that the paratransit would all be housed at the Main Street facility in Springfield. Mr. Armstrong noted that PVTA also operates paratransit out of Northampton and Belchertown but the main facility would be in Springfield.

## **7. Other Business**

### **a. LED Lighting Presentation**

PVPC Senior Transportation Planner Jeff McCollough stated that a presentation on LED lighting will take place following the December 13<sup>th</sup> JTC meeting. He noted that a ½ hour will be set aside for the presentation and there will be 15 minutes for follow-up questions. Mr. Czach thanked Mr. McCollough for his update.

b. MassDOT Project Intake Tool (MaPIT) – log in

Mike Bolduc, MassDOT District I, stated that recently there have been several demonstrations of the MassDOT Project Intake Tool (MaPIT) across the state with good feedback. Mr. Bolduc asked JTC members who did not attend the District 2 training, to give him their log-in information after today's meeting and he will send them a log-in as soon as the MaPIT is available online which he hoped would be later this month. In response to a question from Mr. Czach, Mr. Bolduc stated that he will likely conduct a MaPIT session at the November JTC meeting.

Mr. Czach asked if there was any other business to conduct. Mr. Roscoe noted that the Town of Amherst had constructed a roundabout near Atkins Farm as a federal project and they also converted a 4-way intersection to a roundabout in the center of Amherst as a local project. Mr. Roscoe pointed out that the local project was completed in only 4-5 weeks and he asked Jason Skeels to talk about the difference between the federally-funded project and the locally-funded project. Mr. Skeels stated that it was easier to make changes with the local project because it was done internally and he noted that the contractors were very accommodating about any changes that needed to be made. As regards the cost, Mr. Skeels stated that he believes they are under \$1 million but he did not yet know the exact number. Mr. Barrington stated that the roundabout has been a huge improvement on traffic flow in that intersection adding that it is much safer due to the way the approaches to the intersection have been designed.

Mr. McCollough noted that the Towns of West Springfield and Agawam were selected for MassDOT Complete Streets Funding, and he asked those JTC members to talk about their projects. Michelle Chase stated that Agawam is combining their Complete Streets funding with Chapter 90 money to make improvements to the O'Brien's Corner intersection which will include separated bike lanes, bike signals, new ADA sidewalks and bus stops. She noted that the location is near a school and some businesses. In addition, she stated that they would like to incorporate traffic signal improvements. Mr. Czach stated that West Springfield is doing safety and sidewalk improvements which will include a 500-600 foot sidewalk extension near their municipal office building downtown. Mr. Czach stated that they are also upgrading three pedestrian crossings along Park Avenue and Park Street noting that one crossing is near their Senior Center.

**8. Adjourn**

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

MOVED BY JIM REIDY OF THE TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY, SECONDED BY STEVE WILLIAMS OF THE TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN, TO ADJOURN THE JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC) MEETING OF OCTOBER 11, 2017. ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIES.

This JTC meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

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

- Joint Transportation Committee October 11, 2017 Meeting Agenda
- Minutes of the September 13, 2017 Joint Transportation Committee Meeting
- Update Expanding Representation on the Pioneer Valley MPO's Joint Transportation Committee