

# Minutes of the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) Meeting

Wednesday, December 13, 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
Mike Bolduc	MassDOT District 2	Betsy Johnson	Walk/Bike Springfield
Michelle Chase	Town of Agawam	Andrew Krar	Town of Longmeadow
Jeremy Cigal	City of Westfield	Nick Lapointe	Fuss & O'Neill, Inc.
Michelle Chase	Town of Agawam Engineering	Stephanie MacDonald	Fuss & O'Neill, Inc
Mark Cressotti	City of Westfield	Mike McManus	City of Holyoke
Jim Czach	West Springfield DPW	Dan Murphy	Easthampton
Nick Dines	Town of Williamsburg	Dawn Nims	Agawam Engineering
Steven Frederick	Town of Ludlow	Jim Reidy	South Hadley
Peter Frieri	MassDOT District 1	Leo Smith	Smith College and Hadley
Jeff Hoynoski	MassDOT District 2	Matt Sokop	City of Springfield
<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	Louise Sullivan	Admin Support

## 1. Introductory Remarks

Jim Czach opened the JTC meeting at 10:18 a.m. and he asked everyone to introduce themselves.

## 2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Mr. Czach was not able to call for a motion to approve the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) minutes of October 11, 2017 because there wasn't a quorum. Mr. Czach postponed approval of the October 11th minutes until the next JTC meeting.

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

## 3. Pioneer Valley Safety Performance Measures Presentation

PVPC Principal Planner Gary Roux reported that MassDOT has provided a great deal of information on Safety Performance Measures and he directed the JTC members' attention to today's handout document entitled *Highway Safety Improvement Program and Safety Performance Management Measures — Final Rules Overview*. Mr. Roux reported that a Safety Performance Measures presentation was given at the last MPO meeting held on November 28th, and he reminded the JTC members that Safety Performance Measures provided by MassDOT were discussed at a JTC meeting a few years ago. Mr. Roux explained that there are Safety Performance Measures incorporated in the current Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) for the Pioneer Valley based on federal guidance supporting the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act, (MAP-21) and the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act). Mr. Roux stated that he would present an overview of the federal rules regarding the Safety Performance Measures and if there continues to be no quorum at today's meeting, action on this agenda item will have to wait until the January JTC meeting.

Mr. Roux explained that Safety Performance Measures are required by federal transportation rules and they needed to be adopted by the states by August 31, 2017. Mr. Roux said that the deadline has passed and the MassDOT has adopted their statewide measures but now the MPOs have six months to adopt Safety Performance Measures. Mr. Roux explained that the three key required MassDOT Performance Measure targets are:

1. Safety Measures by August 31, 2017
2. Pavement and Bridge Performance Measures by May 20, 2018
3. System Performance Measures regarding Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) and Freight by May 20, 2018

Mr. Roux indicated that CMAQ requirements are not triggered in the Pioneer Valley region so the Pioneer Valley MPO will not be responsible for adopting Performance Measures that concern CMAQ. Mr. Roux underscored that the Pioneer Valley MPO has two choices: (1) Adopt the Safety Performance Measures that the state has adopted which means that the state would be the recording agency for the Office of Transportation or (2) the MPO can establish its own regional Safety Performance targets if it's thought that the Pioneer Valley region has different needs. Either way, he said, the MPO must set targets and incorporate them into Certification Documents, the regional transportation plan, the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) beginning this spring. Mr. Roux noted that by February 27, 2018, the MPO must adopt either its own Safety Performance Measures or the state's Safety Performance Measures. Mr. Roux then delineated the five annual safety targets required by State DOTs and MPOs:

- Total number of fatalities
- Rate of fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled (VMT)
- Total number of serious Injuries
- Rate of serious injuries per 100 million VMT
- Total number of combined serious injuries and fatalities for non-motorized modes

Mr. Roux next displayed a chart entitled *Total Fatalities – 5 Year Averages* and displayed the safety performance measures set by MassDOT for Calendar Year 18 (CY 18) on August 31, 2017 reflecting *Rolling, 5 year averages* and a fatality rate per 100 million vehicle miles of travel (VMT). The *Total Fatalities chart* reflected a downward trend for total fatalities and for the crash rate per 100 million VMT. Mr. Roux announced that there is an upward trend for total combined non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries as shown by a chart he displayed based on 5-year averages due most likely to better reporting and more people using these modes of travel. But, Mr. Roux stated that this upward trend is the reverse of the intention of the Safety Performance Measures and hopefully this trend will not continue. Next, Mr. Roux displayed a *Total Fatalities – 5 Year Averages* chart which compared the total fatalities for Massachusetts with the total fatalities compiled by the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC). He reported that PVPC's total fatalities and crash rate per 100 million VMT show higher numbers but follow the same trend line as that of Massachusetts. Mr. Roux moved on to the next chart entitled *Combined Non-motorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries - 5 Year Averages* illustrating PVPC data following the same trend line as Massachusetts but with lower annual totals. Mr. Roux indicated that the next chart entitled *Total Serious Injuries - 5 Year Averages* shows an upward trend for the PVPC and a downward trend for Massachusetts. Mr. Roux explained that PVPC's increase in crash rate on this chart is due to the PVPC receiving an influx of crash data from the City of Springfield beginning in 2011. Prior to 2011, Springfield was not submitting their crash data and Mr. Roux said that as the City of Springfield has been submitting their crash data since 2011 we can expect to see regional trends that begin to follow the state trends for the serious injury performance measures.

Mr. Roux then addressed the next steps for Massachusetts MPOs as follows:

- MPOs must either set their own 5 quantifiable safety targets or adopt MassDOT's targets as an action item by February 27, 2018.
- The safety targets must be included in the FFY 2019-2023 TIPs.
- OTP will assist with developing a narrative if MPOs adopt the statewide targets
- MassDOT is required to report on all performance measure targets to FHWA in October, 2018
- Additional performance measures need to be set or adopted by MPOs no later than November, 2018 (180 days after state targets) and incorporated into future certification documents (FFY 2020-2024 TIPs)

Mr. Roux recommended adopting MassDOT's safety targets because MassDOT provides free and readily available safety data on all 43 communities and he underscored that compiling that data on our own will take a long time. Mr. Roux stated that the JTC is the body that was designated for establishing performance measures and since there is not a quorum at today's meeting, this agenda item will be revisited at the next JTC meeting.

Mr. Czach thanked Mr. Roux for his presentation 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 PVMPPO Certification Review)**

PVPC Principal Planner Gary Roux reported that there are two people that have indicated an interest in being appointed to the JTC as someone who will speak for pedestrian and/or ADA issues having to do with transportation planning and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) process of evaluating proposed TIP projects. The two interested individuals are Betsy Johnson of Walk/Bike Springfield and Dan Call of Westfield. Mr. Roux asked Ms. Johnson, and he plans to ask Mr. Call as well, to write and submit a paragraph or a short biography. Mr. Roux indicated that at the next JTC meeting, their qualifications will be read and the JTC members will vote. Mr. Roux stated that whoever the JTC selects will be appointed to a one-year, non-voting position in the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) which will be reviewed at the end of the year. Jim Czach added that a vote will be taken at the January JTC meeting and no MPO action is needed.

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

**5. Pioneer Valley Safety Compass**

PVPC Principal Planner Gary Roux explained that in the latest draft of the Pioneer Valley Safety Compass, a variety of safety-related data and crash data trends were provided for each of the 43 communities. Mr. Roux reported that Dan Call and Wayne Feiden had requested more data on non-motorized crashes. Mr. Roux indicated that there will be more information included in future versions of the Safety Compass but for the time being, a two-page document has been prepared and distributed at today's meeting entitled *Non-Motorist Crashes and Severity* that provides the number of crashes and injuries reported for the 43 communities from 2012 through 2014. Mr. Roux stated that the PVPC staff would like to propose that the Pioneer Valley Safety Compass document be finalized but since there's no quorum at today's meeting, there will be a vote to finalize the Safety Compass at the next JTC meeting.

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

## **6. 2018-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – Project Update**

Senior Transportation Planner Andy McCaul announced that because a quarter of fiscal year 2018 has come and gone, there is a need to ensure that proposed TIP projects are progressing as they should at this point in time. Mr. McCaul called for a quick update from those communities present at today's meeting and he asked that MassDOT representatives voice any concerns they may have. Mr. McCaul explained that if a project falls behind schedule, it can create a huge issue. He said if there are issues, we want to know about them ahead of time so solutions can be found. Mr. McCaul underscored that we don't want to worry about losing money at the end of the fiscal year. Mr. McCaul indicated that he would begin with Year One and he called on Mark Cressotti.

Mr. Cressotti reported that the Westfield Route 20 Access Improvements on Court Street and Western Avenue (603449) Project is moving ahead and he expects it to be advertised by June 2018 which is well within the federal fiscal year. Mr. Cressotti stated that from a timing perspective, he's very confident that the obligations for the TIP will be met but there's an issue relative to funding. Mr. Cressotti explained that recent funding estimates are considerably higher than what's identified on the TIP which was brought to MassDOT's attention. In order to get it constrained, Mr. Cressotti indicated that a possible solution would be to adjust the scope and parameters of the project and then slide part of the project into the next phase of the Western Avenue project which is due to occur about two years from now. Mr. Cressotti underscored a commitment to the constraints existing in the TIP, and then asked if, pending MassDOT evaluation, there might be funding at the state level or if State Implementation Plan (SIP) monies could be applied to the project. Mr. Roscoe asked about the amount of funding being sought and Mr. Cressotti replied about \$2 – 2 ½ million. Mr. Roscoe asked for the percent of submission and Mr. Cressotti said it was at 75% as reviewed by the District. Jeff Hoynoski, representing MassDOT District 2, agreed but said that before looking into the cost, the District was waiting for the 100% submission which should be occurring in a month or two. At that time, Mr. Hoynoski explained that there will be a better estimate of the exact cost. Mr. Roscoe replied that there's about \$1.4 million available that's unprogrammed which may be an option unless the District has a better use for it. Mr. Cressotti reiterated the Westfield project's progress and Mr. Roscoe stated that it appears that the District is just where it needs to be concerning this project.

Michelle Chase reported on the Agawam Intersection Improvements Project (604203) saying that a public hearing is scheduled for November and there is a schedule for meeting deadlines. Submission is at 75% and plans will be submitted by January 2018. Ms. Chase added that outreach on right-of-way is on schedule and the project is ready to go.

Mr. McCaul asked about the Northampton Improvements on I-91(604597) Project and Mr. Hoynoski responded that the project is on schedule, the cost is acceptable and the project should reach the 100% design phase by January 2018.

Mr. Hoynoski reported that the Southampton Roadway Reconstruction (604738) Project should be 100% by October, the PS&E is due by January, and the cost is still within the target.

Mr. McCaul asked about the Holland Roadway Reconstruction (604962) Project and Mr. Hoynoski replied that the project just reached the 25% design phase and has received comments. Mr. Hoynoski said that the project will have its public hearing soon and he reported that the cost is about a million dollars higher than what's been programmed but he'll know better once the 75% design phase is reached.

Mr. Hoynoski reported that the Amherst-Hadley-Northampton Transit Signal Priority Upgrades (608788) Project is expecting submission by the end of February 2018 and is just finishing up inventory in many locations. He added that the project is on schedule and should move quickly.

Matt Sokop offered an update on the Springfield North End Pedestrian Path Construction Including the Construction of a New Underpass (607589) Project and reported that there is a June 23rd advertising date and the project is on track.

Dana reiterated that FFY 2018 is \$1.5 million under programmed and the Holland and Westfield projects are over programmed in 2018. Mr. McCall stated that this agenda item will be kept for future JTC meeting so that monthly project updates can continue.

## **7. Roadway Jurisdiction Verification**

PVPC Principal Planner Gary Roux explained that PVPC staff was asked by MassDOT to reach out to every community and request that every community conduct a review of its mileage for accepted state roadways. Mr. Roux called the JTC members' attention to the document entitled *PVPC RIF Cleanup Overview* document saying that this is the latest table received from MassDOT delineating what they have on record for each community's total roadway accepted and unaccepted miles. Mr. Roux stated that some communities have been providing regular updates on their accepted roadway miles while there are other communities that MassDOT hasn't heard from in years. Mr. Roux asked that each of the JTC members take the *PVPC RIF Cleanup Overview* document back to the appropriate person in their community who can check to see if the mileage totals reflected on the document match the records for their community. He said if there's a match, there is nothing to do, but if not, there is a rather lengthy process involved in providing this information to the state to verify that the community has new roadways. Mr. Roux explained that it involves verifying that the roads were accepted at town meeting and then providing that information to MassDOT. Mr. Roux stated that this document will be sent out to all the communities along with an explanation of the steps that need to be taken if the community's miles aren't in agreement. Mr. Roux underscored that this is one of the elements that factors into the Chapter 90 formula so providing the status of every road in the state data base is important for both planning applications and calculation of local Chapter 90 dollars. Mr. Roux underscored that if your community hasn't submitted any new data in the last 7 years, MassDOT wants the data reviewed and updated. Mr. Roux added that MassDOT would like every city and town to update and submit new data every two years.

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

PVPC Principal Planner Dana Roscoe reported that no one was available from the PVTA to attend this JTC meeting because the PVTA has meetings scheduled this morning with the Finance Committee and the Route Committee. Mr. Roscoe explained that this year the PVTA received a \$1million dollar reduction in their allocation which resulted in the need for service reductions. He underscored that the budget projection for this coming year will result in an additional \$3 million dollar reduction in the budget which will result in additional service cuts to just about every route plus there will be a fare increase. Mr. Roscoe reported that there will be public hearings held for discussions of the fare increase and the additional route reductions and he emphasized that these two actions will impact every community in this room. Mr. Roscoe advised the JTC members to encourage their senior center members and other transit advocates to attend these public hearings.

Mr. Roscoe explained that the Commonwealth had committed to a level funding that the PVTA was maintaining but then the Commonwealth retracted and went to a level funding from two years ago. Mr. Roscoe noted that since then, the PVTA had made service expansions, increased routes, instituted additional cross-town routes and added routes and service that now are no longer being funded. Mr. Roscoe indicated that Mr. Czach sits on the PVTA Advisory Board. Mr. Czach reported that the PVTA has been level funded for the past two years and last year, the PVTA had a \$1.9 million dollar shortfall. He underscored that now there will be level funding again which will result in a \$3 million dollar shortfall so the PVTA is planning for the worst case scenario. Mr. Roscoe reported that at a briefing held on Monday, the legislators asked if a similar reduction in budget is being asked of the MBTA and the answer was “no.”

## 9. Other Business

There being no other business, Mr. Czach announced that the LED Lighting Presentation would begin in five minutes.

## 10. Adjourn

There was no motion to adjourn today’s JTC meeting due to a lack of quorum. Mr. Czach adjourned this meeting at 11:27.a.m. and stated that in 5 minutes a presentation on Light-Emitting Diode (LED) Lighting would be presented by Professor James D. Lowenthal of the Smith College Department of Astronomy.

### Relevant documents distributed at this December 13, 2017 JTC meeting:

- Joint Transportation Committee December 13, 2017 Meeting Agenda
- Minutes of the October 11, 2017 Joint Transportation Committee Meeting
- *Highway Safety Improvement Program and Safety Performance Management Measures —Final Rules Overview*
- *2018 Pioneer Valley Region Transportation Improvement Program*
- *PVPC RIF Cleanup Overview*
- *Non-Motorist Crashes and Severity*