

Minutes of the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) Meeting

Wednesday, April 12, 2018

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 | Andy Krar | Town Engineer, Longmeadow |
| Elizabeth Botelho | City of Chicopee | Mike McManus | Superintendent Holyoke DPW |
| Gary Briere | MassBike | John Morgan | CHA Consulting, Inc. |
| Bruce Cadieux | Wales Road Commissioner | Dan Murphy | City of Easthampton |
| Dan Call | Westfield Columbia Rail Trail | Dawn Nims | Agawam Engineering |
| Matt Chase | VHB | Peg O'Neal | Town of Worthington |
| Michelle Chase | Town Engineer, Agawam | Krystal Oldread | PVTA Mgr. of Operations |
| Mark Cressotti | City Engineer, Westfield | Jim Reidy | Superintendent, So. Hadley DPW |
| Jim Czach | West Springfield DPW | Doug Roberts | Granville DPW Superintendent |
| Nick Dines | Town of Williamsburg | Gabe Sherman | Project Mgr., MassDOT OTP |
| Wayne Feiden | Northampton Planning | Jason Skeels | Amherst |
| Paul Furgal | Sr.Proj. Mgr. McMahon Associates | Matt Sokop | Springfield |
| Peter Frieri | MassDOT District 1 | Matt Smith | Chesterfield DPW |
| Jeff Hoynoski | MassDOT District 2 | Marvin Ward | MassBike Easthampton |
| Betsy Johnson | Walk/Bike Springfield | Steve Williams | Belchertown |
| | | | |
| PVPC Staff | | | |
| Rana Al-Jammal | Senior Transportation Planner | Jeff McCollough | Sr. Transportation Planner |
| David Elvin | Principal Planner | Dana Roscoe | Principal Planner |
| Amir Kouzehkanani | Principal Transportation Planner | Gary Roux | Principal Planner |
| Andy McCaul | Senior Transportation Planner | Louise Sullivan | Admin Support |

1. Introductory Remarks

Jim Czach opened the JTC meeting at 10:19 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 the March 14, 2018.

MOVED BY MARK CRESSOTTI OF THE CITY OF WESTFIELD, SECONDED BY MATT SMITH OF THE TOWN OF CHESTERFIELD, TO APPROVE THE JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC) MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 14, 2018. ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIES ON BOTH MEASURES.

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

3. 2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – (out for public review)

Senior Transportation Planner Andy McCaul reported that two weeks ago at the March 27th MPO meeting, there was an agenda item to release proposed amendments to the FFY 2018 TIP for a 21-day public review. Mr. McCaul indicated that TIP project cost increases were discussed for the following three proposed FFY 2018 TIP projects:

- *Improvements at Interchange 19 at Route 9 and Damon Road* in the City of Northampton (Project #604597)
- *Route 20 Access Improvements on Court Street and Western Avenue, from Llewellyn Drive Easterly to Lloyds Hill Road (Phase 1)* in the City of Westfield (Project #603449)
- *Resurfacing and Related Work on Brimfield Road, From the Brimfield/Holland T. L. To Wales Road* in the Town of Holland (Project #604962)

Mr. McCaul explained that the inclusion of the three projects listed above over programmed the FFY 2018 TIP by \$4 million. As a result, the decision was made to move the Holland Project #604962 from the FFY 2018 TIP into the FFY 2019 TIP; however, a deficit of \$1.5 million resulted so the City of Westfield agreed to move a portion of the Westfield Project #603449 from Phase I to Phase II which resulted in fiscal constraint or a zero programming point for FFY 2018. Mr. McCaul stated that the FFY 2018 TIP will continue to be out for the required 21-day public comment period until the May 22nd MPO meeting and he urged the JTC members to review the FFY 2018 TIP document and issue any comments they may have.

Mr. Czach thanked Mr. McCaul for his presentation and he asked Mr. Roscoe to present agenda item 4.

4. 2019-2023 TIP Development (Review of MPO Preferred Slate of Projects)

Principal Planner Dana Roscoe stated that a recommendation is needed today from the JTC members to the MPO to release the FFY 2019 – 2023 TIP document for a required 21-day public review at the May 24th MPO meeting. Mr. Roscoe explained that the transit component of the FFY 2019 – 2023 TIP wasn't presented at the April 24th MPO meeting. He further explained that the transit TIP component is comprised of the capital components of the PVTA budget and doesn't include the PVTA's operations budget. Mr. Roscoe stated that the PVTA's capital budget includes the purchase of new buses and new equipment. Krystal Oldread, PVTA Manager of Operations, expressed frustration saying that the PVTA requested 20 replacement buses but only received eight buses. Mr. Roscoe asked Ms. Oldread if there was anything the JTC members could do to support the purchase of additional buses in Year One by the PVTA. Ms. Oldread responded that it's too late but to have the PVPC go on record in support of more buses is appreciated. Mr. Roscoe suggested that he and Ms. Oldread meet after today's meeting with Gabe Sherman, MassDOT Transportation Project Manager, to discuss what the first step might be in airing this grievance with MassDOT officials.

Mr. Roscoe then stated that when the JTC members make a recommendation concerning the FFY 2019 – 2023 TIP, the recommendation includes both the transit capital, which is reflected in the document entitled *Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Project List FY2019 – FY 2023*, and the highway element as reflected in the document entitled *2019 – 2023 Pioneer Valley Region Transportation Improvement Program*. Mr. Roscoe indicated that the document entitled *MPO Scenario FFY 2019-2023 – March 2018* delineates the money that the Pioneer Valley MPO controls and in FFY 2019, the Pioneer Valley MPO has \$24,855,217 with which to program. Mr. Roscoe stated the proposed TIP projects currently included in FFY 2019 are as follows:

- *Intersection Improvements at Bay Street and Berkshire Avenue in Springfield, Project #608411*
- *Reconstruction of Route 187 from 425 feet South of South Westfield Street to Route 57 (Phase I) in Agawam, Project #600513*
- *Improvements and Related Work on Routes 202 & 21, from Turkey Hill Road to South Main Street in Belchertown, Project #608412*
- *Intersection Improvements at Main Street, West Street, North Street, South Street & Church Street in Ware, Project #607987*
- *PVTA: P21 Express Bus Line - Year 2 Operating Cost Assistance*
- *Resurfacing and Related Work on Brimfield Road, from the Brimfield/Holland Town Line to Wales Road (Phase I) in Holland, Project #604962*

Mr. Roscoe explained that with the above 6 projects programmed for FFY 2019, there was \$9 million left over and there were no other TIP projects that could have been programmed for that \$9 million; however, after a discussion at the last MPO meeting that compared the merits of the *Improvements and Related Work on Route 20, Court Street and Western Avenue, Lloyds Hill Road to High Street/Mill Street Intersection (Phase I)* in Westfield, Project #607773 and the *Route 143 Reconstruction and Related Work (Phase II) in Worthington*, Project #606912, the Worthington Project #606912 was deemed eligible to be divided into two independent projects. After further discussion, it was decided that half of that Worthington Project could complete the list of TIP projects to be programmed in FFY 2019.

Mr. Roscoe announced that after listing the proposed TIP projects for each fiscal year, he would ask the JTC members if they had any questions. Mr. Roscoe stated that for purposes of complying with fiscal constraint, the recommended list of TIP projects proposed for FFY 2020 is as follows:

- *Improvements and Related Work on Route 20, Court Street and Western Avenue, Lloyds Hill Road to High Street/Mill Street Intersection (Phase I) in Westfield, Project #607773*
- *Reconstruction and Related Work on Fuller Road, from Memorial Drive (Route 33) to Shawinigan Drive in Chicopee, Project #604434*
- *Reconstruction of Damon Road, from Route 9 to Route 5, Includes Drainage System Repairs and Slope Stabilization at the Norwottuck Rail Trail in Northampton, Project #608236*

Mr. Roscoe stated that the above three TIP projects are proposed for FFY 2020 for a total cost of \$25,756,683 and he moved on to a discussion of the TIP projects proposed for FFY 2021.

Mr. Roscoe explained that the first two TIP projects proposed for FFY 2021 both involve intersections located near the PVTA Operations and Maintenance Facility in the City of Springfield through which all the PVTA buses will be traveling, namely:

- *Intersection Improvements at Berkshire Avenue, Cottage and Harvey Streets in Springfield, Project #608718*
- *Intersection Improvements at Cottage Street, Industry Avenue and Robbins Road in Springfield, Project #608782*

Mr. Roscoe added the following TIP projects proposed for FFY 2021, namely:

- *Improvements and Related Work on Routes 9 & 116, from University Drive to South Pleasant Street in Amherst, Project #608084*
- *Intersection Improvements at King Street, North Street & Summer Street and at King Street and Finn Street in Northampton, Project #607502*
- *Improvements and Related Work on Union Street (Route 141) from Payson Avenue to High Street in Easthampton, Project #608577*

Mr. Roscoe reported that the last proposed TIP project to be included in FFY 2021 is for the *Reconstruction on Route 9, from Middle Street to Maple/South Maple Street* in Hadley, Project #605032 which is a mega-project that will clearly need to be programmed over two years.

Mr. Roscoe next then outlined a list of proposed TIP projects to be programmed in FFY 2022 of the TIP, namely:

- *Reconstruction of Memorial Avenue (Route 147), from Colony Road to the Memorial Avenue Rotary in West Springfield, Project #608374*
- *Improvements at 2 Locations on Route 202: School Street and Five Corners in Granby, Project #606895*
- *Reconstruction of the Route I-91 Interchange 17 and Route 141 in Holyoke, Project #606156*
- *Reconstruction on Route 9, from Middle Street to Maple/South Maple Street in Hadley, Project #605032*

For the FFY 2023 TIP, Mr. Roscoe reiterated that the remainder of the Hadley Project #605032 would be programmed in FFY 2023 along with the remainder of the *Route 143 Reconstruction and Related Work (Phase II)* in Worthington, Project #606912 leaving room for one more proposed TIP project, namely,

- *Resurfacing and Related Work on Longmeadow Street (Route 5) from the Connecticut State Line to Converse Street in Longmeadow Project #607430*

Mr. Roscoe stated that his summary of the TIP Five-Year Plan was now completed and Mr. Czach indicated that a recommendation was needed from the JTC members for the MPO to release the draft FFY 2019 – 2023 TIP for the required 21-day public review period.

MOVED BY WAYNE FEIDEN OF THE CITY OF NORTHAMPTON, SECONDED BY MATT SMITH OF THE TOWN OF CHESTERFIELD, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE PIONEER VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO) RELEASE THE DRAFT FFY2019 – 2023 PIONEER VALLEY TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) FOR A REQUIRED 21-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW SUBJECT TO THE NECESSARY MODIFICATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN OUTLINED BY PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION (PVPC) STAFF. THERE BEING NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE JTC MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Czach next called on PVPC Principal Planner Gary Roux to take up the next agenda item.

5. FFY 2018 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) – Safety Study

PVPC Principal Planner Gary Roux explained that the FFY 2018 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) document outlines the PVPC's anticipated planning tasks incorporating suggestions from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit

Administration (FTA) to be conducted by the PVPC's transportation staff from the middle of FFY 2018 until the end of September of this year. PVPC Principal Planner Gary Roux noted that at the last JTC meeting, there was a discussion about the safety study that's included in the current UPWP, specifically Sub-task 3.7 Regional Safety Planning Study requiring the JTC to identify a safety study. Mr. Roux stated that JTC communities were asked to submit formal requests for safety studies but only two requests have been received: (1) from the Town of Longmeadow to study the triangular shaped area that's comprised of Bliss Street, Williams Street and Bliss Court located near the Big Y retail area. Mr. Roux stated that although this is an excellent study, it's beyond the current resources for FFY 2018 and the recommendation is to include this project as part of the FFY 2019 UPWP; and (2) from the Town of Agawam to study the 4-way unsignalized intersection of Route 187, Pine Street, with Berry Street which is within the ability of the PVTA staff to handle. Mr. Roux asked the JTC members to recommend that the Longmeadow safety study be included in the FFY 2019 UPWP and the Agawam intersection safety project be included as part of the current FFY 2018 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

MOVED BY MIKE MCMANUS OF THE CITY OF HOLYOKE, SECONDED BY DAN MURPHY OF THE CITY OF EASTHAMPTON, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE SAFETY STUDY SUBMITTED BY THE TOWN OF LONGMEADOW BE INCLUDED IN THE FFY 2019 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) AND THE SAFETY STUDY SUBMITTED BY THE TOWN OF AGAWAM BE INCLUDED IN THE FFY 2019 UPWP. THERE BEING NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE JTC MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Czach again called on PVPC Principal Planner Gary Roux to take up the next agenda item.

6. FFY 2018 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) – Amendment

PVPC Principal Planner Gary Roux noted that this agenda item pertains to an adjustment to the FFY 2018 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) rather than an amendment. Mr. Roux explained that the adjustment is to modify and adjust the UPWP based on a proposed study that's included in Task 3:2 of the UPWP that would have performed a market survey of non-bus riders along PVTA bus routes. Mr. Roux reported that PVPC staff are currently assisting the PVTA with their planning activities that are associated with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. Because this assistance to PVTA has taken up a significant amount of staff resources, he stated that this market survey cannot be completed as originally planned. Mr. Roux explained that the intent to go before the MPO members in April and obtain their agreement and MassDOT's to adjust the UPWP by removing the market study in Task 3.2 of the FFY 2018 UPWP.

Mr. Czach thanked Mr. Roux for his update and he asked Mr. Roux to continue with agenda item 7.

7. FFY 2019 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) – Development

PVPC Principal Planner Gary Roux reported that the FFY 2019 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is following the same development schedule as that of the FFY 2018 UPWP and the same participation schedule as the FFY 2018 TIP. Mr. Roux called the JTC members attention to the distributed draft document entitled *FFY 2019 Unified Planning Work Program Funding Profile* which delineates the tasks and the dollar amounts being proposed for FFY 2019. Mr. Roux stated that the FFY 2019 UPWP will include the safety study requested by the Town of Longmeadow and will follow-up on recommendations received from MassDOT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to include additional information on bicycle and pedestrian programs. He

added that at the April MPO meeting, the MPO members will be asked to release the draft FFY 2019 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for the required 21-day public review period.

Mr. Czach called on Krystal Oldread for a report on current activities of the PVTA.

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

Krystal Oldread, PVTA Manager of Operations, reported that the PVTA Advisory Board met yesterday and approved a 20 percent increase in the bus fare to take effect July 1, 2018 meaning a basic one-way fare will increase from the current \$1.25 to \$1.50. Ms. Oldread added that the Advisory Board also approved a series of service cutbacks, but delayed implementation until late September in the hope that the PVTA could get an additional \$2.5 million from the state in its new budget. She said the service cuts could include reducing service after 6 p.m. on most bus routes. Ms. Oldread urged that the JTC members contact their legislators requesting that they approve a statewide budget of \$88 million for the public transportation budget rather than the \$80.4 million budget set by the state Department of Transportation and Governor Charlie Baker.

9. Other Business

Jeff McCollough, Senior Transportation Planner announced that volunteers are still being sought for Bay State Bike Week – May 12 - 20, 2018 and Betsy Johnson announced a bicycle rodeo will be held on Chestnut Street in Springfield across from the Lincoln School on May 19th.

Mr. Czach announced that Mike Bolduc accepted an award in Worcester in behalf of MassDOT District 2 for MassDot's GIS-driven application tool, MaPIT.

Mr. Czach announced that the next JTC Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 9th. There being no other business, called for a motion to adjourn.

10. Adjourn

MOVED BY MATTHEW SOKOP OF THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, SECONDED BY MARVIN WARD OF MASSBIKE EASTHAMPTON, TO ADJOURN THE JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC) MEETING AT 11:24 A.M. ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIES.

Relevant Documents Distributed at this April 12, 2018 JTC Meeting:

- Joint Transportation Committee April 12, 2018 Meeting Agenda
- Minutes of the March 14, 2018 Joint Transportation Committee Meeting
- *Draft 2019-2023 Project Universe (April 2018)*
- *2018 Pioneer Valley Region Transportation Improvement Program*
- *2019 -2023 Transportation Improvement Program*
- *MPO Scenario FFY 2019 – 2023 – March 2018*
- *2019 -2023 TIP Project Ranking – CMAQ*
- *Transportation Improvement Program Project List 2019 -2023 (Transit)*
- *2019 -2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development Schedule*
- *FFY 2019 Unified Planning Work Program Funding Profile*