

Minutes of the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) Meeting

Wednesday, April 18, 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, City Planner	Jeff Hoynoski	MassDOT District 2
Mike Bolduc	MassDOT District 1	Nick Lapointe	Fuss & O'Neill, Inc.
Randy Brown	Southwick DPW	Mike McManus	Holyoke DPW
Dan Call	Westfield	Dan Murphy	Easthampton
Matt Chase	VHB	Bryan Pounds*	MassDOT Office of Transportation
Michelle Chase	Town of Agawam Engineering	Dave Roberts	Town of Granville
Maggie Chan	City of Northampton Engineering	Matt Sokop	Springfield
Jeremy Cigal	City of Westfield Engineering	Steve Williams	Belchertown
Peter Frieri	MassDOT District 1		
		on speaker phone*	
PVPC Staff			
Andy McCaul	Senior Transportation Planner	Gary Roux	Principal Planner
Jeff McCollough	Senior Transportation Planner	Louise Sullivan	Admin Support
Dana Roscoe	Principal Planner		

1. Introductory Remarks

Matthew Sokop, City Engineer for the City of Springfield, sitting in for JTC Chairman, Jim Czach, opened the JTC meeting at 10:22 a.m. and he asked everyone to introduce themselves.

2. JTC will Continue to Discuss Potential Changes to the Out Years (2020-2022) of the Draft 2018-2022 TIP in order to finalize the JTC Recommended List of Projects for the MPO to Release for Public Review

Mr. Sokop announced that the purpose of today's meeting is to finalize recommendations for TIP projects to be presented to the MPO members at their April 25th meeting for their approval to release of the Draft 2018-2022 TIP for a 21-day public review. PVPC Principal Planner Dana Roscoe stated that the FFY 2018 TIP and FFY 2019 TIP will not be discussed and discussion will begin with the FFY 2020 TIP which is over programmed by approximately \$3 million. Mr. Roscoe indicated that the last project listed on the 2020 page of the document distributed at today's meeting lends flexibility to the FFY 2020 TIP, namely, the *Hadley Reconstruction on Route 9, from Middle Street to Maple/South Maple Street (605032)* project which exceeds the regional funding. Mr. Roscoe explained that this Hadley TIP project is split over two years and where the split occurs is flexible. Mr. Roscoe noted that a possible solution to the FFY 2020 TIP being over programmed and to bring the TIP into financial constraint would be to remove the *Granby Improvements @ 2 Locations on Route 202: School Street and Five Corners (606895)* Project because it has the lowest TEC score and to program the *Hadley Reconstruction on Route 9, from Middle Street to Maple/South Maple Street (605032)* Project over multiple years so that the project amount could increase in FFY 2021 and decrease in FFY 2020. Mr. Sokop asked if there were any questions regarding the Hadley project and Jeff Hoynoski commented that the project is at the 25% design stage and is a safety project.

Mr. Roscoe indicated that there is \$1.5 million available for the FFY 2021 TIP and if \$3 million is removed from FFY 2020 and added into the FFY 2021 TIP, the FFY 2021 TIP won't be fiscally constrained. Mr. Roscoe indicated that a project will need to be removed from the FFY 2021 TIP and added to the FFY 2022 TIP in order to have the FFY 2021 TIP be financially constrained. Therefore, Mr. Roscoe said that solving the over programming of the FFY 2020 TIP doesn't solve the overall problem. He indicated that there needs to be a resolution on the FFY 2020 and then the over programming of the FFY 2021 needs to be addressed. Mr. Roscoe underscored that the two possibilities he recognizes for resolving the \$2.9 M over programming of the FFY 2020 TIP are: (1) remove the Hadley (605032) project in its entirety or (2) remove half the Hadley project and remove the Granby (606895) project. At this point, Mr. Roscoe stated, once FFY 2020 is resolved, FFY 2021 becomes over programmed. He then explained that the \$1.7 million dollar *Agawam Resurfacing and Related Work on Route 159, from Meadow Street to 150 feet South of Suffield Street* (607626) project is not going to be a candidate for FFY 2022 so that \$1.7 M will come out of the FFY 2022 TIP but that won't completely solve FFY 2022. In response to a question, Mr. Roscoe replied that any TIP project that exceeds the regional funding target can be programmed over multiple years and the regional funding target is plus or minus \$24 million dollars.

Mr. Roscoe stated that a question has been asked about the *Northampton Intersection Improvements at Elm Street, Main Street, West Street, State Street and New South Street* (607893) which is currently programmed for the FFY 2021 TIP for \$2.2 million. Mr. Roscoe underscored that fiscal constraint can be achieved if (1) the Northampton (607893) project is removed from FFY 2021; (2) part of the Hadley (605032) project in Year 1 and the *Holyoke Reconstruction of I-91 Interchange 17 and Route 141* (606156) project in year 1 are moved out of Year 1 and into Year 2; (3) the Northampton (607893) project is moved out of Year 2 and (4) the *Agawam Resurfacing and Related Work on Route 159, from Meadow Street to 150 feet South of Suffield Street* (607626) project is removed from Year 3. Mr. Roscoe added that there would be some money left over for each of the three years.

Mr. Roscoe commented that we're 7 – 8 months into FFY 2017 and next week at the April 25th MPO meeting three project amendments to the current TIP will be recommended to the MPO members for a 21-day public review period, namely: the *Agawam-West Springfield Bridge Replacement Over the Westfield River* (605384) with a cost increase from \$23.1 to \$29.3 million; the *Amherst-Bridge Replacement Over Mill River* (607528) which has increased in cost from \$2 million to \$3 million; and the *Southwick Congamond Road Reconstruction* (604033) with a cost increase from \$7.1 million to \$7.2 million. Mr. Roscoe commented that because TIP projects seem to be escalating in cost, he would rather have money on the table to absorb cost increases rather than programming to the penny and then having to cut projects when costs increase.

Bryan Pounds, MassDOT Transportation Planner, asked Mr. Roscoe to repeat what was recently said about the TIP projects. Mr. Roscoe replied that Holyoke (606156) is removed from FFY 2020 and is moved into FFY 2021; Northampton (607893) is removed from FFY 2021 and Agawam (607626) is removed from FFY 2022. Mr. Roscoe added those actions result in the following remaining amounts: \$850,000 in FFY 2022; \$473,000 in FFY 2021 and \$289,000 in FFY 2020. Mr. Roscoe said the proposal to remove the Northampton (607893) project is not based on its TEC score which is 68; rather it is because the City of Northampton has prioritized and seems to be more actively pursuing the *Intersection Improvements at King Street, North Street and Summer Street and at King Street and Finn Street* (607502) project, which might result in the project being reconsidered over the next year.

Mr. Roscoe asked if there were any more proposals and Mr. Pounds asked about current scenario. Mr. Roscoe replied that the *Holyoke Reconstruction of I-91 Interchange 17 and Route 141* (606156) project is being removed from the FFY 2020 TIP resulting in the complete elimination of the \$2.9 deficit and the creation of a \$200,000 surplus. Mr. Roscoe added that the Holyoke (606156) project is the only project impacted in the proposed FFY

2020 TIP list. Mr. Roscoe continued saying that the Holyoke (606156) project moves into the FFY 2021 TIP and the FFY 2021 is now \$1.5 million under-programmed. Mr. Roscoe noted that when the \$2.2 million for the *Northampton Intersection Improvements at Elm Street, Main Street, West Street, State Street and New South Street* (607893) project is added, the total becomes \$3.8 million with just under \$500 left on the table. Mr. Sokop interjected that Dominick Sarno, Mayor of Springfield, has mentioned the *Springfield Reconstruction of Sumner Avenue at Dickinson Street and Belmont Avenue (The "X")* (608717) which is the highest, unprogrammed transportation project and will be at the 25% design stage this summer.

Since there were no more comments, Mr. Roscoe stated that a motion to address the FFY 2020 through FFY 2022 years was needed. Mr. Roscoe then explained that the JTC members need to make a recommendation to the MPO members on April 25th; however, the MPO members are not obligated to accept the recommendation. For example, Mr. Roscoe said the JTC members could make a recommendation that included the *Chicopee Reconstruction and Related Work on Fuller Road, from Memorial Drive (Route 33) to Shawinigan Drive* (604434) TIP project and Mayor Sarno could say at the upcoming MPO meeting that he wants the "X" project in Springfield (608717) included instead of the Chicopee (604434) TIP project and the MPO members could accept that change. Mr. Roscoe underscored that the PVPC staff will do the best that they can which is to retain the Chicopee (604434) project because it is an \$8.7 million dollar project while the Springfield (608717) project is a \$6.1 million dollar project; however, if the Springfield (608717) project is programmed, that would leave a couple million dollars on table so another project would need to be programmed. Mr. Roscoe underscored that the JTC members are trying to program as close to the regional funding target as possible without going over and zeroing it out.

Mr. Pounds asked Mr. Roscoe to verify what project ID numbers are being designated for FFY 2021 and the 6 projects being discussed in the current scenario. Mr. Roscoe responded by naming 5 projects: Hadley (12492652), Northampton (3570436), Easthampton (2281664), Longmeadow (3066336), and Holyoke (3349615). Mr. Pounds asked why the Granby project wasn't included and Mr. Roscoe replied that the *Granby Improvements @ 2 locations on Route 202: School Street and Five Corners* (606895) Project is included in the FFY 2020 TIP. Steve Williams asked if there are other 25% design stage projects that were submitted that aren't on this list and Mr. Roscoe replied that there are. He said that there are two District 1 projects that are at 100% design that aren't on this list. Mr. Williams responded that if no one's going to advocate for these projects, the JTC members should move on. Peter Frieri of MassDOT District 1 responded saying that he wasn't advocating for the *Worthington Route 143 Reconstruction and Related Work* (606912) project; but by the end of the month, the project would be at the 75% design stage.

Mr. Roscoe noted that he and Jim Czach have discussed the urban rural equity issue and Mr. Roscoe asked how the \$14 million Worthington (606912) Project, the \$7 million *Granville Reconstruction of Route 57* (608736) Project and the \$4 million *Cummington Route 9 Retaining Wall* (606797) Project will be funded considering that in FFY 2022, the funding is 100% urban; in FFY 2021, it's urban and suburban; and in FFY 2020, it's urban and 1 rural. Mr. Roscoe asked how to address that in those three years, \$1.3 million in funding has been committed for rural out of a \$75 million dollar target. Mr. Roscoe noted that the Town of Worthington is investing in paying for the design of this \$15 million dollar, Worthington (606912) project. He asked how the project will be funded when it's at 100% design stage. Mr. Roscoe added that the Worthington project will never have a high TEC score because it doesn't service the population that the other urban projects do. He underscored that a solution is needed maybe to tell rural communities that they shouldn't design projects that can't be funded — though he wouldn't recommend saying that. Jessica Allan, City Planner for City of Easthampton asked if funding could be based on population capital so that a certain percentage of every year's allocation goes to rural communities because that's how many people live in that area percentage-wise? Mr. Roscoe replied that Ms. Allan's suggestion was an excellent one. Mr. Sokop asked if there was any further discussion to be had regarding the proposed amendments to the TIP.

Seeing there were no comments or questions, Mr. Sokop asked for a motion to address the FFY 2020 through FFY 2022 years.

MOVED BY STEVE WILLIAMS OF THE TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN, SECONDED BY DAN CALL OF THE CITY OF WESTFIELD, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE PIONEER VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO) RELEASE THE DRAFT FFY2018 – 2022 PIONEER VALLEY TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) FOR A REQUIRED 21-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING PROPOSED AMENDMENTS: MOVE THE *HOLYOKE RECONSTRUCTION OF I-91 INTERCHANGE 17 AND ROUTE 141* (606156) PROJECT FROM FFY2020 TO FFY2021; REMOVE THE *NORTHAMPTON INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT ELM STREET, MAIN STREET, WEST STREET, STATE STREET AND NEW SOUTH STREET* (607893) PROJECT FROM FFY2021; AND REMOVE THE *AGAWAM RESURFACING AND RELATED WORK ON ROUTE 159, FROM MEADOW STREET TO 150 FEET SOUTH OF SUFFIELD STREET* (607626) PROJECT FROM FFY2022. ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, THE MOTION UNANIMOUSLY WAS PASSED.

9. Adjourn

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

MOVED BY MIKE MCMANUS OF THE CITY OF HOLYOKE, SECONDED BY RANDY BROWN OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWICK, TO ADJOURN THE JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC) MEETING AT 11:15 A.M.. ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIES.

Relevant documents distributed at this April 18, 2017 JTC Meeting:

- Joint Transportation Committee April 18, 2017 Meeting Agenda
- JTC Working List for FFY2020-2022 Transportation Improvement Program
- Project List (FFY 2020-2022)