

Minutes of the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) Meeting

Wednesday, May 8, 2019

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

Present were:

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Glenn Barrington	UMass	Jeff Hoynoski	MassDOT District 2
Mike Bolduc	MassDOT District 2	Betsy Johnson	Walk/Bike Springfield
Elizabeth Botelho	City of Chicopee	Van Kacoyannakis	Civil Engineer, VHB
Randy Brown	DPW Director, Southwick	Derek Krevat	Transportation Planner, MassDOT
Paul Burns-Johnson	PVTA Manager-Planning & Analysis	Dmitriy Mayboroda	Sr. Project Engineer, McMahon Assoc.
Matt Chase	VHB	Mike McManus	Superintendent, Holyoke DPW
Mark Cressotti	City Engineer, Westfield	Dan Murphy	City of Easthampton
Jim Czach	West Springfield DPW	Jim Reidy	Town of South Hadley
Wayne Feiden	Director of Planning, Northampton	Peter Shumway	Springfield DPW
Peter Frieri	MassDOT District 1	Marvin Ward	MassBike Easthampton
Guest Speaker			
John Lozada	MassDOT Civil Rights		
PVPC Staff			
Rana Al Jammal	Senior Planner Specialist	Gary Roux	Principal Planner
Andy McCaul	Senior Transportation Planner	Lynn Shell	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 Meetings

Mr. Czach asked for a motion to approve the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) minutes of April 10, 2019.

MOVED BY MARVIN WARD, MASSBIKE, SECONDED BY JIM REIDY OF THE TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY, TO APPROVE THE JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC) MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 10, 2019. ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIES.

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

3. Presentation – ADA Transition Planning in Public Rights of Way

Mr. Czach asked John Lozada, MassDOT Civil Rights Director, to begin his presentation on *ADA Transition Planning in Public Rights of Way*. Mr. Lozada first pointed out that we receive federal dollars and there are laws that require us to not discriminate which include obligations under Title 6 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. He stated that not until 1990 was there a more formal structured set of laws around disability and access, namely, the Americans with Disabilities Act. Mr. Lozada reported that in Massachusetts, there are 391,000 working age people with disabilities but only 150,000 are actually employed. He noted that proactive efforts have not been made to employ people with disabilities across the nation. Mr. Lozada talked about the emphasis on compliance and he noted that in Massachusetts about 150 communities out of 351 cities and towns have represented that they have an ADA Transition Plan and approximately 160 communities indicate they have done a self-evaluation. Mr. Lozada stated the ADA is enforced by the U.S. Department of Justice and he noted that the Attorney General has oversight of the ADA and Title 6. Mr. Lozada stated that they developed the Project Civic Access initiative which is a

division that monitors ADA news and takes complaints. Mr. Lozada noted that the slides he is presenting today are from a larger set of slides that MassDOT uses as part of an ADA course which they will provide on June 13th in Hadley.

Mr. Lozada noted that the ADA allows for attorneys' fees in the event someone wins a court claim of discrimination. He added that there are similar rights and obligations under what is called Title 3 of the ADA which covers places of public accommodation, businesses, malls, movie theatres, baseball stadiums, etc. Mr. Lozada noted that there are people who file reasonable and logical ADA complaints but he noted there are also some who do "drive-by" ADA claims and threaten to sue. He also noted that the Architectural Access Board can receive a complaint about something that has been built in a noncompliant way and they have the ability to fine.

Mr. Lozada talked about *Program Access* and the steps an organization can take to make a program accessible to people with disabilities including designating someone as the ADA Coordinator and developing a procedure for filing, receiving and responding to complaints. He noted that a sign can be posted to let people know how they can request help if they have a disability or need to speak another language. He also noted that there is an obligation to conduct a self-evaluation. Mr. Lozada stated that there is a huge concern around public participation and he talked about the relationships that MassDOT has with different entities in the community such as the Independent Living Center which is supported with state and federal funding. He noted that an excellent resource in the Pioneer Valley region is the Stavros Center for Independent Living with offices in Amherst, Springfield and Holyoke.

Mr. Lozada next talked about *Sample Directives* for wheelchair walks and ramps and he referred to a link to the *Engineering Directive*. Mr. Lozada then provided a summary of the *MassDOT Deficient Pedestrian Ramp Remediation Program* noting that overall they have achieved 20% completion on the 6,416 ramps. He also referred to a map detailing where ramps are deficient, reconstructed or where there are plans for reconstruction. Mr. Lozada also talked about the Massachusetts Office on Disabilities (MOD) grants. He explained that they are municipal grants that provide funds for ADA transition planning and they also have some monies ranging up to \$250,000 for either a project or project support. Mr. Lozada noted that each highway district has an ADA Coordinator and he pointed out that Daryl Amaral is the ADA Coordinator for District 2.

As regards *Self-Evaluation*, Mr. Lozada stated that the idea is to identify physical and communications barriers and he noted that it is critical to have standards to measure to. He also noted that there are tools to do a self-evaluation. Mr. Lozada stated that the federal government has come up with 4 priorities which include: (1) walkways that serve state/local government; (2) transportation stops and facilities; (3) places of public accommodation and business; and, (4) walkways serving other areas. He also noted that there is an Active Trans Priority Tool that weighs different variables that would help prioritize, noting that people with disabilities and safety are the paramount considerations followed by equity. Mr. Lozada next reviewed *Multi-Year Plans*, including *Steps*; *Budget*; *Monitoring*; and, *Public Participation*. He also discussed funding resources, including federal, state and local. Finally, Mr. Lozada talked about Safe Routes to School and Complete Streets, noting that Complete Streets has planning assistance which could be used for ADA transition planning.

Mr. Lozada then responded to a series of questions raised by JTC members. Ms. Johnson asked if there is a list that could be made available regarding the communities that are ADA compliant. Mr. Lozada stated that he will share the list with Planning and the Highway Districts so that everyone will know who is compliant and who is not. Mr. Czach asked if there is a one-page summary available that he could circulate to the JTC. Mr. Lozada stated that he will put that request on the list. He also noted that his office and the ADA Coordinators would be happy to entertain any further questions and he reminded everyone that there will be an ADA course in Hadley on June 13th. Mr. Czach then thanked Mr. Lozada for his presentation and he moved to take up agenda item 4.

4. Update 2020 Unified Planning Work Program – Review and Comment

PVPC Principal Planner Gary Roux referred to a handout entitled *Summary of Comments on the Draft UPWP* noting that these are the comments that have been received to date and he stated that PVPC plans to address all of these comments. Mr. Roux reminded JTC members that comments will be accepted up until the May 28th meeting of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and he asked everyone to send their comments to his attention.

Mr. Czach then thanked Mr. Roux for his update and he moved to take up agenda item 5.

5. 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – Review and Comment

PVPC Senior Planner Andrew McCaul reported that the 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) has been released for public review. Mr. McCaul stated that to date a few preliminary comments have been received from MassDOT and PVPC is waiting for their formal letter. Mr. McCaul reported that the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA) has requested some revisions to the version of the Transit TIP that was released for public review. He noted that those revisions are highlighted in yellow on the document entitled *Approved Project List (APA) PVTA – Corrected Version* and he added that most of the changes are minor and reflect how PVTA would like the TIP budgeted over the next 5 years. Mr. McCaul stated that the TIP was released by the MPO and he asked JTC members to review the document if they haven't yet done so, noting that it is posted on the PVPC website.

There being no questions, Mr. Czach thanked Mr. McCaul for his update and he moved to take up agenda item 6.

6. Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) - Update

Mr. Roux reported that the draft *Pavement* and draft *Safety* chapters were added to the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) as well as the index for the *Future Forecasts* chapter which talks about demographic projections. Mr. Roux stated that these are the projections for the region that PVPC worked on with MassDOT including, housing, population and employment. Mr. Roux stated that PVPC came up with an alternative employment scenario that looks at the current trends regarding employment growth which PVPC felt wasn't reflected as well in the state's projections. Mr. Roux stated that PVPC will be working from the state's numbers for Air Quality Conformity but we will be using our set of employment numbers for our regional transportation model.

Mr. Roux then addressed a document entitled *Funding Breakdown 2020-2040 RTP*. Mr. Roux stated that PVPC uses this information to make a financial determination that we are in constraint which means that the projects programmed in the plan do not exceed projected available resources. Mr. Roux stated that in the past we have identified the entire universe of our TIP projects and prioritized them as high, medium, low. He noted that PVPC is suggesting not doing that this time given that projects are actually selected based on consultations at the JTC and the MPO and then the TEC score.

Mr. Roux next reviewed a document entitled *Expenditure by Improvement Type 2015-2019* which includes the following project categories: Roadway Maintenance, Congestion Improvement, Bike Infrastructure, Safety, Transportation Alternative Program, Air Quality Improvement, Pedestrian Infrastructure, and Freight Infrastructure. Mr. Roux stated that Mr. McCaul tracked how our regional transportation dollars were actually spent from 2015-2019. In addition, Mr. Roux looked at how many of the project types also have a roadway maintenance element to them and he adjusted the expenditures based on those calculations. Mr. Roux explained that this chart indicates the actual percentage spent by project category as compared to the 2016 RTP. Mr. Roux then asked JTC members to offer their suggestions on the percentage breakdowns noting that the idea is to promote a regional vision on how to allocate our budget for the different types of transportation improvements. He added that he would like the JTC to

take action today so that their recommendation can be presented at the May 28th MPO meeting. Mr. Roux then responded to several questions that were raised and JTC members discussed various options for reallocating the budget. Based on the suggestions of JTC members, Mr. Roux proposed the following percentage breakdown: Roadway Maintenance 67%, Congestion 8%, Bike and Pedestrian 5%, Safety 12.5% and Air Quality 2.5%. It was noted that this breakdown leaves 0% for Freight Infrastructure. Mr. Roux stated that freight is moderately addressed as part of Roadway Maintenance.

Mr. Czach asked if there were any questions regarding the goals that Mr. Roux had just stated. There being none, Mr. Czach called for a motion to recommend the following goals for the next RTP: 67% Roadway Maintenance; 8% Congestion Improvement; 5% Bike Infrastructure; 12.5% Safety; 0% for the Transportation Alternative Program; 2.5% for Air Quality Improvement; 5% Pedestrian Infrastructure; and 0% Freight Infrastructure.

MOVED BY WAYNE FEIDEN OF THE CITY OF NORTHAMPTON, SECONDED BY DAN MURPHY OF THE CITY OF EASTHAMPTON, TO RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING GOALS FOR THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN: 67% ROADWAY MAINTENANCE; 8% CONGESTION IMPROVEMENT; 5% BIKE INFRASTRUCTURE; 12.5% SAFETY; 0% TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM; 2.5% AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT; 5% PEDESTRIAN INFRASTRUCTURE; 0% FREIGHT INFRASTRUCTURE.

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

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

Mr. Roux next referred to a handout entitled *Major Regional Projects* and he explained that this is a list of the projects that are at the \$20 million threshold noting that PVPC has identified projects that currently have a PRC number. Mr. Roux also referred to a second handout entitled *Other Potential RTP Projects* which he stated are projects that have been recommended but have not necessarily gone through the Project Review Committee yet. Mr. Roux noted that included on this list is an ongoing study for a new exit on I-90 which hasn't yet been finalized. He stated that this will be considered a visionary project and it won't be financially constrained as part of this plan. Mr. Roux also noted that there are a number of recommendations from the I-91 Viaduct study and he stated that he is looking for a response from the JTC as to which of these projects are important to include in the financially constrained portion of the RTP. Mr. Roux noted that the projects could all be included as visionary projects and if funding is properly identified, we would need to amend the plan and move that project forward.

Mr. Roux noted that District 2 has an Agawam rotary replacement project with a PRC number and there is also a recommendation from the I-91 Viaduct Improvements and he asked Jeff Hoynoski and Mike Bolduc, MassDOT District 2, to talk about the two Agawam rotary projects. Mr. Roux noted that the price goes from \$25,500,000 for the old project to \$156,600,000 for the new project which now includes bridges. Mr. Hoynoski stated that they are retaining the old number as a placeholder and it will probably need a new number. Mr. Bolduc explained that the new project will remove the rotary completely and everything will be rebuilt. Ms. Johnson stated that much of the I-91 Viaduct Improvement projects came out of the concept of having a Lower Connecticut River bicycle route. She noted that during the public participation, part of the reason for the no build alternative was to keep the current viaduct structure, save a lot of money and still get all the other amenities. She asked how to keep the I-91 improvement projects moving forward. Mr. Roux stated that with a visionary project, we need to demonstrate where funding is coming from. Ms. Johnson stated that the funding for a lot of these improvements was supposed to be statewide MassDOT. She noted that the projects were to be viewed as a regional improvement. Mr. Roux

stated that any of the I-91 projects that are going to be financially constrained must be in the Air Quality Conformity determinations. He stated that PVPC will continue this discussion at the May 28th MPO meeting.

Mr. Bolduc then provided an update on the I-91 Viaduct Improvements. He noted that they need to figure out which of the smaller projects could be done and whether Springfield will be the proponent, in which case some might end up being regional projects. Mr. Bolduc stated that the very large ones are long-term projects that MassDOT has to be behind. Mr. Bolduc noted that he and Mr. Hoynoski were tasked with coming up with a scope for each project and they were asked to submit an overview for Boston to review. Mr. Bolduc reported that they wrote up the overviews to submit before the next Project Review Committee. They would need to decide which to initiate and at that time they would have to meet with the City of Springfield. Mr. Hoynoski noted that some of the improvements are in their jurisdiction and some are the City's. Mr. Bolduc stated that they have been looking at these projects for a long time, trying to decide where they should go, and they hope to have a better picture by the end of the summer.

Mr. Roux stated that we have \$1.3 million available for discretionary funds in 2025-2029 and he noted that the likely potential project would be the Enhanced Riverfront Bike/Ped Connections which is listed for \$1 million. He stated that all the smaller regional projects could go in 2030-2034. Mr. Roux stated that there will be a discussion about the other projects but that as of yet, they are not being financially constrained because a commitment is needed from the state. Mr. Roux stated that PVPC will bring this to the MPO. A question was raised as to whether or not one of the projects listed on the Major Regional Projects sheet has not been programmed given that there are 2 projects listed on the Funding Breakdown sheet for 2035-2039 but 3 are listed on the Major Regional Projects sheet. Mr. Roux stated that PVPC will verify this information.

Mr. Roux announced that in the afternoon following the May 28th MPO meeting, there will be a public meeting for the purpose of environmental consultation on the RTP, and PVPC will be inviting a number of environmental groups including the Department of Environmental Protection and the Nature Conservancy. Mr. Roux explained that there will not be a formal presentation but PVPC Transportation staff will be available if anyone would like to consult on potential environmental impacts related to the RTP projects. Mr. Roux stated that a notice about the environmental consultation will be sent out and he noted that JTC members are welcome to attend if interested.

Mr. Roux stated that PVPC will be asking the MPO to release the draft RTP at the June 25th MPO meeting and there will be a 21 day public comment period. Mr. Roux stated that PVPC plans to schedule 3 formal opportunities for public participation. The proposed dates are June 25th, 26th and 27th and the suggested locations are Springfield, Amherst and Westfield. Mr. Roux asked JTC members to let him know if they have any suggestions, noting that he would like to try to get those meetings scheduled as soon as possible in order to provide ample notice. Mr. Czach thanked Mr. Roux for his update and he then moved to address item 7.

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

Paul Burns-Johnson, PVTA Manager of Planning & Analysis, reported that Cottage Street opened on April 15th and he stated that operations are running well. He also announced that there will be an Open House at 10:00 a.m. on June 3rd. As regards the budget, Mr. Burns-Johnson reported they are hoping some amendments will come through to rectify the challenges in the Senate budget that was released yesterday but at this point, if the Senate budget passes, PVTA may be \$1.3 million short for this year's revenue. He added that those are preliminary numbers. Finally, Mr. Burns-Johnson reported that PVTA is adding a program called *Senior Fare Free Tuesday*. He explained that this is a 2 year pilot which will allow seniors to ride free on Tuesdays on a fixed route system. He noted that they are doing outreach in senior centers across the region and hopefully this will increase ridership.

Mr. Czach thanked Mr. Burns-Johnson for his report and he then moved to address agenda item 8.

8. Other Business

Mr. Roux encouraged JTC members to spread the word about Baystate Bike Week which takes place from May 11th to May 19th and he asked JTC members to let him know if they need posters or assistance in getting the word out.

8. Adjourn

Mr. Czach asked if anyone had any other business to conduct. There being none, he called for a motion to adjourn.

MOVED BY JIM REIDY OF THE TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY, SECONDED BY PAUL BURNS-JOHNSON OF THE PVTA, TO ADJOURN THE JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC) MEETING OF MAY 8, 2019. ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIES.

This JTC meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Relevant documents distributed at this May 8, 2019 JTC meeting:

- Joint Transportation Committee May 8, 2019 Meeting Agenda
- Minutes of the April 10, 2019 Joint Transportation Committee Meeting
- Approved Project List (FY 2020) – PVTA Corrected Version
- Summary of Comments on the Draft UPWP
- Funding Breakdown 2020-2040 RTP
- Expenditure by Improvement Type 2015-2019
- Major Regional Projects
- Other Potential RTP Projects
- Regional OCI Scenarios