

# Minutes of the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) Meeting

Wednesday, May 9, 2018

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

## Present were:

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Price Armstrong	PVTA Sr. Transit Analyst	Peter Frieri	MassDOT District 1
Mike Bolduc	MassDOT District 2	Jeff Hoynoski	MassDOT District 2
Bruce Cadieux	Wales Road Commissioner	Betsy Johnson	Walk/Bike Springfield
Dan Call	Westfield Columbia Rail Trail	Andy Krar	Town Engineer, Longmeadow
Matt Chase	VHB	Jennifer Lee	Stavros/PVRCC
Michelle Chase	Town Engineer, Agawam	Mike McManus	Superintendent Holyoke DPW
Jeremy Cigal	Engineer, Westfield	Dan Murphy	City of Easthampton
Mark Cressotti	City Engineer, Westfield	Dawn Nims	Agawam Engineering
Jim Czach	West Springfield DPW	Matt Sokop	City Engineer, Springfield
Nick Dines	Town of Williamsburg	Marvin Ward	MassBike Easthampton
Michael Fisher	BL Companies	Steve Williams	Belchertown
<b>PVPC Staff</b>			
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 10:23 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 April 12, 2018.

MOVED BY MATT SOKOP OF THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, SECONDED BY MARK CRESSOTTI OF THE CITY OF WESTFIELD, TO APPROVE THE JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC) MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 12, 2018. ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIES ON BOTH MEASURES.

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

**3. Approval of the “At-Grade – Shared Use Path and Roadway Crossings Study” safety assessment report template**

Principal Planner Gary Roux reported that members of the Bicycle/Pedestrian and Complete Streets Sub-Committee were asked for their comments regarding the content and format of the “At-Grade – Shared Use Path and Roadway Crossings Study” safety assessment report. Mr. Roux explained that the intent of this study and its safety assessment report is to identify and inventory the 70 “At-Grade – Shared Use Path and Roadway Crossings” in the region. Mr. Roux indicated that three handout documents related to this agenda item have been distributed at today’s meeting, namely;

- *Path and Roadway Crossings in Hadley on Norwottuck Rail Trail*
- *Complete Street Sub-Committee Comments on the Draft Format Presented at the Meeting on April 12th, 2018*
- *70 Shared Use Paths listed by Community then Roadway*

Mr. Roux reported that PVPC staff is proposing to develop a map for each community having one or more Path and Roadway Crossings that will reflect the location or locations of the community’s Path and Roadway Crossings. In addition, the safety assessment report will identify the crash history of each Path and Roadway Crossing and feature photos of the Path and Roadway Crossings and general remarks concerning design, signage, pedestrian beacons and traffic data on the roadway along with other data.

Mr. Roux noted that the treatments of these Path and Roadway Crossings are not consistent. The newer ones are designed to meet the current standards whereas some of the older ones may not. Mr. Roux underscored that PVPC staff members have a record of all comments submitted over the last 30 days by the Bicycle/Pedestrian and Complete Streets Sub-Committee members and these comments have been addressed and can be found listed in the *Complete Street Sub-Committee Comments on the Draft Format* document. Mr. Roux stated that this Shared Use Path and Roadway Crossings Study will begin in June with the compiling of data. In September, recommendations regarding safety features and consistency in signage and crossroad markings will be presented to the JTC members for review and discussion. In the meanwhile, Mr. Roux urged the JTC members to review the three distributed documents and submit any comments or questions that they may have. Mr. Roux then asked the JTC members to accept the format of the “At-Grade – Shared Use Path and Roadway Crossings Study” safety assessment report template. Mr. Czach called for a motion to accept the format of the Shared Use Path and Roadway Crossings Safety Assessment Report template as presented.

MOVED BY DAN CALL, OF THE OF THE CITY OF WESTFIELD, SECONDED BY DAN MURPHY, OF THE CITY OF EASTHAMPTON, TO APPROVE THE FORMAT OF THE “AT-GRADE – SHARED USE PATH AND ROADWAY CROSSINGS STUDY” SAFETY ASSESSMENT REPORT TEMPLATE. ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIES

Mr. Czach thanked Mr. Roux for his presentation and he moved on to agenda item 4.

**4. 2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – Currently out for Public Review and Comment**

PVPC Senior Transportation Planner Andy McCaul reported that at the April 24th MPO meeting, the MPO members endorsed a series of proposed amendments to the Pioneer Valley region’s current, FFY 2018 Pioneer Valley Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and he delineated the proposed amendments as follows:

- Increase the cost of the *Improvements at I-91 Exit 19 Interchange at Route 9 and Damon Road* in Northampton, Project #604597 from \$7,438,490 to \$8,388,383
- Increase the cost of the *Route 20 Access Improvements (Phase I)* in Westfield, Project #603449 from \$6,133,933 to \$7,993,910
- Reduce project cost for *Bridge Replacement, H-21-018, Lyman Street Over First Level Canal* in Holyoke, Project #600936 from \$11,762,603 to \$8,019,034 (this was a change made during the required 21-day public review)
- Remove Brimfield Road Resurfacing and Related Work in Holland, Project #604962 from FFY 2018 because this project is proposed to be funded in the FFY 2019 element of the Pioneer Valley’s FFY 2019-FFY 2023 TIP

Mr. McCaul reported that also on April 24th, the MPO members approved the release of a series of new amendments to the Pioneer Valley region’s current, FFY 2018 TIP for a required 21-day public review period which identified additional bridge projects. Mr. McCaul explained that the release of these additional amendments for bridge projects was required in order to bring the bridge program administered by the state into fiscal constraint. Managing the fiscal constraint, he said, resulted in several bridge projects in our area being pushed back a year. Mr. McCaul stated that, as a result, the bridge program for the FFY 2018 – 2022 TIP will now mirror the FFY 2019 – 2023 TIP bridge program. The new amendments for the additional bridge projects are as follows:

City or Town Location	Name of Bridge Project
Hadley	Moody Bridge
Hadley, Northampton and South Hadley	Connecticut River Trail Construction
Northampton	Reconstruction, N-19-059, I-91 over Hockanum Road – <b>Move to FFY 2020</b>
Middlefield	Bridge Replacement M-19-010, Chester Road Over Smart Brook
Northampton	Reconstruction, N-19-059, I-91 over Hockanum Road – <b>Move to FFY 2021</b>
Hadley	Bridge Replacement, H-01-005, Bay Road (Route47) over the Fort River connecting to Route 116 <b>Move to FFY 2021</b>
Northampton	Reconstruction, N-19-059, I-91 over Hockanum Road – <b>Moved from FFY 2018</b>
Westfield	Bridge Replacement, W-25-006, Route 10/202 (Southwick Road) over the Little River
Hadley	Bridge Replacement, H-01-005, Bay Road (Route47) over the Fort River connecting to Route 116 – <b>Moved from FFY 2020</b>
Northampton	Reconstruction, N-19-059, I-91 over Hockanum Rd. – <b>Moved from FFY 2019</b>

Mr. Czach next called on PVPC Principal Planner Dana Roscoe to take up the next agenda item.

**5. 2019-2023 TIP - Currently out for Public Review and Comment**

PVPC Principal Planner Dana Roscoe called the JTC members’ attention to the ten-page handout document entitled *2019 Pioneer Valley Region Transportation Improvement Program* which lists the TIP projects in the fiscal years 2019-2023. Mr. Roscoe stated that this is the same list of TIP projects that was reviewed at the last JTC meeting held back on April 12th. At that meeting, the JTC members recommended that the Pioneer Valley MPO members vote to advance this list of highway projects by way of a Draft FFY 2019 – 2023 TIP document for a required 21-day public

review period. Mr. Roscoe reported that during the first half of the 21-day public review period, nine comments were received, eight regarding the *Improvements and Related Work on Routes 202 & 21, from Turkey Hill Road to South Main Street* in Belchertown, Project #608412 and one comment about the *Intersection Improvements at Bay Street and Berkshire Avenue* in Springfield, Project #608411. Mr. Roscoe indicated that all the comments will be shared with the MPO members at their May 22nd meeting and the MPO members will then endorse the proposed list of TIP projects for FFY 2019 – 2023.

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

**6. FFY 2019 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) – Currently out for Public Review and Comment**

Gary Roux explained that the FFY 2018 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is currently out for a required 21-day public review and there have been no comments received from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) or the public. Mr. Roux added that all comments received will be presented to the MPO members at their upcoming May 22nd meeting.

Mr. Czach thanked Mr. Roux for his update and he continued with agenda item 8.

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

Price Armstrong, PVTA Senior Transit Operations Analyst, reported that since Krystal Oldread, PVTA Manager of Operations was attending a conference, he would provide an update of PVTA's current activities. Mr. Armstrong reported that because the Regional Transportation Authorities (RTAs) have been once again level-funded for FFY 2019, the PVTA has a \$3.1 million dollar deficit. Mr. Armstrong stated that, as a result, the PVTA Advisory Board has adopted a portfolio of service reductions and fare increases but the Board is waiting to learn whether or not Governor Baker, the Massachusetts Senate and the House of Representatives will decide to fund the RTAs at \$88 million as originally planned. In any case, Mr. Armstrong indicated that the PVTA Advisory Board approved a 20% increase in bus fares increases to take effect July 1, 2018. He added that about 300 comments on the fare increase have been received but the service reductions have received 3,000 comments.

Mr. Armstrong announced that the "Fast Break" smart card has been launched and the cards are available for purchase at PVTA's ticket vending machines (TVMs) located at Springfield Union Station, Holyoke Transportation Center and the Westfield Olver Transportation Pavilion. Mr. Armstrong reported that the PVTA is preparing the "MGM Loop" route which will service several key destinations in the downtown Springfield area including MGM Springfield, the Armory and the Basketball Hall of Fame. No fare will be charged for the MGM Loop's first year of operation and subsequent yearly fares will be determined by the City of Springfield.

Mr. Armstrong also announced that the PVTA will be moving its Operations and Maintenance Facility from Main Street to Cottage Street in Springfield ahead of schedule. It was slated to open in January but will most likely be operational sooner. Mr. Armstrong also reported that Ms. Oldread will be reaching out to all the towns and cities that have TIP projects that will impact their bus routes.

## **8. Other Business**

Jeff McCollough, Senior Transportation Planner, announced that Bay State Bike Week, May 12th – 20th begins on Saturday. Mr. McCollough reported that there will be a free breakfast in Easthampton this Saturday and an opportunity to ride a bike with Mayor Brian Sullivan in Westfield. Betsy Johnson reminded the JTC members that a bicycle rodeo will be held on Chestnut Street in Springfield across from the Lincoln School on May 19th. Mr. McCollough added that if you fill out a questionnaire in Agawam on Monday, May 14th, you will receive a free water bottle. Mr. Czach encouraged everyone to participate in bike week.

Mr. Roux reported that the regional bike share program, ValleyBike Share, will soon be installing bike share stations later this month and into the month of June in Springfield, Holyoke, Amherst, Northampton, South Hadley and the University of Massachusetts Amherst. At full build-out, Mr. Roux stated, there will be 50 stations with 500 bikes. He explained that there will be about 30 bikes at first but more will be added later. Mr. Roux indicated that all the bikes will need to be peddled but they will have an electric motor assist which will engage on inclines. He added that the bike share program is not intended for long trips but rather for trips of 45 minutes or less.

Mr. Czach announced that the next MPO Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 22nd. There being no other business, he called for a motion to adjourn.

## **9. Adjourn**

MOVED BY MARVIN WARD OF MASSBIKE, SECONDED BY DAN CALL OF THE CITY OF WESTFIELD, TO ADJOURN THE JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC) MEETING AT 11:07 A.M. ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIES.

### **Relevant Documents Distributed at this May 9, 2018 JTC Meeting:**

- *Joint Transportation Committee May 9, 2018 Meeting Agenda*
- *Minutes of the April 12, 2018 Joint Transportation Committee Meeting*
- *Town of Hadley: At-Grade – Shared Use Path and Roadway Crossings*
- *At-Grade Crossings Listed*
- *2018-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Bridge Section Summary of Proposed Changes*
- *2019 -2023 Transportation Improvement Program*
- *TIP 2019-2023 -Transit*
- *Complete Street Sub-Committee Comments on the Draft Format Presented at the Meeting on April 12th, 2018\9*