

Minutes of the Tuesday, March 22, 2022 Virtual Zoom Meeting of the
Pioneer Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
held by the
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
60 Congress Street, Springfield, MA 01104-3419

MPO Members Present:

Steve Woelfel	Director of Strategic Planning, Office of Transportation Planning, Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) Representing MPO Chair James Tesler, Acting Massachusetts Secretary of Transportation and Chief Executive Officer
James Barry	Selectboard, Town of Belchertown
Roger Fuller	Selectboard Member, Town of Chesterfield
Joshua Garcia	Mayor, City of Holyoke
Mark Gold	Town of Longmeadow Selectboard
Walter Gunn	Chairman, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC)
Nicole LaChapelle	Mayor, City of Easthampton
William Reichelt	Mayor, Town of West Springfield
Paula Simmons	MassDOT District Two Office Representing Massachusetts Department of Transportation Highway Division Administrator Jonathan Gulliver
Douglas Slaughter	Chair, Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA)
Rick Sullivan	President and CEO, Economic Development Council of Western Massachusetts

Guests and PVPC Staff Present:

Rana Al-Jammal	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Daryl Amaral	MassDOT District Two Office, Acting State Aid Engineer
Patrick Beaudry	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Public Affairs
Tina Cote	Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA)
Peter Frieri	MassDOT, District One Office
Michelle Ho	MassDOT Planning
Derek Krevat	MassDOT Transportation Planner – Office of Transportation Planning
Andrew McCaul	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Mark Moore	Massachusetts Highway, District One
Andrew Reovan	Federal Highway Administration
Kimberly H. Robinson	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Executive Director
Dana Roscoe	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Sandra Sheehan	Administrator, Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA)
Louise Sullivan	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Support Staff
Andrew Wang	MassDOT Intern

Note: Because this meeting was held via Zoom, not all those present are included as some participants were only identified by a phone number and no name was available

1. Chairman’s Call to Order, Welcome and Opening Remarks

Steve Woelfel, Director of Strategic Planning, Office of Transportation Planning, Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT), Representing Jamey Tesler, Acting Massachusetts Secretary of Transportation and Chief Executive Officer, called the March 22, 2022 meeting of the Pioneer Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to order at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Woelfel asked for a roll call from the MPO members present with following members responding: Paula Simmons, MassDOT District Two, Representing Massachusetts Department of Transportation Highway Division Administrator Jonathan Gulliver; Rick Sullivan, President and CEO, Economic Development Council of Western Massachusetts; William Reichelt, Mayor of West Springfield; Nicole LaChapelle, Mayor of Easthampton; Douglas Slaughter, Chair, Pioneer Valley Transit Authority; Mark Gold, Longmeadow Selectboard; Roger Fuller, Selectboard Member, Town of Chesterfield; James Barry, Belchertown Selectboard Member; Joshua Garcia, Mayor of Holyoke; and Walter Gunn, Chairman, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission. PVPC Principal Planner Dana Roscoe confirmed that this roll call constitutes a quorum.

Following the roll call, Mr. Woelfel moved to take up the minutes of the previous MPO meeting held on February 22, 2022.

2. MPO Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting of the Pioneer Valley MPO Held Remotely on February 22, 2022

Mr. Woelfel called for a motion to approve the minutes of the previous Pioneer Valley MPO meeting which was held on February 22, 2022.

MOVED BY WALTER GUNN, CHAIRMAN, PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION, SECONDED BY RICHARD SULLIVAN, PRESIDENT AND CEO, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 22, 2022 PIONEER VALLEY MPO MEETING AS PRESENTED.

Mr. Woelfel requested a roll call and each of the MPO members in attendance responded affirmatively.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED BY THE MPO MEMBERS PRESENT.

3. Presentation by MassDOT – Office of Transportation Planning (OTP) on the Recently Passed Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

Derek Krevat, MassDOT Transportation Planner, began his presentation by saying that the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) was passed by Congress in August 2021 and includes \$550 billion in new federal investment in America’s infrastructure. Mr. Krevat reported that the bill includes approximately \$5.4 billion in highway formula funds and \$1.4 billion in other formula funds for the following new programs: bridge, carbon reduction, electric vehicle infrastructure and resiliency (PROTECT). He explained that the BIL includes three types of transportation funding: Contract Authority (83%), Supplemental Appropriations (13%), and Authorizations Subject to Appropriation (4%). Mr. Krevat added that the recently passed “Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022” will provide sufficient obligation authority for the FY2022 increases contained in the BIL.

Mr. Krevat stated that because an appropriations bill has been passed, the Pioneer Valley MPO’s regional target will increase by \$4.9 million and MassDOT will coordinate with other planning partners to identify transportation projects for this new funding. He stipulated that for FFY2023-FFY2026, the statewide increase in STIP funding is \$442.2 million; the increase in overall regional target funding is \$150.7 million; and the increase in Pioneer Valley MPO target funding is \$21.3 million. Mr. Krevat explained that Massachusetts distributes approximately two-thirds

of the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) funds to statewide projects and programs such as highway, bridge, and bicycle/pedestrian projects.

Mr. Krevat reported that during the five-year period of FFY 2022 – FFY 2026, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) increased Massachusetts transportation formula funding by over 34% including: \$449 million in increased apportionments for existing programs; \$200 million for two new Carbon Reduction and PROTECT programs; and \$1.2 billion for the formula Bridge and Electric Vehicle Infrastructure. He pointed out that the current TIP will need to be amended to program BIL's increased FFY 2022 funding. He added that during this five-year period of FFY 2022 – FFY 2026, the five-year transit funding under the BIL is approximately \$2.8 billion, of which \$2.2 billion is for the MBTA and the remaining \$600 million is distributed among the Regional Transit Authorities.

Mr. Krevat announced that the BIL includes authorizations for over 35 discretionary programs administered by USDOT with 18 existing programs being reauthorized for approximately \$77 billion and 19 new programs being authorized for approximately \$36 billion. He explained that USDOT is administering these programs with the FHWA, FTA, FRA, and the Office of the Secretary. Mr. Krevat indicated that there are three large programs administered by the Office of the Secretary: RAISE Grants, Mega Project Grants, and Safe Streets and Roads for All. He underscored that there is a funding opportunity for a RAISE grant for FY 2022 with applications due by April 14, 2022. Mr. Krevat remarked that the total amount of funding available for this grant in FY 2022 is \$1.5 billion, which is a 50% increase over FY 2021. He added that the Safe Streets and Roads for All is a new program now authorized at \$5 billion over five years.

Mr. Krevat then listed six large programs administered by the FHWA: Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) Grants, the Bridge Investment Program, Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient and Cost-saving Transportation (PROTECT) Grants, Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grants, Rural Surface Transportation Grants, and the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program. He explained that the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient and Cost-saving Transportation is a new program authorized at \$1.4 billion over five years and \$125 million has been authorized for Planning, At-Risk Coastal Infrastructure, and Community Resilience and Evacuation Routes. Mr. Krevat announced that \$1 billion over five years has been authorized for the Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program which has been designed for reconnecting communities that have been divided by highways.

Mr. Krevat announced that the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) administers the Capital Investment Grants, the Low or No Emission Bus Grants, the Bus and Bus Facilities Competitive Grants, the All-Stations Accessibility Program, and the Rail Vehicle Replacement Grants. He reported that the Capital Investments program has been reauthorized at \$8 billion over five years and the Low or No Emission Bus Grants have been reauthorized at \$5.6 billion over five years. He indicated that three other programs administered by the FTA and their reauthorizations are: the Bus and Bus Facilities Competitive Grants (\$2 billion over five years); the All-Stations Accessibility Program (\$1.8 billion over five years); and the Rail Vehicle Replacement Grants (\$1.5 billion over five years).

After Mr. Krevat responded to some questions posed by the JTC members, Mr. Woelfel moved on to the next agenda item.

4. Review and Discussion of the Draft FFY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Development

Principal Planner Dana presented a brief overview of the FFY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) saying that that the UPWP operates on the federal fiscal year beginning on October 1st of this year to September 30th of next year and the UPWP is now on its sixth month. Mr. Roscoe displayed the UPWP Development Schedule noting that all tasks shown on the schedule have either been completed or on time except for the Greenhouse Gas Data Collection Report which has been delayed because PVPC's greenhouse gas monitor has failed so a new

amendment regarding what can be accomplished without it will be requested. Mr. Roscoe added that the Brimfield and Longmeadow Crash History Studies will be completed but their completion will be delayed.

Mr. Roscoe briefly described the UPWP’s Task Development by naming the emphasis areas that the UPWP must address, namely, climate change, clean energy, Justice 40, Complete Streets, public involvement, the 2024 Long Range Transportation Plan Update, TIP Development, the Planning and Environment Linkages, and transportation planning data. Mr. Roscoe noted a recommendation will made to the MPO on April 13th to release the Draft 2023 UPWP and the Draft UPWP will be presented for endorsement at the May MPO meeting.

5. Review and Discussion of the 2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development including the Draft List of Preferred Projects

PVPC Senior Transportation Planner Andy McCaul reviewed the 2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development Schedule saying that on April 13th, the JTC will perform a final review of the 2023-2027 TIP. On April 26th, the MPO will review and release the draft 2023-2027 TIP for the required 21-day public review period. Mr. McCaul added that there will be a TIP public hearing on May 11th; and on May 24th, the MPO will endorse the 2023-2027 TIP.

Mr. McCaul displayed the Draft 2023 Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA) Transit Funding spreadsheet showing that the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA) was awarded a 5339 Low No Grant for the purchase of eight battery electric buses to replace eight diesel powered buses: four 40-foot New Flyer electric buses at a cost of \$4,400,000 and four 35-foot New Flyer battery electric buses for \$4,000,000 along with additional funding for workforce training and building maintenance. Mr. McCaul then displayed Sections 2A and 2B of the FFY 2023 TIP and for FFY 2023, he listed the following TIP projects:

Project ID	Description
608374	West Springfield Reconstruction of Memorial Avenue
608847	Wales Bridge Replacement
604209	Holyoke – West Springfield Rehabilitation of Route 5
609517	Longmeadow-Blueberry Hill – Safe Routes to School
608560	Intersection Improvements
608565	Intersection Improvements

For FFY 2024, Mr. McCaul listed the following TIP projects:

Project ID	Description
608374	West Springfield Reconstruction of Memorial Avenue
609120	Ludlow Bridge Replacement Over Broad Brook
608846	Monson Bridge Replacement Over Conant Brook
610779	Hampden Bridge Replacement Over Scantic River
610652	Agawam Safe Routes to School – Robinson Park School

For FFY 2025, Mr. McCaul listed the following TIP projects:

Project ID	Description
608869	Northampton Bridge Replacement Over the Mill River
610768	Westhampton Bridge Maintenance Over North Brook of Manhan
608846	Hadley Bridge Replacement Over the Fort River
612031	Worthington Resurfacing and Related Work on Route 112
612079	Chicopee Safe Routes to School – Streiber Elementary School

Project ID	Description
612080	Springfield Safe Routes to School – Rebecca M. Johnson School
610657	Easthampton-Northampton Shared-Use Path along Mt. Tom Rd.
608413	Northampton-Rocky Hill Greenway Multi-Use Trail

For FFY 2026, Mr. McCaul listed the following TIP projects:

Project ID	Description
611953	Springfield-Chicopee Traffic Sign Replacement on I-291
612097	West Springfield I-91 Maintenance and Related Work
612065	Agawam Resurfacing and Related Work Route 57
612109	Chicopee Resurfacing and Related Work Route 33
S12204	Easthampton Safe Routes to School – Mountain View School
608157	Springfield-McKnight Community Trail Construction

For FFY 2027, Mr. McCaul listed the following TIP projects:

Project ID	Description
611965	Holyoke Intersection Improvements: Beech, Resnic, W. Franklin
607823	Southampton Greenway Rail Trail Construction
608787	Williamsburg Construction - Mill River Greenway Shared- Use Path

Mr. McCaul next displayed a spreadsheet entitled *2023 – 2027 TIP Project Ranking (March 8, 2022)* saying that this spreadsheet was in alphabetical order but now it has been sorted by design based on new information; and after design, it’s broken out by its Technical Evaluation Criteria (TEC) score. After Mr. McCaul reviewed the status of all the TIP projects on this list, he responded to questions from Walter Gunn and Mayor Josh Garcia.

6. Updates from MassDOT District One and District Two Officials on Relevant Transportation Issues and Projects of Interest to the Pioneer Valley MPO Members

Mr. Woelfel then called on Peter Frieri of the MassDOT District One office in Lenox to present District One’s updates on relevant transportation projects within its jurisdiction. Mr. Frieri reported that District One currently has three TIP projects programmed in FFY 2022 – 2026:

Project ID	Municipality	Project	Report delivered by Peter Frieri of MassDOT District One Office
606797	Cummington	Retaining Wall Replacement on Route 9	25% design submittal being prepared and will be presented soon
609287	Worthington	Phase 2 of Route 143 Reconstruction	100% Design Review completed on March 3rd
612031	Worthington	Resurfacing of Route 112 (6 mi.) from roundabout to the Huntington Town line	Preliminary design work is upcoming in the next year

Mr. Woelfel called on Daryl Amaral of the MassDOT District Two office in Northampton to present District Two’s updates on relevant transportation issues and projects. Mr. Amaral reported on the following TIP projects:

Proj. ID	Municipality	Project	Report delivered by Daryl Amaral of MassDOT District Two Office
608374	West Springfield	Memorial Ave. Reconstruction	Design is at PS&E, environmental cleared and advertisement date is June 4, 2022
608577	Easthampton	Union St. to High St., Rt. 147	PS&E comments completed January 11th. Ad date was on March 12, 2022. April 20 th is bid opening date
608473	South Hadley	South Hadley Resurfacing on Rt 116	Advertised December 11 th and contract given to Ludlow Construc.
609515	Northampton	Safe Routes to School	Design is at PS&E, ad date is July 23, 2022
608719	Amherst-Belchertown	Norwottuck Rail Trail Reconstruction	100% design with an August 6, 2022 ad date
608837	Chicopee-Holyoke	Bridge Preservation along I-391	Design is at PS&E, under review, comments due at end of month August 6, 2022 is the current ad date
606895	Granby	Improvements at 2 locations on Rt. 202	75% design and advertisement date is May 27, 2023
608847	Wales	Bridge Replacement - Wales Brook	100% design and ad date is May 11, 2023
604209	Holyoke	Holyoke – West Springfield Rehabilitation of Route 5	100% design and ad date is May 6, 2023
608565	Springfield	Intersection Improvements	75% Design and ad date, February 18, 2023
609120	Ludlow	Bridge Replacement - Broad Brook	Design submission due March 25 th and ad date is May 27, 2023
608560	Springfield	Improvements on St James/Tapley St.	25% Design, public hearing on April 5 th , ad date is March 25, 2023
610652	Agawam	Safe Routes to School-Robinson Park	25% Design, waiting for comments, ad date is February 18, 2023
608157	Springfield	McKnight Community Trail Constr.	25% Design, waiting for final approval, ad date is Sept. 30, 2022

Mr. Woelfel thanked Mr. Frieri and Mr. Amaral for their updates, and he then moved on to the next agenda item.

7. Updates from Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA) Administrator Sandra Sheehan on Relevant Transit Issues and Projects of Interest to the Pioneer Valley MPO Members

PVTA Administrator Sandra Sheehan reported that ridership continues to improve and that the PVTA is working on its new fiscal year budget. She noted that the PVTA will be sharing its cost of operations with PVPC staff. She added that the PVTA will be taking delivery of 12 transit buses and additional electric buses as listed in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

8. Other Business

Mr. Woelfel noted that the next virtual MPO meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 26, 2022. There being no other business, Mr. Woelfel called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

MOVED BY RICHARD SULLIVAN, PRESIDENT AND CEO, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS, SECONDED BY WALTER GUNN, CHAIRMAN, PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION, TO ADJOURN THIS MARCH 22, 2022 MEETING OF THE PIONEER VALLEY REGION'S MPO.
 THERE BEING NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, THE March 22nd MPO MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 11:20 A.M. WITHOUT OBJECTION.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Sullivan,
 Administrative Assistant I Specialist
 Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

List of Documents Distributed at the March 22, 2022 MPO Meeting

- MPO Agenda: March 22, 2022
- February 22, 2022 MPO Meeting Minutes
- 2023 -2027 TIP and 2023 UPWP Development Schedule
- DRAFT 2023 -2027 Statewide List
- TIP Development Schedule – March
- Draft PVMPO 2023-2027 Project List
- Draft PVTA Project List 2023 – 2027