

Minutes of the Virtual Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) Zoom Meeting

Wednesday, August 10, 2022 -- 10:15 to 11:30 a.m.

Participants (25):

Amaral, Daryl	MassDOT District 2
Banister, Dan	Williamsburg
Burns, Paul	PVTA
Colson, Robert	West Springfield
Dines, Nick	Williamsburg Alternate
Dwyer, Bill	Hadley
Fenney, Bruce	East Longmeadow
Friere, Peter	MassDOT District 1
Hosea-Abbott, Alexis	MassBike
Johnson, Betsy	Pedestrian Representative, Walk/Bike Springfield
Jones, Shatoyia	Admin Assistant (PVPC)
Kacoyannakis, Van	VHB
Keane, Timothy	Longmeadow
Knightly, Connor	West Springfield
Krar, Andrew	Springfield
Lotter, Elizabeth	Agawam
Mayboroda, Dmitriy	Associates
McCaul, Andrew	PVPC Planner
McCormack, Dan	Group
Murphy, Dan	Easthampton
Rosado, Carmen	Stavros
Rosado, Carmen	Stavros
Roscoe, Dana	Principal Planner (PVPC)
Williams, Steve	Belchertown

Note: All participants not mentioned due to phone number in Zoom Meeting.

1. Chairman Call to Order

PVPC Principal Planner Dana Roscoe opened the September 14, 2022 Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) Zoom at 10:30 a.m., confirmed a quorum and asked PVPC Planner Andrew McCaul to initiate roll call.

2. Approval of Minutes – August 10, 2022 JTC Meeting

Mr. Roscoe opened the floor for comments on the August 10, 2022 JTC meeting minutes.

Hearing and seeing no other comments, Mr. Roscoe asked for a motion for approval on the amended August 10, 2022 JTC meeting minutes.

MOTIONED BY PAUL BURNS, PVTA; SECONDED BY BILL DWYER, HADLEY.

Mr. McCaul initiated roll call.

10 IN FAVOR, 3 ABSTAINED. MOTION CARRIES.

3. JTC Membership – Discussion and Approval of New JTC Chairperson

Mr. Roscoe stated that Bill Dwyer has 20+ years of service on the planning board for Hadley and is a past Chairman for the Pioneer Valley Executive Committee and submitted his name for the JTC Chairperson and opened the floor for other nominations.

Hearing no further nominations, Dana asked for a vote to approve the motion to appoint Mr. Dwyer as new JTC Chairperson. Mr. McCaul initiated roll call.

12 IN FAVOR, 1 ABSTAINED. MOTION CARRIES.

Bill became Chairperson for the JTC meeting and introduced himself to the committee before moving to the next agenda item.

4. JTC Meeting Start Time – Discussion and Potential Approval for 10 a.m. Start Time

Mr. McCaul started by giving the JTC committee members context about the current start time and stated that when he started with the PVPC, there was limited space, and as a result, the Planned for Progress Meeting and JTC Meetings were held back-to-back with 15-minute buffers for room clearance and set up. Mr. McCaul continued to state that with the current PVPC space, virtual formatting, and hybrid settings, the 15-minute

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buffer is no longer necessary, he asked the JTC committee if they would offer any feedback to moving the JTC meeting start time for 10 a.m.

Mr. Dwyer asked for a motion to leave time unchanged or change the time for 10 a.m. Stavros representative Carmen Rosado made a motion to approve the 10 a.m. start time.

MOTIONED BY CARMEN STAVROS; SECONDED BY PAUL BURNS, PVTA.

Mr. Dwyer opened the floor for further comments. Hearing and seeing no other comments, Mr. Dwyer asked for a motion for approval on future JTC meetings 10 a.m. start time. Mr. McCaul initiated roll call.

ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIES.

5. Update on the Pioneer Valley MPO Public Participation Plan (PPP) – Currently Out for Public Review

Mr. McCaul stated that Mr. McCollough could not be in attendance and asked to be able to share the update on Mr. McCollough's behalf. Motion approved by Mr. Dwyer.

Mr. McCaul reported that the goal of this agenda item is to modernize the PPP plan, a guideline and tool to ensure compliance with state and federal requirements regarding project development and implementation, to make sure the needs of the community are met. He continued to state the most urgent element of the PPP review is the virtual formatting options, and while PVPC is awaiting state policy compliance confirmation regarding virtual public engagement, virtual formatting had not been covered in the PPP. He added that the draft is expected to go to the MPO by 9/20/2022 with distribution for a 45-day public review by 9/24/2022 and review of comments and incorporation of amendments for final approval to be discussed at a later date.

Mr. Roscoe added that in November or December that PVPC Senior Transportation Planner Jeff McCollough will come back and give a status report update.

Mr. Dwyer asked for the location of the PPP planning outline. Mr. McCaul stated that it is located on the PVPC website under 'public review.'

6. FFY 2023-2027 TIP – Review of Programmed Projects

Mr. McCaul gave a brief overview of the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) and stated that this agenda item is to refresh the committee's memory on what projects are currently programmed in FFY 2023. Mr. McCaul reminded the committee that the FFY 2023 TIP does not become active until October 1, 2022. Once active the TIP will be reviewed for any potential changes that will need to be made in the first quarter of FFY 2023. Mr. McCaul stated that this agenda item will be on the agenda at the next several JTC meetings, any municipality with a project in year one should make sure to update the JTC on the progress of their project. He concluded his report with a review of the funding allocated towards projects and reported a cost increase for a Westfield project and advised the committee members to proactively notify the committee as soon as possible if there are other known increases.

7. FFY 2024 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) – Public Engagement

Mr. McCaul stated that he would be filling in for Gary for this report. He updated the committee that PVPC's public outreach has started with a series of farmer's markets scheduled over the next month and a half in Amherst, Westfield, Springfield and Easthampton with tentative dates for Northampton and Holyoke. He stated that a 6-question survey and "word-cloud" activity will be given to community members in attendance to

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engage the community and establish a baseline of community needs and issues within the community that the committee should be taking into consideration.

Mr. McCaul proceeded to report that in November and December 2022, the next step would be to engage the community in transit, bike, and pedestrian infrastructure focus groups with the development of Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) vision, goals, and emphasis areas to begin in January 2023.

Bruce Fenny, East Longmeadow, asked Mr. McCaul to send out the links so that he can promote them on local public channels. Mr. McCaul stated that once everything is online, the links for promotion will be sent out to the committee.

8. Transportation Evaluation Criteria (TEC) Review – Update

Mr. McCaul stated that an internal assessment is done every 3 years to evaluate how the TEC criteria works to meet the requirements of the (Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and other MassDot initiatives to make sure the tool is working as effectively as it can. He proceeded to report that as of today, minor changes are to be expected to get the latest emphasis areas and planning factors are

2022 information were added to the analysis: urban and rural for overall average, with rural scoring lower on TEC. He stated that the TEC trend was originally designed for increasing scores on the TIP with the logic being that the further along a projects design advances and the nuts and bolts of the project are known, the more points the will be accessed. He stated that options to balance the scoring field tool for effectiveness are currently being considered and that the criteria will be sent out to the committee for review, and consideration for other criteria feedback.

QUESTION FOR CONSIDERATION: ARE THE CRITERIA EFFECTIVE IF EVERY PROJECT IS GETTING THE SAME POINTS? SHOULD SOME OF THESE BE RENAMED OR DEFINITIONS CLARIFIED TO REDUCE REDUNDANCY AND INCREASE EFFECTIVENESS?

Mr. McCaul reported that no points have been rewarded for “Implements ITS Strategies” criterion and was found ineffective for scoring. He continued to report that four categories have over a 90% award rate for points in urban areas, four categories have a > 1 point award rate in urban areas over rural areas and four redundant categories.

Mr. McCaul concluded his presentation with an invite to all JTC members to review the TEC criteria and bring recommendations for revisitation and revision for necessity and effectiveness at the next MPO meeting with final TEC draft to be released for public review in October 2022 with the goal to have the TEC endorsed for the next TIP cycle.

9. Other Business

There was no further business to discuss.

Upon hearing and seeing no further business to review, Bill called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

10. Adjourns

MOVED BY STEVE WILLIAMS, BELCHERTOWN; SECONDED BY BRUCE FENNY, EAST LONGMEADOW.

The September 14, 2022 meeting was adjourned by Bill Dwyer at 11:00 a.m.

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Linked Documents

- [PPP Currently Out for Public Review](#)

Prepared by Shatoyia Jones, PVPC admin assistant – 09.20.2022