

## Pioneer Valley MPO Committee Zoom Meeting

July 26, 2022 – 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

### MPO Members Present:

Roger Fuller	Selectboard, Town of Chesterfield
Joshua A. Garcia	Mayor, City of Holyoke
Mark Gold	Selectboard, Town of Longmeadow
Walter Gunn	Chairman, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
Derek Krevat	MassDOT, representing Jamie Tesler, Secretary and CEO of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT)
Nicole LaChapelle	Mayor, City of Easthampton
Mark Moore	MassDOT, District One
William Reichelt	Mayor, Town of West Springfield
Paula Simmons	MassDOT, District Two, representing Jonathan Gulliver MassDOT Highway Division Administrator
Sandra Sheehan	Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA) Administrator
Rick Sullivan	President and CEO, Economic Development Council of Western Massachusetts

### Guests and PVPC Staff Present:

Daryl Amaral	MassDOT District Two Office, District 2 Planner
Patrick Beaudry	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Public Affairs
Matthew Chase	Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB)
William Dwyer	Town of Hadley
Alex Fagnand	Tighe & Bond
Matt Gamelli	MassDOT, District Two Office
Laura Hanson	MassDOT, District Two Office
Michelle Ho	MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning
Shatoyia Jones	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Admin Assistant
Van Kacoyannakis	Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB)
Christopher Klem	MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning
Connor Knightly	West Springfield Department of Public Works
Jeffrey McCollough	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Matt Peterson	West Springfield Department of Public Works
Andrew Reovan	Federal Highway Administration
Kimberly H. Robinson	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Executive Director
Dana Roscoe	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Gary Roux	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Andrew Wang	
Joseph Yoo	MassDOT

**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 / affiliation was available.

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

Dana Roscoe indicated they have a quorum. Derek Krevat called the July 26, 2022 meeting of the Pioneer Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to order at 10:16 a.m. Derek initiated a roll call and the following MPO members responded that they were present: Derek Krevat, Paula Simmons, Walter Gunn, William Reichelt, Roger Fuller, Sandra Sheehan, Rick Sullivan and Joshua Garcia.

### 2. MPO Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting of the Pioneer Valley MPO held Remotely on May 24, 2022

Derek called for a motion to approve the May 24, 2022 meeting minutes of the Pioneer Valley MPO.

MOVED BY WALTER GUNN. SECONDED BY RICK SULLIVAN.

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

### 3. Review, Discussion and MPO Approval of the Proposed Adjustment to the FFY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Adjustment

Gary Roux reported a challenge in completing a task to monitor Greenhouse gas due to a malfunctioning of a device being used at the PVPC office. He also noted that the device in question would not be worth fixing. An adjustment was requested to the FY2022 UPWP to use remaining funding already allocated to Task 2.2 Regional Travel Demand Modeling/Clean Air Planning to fund maintenance and update of the regional transportation model. Elimination of the greenhouse gas monitoring task qualifies as an adjustment as defined in the UPWP but requires MPO approval.

MOVED BY WALTER GUNN. SECONDED BY RICK SULLIVAN.

Derek opened the floor for questions. Walter asked Gary as an alternative solution if there are devices within the state collecting the gases in question. Gary confirmed that there are other monitoring devices currently in use with results available online. There were other questions regarding the problems with the current PVPC monitor. It was reported that efforts to repair the monitor through software upgrades were unsuccessful. Gary also provided background on the price of the current monitor and how PVPC was able to obtain it through an expiring grant. He reported the company requires a \$250 fee just to examine the monitor and shipping to the repair facility is estimated at a few hundred dollars. PVPC staff believes any additional parts required would be quite expensive due to the high cost of the original equipment.

Dana initiated the roll call and each MPO member in attendance was in concurrence.

### 4. Review, Discussion and MPO Approval to Release the Proposed Amendment to the 2022-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Required 21-Day Public Review Period

Dana reported good news and receipt of approximately \$2 million in funding to be used in partnership with Springfield Partners for Community Action, PVTA, the Town of Ware and the Hilltown Community Development Corporation as detailed in the table below. This requires an amendment to the FY 2022 – 2026 TIP.

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FTA Program	Transit Agency	Project Description	Federal Funds	RTACAP	MAP	Local Funds	Total Cost
5310	Springfield Partners for Community Action	OPERATING ASSISTANCE	\$75,000	\$0	\$0	\$75,000	\$150,000
5310	Pioneer Valley Transit Authority	MOBILITY MANAGEMENT	\$108,240	\$0	\$0	\$27,060	\$135,300
5310	Pioneer Valley Transit Authority	OPERATING ASSISTANCE	\$150,000	\$0	\$0	\$150,000	\$300,000
5310	Pioneer Valley Transit Authority	BUY REPLACEMENT VAN	\$804,286	\$0	\$201,068	\$0	\$1,005,354
5310	Town of Ware	Quaboag Connector	\$150,000	\$0	\$0	\$150,000	\$300,000
5310	Hilltown Community Development Corporation	OPERATING ASSISTANCE	\$8,888	\$0	\$0	\$8,888	\$17,776
<b>6 Projects</b>							<b>\$1,908,430</b>

Dana also indicated a highway amendment was necessary for Project #609517 Longmeadow - Blueberry Hill Elementary School SRTS Improvements, currently programmed in FFY 2023 of the TIP and proposed to move to the current year of the TIP - FFY 2022. A final change in the cost of Project #605126 Ware - Bridge Replacement – in FFY 2022 from \$9,226,026 to \$10,126,026 requires an administrative adjustment to the TIP.

MOVED BY RICK SULLIVAN. SECONDED BY WALTER GUNN.

Derek asked a clarifying question regarding the need for two separate motions needed for amendments and adjustments instead of one. Dana clarified that a MPO vote is not required for adjustments, only amendments. Rick confirmed the protocol in question and modified his motion, which was seconded by Walter.

Dana initiated the roll call and each MPO member in attendance was in concurrence.

**5. Updates from MassDOT District One and District Two Officials**

Daryl Amaral reported the status of District Two’s FY22 projects: West Springfield re-construction on Memorial Ave (advertised on June 4th, opened on July 19th with bid from Ludlow Construction), as well as an Easthampton Improvement on Union Street to High Street (advertised on March 12th, opened on April 20th, awarded on April 27th to Ludlow Construction). For FY23 projects, Daryl reported on improvements in Granby at 2 locations on Route 202 - School Street and the intersection of the 5 corners with design at 75%, 100% completion expected by the end of July, permits pending. He also reported on the Westfield River Levee Multi-use Path project - current design at 75% with 100% design submission in progress and due August 11, 2022. For FY24 projects, Daryl reported on the Wales improvements on Monson Road which is currently at 75% design, 100% submission due October 19, 2022. Daryl concluded his report with an update on reconstruction developments in Springfield for the “X” project which is currently at 75% design, 100% design submission due September 16, 2022.

Mark Moore reported that FY23 District One project updates include the Route 9 retaining wall project in Cummington which is currently at 25% design and required the hiring of a consultant to provide guidance for resubmission of this project in the fall. For FY24, Mark reported on the 3.9-mile Route 143 project in Worthington with a final design submission scheduled for October. Mark also reported the reconstruction of two municipal bridges in Williamsburg on Bridge Street and South Main Street over the Mill River. The public information hearing for the reconstruction of the bridges was held in February 2020, a revised 25% design was submitted in April 2022 and after review of the submission, District One intends to schedule a design public hearing later this year.

**6. PVTA Update**

Sandra Sheehan reported on the allocation of the budget for the regional transit authorities to be distributed amongst the 15 Massachusetts RTAs. She also reported a partnership with PVPC on the update to PVTA’s TAMP plan to be presented to the PVTA Advisory Board in August. Regarding

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service adjustments, Sandra reported an updated process for getting public feedback for service adjustments that will better serve staff and the public. Sandra concluded her report with an update on ridership increases, as well as the current preparation of fall transit schedules.

### **7. Other Business**

Mark Cressotti in cooperation with the City of Westfield provided an update on the Westfield River Levee Multi-use Path project. He asked if the MPO would consider additional funding necessary for the construction of the project. Mark explained the why there was a need for additional funds and asked for MPO perspective on this request. Derek Krevat added additional context to Mark's report and clarified the question was to gather a sense of MPO openness to using any remaining TIP balance for the completion of this project. A number of MPO members including Mayor Reichelt, Mayor LaChapelle, Rick Sullivan and Walter Gunn voiced their support for the Westfield River Levee project.

With the reception of general MPO support should the option arise to use MPO target funds, Derek Krevat replied that any potential increase in funding would need to be weighed against the potential impacts on other currently funded projects. He then opened the floor for additional questions.

With no further questions from MPO members and guests, Derek noted that the next meeting would be August 23, 2022.

### **8. Adjournment**

MOTIONED BY RICK SULLIVAN. SECONDED BY WALTER GUNN. APPROVED BY ALL MPO MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE.

The July 26, 2022 meeting was adjourned by Derek Krevat at 10:30 a.m.

Prepared by Shatoyia Jones, PVPC Admin Assistant – 07.26.2022