

Minutes of the Virtual Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) Meeting  
Wednesday, January 12, 2022  
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission  
60 Congress Street, Springfield, Massachusetts 01104

**Present were:**

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Daryl Amaral	MassDOT, District 2	Betsy Johnson	Walk/Bike Springfield
Randy Brown	Director Southwick DPW	Van Kacoyannakis	Civil Engineer, VHB
Paul Burns	PVTA	Tim Keane	Town Engineer, Longmeadow
Matt Chase	VHB	Chris Klem	MassDOT
Michelle Chase	Town Engineer, Agawam	Nick LaPoint	Fuss & O'Neill
Randy Brown	Director Southwick DPW	Dan McCormack	Beta Group
Mark Cressotti	City Engineer, Westfield	Ben Murphy	Monson Tree Warden
Jim Czach	Engineer, City of Holyoke	Dan Murphy	City Engineer, Easthampton
Mike Dionne	Commission of the Blind	Bob Peirent	City Engineer, Holyoke
Michael Fisher	BL Companies	Tom Ruta	District 2
Peter Frieri	MassDOT District 1	Marc Strange	Agawam Planning Director
Kien Ho	Beta Group	Jennifer Wolowicz	Monson Town Administrator
<b>PVPC Staff</b>			
Rana Al Jammal	Senior Planner Specialist	Dana Roscoe	Principal Planner
Peter Kuusisto	Transit Planner	Gary Roux	Principal Planner
Andy McCaul	Senior Transportation Planner	Louise Sullivan	Administrative Assistant I Specialist

**1. Open Meeting**

Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) Chairman Jim Czach opened the JTC Zoom meeting at 10:15 a.m. and he asked PVPC Senior Transportation Planner Andy McCaul to perform a roll call.

**2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Mr. McCaul performed the roll call and stated that there was a quorum present. Then he asked for a motion to approve the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) minutes of the November 10th JTC meeting.

MOVED BY PAUL BURNS, OF THE PIONEER VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY, SECONDED BY MARK CRESSOTTI, OF THE CITY OF WESTFIELD, TO APPROVE THE JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC) MEETING MINUTES OF THE minutesNOVEMBER 10, 2021 MEETING WITH TWO AFFILIATION CHANGES REQUESTED FOR THE CITY OF HOLYOKE

Mr. McCaul called for a roll call vote. ALL IN FAVOR, THE MOTION CARRIES.

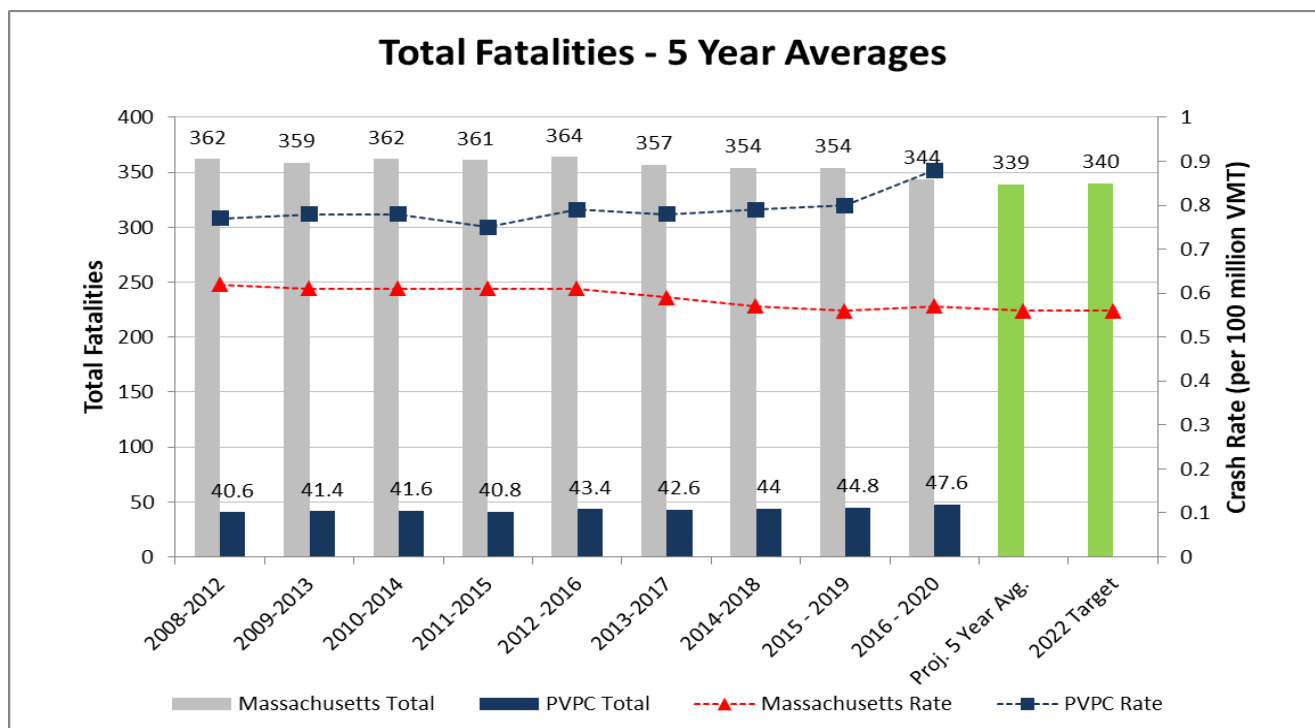
**3. 2022 Safety Targets for the Pioneer Valley MPO**

Principal Planner Gary Roux explained that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) requires that Performance Measure Targets be developed for Safety Performance Measures annually as part of federal

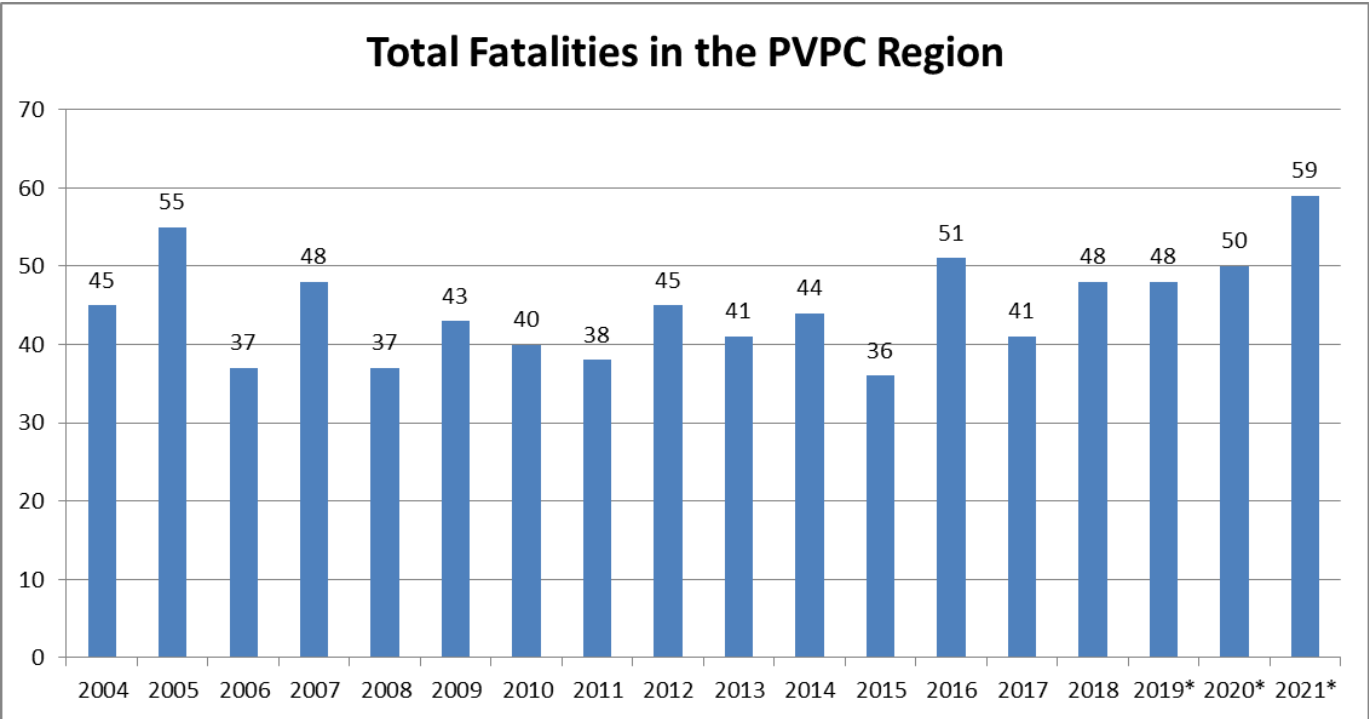
transportation rules and safety laws. Mr. Roux reported that they were required under MAP-21 and continue to be required under the FAST Act. He remarked that MPO Pioneer Valley Safety Targets were last set in February 2019 so 2022 Performance Measure targets need to be adopted by the end of February. Mr. Roux explained that rather than have the Pioneer Valley MPO adopt its own set of Performance Measures and Targets, it makes more sense for it to adopt the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) Performance Measures and Targets because MassDOT will provide all the necessary data and do all the required reporting. Mr. Roux reported that the 5 Safety Targets for the Pioneer Valley MPO haven't changed. The proposal is to adopt the statewide Performance Measures and State Targets shown in the chart below.

Massachusetts Calendar Year 2022 Safety Performance Measures and State Targets	
Performance Measure	State Target
Total Number of Fatalities	Reduce the Total Number of Fatalities to 340 or less statewide with an overarching goal of zero fatalities.
Rate of Fatalities per 100 Million Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)	Reduce the Rate of Fatalities to 0.56/100 million VMT or less statewide with an overarching goal of zero fatalities/100 million VMT.
Total Number of Serious Injuries	Reduce the Total Number of Serious Injuries to 2504 or less statewide
Rate of Serious Injuries per 100 Million VMT	Reduce the Rate of Serious Injuries to 4.11/100 million VMT or less statewide
Total Number of Non-Motorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries	Do not exceed 471 for the Total Number of Non-Motorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries statewide with an overarching goal of zero fatalities.

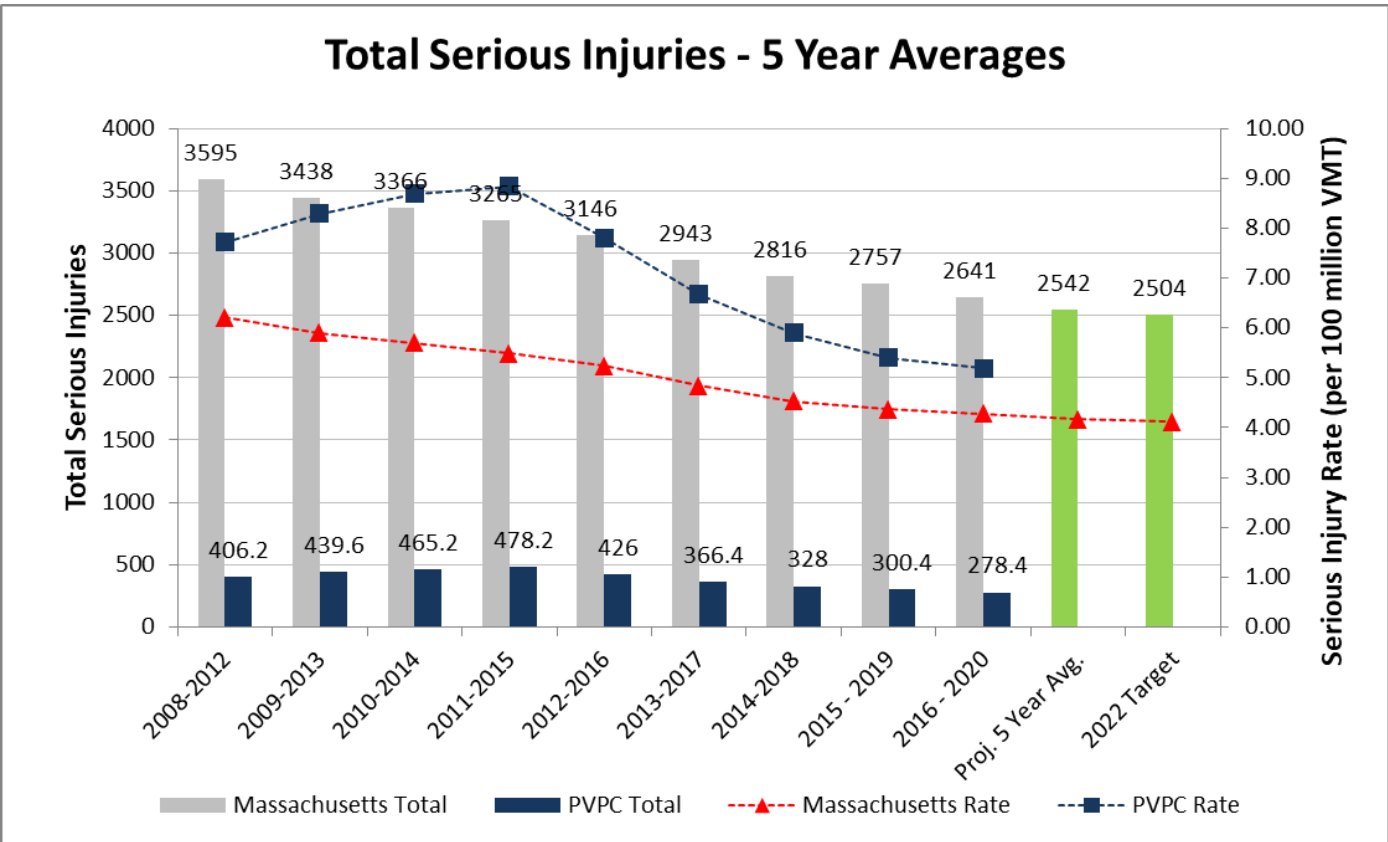
Mr. Roux displayed a bar chart entitled *Total Fatalities – 5 Year Averages* and stated that it reflects 2022 projections based on 2021 trends and assumes a 2.5% reduction in deaths. He reported that the crash rate per 100 million VMT (vehicle miles traveled) is a result of lower VMT numbers due to COVID. The overarching goal, however, is zero fatalities. Mr. Roux indicated that the grey bar represents the total fatalities for Massachusetts; the blue bar is the PVPC total; the red line is the Massachusetts rate per million VMT; and the blue line is the PVPC rate per million VMT.



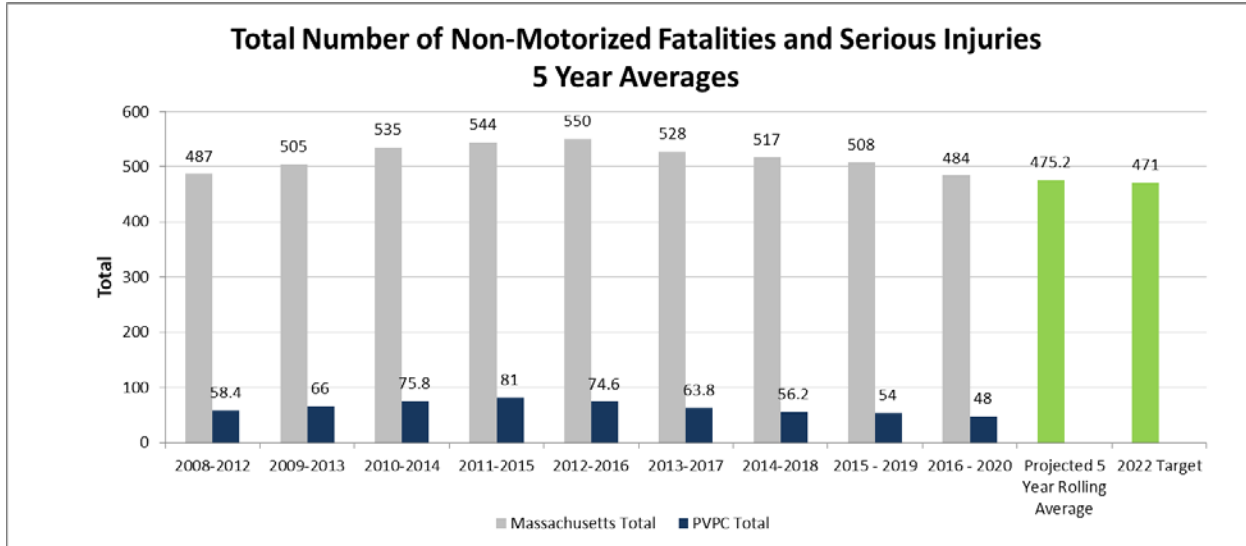
Mr. Roux noted that the *Total Fatalities in the PVPC Region* chart below shows a fluctuation from year to year.



Mr. Roux remarked that the *Total Serious Injuries – 5 Year Averages* chart below indicates a downward trend in our region shown by the blue line for the PVPC and the red line for the state which is probably because of the City of Springfield entering their data late in 2011. Currently, there is a more accurate picture of our total fatalities.



Mr. Roux reported that in the *Total Number of Non-Motorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries* chart shown below reflecting 5 Year Averages, the grey columns are the state totals and the PVPC total is represented by the dark blue columns. Once again, he underscored that the target is to achieve zero fatalities.



Mr. Roux asked that the JTC members recommend that the MPO adopt the new state 2022 Safety Targets. Mr. Czach called for a motion.

MOVED BY BETSY JOHNSON, OF THE CITY OF WESTFIELD, SECONDED BY MARK CRESSOTTI, OF THE CITY OF WESTFIELD, TO RECOMMEND THAT THE MPO ADOPT THE NEW 2022 MASSDOT PERFORMANCE MEASURES AND SAFETY TARGETS

Mr. McCaul called for a roll call vote. ALL IN FAVOR, THE MOTION CARRIES.

#### 4. Review Amendment to the Transportation Evaluation Criteria (TEC) Currently Out for Public Review

PVPC Senior Transportation Planner Andy McCaul reported that as a result of the need for short term changes to be made to the Transportation Evaluation Criteria (TEC) being discussed at JTC meetings in 2021, a series of short term changes, modifications and additions were proposed to the MPO. Mr. McCaul reported that the MPO then released the proposed TEC for a 21 day public comment period in November and it has remained out for comment since then because the December MPO meeting was cancelled. He noted that among other changes, information regarding how soon a TIP project might be shovel ready has been added to the TEC cover sheet, and the Health Impact Assessment has been removed from the Quality of Life category with its one point having been reassigned to the Disadvantaged Communities under Environmental Justice and Title VI. Additionally, the Congestion Management Process definitions have been updated along with definitions to include the Regional Safety Compass. At the present time, Mr. Roux stated, no comments regarding the proposed TEC have been received during the public comment period. He added that there is discretion practiced during the TEC Review Subcommittee meeting as a community's explanation of its TIP project is always considered.

#### 5. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP): Review FFY 2022 Projects and Transit Amendment

PVPC Senior Transportation Planner Andy McCaul reported that at the last MPO meeting held on November 23rd, it was reported 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.

For the 2022 highway side of the TIP, Mr. McCaul reported that there is a portion of the Hadley Reconstruction on Route 9 advanced construction (AC) project over two years; the Holyoke Traffic Signal Upgrades at High and Maple Streets; Year 1 of the West Springfield Reconstruction of Memorial Avenue Project funded over three years; and the Easthampton Improvements and Related Work on Route 141 Project. For fiscal year 2023, there is the Granby Project in two locations; the Wales Project on Monson Road; and Year 2 of West Springfield Reconstruction of Memorial Avenue Project. In fiscal year 2024, there is the Retaining Wall in Cummington Project; Year 3 of West Springfield Reconstruction of Memorial Avenue Project; the Springfield Project at the X; and the Reconstruction Project in Worthington on Route 143 which was split into two phases with the second portion nearing completion. In fiscal year 2025, there is the Holland Resurfacing Project on Brimfield Road; the Longmeadow Resurfacing on Longmeadow and Converse Streets Project; and the Northampton Complete Streets and Intersection Improvements Project. In fiscal year 2026, there is the South Hadley Reconstruction of Main Street Project; the Chicopee Intersection Improvements Project; and the Holyoke Resurfacing and Related Work on Cabot and Race Streets Project.

Mr. McCaul underscored that if anyone believes their project should be on this universe list of projects, they need to make sure that all the information on their project has been updated. Mr. McCaul asked if there were any questions or comments. Seeing no comments, Mr. Czach also emphasized the need for accurate project information and he then asked Mr. McCaul to move on to the next agenda item.

#### **6. 2023-2027 TIP Development: Review :Draft TIP Development Schedule and Initiate TEC Review Process**

PVPC Senior Transportation Planner Andy McCaul indicated that on January 25th, the Project Universe will be introduced to the MPO. Mr. McCall explained that he will be reviewing the projects that have been approved since May; he'll share the list of projects with MassDOT Districts One and Two; then the list will be shared with the JTC members. Normally, the TEC forms would be sent out after this meeting, he said, but they can't be sent out until the MPO approves the proposed changes to the TEC form.

Mr. McCaul then reviewed the dates of the TIP Development Schedule saying that updated TEC forms are due to the PVPC on February 8th and on that day, the PVPC will meet with all MassDOT sections to review projects that may be funded in the next TIP cycle. He continued reviewing dates and emphasized that the MassDOT Project Review Committee (PRC) meeting is scheduled for February 10th; on February 22nd, the MPO will review the TIP project list; the JTC will review comments from the MPO on March 9th; and at that time, they will identify a preferred list of TIP projects. The next important dates reviewed by Mr. McCaul were April 13th when the JTC makes its recommendation to the MPO for their review and release of the draft 2023-2027 TIP; May 11<sup>th</sup> when the TIP Public Hearing is held; and May 24th, when the final endorsement of the 2023-2027 TIP is given by the MPO.

#### **7. Other Business**

Mr. Czach asked if anyone had other business and Peter Kuusisto replied that Pioneer Valley organizations seeking to receive funding through Section 5310 and MassDOT Community Transit Grants must review the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan and document how their proposed new services

and projects fill gaps identified within this Plan. Mr. Kuusisto explained that this Plan focuses on low-income individuals, seniors and those that need mobility assistance. He added that public comment is being sought from now until April 26<sup>th</sup> after which the document will follow the public participation plan of the TIP. Mr. Kuusisto urged the JTC members to review the plan and report any updates or thoughts they may have about the plan to him at [pkuusisto@pvpc.org](mailto:pkuusisto@pvpc.org).

MassDOT District Two Assistant Project Engineer Tom Ruta announced that the District has a design Public Hearing for the Springfield Armory Street Bridges Replacement Project on February 1st at 6:00 P.M. and if JTC members wish to attend, they need to search on the words, *highway design public hearings* in order to obtain information and the link to the Public Hearing.

Jeff McCollough announced that the next round of Shared Streets and Spaces Funding is due March 1<sup>st</sup> and the state is encouraging applicants participating in bike and scooter share programs to apply for a new non-competitive \$50,000 equipment category.

Mr. Czach stated that at the November JTC meeting, he was asked to draft a letter to Governor Charlie Baker and state representatives requesting an increase in the level of Chapter 90 funding to \$300 million. Mr. Czach indicated that he will distribute the draft letter to the JTC members in the next few weeks in time for the next JTC meeting.

## 8. Adjourn

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

MOVED BY PAUL BURNS, OF THE PIONEER VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY, SECONDED BY MARK CRESSOTTI, OF THE CITY OF WESTFIELD, TO ADJOURN THE JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC) MEETING AT 11:30 A.M. ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIES

### **Relevant Documents Emailed for this November 10, 2021 JTC Meeting:**

- *Joint Transportation January 12, 2022 Meeting Agenda*
- *Minutes of the November 10, 2021 Joint Transportation Committee Meetings*
- *2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development Schedule*
- *2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)*