

Minutes of the Virtual Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) Meeting
 Wednesday, February 16, 2022
 Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
 60 Congress Street, Springfield, Massachusetts 01104

Present were:

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Daryl Amaral	MassDOT, District 2	Laura Hanson	MassDOT District 2
Dan Banister	Williamsburg DPW	Kien Ho	Beta Group
Chris Bouchard	MA Highway Association	Betsy Johnson	Walk/Bike Springfield
Randy Brown	Director Southwick DPW	Van Kacoyannakis	Civil Engineer, VHB
Gary Briere	River's Edge Cycling	Tim Keane	Town Engineer, Longmeadow
Paul Burns	PVTA	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	Dan Murphy	City Engineer, Easthampton
Jim Czach	Engineer, City of Holyoke	Bob Peirent	City Engineer, Holyoke
Nick Dines	Town of Williamsburg	Tom Ruta	MassDOT District 2
Doug Ellis	City Engineer, Chicopee	Matt Smith	Chesterfield DPW
Wayne Feiden	Northampton Planning Director	Marvin Ward	MassBike Easthampton
Peter Frieri	MassDOT District 1	Jennifer Wolowicz	Monson Town Administrator
Thomas Christensen	Deputy Superintendent, East Longmeadow		
PVPC Staff			
Rana Al Jammal	Senior Planner Specialist	Dana Roscoe	Principal Planner
Jeff McCollough	Senior Transportation 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. Mr. Czach asked for a motion to approve the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) minutes of the January 12th JTC meeting.

MOVED BY PAUL BURNS, OF THE PIONEER VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY, SECONDED BY RANDY BROWN, OF THE TOWN OF SOUTHWICK, TO APPROVE THE JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC) MEETING MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 12, 2022 MEETING

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

3. FFY Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Development

PVPC Principal Planner Gary Roux reminded the JTC members that the FFY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) will run from October 1st of this year to September 30th of next year and will share the same development and endorsement schedule as the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Mr. Roux indicated that a draft UPWP will be presented at the April JTC meeting with a request for a 21-day public review and comment period. The UPWP will be presented at the May MPO meeting for endorsement.

Mr. Roux announced that the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) will be updated this year as the current RTP is ending its four-year cycle. He asked anyone who has a small planning study that they would like included in the RTP to contact him. For a study to be considered to be included in the RTP, Mr. Roux stated a letter will be required from a municipality's chief elected official.

4. 2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Including a Review of the FFY 2022 Highway Amendment Currently out for Public Review

PVPC Senior Transportation Planner Andy McCaul reviewed that at their January meeting, the MPO members released a Highway Amendment for public review because of a line item for the District 2 project, *Systematic Bridge Maintenance at Various Locations*. Mr. McCaul reported that this project's description has been updated to *Chicopee/Holyoke Bridge Preservation along I-391*. He further added that the cost has been updated from \$1,540,000 to \$8,835,544 during the public review period. Mr. McCaul explained that because the funding is 100% in our PVPC region, this line item needs to be moved from the STIP to the Pioneer Valley MPO TIP. He noted that since discretionary target funding is not involved, it's a bookkeeping item. Mr. McCaul added that a comment received from a Chicopee resident during the public review period, has been forwarded to the MPO.

Mr. McCaul reviewed the 2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) beginning with the South Hadley Resurfacing on Route 116 Project (608473) saying it was the first project to be advertised. He continued his review with the bridge project, the Easthampton Improvements/Related Work on Route 141 Project (608577); the West Springfield Reconstruction of Memorial Avenue Project (608374) funded over three years; the Northampton Bridge Street Roadway Reconstruction Project (609515); the Amherst – Belchertown Norwottuck Trail Project (608719); the Ware Bridge Replacement Project (605126); and the Holyoke Traffic Signal Upgrades and Related Work along High and Maple Streets Project (606450).

5. 2023-2027 TIP Development: TEC Review Update, Review Updated Project Universe and Review Current Regional Target Information

PVPC Senior Transportation Planner Andy McCaul indicated that on March 9th, the JTC will identify a preferred list of projects which the MPO will review on March 22nd. On April 13th, the JTC performs a final review of the 2023-2027 TIP. The MPO on April 26th reviews and releases the draft 2023-2027 TIP and the draft UPWP for the 21 day public review period. There will be a TIP public hearing on May 11th and on May 24th, the MPO will endorse the 2023-2027 TIP and the 2023 UPWP.

Mr. McCaul displayed the distributed spreadsheet entitled Regional Target Comparison and he proceeded explain that it reflects the amount of Target funding for each year: 2022 – 2027 and it compares the 2022-2026 TIP with the 2023-2027 TIP showing the difference in the funding. The last two columns of the spreadsheet delineate the programmed amount for each year (2022-2026) and the available amount based on the 2022-2026 TIP. Mr. McCaul underscored that these amounts do not include cost increases for TIP projects currently programmed in the FFY 2022-2026 TIP.

Mr. McCaul displayed a spreadsheet entitled Draft 2023 – 2027 Project Universe (February 2022) saying that the Technical Evaluation Criteria (TEC) scores have been updated but the TEC Rank has not been updated. He indicated that the TIP projects that were flagged on “TIP Days” are highlighted in yellow on the spreadsheet and he commented on each of them. Mr. McCaul reported that the Holland Resurfacing and Related Work on Brimfield Rd. Project (608727) is not advancing so that opens an additional million dollars in funding in FFY 2025. He noted that guidance is still being sought for the Holyoke Traffic Signal Upgrades at 15 Intersections Project (606450). Mr. McCaul stated that the two Northampton projects: the Northampton Rocky Hill Greenway Trail Project (608413) and the Northampton Downtown Complete Streets Project (609286) will remain in their proposed fiscal year. He reported that the Springfield McKnight Community Trail Construction Project (608157) has statewide funding. Mr. McCaul explained that MassDOT has recommended that the Wales Reconstruction and Improvements on Monson Road Project (608163) be moved to FFY 2024. Mr. McCaul announced that eight new TIP projects were added this year and currently, there are a total of 45 TIP projects for a total funding of approximately \$334 million. Mr. McCaul urged the JTC members to contact him if a TIP project has been left off the list.

6. Other Business

Mr. Czach asked if anyone had other business and Project Engineer Tom Ruta, representing MassDOT District Two, announced that a virtual design public hearing is scheduled for March 2nd to discuss the Chicopee Intersection Reconstruction at Montgomery Road, Granby Road and McKinstry Avenue and details can be found on the www.Mass.gov website.

Randy Brown, DPW Director for the Town of Southwick, announced that Westfield City Engineer, Mark Cressotti is retiring. Mr. Brown thanked Mr. Cressotti for all he’s done for the City of Westfield, the JTC, and the region and wished him well in his retirement and next venture.

Mr. Czach stated that he will soon be distributing the draft letter to Governor Charlie Baker and state representatives requesting an increase in the level of Chapter 90 funding to \$300 million to all the JTC members. Mr. Czach asked that the JTC members make changes to the letter if they wish, and he will finalize the letter.

7. 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 11:05 A.M. ALL IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED, THE MOTION CARRIES

Relevant Documents Emailed for this February 16, 2022 JTC Meeting:

- *Joint Transportation February 16, 2022 Meeting Agenda*
- *Minutes of the January 12, 2022 Joint Transportation Committee Meetings*
- *2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development Schedule*
- *TIP Proposed Highway Amendment*
- *2023 – 2027 TIP Project Universe (February 2022)*