

Minutes of the Virtual Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) Meeting

Wednesday, June 8, 2022

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

60 Congress Street, Springfield, Massachusetts 01104

Present Were:

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Jose Simo	MassDOT – Geospatial Technology Team	Laura Hanson	MassDOT District 2
Carmen Rosado	Mobility Impaired Representative	Tom Ruta	MassDOT District 2
Connor Knightly	West Springfield	Tom Christensen	Town Engineer, Longmeadow
Andrew Krar	Springfield	Chris Klem	MassDOT
Kris Baker	Holyoke	Dan McCormack	BETA Group
Benjamin Murphy	Monson	Dmitriy Mayboroda	Project Manager, McMahon Assoc.
Marvin Ward	MassBike		
Peter Frieri	MassDOT District 1		
Paul Burns	Pioneer Valley Transit Authority		
Betsy Johnson	Walk/Bike Springfield		
Van Kacoyannakis	Civil Engineer, VHB		
Wayne Feiden	Northampton Planning Director		
PVPC Staff			
Andrew McCaul	Senior Planning Specialist	Gabriel Filer	Senior Planner
Dana Roscoe	Principal Planner	Eric Weiss	Director of Economic and Municipal Collaboration
Gary Roux	Principal Planner	Jeff McCollough	Senior Transportation Planner

1. Open Meeting

PVPC Principal Planner Dana Roscoe opened the JTC Zoom meeting at 10:16am 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. Roscoe asked for a motion to approve the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) minutes from the April 13th and May 11th meetings, as there were no quorums present on those occasions.

MOVED BY KRIS BAKER, OF THE TOWN OF HOLYOKE, BENJAMIN MURPHY, OF THE TOWN OF MONSON, WAYNE FEIDEN, OF THE TOWN OF NORTHAMPTON, ANDREW KRAR, OF THE CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, CONNOR KNIGHTLY, OF THE CITY OF WEST SPRINGFIELD. SECONDED BY EAST LONG MEADOW, MASSBIKE, DISTRICT 1, DISTRICT 2, MOBILITY IMPAIRED REPRESENTATIVE, CARMEN ROSADO, PEDESTRIAN REP BETSY JOHNSON, PVTA, APPROVED THE JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC) MEETING MINUTES OF THE APRIL 13TH AND MAY 11TH MEETINGS. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIERS.

3. Presentation -GeoDOT Local – MassDOT’s Online Enterprise GIS Platform

Guest Speaker, Jose Simo, presented a slideshow to introduce The GeoDOT local platform. This resource will aid the Geospatial Technology Group, MassDot, municipalities, and consultants possess GIS coordinates. This platform circles around the concept that coordination is powerful when the right technology is used. The Enterprise GIS Platform is used to publicly view, create, and share transportation datasets and support MPOS, towns, and the public spatial data needs. The platform will also assist with geospatial data entry and analysis, completion of forms, workflows, and notifications. The geoprocessing script employs 70+ layers of information to answer questions on the forms automatically and projects need/scope forms. There is a tool within the platform, Road Inventory Submission Application (RISA), which will mutually aid GeoDOT with local hubs.

4. Presentation by PVPC Director of Economic and Municipal Collaboration – Overview and CARES Grant update

PVPC’s Director of Economic and Municipal Collaboration, Eric Weiss, presented a slideshow to give insight on the EDA CARES Grant which will help drive economic development in the Pioneer Valley. PVPC has been working on this grant for two years and is now positioning itself to become a leader as a contributor and convener. The EDA CARES Grant is meant to assist businesses of all sizes and types, educators, public health experts, non-profits, community activists, government officials, and members of the Black Indigenous People of Color Community (BIPOC) in underserved communities. Pioneer Valley is a highly segregated region, (top 33% in US), however key areas need to be addressed. Members of these communities need help overcoming barriers to access capital, they possess lack of information about available resources, and there is a disproportionate amount of unemployment in these communities. The EDA CARES Grant structure has three parts: economic scenario planning, connecting and communicating with the BIPOC community, and examining effects on economic development in the rural communities. Economic scenario planning includes workforce participation, BIPOC business and home ownership and the effects of population growth. Connecting with the BIPOC Community has demonstrated supporting access to information, breaking down barriers to wealth building, and understanding the trauma of systematic racism. Governmental policies must be changed, and agencies must be able to collaborate more, whereas lenders must be more equitable. A main product of the grant will be the Pioneer Valley Economic Recovery Road Map, which will be an action-oriented document for the benefit of the region. The CARES Grant has four effort goals: to over competition and fragmentation among community programs that have historically hindered out progress as a nation, prepare region for equitable economic resiliency and long-term success, overcome systemic economic challenges as identified by the BIPOC Community, overcome the identified disconnect between rural and nonrural communities.

5. Current Congestion Management Activities – Monthly Summary by Andrew B. McCaul

PVPC’s Senior Planning Specialist, Andrew McCaul, displayed a presentation as a reminder on the current processes. The presentation was previously given almost a year ago. Using the Regional Integrated Transportation Information System (RITIS) XD Dataset Platform, data is analyzed. The Massive Data Downloader is a function which allows the user to zoom in in on major roadways or segments. Data is processed through an application called Power BI Desktop, which connects multiple different sources of data and will create visuals such as graphs and maps. Analysis are still being measured by Level of Travel Time Reliability (LOTTR) – PM3 based on federal requirements. Over the last year, it has been discovered that the

process isn't perfect and year to year segment data may vary, however success has been made more data will be recorded regarding Power BI, updating CPM Report and Top Bottleneck List, and Freight Congestion Analysis. Walk/Bike Springfield Representative, Betsy Johnson, posed a question regarding the safety and efficiency of pedestrians in the high bottleneck areas, which was seconded by MassBike Representative, Marvin Ward. In response, Mr. McCaul stated that locations that need tip projects must meet current state and federal requirements. An expanded study can be done and a full analysis may yield that pedestrian crossing signs may be needed as well as bike lanes to make the intersection better functioning and safe for all.

6. Other Business

MassDOT Statewide Long Range Transportation Plan is underway. A link was provided for more information on this subject. JTC Chair Recruitment will begin, the position should be filled for the fall. Northhampton Planning Director, Wayne Feiden, will be retiring and this was his last JTC Meeting.

7. Adjourns

MR. DANA ROSCOE ASKED IF ANYONE HAD OTHER BUSINESS AND THERE BEING NONE, CALLED FOR A MOTION TO ADJOURN. MOVED BY MARVIN WARD OF MASSBIKE AND SECONDED BY PAUL BURNS OF PIONEER VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY. ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIERS. JTC MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:28am.