

Minutes of the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) Zoom Meeting

Wednesday, February 15, 2023

Present were:

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Daryl Amaral	MassDOT District 2	Alexis Hosea-Abbott	MassBike
Ben Breger	MassDOT	Betsy Johnson	Pedestrian Rep/WalkBike Springfield
Gary Briere	MassBike	Van Kacoyannakis	VHB
Paul Burns	PVTA	Timothy Keane	Town of Longmeadow
Tom Kulig	Town of Russell	Chris Klem	MassDOT - OTP
Michelle Chase	Town Engineer, Agawam	Benjamin Murphy	Town of Monson
Nick Dines	Town of Williamsburg	Tom Ruta	MassDOT District 2
Bill Dwyer	Town of Hadley, JTC Chair	Dan Banister	Town of Williamsburg
Doug Ellis	City of Chicopee	Allison McMordie	City of Westfield
Tori Halloran	Outreach Coordinator	Connor Knightly	West Springfield
Andy Krar	Springfield		
Mike Fisher	BL Companies		
Dan McCormack	Beta Group		
PVPC Staff			
Andrew McCaul	Senior Transportation Planner	Gary Roux	Principal Planner
Jeffrey McCollough	Senior Transportation Planner	Rana Al-Jammal	Senior Transportation Planner Specialist
Dana Roscoe	Principal Planner	Khyati Parmar	Transportation Manager

1. Chairman Call to Order

Bill Dwyer, Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) Chair, opened the February 15, 2023, JTC meeting @ 10am. He reminded everyone that recording was being done. Roll call was taken.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting – January 11, 2023 Minutes

Mr. Dwyer requested a motion to approve January 11, 2023, JTC minutes.

MOVED BY PAUL BURNS, PVTA, SECONDED BY DOUG ELLIS, CITY OF CHICOPEE, TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 11, 2023, JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC) MEETING MINUTES. THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

There being no questions, Mr. Dwyer moved to take up agenda item 3.

3. Review, Discussion, and Recommendation to the MPO for Endorsement of FFY 2023 Transit Amendment

Mr. McCaul reported that a series of transit grants were awarded to projects in the region. 5 projects received the 5310 Community Transit Grant:

- The PVTA for operating funds to support the continued transition of senior transportation
- Springfield Partners for Community Action
- Town of Ware Operating funds to support the Quaboag Connector
- Travel Training Program
- Funding to support volunteer transportation program for Palmer COA

Mr. McCaul reported that these were presented to the MPO, and the document was out for public comment. He asked everyone to review the information and submit any questions or comments, preferably by email.

Mr. Dwyer asked for a motion to recommend MPO endorse the proposed amendment.

MOVED BY PAUL BURNS, PVTA, SECONDED BY ANDY K, TO RECOMMEND TO MPO TO ENDORSE THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT. A ROLL CALL WAS TAKEN, AND THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

There being no questions, Mr. Dwyer moved to take up agenda item 4.

4. FFY 2024-2028 PVMPO Performance Measures:

Mr. Roux stated that performance measures were required under federal law, including coming up with safety targets. He stated that they were recommending JTC continue using the state targets.

Mr. Roux stated that the PM2 measures include pavement and bridges. They were two-year targets that had to be adopted every two years. Mr. Roux presented the first performance period, and only one goal was not met in 2021: the percentage of NHS bridges by deck area in poor condition. As a whole, the targets were met. Mr. Roux presented that 57.6% of non-interstate pavement was in good condition, slightly lower than the statewide percentage of 62.9. The interstate pavement targets by the state were 70% in good condition and 2% or less in poor condition. The non-interstate pavement targets by the state were 30% in good condition and 5% or less in poor condition. The current PVPC bridge conditions were not as high as the state percentages; 8.87% of bridges in PVPC were in good condition compared to 16.92% statewide. In PVPC, 7.12% of bridges were in poor condition, compared to 11.25% statewide. The state targets for bridges were 16% good and 12% or less in poor condition. Mr. Roux stated their recommendation was to recommend MPO use the state targets.

Mr. Dwyer asked for a motion to recommend MPO adopt the state targets for PM2.

MOVED BY BETSY JOHNSON, CITY OF SPRINGFIELD, SECONDED BY PAUL BURNS, PVTA, TO RECOMMEND MPO TO ADOPT THE STATE TARGETS FOR PM2. A ROLL CALL WAS TAKEN, AND THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. McCaul presented the performance measures for PM3, which include reliability, congestion, and emissions. He stated that reliability did not mean that roads were not congested but that the time to take the same route was reliable. He presented the LOTTR, the amount of time it took to drive the length of a road segment. Anything under 1.50 was considered reliable, according to federal standards. He stated that the current data for interstate travel was well above the targets. Between 2019 and 2021, there was an increase based on the lack of travel during the pandemic. The non-interstate travel time reliability was closer to the targets. A TTTR used the 95th percentile instead of the 80th percentile for trucks. For truck travel time reliability, it was expected that there might be more unreliability in the future. Mr. McCaul presented the Peak Hour Excessive Delay (PHED), which indicated annual hours of excessive delay between 6 a.m. and 10 a.m. and between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.; this was based on the travel time at 20 miles per hour or 60% of the posted speed limit, whichever was more significant. He recommended using the state targets. Mr. McCaul presented the percentage of Non-SOV travel targets based on the percentage of people commuting to work using a mode other than a single occupancy vehicle. The current data showed that non-SOV travel increased at an average of .056[^] between 2010 and 2014 and 2015 and 2019. Emission reductions were calculated by summing 2- and 4-year totals. Mr. McCaul stated that the actual calculations had not yet been calculated. He recommended using the state targets. Mr. McCaul stated that they recommended MPO use the state targets.

Mr. Dwyer asked for a motion to recommend MPO adopt the state targets for PM2.

MOVED BY PAUL BURNS, PVPTA, SECONDED BY DAN BANISTER, TO RECOMMEND MPO TO ADOPT THE STATE TARGETS FOR PM2. A ROLL CALL WAS TAKEN, AND THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Ms. Johnson raised concerns about these measures not addressing pedestrian safety. Mr. Roux stated it was a valid point, but most of these measures were not where pedestrians were and were required by law.

It was discussed that the definition of urban areas was defined, which would affect future functional classifications of roadways.

There being no questions, Mr. Dwyer moved to take up agenda item 5.

5. FFY 2023 TIP:

Mr. McCaul stated that the current TIP was for the fiscal year 2023. The first project was in Holyoke-West Springfield and was approximately a \$30 million project, and MassDOT asked for a contribution. The advertisement date was June 10th, 2023, and the project was on schedule. The next project was a retaining wall on Cummington, and it was scheduled to be finished at the end of July. The next project was Granby improvements, including safety money of \$1.7 million and an additional \$2.8 million. The next project was the Westfield River Levee multi-use path in Westfield, and there had been an anticipated cost increase, but so far, there has not been a cost increase. The advertisement date was mid-August. Ms. McMordle stated that it was progressing smoothly. The next project was the West Springfield reconstruction of Memorial Avenue, and the construction was funded over multiple seasons. Mr. Knightly stated there should be more work being done soon. The next project was the PVPTA project to purchase electric buses and support training. Mr. Burns stated he believed the money was in procurement. The final project was the Valley Bike Share Expansion, Phase 3, and the remaining funds unprogrammed on the tip, \$1,458,684, were procured. The contract was still under development, and the details were being fine-tuned.

Mr. McCaul presented the potential actions for the Highway TIP, including an adjustment from a statewide to a Pioneer Valley project, a cost increase of \$2 million for Springfield improvements on St. James Avenue, a \$50,000 decrease in the Westfield river levee project, and a possible cost increase for the Valley Bike Share Expansion, Phase 3. However, he did not recommend adjusting the Valley Bike Share Expansion.

There being no questions, Mr. Dwyer moved to take up agenda item 6.

6. Draft FFY 2024-2028 TIP Development

Mr. McCaul presented the schedule. On February 28th, MPO will review the project list and provide feedback, and the FHWA and FTA will hold a Public Hearing. Mr. McCaul presented the project list with the updated costs. The red project had a high risk of not being ready. He stated it was the preference to keep all projects in their current years. There was a total of 33 highway projects and 12 pedestrian bicycle projects, at a total of approximately \$330 million. The bike-pedestrian projects were presented; there was a total of 12 with an estimated cost of \$87 million. The yellow projects were on a watchlist and could fall off the schedule.

There being no questions, Mr. Dwyer moved to take up agenda item 7.

7. FFY 2024 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Schedule

Mr. Roux presented the 2024 RTP schedule. He stated they were close to releasing a few draft chapters, and it was expected to have things ready by the end of March. He asked everyone if they had a recommended group in the Pioneer Valley region that would benefit from staff presenting the plan to contact him.

Mr. Dwyer asked if there was tracking information on whether individuals looked at materials in alternate languages. Mr. McCaul stated that hits on the website could be tracked, but he would have to look into if what was being clicked on was being tracked.

There being no questions, Mr. Dwyer moved to take up agenda item 8.

8. Pioneer Valley MPO Federal Certification Review

Mr. Roux reported that there would be a public involvement session on Tuesday, February 28th, for individuals to comment on the planning process for the MPO. This would occur immediately after the MPO meeting. He encouraged everyone to attend but stated comments in writing could also be sent via email.

Mr. Dwyer asked if the meeting would be expected to last 3 hours, and Mr. Roux stated it would like to end early.

9. Other Business

There was no other business.

10. Adjourns

There being no further business to conduct, Mr. Dwyer called for a motion to adjourn.

MOVED BY DAN BANISTER, SECONDED BY ANDY K, TO ADJOURN THE FEBRUARY 15, 2023, JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC) MEETING. THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 11:00 A.M. WITHOUT OBJECTION.

Relevant documents distributed at this February 15, 2023, JTC meeting:

- Joint Transportation Committee February 15, 2023 Meeting Agenda
- Minutes of January 11, 2023, Joint Transportation Committee Meeting

Respectfully Submitted by Minutes Services