

Minutes of the Tuesday, January 23, 2018 Meeting of the
Pioneer Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
held at the
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
60 Congress Street, Springfield, MA 01104-3419

MPO Members Present:

Stephen Woelfel	Deputy Director, Office of Transportation Planning, Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) Representing MPO Chair Stephanie Pollack, Massachusetts Secretary of Transportation and Chief Executive Officer
George Archible	Belchertown Board of Selectmen
Jim Czach*	Chairman, Joint Transportation Committee & Town Engineer, Town of West Springfield
Walter Gunn	Chairman, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC)
Charles Kaniecki	Chairman, Southampton Board of Selectmen
Rich Masse	MassDOT District Two Office Representing Massachusetts Department of Transportation Highway Division Administrator Jonathan Gulliver
Ken Miller*	Assistant Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
David Narkewicz	Mayor, City of Northampton, Representing Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA) Representing MassDOT Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver
Doug Slaughter	Town of Amherst Selectboard
Brian Sullivan	Mayor, City of Westfield
Rick Sullivan	President and CEO, Economic Development Council of Western Massachusetts

(* denotes non-voting members)

Guests and PVPC Staff Present:

Patrick Beaudry	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Communications and Public Engagement
Mike Bolduc	MassDOT District Two Office (Northampton)
Tim Brennan	Executive Director, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC)
Daniel Call	City of Westfield
Michelle Chase	Town Engineer, Town of Agawam
Mark Cressotti	Vice-Chair of the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) and City Engineer, City of Westfield
David Elvin	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Peter Frieri	MassDOT District One Office (Lenox)
Ed Gibson	Town Administrator, Town of Southampton
Ben Heckscher	Trains in the Valley
Randall Kemp	Highway Superintendent, Town of Southampton
Dick Kilhart	Director of Public Works, Town of Ware
Nicholas Lapointe	Senior Transportation Engineer, Fuss & O'Neill
Andrew McCaul	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Michael McManus	Superintendent, Department of Public Works, City of Holyoke
Jeff McCollough	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Michael McManus	Superintendent, City of Holyoke
Mark Moore	MassDOT District 1 (Lenox)
Dawn Nims	Engineer, Town of Agawam
Dana Roscoe	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
William Sapelli	Mayor, Town of Agawam
Steve Savaria	Senior Transportation Engineer, Fuss & O'Neill
Sandra Sheehan	Administrator, Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA)
Gabe Sherman	Project Manager, MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning (OTP)
Steve Williams	Director, Department of Public Works, Town of Belchertown
Louise Sullivan	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Support Staff

Chairman's Call to Order, Welcome and Opening Remarks

Stephen Woelfel, Deputy Director of Strategic Planning at the Office of Transportation Planning, Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT), representing Stephanie Pollack, Massachusetts Secretary of Transportation and Chief Executive Officer, Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT), called the January 23, 2018 meeting of the Pioneer Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to order at 10:02 a.m. Mr. Woelfel then welcomed and thanked all those in attendance and called for introductions from the MPO members and meeting attendees present.

Following introductions, Mr. Woelfel moved to take up the minutes of the previous MPO meeting held on November 28, 2017.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting of the Pioneer Valley MPO Held on November 28, 2017

Mr. Woelfel called for a motion to approve the minutes of the previous Pioneer Valley MPO meeting which was held on November 28, 2017.

MOVED BY RICHARD SULLIVAN, PRESIDENT AND CEO, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS, SECONDED BY CHARLES KANIECKI, CHAIRMAN, SOUTHAMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 28, 2017 PIONEER VALLEY MPO MEETING AS PRESENTED. THERE BEING NO FURTHER COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS, THE MOTION WAS THEN APPROVED WITH ONE ABSTENTION BY RICHARD MASSE.

Mr. Woelfel then moved to address the next agenda item.

3. Review, Discussion and MPO Approval to Release Amendments to the 2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Currently Advertised for the Required 21-day Public Review

Mr. Woelfel called on PVPC Principal Planner Dana Roscoe to review a series of proposed amendments to the Pioneer Valley region's FFY 2018 Pioneer Valley Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Mr. Roscoe announced that there are two over programmed projects that are not coming before the MPO members for action today which include a transportation project in the City of Westfield and a project in the Town of Holland. Mr. Roscoe reported that officials of the City of Westfield and the Town of Holland are working with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) to resolve cost increases affecting these two projects and once these cost issues have been addressed, these two projects will be presented at a future MPO meeting.

Mr. Roscoe stated that he would next explain two adjustments being made to the FFY 2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the information and reference of MPO members. Mr. Roscoe indicated that the first TIP adjustment centers on the transit funding for the PVTA Van Replacement Project and he referred MPO members to the handout document entitled *TIP 2018 – 2022* which identifies Sections 5307, 5310, 5339 and other transit funding sources to underwrite this PVTA Van Replacement Project utilizing carry-over funds.

Mr. Roscoe explained that the second TIP adjustment concerns the funding for the *Bridge Reconstruction Project Encompassing Route I-91 over US Route 5 and Hockanum Road* (Project #606552) in Northampton. Mr. Roscoe noted that the amount of funds being programmed for this Bridge Reconstruction Project in FFY 2020 will increase while the amount of funds programmed in FFY 2021 will decrease; however, the full cost of this Bridge Reconstruction Project remains the same. Ken Miller of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) asked Mr. Roscoe for the exact location of the subject bridge. Mr. Roscoe replied that the project actually consists of two bridges: the *Bridge Reconstruction Project on I-91 over Hockanum Road* in Northampton (N19060) and the *Bridge Reconstruction Project on I-91 over Route 5 (N19059)* in Northampton.

There being no further questions or discussion about these TIP adjustments, Mr. Woelfel then moved to address the next agenda item.

4. Review, Discussion and MPO Approval to Adopt the Massachusetts Statewide Safety Performance Targets as the Pioneer Valley MPO Targets

PVPC Senior Transportation Planner Andrew McCaul stated that at the last MPO meeting held in November, PVPC Principal Planner Gary Roux had delivered an extensive presentation underscoring the need to develop performance measures based on federal law. Mr. McCaul stated that MassDOT has set their Statewide Safety Performance Targets in support of these required performance measures and the Pioneer Valley MPO has 180 days to decide whether to implement its own Safety Performance Targets or to adopt the State Targets. Mr. McCaul reported that at the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) meeting held on January 10th, the JTC members discussed these two options and voted to recommend adopting the Statewide Safety Targets. Mr. McCaul then called attention to the document entitled *Massachusetts Safety Performance Measures and Targets* which delineates the five Performance Measures along with their respective State Targets. Mr. McCaul underscored that the MPO has until February 27th to adopt these State Targets and he indicated that the JTC recommends that the MPO members adopt these Statewide Safety Targets at today's meeting.

In response, Mr. Woelfel called for a motion for the MPO to approve the adoption of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation's Safety Performance Measures and Targets.

MOVED BY RICHARD SULLIVAN, PRESIDENT AND CEO, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS, SECONDED BY BRIAN SULLIVAN, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF WESTFIELD, TO APPROVE THE ADOPTION OF THE MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (MASSDOT)'S SAFETY PERFORMANCE MEASURES AND TARGETS. THERE BEING NO FURTHER QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS, THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE MPO MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Woelfel then moved to take up agenda item #5.

5. Presentation on the Status of the Update to the Statewide Rail Plan by MassDOT Rail Plan Project Manager, Jennifer Slesinger

Mr. Woelfel announced that MassDOT Rail Plan Project Manager Jennifer Slesinger could not be present today to deliver an update on the new State MassDOT Rail Plan; however, he indicated that the draft version of Massachusetts 2018 State Rail Plan is expected to be released by the end of this week. Mr. Woelfel called on Gabe Sherman, Project Manager in MassDOT's Office of Transportation Planning (OTP) to give a brief rail plan overview. Mr. Sherman noted that January 26th is now the expected release date for the 2018 State Rail Plan Update and that the State Rail Plan Update presentation will likely be posted online by January 30th. Mr. Sherman added that assuming the release date is met, there will be a three-week public review and comment period. Mr. Sherman stated that although the State Rail Plan is a Federal Rail Administration (FRA) requirement, it is no longer required that a project listed in the plan must receive FRA funds which is a shift from federal regulations and guidance. Mr. Sherman added that MBTA commuter rail decisions are not part of this new rail plan document as these will be dealt with in *Focus40* and other planning efforts that are being pursued by MassDOT. Mr. Sherman stated that the focus of the 2018 State Rail Plan Update is mostly on Amtrak inner city passenger rail service, freight rail and MassDOT rail improvements projects such as South Station expansion and South Coast rail. Mr. Sherman reported that the State Rail Plan Update Project Manager has reached out to MPOs for input and this has generated comments which have been incorporated into the plan as appropriate. Mr. Sherman indicated that he will leave the email address for the State Rail Plan Manager with PVPC staff if any of the MPO members should have questions they'd like to follow-up on after today's meeting.

Mr. Woelfel then stated that he would entertain questions. Mr. Brennan asked if the public MassDOT meeting for January 29th in Worcester is still scheduled. Mr. Woelfel replied that the January 29th meeting is still scheduled and the draft State Rail Plan Update should be released on January 26th with a three-week public review period to follow. Mr. Brennan asked about the three projects in the Pioneer Valley that are priority projects. First, Mr.

Brennan stated that the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission has been working with MassDOT for three years in an attempt to expand north-south passenger rail service from Springfield to Greenfield. Mr. Brennan continued with inquiries about the status of the other two projects: the recommended east-west rail connection linking Boston, Worcester, Palmer, Springfield, Hartford, New Haven, and eventually Montreal which resulted from the Northern New England Intercity Mr. Brennan Rail Initiative (NNEIRI) Final Report back in 2016; and the proposed freight upgrade to the Massachusetts portion of the New England Central Railroad corridor to elevate the tracks' carry weight up to the modern standard of 286,000 pounds. Mr. Brennan asked if all of those projects are addressed in the draft 2018 State Rail Plan Update and Mr. Woelfel replied, "Yes, in some fashion." Mr. Brennan asked how the state categorized the transportation projects in the draft State Rail Plan Update: recommended to advance, marked for further study, set aside because the project didn't have enough justification or subject to cost/benefit analysis. Mr. Woelfel responded, "Yes, this tiered framework is still in place." Mr. Woelfel asked if there were any further questions. There being none, he moved to take up agenda item #6.

6. Update from PVPC Staff on the List of Transportation Projects Currently Included in the PVPC Universe of Projects for Consideration of Funding in the FFY 2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

PVPC Principal Planner Dana Roscoe stated that every January, planning begins for the next federal fiscal year beginning on October 1st. Mr. Roscoe explained that before a draft FFY 2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) can be assembled, it is first important that the MPO members review the universe of projects list and he called the MPO members' attention to a 2 page handout document illustrating the Pioneer Valley region's universe of transportation improvement projects. Mr. Roscoe underscored that if the MPO members should discover during their review that there is a project missing from the current universe of projects listing, they are urged to contact him or another PVPC staff member. Mr. Roscoe explained that the universe of projects, currently under consideration, is comprised of about 80 proposed transportation improvement projects totaling over \$380 million dollars and while the Pioneer Valley region will have \$25 million dollars per year to program over the next five federal fiscal years. Mr. Roscoe indicated that within the next week, all of the specifics of every project on universe of projects list will be sent out to each PVPC member municipality and the local officials will be asked to provide PVPC Staff with any missing or updated information. Mr. Roscoe added that a day-long session will be held in Boston in collaboration with representatives from District One and District Two offices and MassDOT at which time each project will be carefully reviewed and scored using a scale of one to 100. Mr. Roscoe explained that once the review process has been completed, a recommendation will be developed by the JTC for the MPO members encompassing the projects proposed to be programmed over TTYs 2019-2023 and at this point Pioneer Valley MPO members will then decide whether to accept the recommendation or to deviate from it. Mr. Roscoe further explained that the draft TIP document encompassing FFY 2019-2023 will go out for a 21-day public review before it comes before the MPO members to be endorsed.

Mr. Roscoe then addressed the transit element of the FFY 2019 TIP saying that in collaboration with the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA), a draft transit TIP will be programmed and endorsed during the May-June 2018 time frame. He urged the MPO members to notify the PVPC staff if they have any concerns or questions.

Mr. Woelfel then moved to take up the next agenda item

7. Report from Jim Czach, the Chairman of the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC), on Important Transportation Issues and Projects Discussed Since the Last MPO Meeting was Held on November 28, 2017

Mr. Woelfel called on JTC Chairman Jim Czach to report on issues and projects discussed at the last meeting of the Pioneer Valley region's Joint Transportation Committee (JTC). Mr. Czach reported that over the next month or two, the JTC members will continue to review the TIP projects list and provide the JTC members with feedback. Mr. Czach reported that the Technical Evaluation Criteria (TEC) forms are in the process of being sent out to the communities and he asked that the TEC forms be returned with as much information as possible. He added that the TEC forms are due by February 13th and a meeting of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Sub-committee will follow on February 20th.

Mr. Czach explained that in the past few months, the JTC members have been soliciting for a non-voting representative from the region's Bike/Ped community and a non-voting JTC member who will serve as a representative of the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) population at JTC meetings. At last month's JTC meeting, three people expressed interest in becoming a non-voting JTC member: Jennifer Lee, Systems Advocate for Stavros; Betsy Johnson of Walk/Bike Springfield; and Dan Call of the Westfield Friends of the Columbia Greenway Rail Trail (FOCGRT). Mr. Czach indicated that a vote was taken by the JTC members to appoint Betsy Johnson and Dan Call as co-representatives of the bike/pedestrian community to serve for one year in a non-voting capacity and to appoint Stavros as a representative of the ADA community to serve for one year in a non-voting capacity. Mr. Czach indicated that a year from now, this expansion of the JTC membership will be revisited.

Mr. Woelfel then moved to take up the next agenda item.

8. Updates from MassDOT District One and District Two Officials on Relevant Transportation Issues and Projects of Interest to the Pioneer Valley MPO Members

Mr. Woelfel called on Peter Frieri of the MassDOT District One office in Lenox to present District One's updates on relevant transportation issues and projects. Mr. Frieri reported that there are two bid openings currently scheduled in February:

- The *West Street Reconstruction* in the Town of Goshen (Project #605150) has a bid opening scheduled for February 21st
- The *Bridge Replacement at Ireland Street over the west branch of Bronson Brook* in the Town of Chesterfield (Project #607549) which has a bid opening scheduled for February 6th.

Mr. Frieri reported that in the current fiscal year, there is the *Resurfacing and Related Work on Route 9 over the Westfield River* in Cummington (Project #607939) which is scheduled to have a bid opening on March 13th. Mr. Frieri indicated that two additional projects which are in progress include the *Bridge Maintenance on Route 112 Over the Westfield River* in the Town of Huntington (Project #608258) and a *Bridge Replacement Project on Chester Road over Smart Brook* in the Town of Middlefield (Project #608249) which is now at the 25% design stage.

Mr. Woelfel next called on Mike Bolduc of the MassDOT District Two office in Northampton to present District Two's updates on relevant transportation projects within its jurisdiction. Mr. Bolduc reported the following:

- The *Intersection Improvements at Route 187 and 57* in Agawam (Project #604203) is at the 25% design stage with the 75% design plans due soon.
- The *Improvements at Interchange 19 at Route 9 and Damon Road* in Northampton (Project #604597) have reached the 100% design stage.
- The *Reconstruction of Western Avenue, Phase I*, in Westfield (Project #603449) is still over-programmed in the TIP but is at the 75% design stage with the 100% design plans expected soon.
- The *Reconstruction of Glendale Road* in Southampton (Project #604738) is now at the 100% design stage and will receive its PS&E approval next month.
- The *Resurfacing on Heritage, Front and Dwight Street* in Holyoke (Project #607256) is currently at 25% design stage but it is expected to reach the 75% design stage soon.
- The *Resurfacing of Brimfield Road (Phase I)* in Holland (Project #604962) is at the 25% design stage but its cost is slightly over-programmed and the hope is that its cost can be reduced when it reaches its 75% design stage.
- The *Amherst- Hadley- Northampton- Transit Signal Priority Upgrades at Various Locations Route 9* (Project 608786) is at pre-25% design and the designer is inventorying the existing signal equipment at various locations and coordinating the projects along the corridor so the 100% design stage should be forthcoming soon.

- The *Northampton I-91 Bridge Reconstruction over Hockanum Road* in Northampton (Project #606552) is at the 25% design state with the 75% design plans expected soon.
- The *Bridge Rehabilitation Project on Main Street over the Quaboag River* in Palmer (Project #608870) is due to have a bid opening in March.
- The *North End Pedestrian Path Construction* in Springfield (Project #607589) is at the 75% design stage and is expected to reach the 100% design stage in May.

Mr. Bolduc reported that there were also two bid openings that occurred this month: *Mill Street over the Mill River Bridge* in Amherst and *Side Walk* and the *Wheelchair Ramp Construction on Route 9* also in Amherst. He added that there is a bid opening taking place today for *Improvements to Lower Westfield Road* in Holyoke. Mr. Woelfel thanked Mr. Frieri and Mr. Bolduc for their District One and District Two project updates and he moved to take up the next agenda item.

9. Updates from Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA) Administrator Sandra Sheehan on Relevant Public Transit Issues and Projects of Interest to the Pioneer Valley MPO Members

Mr. Woelfel called for a report and update from Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA) Administrator Sandra Sheehan.

Ms. Sheehan announced that the PVTA has an PVTA Advisory Board meeting scheduled for tomorrow during which the PVTA staff will be asking the Advisory Board for permission to hold public hearings regarding service changes. Ms. Sheehan explained that PVTA staff members are trying to offset a deficit that is anticipated for FFY 2019 to be \$3.1 million dollars based on information from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation is Transit Division which has level-funded the Regional Transportation Authorities (RTAs) in the proposed FY 2019 state budget. Ms. Sheehan indicated that the PVTA is trying to maintain services in each of the communities and may soon hold public hearings regarding a 25% fare increase from \$1.25 to \$1.60. Mr. Woelfel asked if there were any questions for Ms. Sheehan. There being no questions, Mr. Woelfel thanked Ms. Sheehan for her report on PVTA activities and initiatives and he then moved to take up the last agenda item

10. Other Business

Mr. Woelfel asked if there was any other business to conduct and there being none, Mr. Woelfel called for a motion to adjourn the January 23, 2018 Pioneer Valley MPO meeting. Mr. Roscoe announced that the next Pioneer Valley MPO meeting is scheduled for February 27th at 10 a.m.

MOVED BY RICHARD SULLIVAN, PRESIDENT AND CEO, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS, SECONDED BY DAVID NARKEWICZ, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NORTHAMPTON, TO ADJOURN THE JANUARY 23, 2018 MEETING OF THE PIONEER VALLEY REGION'S MPO. THERE BEING NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, THE JANUARY 23RD MPO MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 10:35 A.M. WITHOUT OBJECTION

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy W. Brennan, Executive Director
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

List of Documents and Other Items Distributed at the January 23, 2018 MPO Meeting

1. *Pioneer Valley Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Meeting Notice and Agenda: January 23, 2018*
2. *Minutes of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Meeting: Wednesday, November 28, 2017*
3. *2018 Pioneer Valley Region Transportation Improvement Program*
4. *2019 – 2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development Schedule*
5. *Draft FFY 2019-2023 Project List*
6. *Massachusetts Safety Performance Measures and Targets*
7. *2019-2023 and 2018-2022 — Universe of Projects*
8. *TIP 2018 - 2022*