

Minutes of the Tuesday, January 25, 2022 Virtual Zoom Meeting of the
Pioneer Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
held by the
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
60 Congress Street, Springfield, MA 01104-3419

MPO Members Present:

Steve Woelfel	Director of Strategic Planning, Office of Transportation Planning, Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) Representing MPO Chair James Tesler, Acting Massachusetts Secretary of Transportation and Chief Executive Officer
James Barry	Selectboard, Town of Belchertown
Jim Czach	Chairman, Joint Transportation Committee
Roger Fuller	Selectboard Member, Town of Chesterfield
Joshua Garcia	Mayor, City of Holyoke
Walter Gunn	Chairman, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC)
Nicole LaChapelle	Mayor, City of Easthampton
William Reichelt	Mayor, Town of West Springfield
Paula Simmons	MassDOT District Two Office Representing Massachusetts Department of Transportation Highway Division Administrator Jonathan Gulliver
Rick Sullivan	President and CEO, Economic Development Council of Western Massachusetts

Guests and PVPC Staff Present:

Daryl Amaral	MassDOT District 2 Office, Acting State Aid Engineer
Peter Frieri	MassDOT, District 1 Office
Chris Klem	MassDOT Liaison
Andrew McCaul	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Dana Roscoe	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Gary Roux	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Sandra Sheehan	Administrator, Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA)
Louise Sullivan	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Support Staff

Note: Because this meeting was held via Zoom, not all those present are included as some participants were only identified by a phone number and no name was available

1. Chairman’s Call to Order, Welcome and Opening Remarks

Steve Woelfel, Director of Strategic Planning, Office of Transportation Planning, Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT), Representing Jamey Tesler, Acting Massachusetts Secretary of Transportation and Chief Executive Officer, called the January 25, 2022 meeting of the Pioneer Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to order at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Woelfel asked for a roll call from the MPO members present with following members responding: Paula Simmons, MassDOT District Two, Representing Massachusetts Department of Transportation Highway Division Administrator Jonathan Gulliver; Rick Sullivan, President and CEO, Economic Development Council of Western Massachusetts; William Reichelt, Mayor of West Springfield; Nicole LaChapelle, Mayor of Easthampton; Roger Fuller, Selectboard Member, Town of Chesterfield; James Barry, Belchertown Selectboard Member; Joshua Garcia, Mayor of Holyoke; Walter Gunn, Chairman, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission; Sandra Sheehan, Administrator, Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA); Daryl Amaral, MassDOT District 2 Office; Peter Frieri, MassDOT District 1 Office; and Chris Klem, MassDOT Liaison. PVPC Principal Planner Dana Roscoe confirmed that this roll call constitutes a quorum.

Following the roll call, Mr. Woelfel moved to take up the minutes of the previous MPO meeting held on November 23, 2021.

2. MPO Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting of the Pioneer Valley MPO Held Remotely on November 23, 2021

Mr. Woelfel called for a motion to approve the minutes of the previous Pioneer Valley MPO meeting which was held on November 23, 2021.

MOVED BY WALTER GUNN, CHAIRMAN, PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION, SECONDED BY NICOLE LACHAPELLE, MAYOR, CITY OF EASTHAMPTON, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 23, 2021 PIONEER VALLEY MPO MEETING AS PRESENTED.

Mr. Woelfel requested a roll call and each of the MPO members in attendance responded affirmatively.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED BY THE MPO MEMBERS PRESENT.

3. Review, Discussion and MPO Endorsement of the Proposed FFY 2022 Transit Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments Currently Out for the Required 21 day review period

PVPC Senior Transportation Planner Andy McCaul explained that at the last MPO meeting, a change to the FFY 2022 Transit Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) was proposed for the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority’s application for a \$8.5 million, 5339 Low No Grant to purchase eight low or no emissions, battery powered buses to replace eight, aging diesel powered buses and to provide technical training and programming. Mr. McCaul reported that the Transit TIP amendments have been out for the required 21 day public review period and no comments have been received. He asked that the MPO members endorse the proposed FFY 2022 Transit Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments.

MOVED BY WALTER GUNN, CHAIRMAN, PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION, SECONDED BY RICK SULLIVAN, PRESIDENT AND CEO, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS, TO APPROVE THE ENDORSEMENT OF THE PROPOSED FFY 2022 TRANSIT TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENTS

Mr. Woelfel requested a roll call and each of the MPO members in attendance responded affirmatively.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED BY THE MPO MEMBERS PRESENT.

4. Review, Discussion and MPO Endorsement of the Proposed Changes to the Transportation Evaluation Criteria (TEC) Currently Out for the Required 21 Day Review Period

VPVC Senior Transportation Planner Andy McCaul stated that the Transportation Evaluation Criteria (TEC) was released by the MPO in November for a 21 day public review. Mr. McCaul explained that every year an annual assessment of the TEC is done which includes changes being discussed with the Joint Transportation Commission (JTC) members. He reported that there were a few minor changes made to the TEC such as updating definitions, modernizing some of the language and adding the expected project advertisement date to the cover page. Mr. McCaul asked if there were any questions or comments. There being none, he asked that the MPO members endorse the proposed Transportation Evaluation Criteria (TEC) as presented. Mr. Woelfel called for a motion to endorse the proposed TEC.

MOVED BY RICHARD SULLIVAN, PRESIDENT AND CEO, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS, SECONDED BY WALTER GUNN, CHAIRMAN, PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION, TO ENDORSE THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE TRANSPORTATION EVALUATION CRITERIA (TEC) AS PRESENTED

Mr. Woelfel requested a roll call and each of the MPO members in attendance responded affirmatively.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED BY THE MPO MEMBERS PRESENT.

5. Review, Discussion and MPO Approval of the Proposed 2023 Safety Targets (PMI) for the Pioneer Valley MPO

Principal Planner Gary Roux explained that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) requires that Safety Performance Measures and Targets be developed annually as part of federal transportation rules and safety laws. Mr. Roux explained that the MPO has 90 days to adopt their own Safety Targets or adopt the state Safety Targets. Mr. Roux explained that rather than have the Pioneer Valley MPO adopt its own set of Performance Measures and Targets, it makes more sense 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 indicated that the five required annual Safety Targets proposed for 2023 have not changed and they are delineated 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 chart reflects an increase in fatalities for our region while the state has a slight decrease. Mr. Roux then displayed a bar chart entitled *Total Fatalities in the PVPC Region* which shows an increase in fatalities for our region from 2019 to 2021; however, he noted that since these numbers haven't yet been finalized, they are subject to change.

Pointing to a chart entitled *Total Serious Injuries – 5 Year Averages*, Mr. Roux reported that there is a downward trend in serious injuries for our region and for Massachusetts. Displaying his next chart entitled *Total Number of Non-Motorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries – 5 Year Averages*, Mr. Roux indicated that there is a slight downward trend both for our region and the state. But once again, he underscored that the target is to achieve zero fatalities and to achieve a reduction in the total number and rate of serious injuries.

Mr. Roux reported that the JTC members recommend that the MassDOT Performance Measures and state Safety Targets continue to be used and that they recommend the MPO endorse them. Mr. Woelfel called for a motion to endorse the 2023 Massachusetts Safety Performance Measures and State Targets.

MOVED BY WALTER GUNN, CHAIRMAN, PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION, SECONDED BY RICK SULLIVAN, PRESIDENT AND CEO, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS, TO APPROVE THE ENDORSEMENT OF THE 2023 MASSACHUSETTS SAFETY PERFORMANCE MEASURES AND STATE TARGETS

Mr. Woelfel requested a roll call and each of the MPO members in attendance responded affirmatively.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED BY THE MPO MEMBERS PRESENT.

6. Review, Discussion and MPO Approval to Release the Proposed Amendments to the FFY 2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Required 21 day Public Review Period

PVPC Senior Transportation Planner Andy McCaul remarked that the FFY 2022 Transit TIP amendment was endorsed earlier and now proposed changes to the highway side of the FFY 2022 TIP need to be released for the required 21 day review period. He explained that the proposed changes include an updated project description for a District 2, bridge preservation project in the City of Chicopee including a project name change from *Systematic Bridge Maintenance at Various Locations* to *Chicopee / Holyoke – Bridge Preservation Along I-391*. Additionally, Mr. McCaul indicated the need to update the cost of the project from \$1,540,000 to \$6,478,114 and move the funding from STIP to the PVMPO TIP. Mr. McCaul then asked that the MPO members to release the proposed amendments to the FFY 2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Required 21 day Public Review Period, and Mr. Woelfel called for a motion.

MOVED BY RICK SULLIVAN, PRESIDENT AND CEO, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS, SECONDED BY NICOLE LACHAPPELLE, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF EASTHAMPTON, TO APPROVE THE RELEASE OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE FFY 2022 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) FOR THE REQUIRED 21 DAY PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD

Mr. Woelfel requested a roll call and each of the MPO members in attendance responded affirmatively.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED BY THE MPO MEMBERS PRESENT.

7. Review and Discussion of the 2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development Schedule and Draft Universe of Projects

PVPC Senior Transportation Planner Andy McCaul reported that the 2023 – 2027 TIP development was discussed with the JTC members at their January 12th meeting. He explained that now that the MPO has endorsed the proposed changes to the TEC, it can be released to all the municipalities and letters will be mailed to their Chief Elected Officials informing them of the start of TIP development for FFY 2023 – FFY 2027. Mr. McCaul remarked that MassDOT will distribute the 2023 – 2027 financial information on January 28th and updated TEC forms will be due to the PVPC by the end of business on February 8th. Also on February 8th, the PVPC will meet with all MassDOT sections to review projects that may be funded in the next TIP cycle. On February 9th, the TIP Subcommittee will meet to review updated TEC forms; and on February 10th, the MassDOT Project Review Committee will meet. Mr. McCaul indicated that the JTC will review the project universe on February 22nd and then deliver a preferred list of projects to the MPO on March 22nd. The MPO, on April 26th, will then release the FFY 2023 – 2027 TIP and the FFY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for a 21 day public review period. On May 26th, the MPO will meet, review the TIP and the UPWP and then endorse the 2023 – 2027 TIP and the 2023 UPWP.

Mr. McCaul displayed a spreadsheet entitled *Draft 2023 – 2027 Project Universe (January 2022)* which had all the columns highlighted in red except the columns entitled *2022-2026, Municipality, SID and Project Name and Description*. Mr. McCaul stated that this is a draft Project Universe until the highlighted columns: *Design, TEC Score, TEC Rank, Cost Estimate, CMAQ, HSIP, Jurisdiction DPH and Comments* are updated during TIP Day and the TEC Review. He reported that there are a total of 44 projects having a total cost of \$374,664,308 including 23 that don't have an identified funding source which means that \$175 million dollars' worth of projects need funding.

Principal Planner Dana Roscoe reported that there will be an amendment proposed at the February MPO meeting that will impact two FY 2022 TIP projects: the Holyoke Traffic Signals at 15 Intersections project and the West Springfield Memorial Avenue project. Mr. Roscoe explained that there are design issues in the Holyoke project that won't allow advancement in FY 2022 so this Holyoke project will be moved into FY 2023. He reported that the West Springfield Memorial Avenue project is programmed over three years so the amount for which the Holyoke project was programmed will be moved into FY 2022 for the West Springfield project. He added that the West Springfield project will continue to be programmed over three years with the amount of its individual three years changing in order to fund the Holyoke project in 2023, and both TIP projects will advance as scheduled because they've just swapped places.

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 Daryl Amaral of the MassDOT District Two office in Northampton to present District Two's updates on relevant transportation issues and projects. Mr. Amaral reported on the following TIP projects:

Proj. ID	Municipality	Project	Report delivered by Daryl Amaral of MassDOT District Two Office
606450	Holyoke	Traffic Signals - 15 Intersections	This project will be discussed further on TIP Day
608374	West Springfield	Memorial Ave. Reconstruction	Resolution Rating 100% on Oct. 26, PS&E due Feb. 3, 2022, Ad date 6/4/22
608577	Easthampton	Union St. to High St., Rt. 147	PS&E currently under review, Ad date is March 12, 2022
605126	Ware	Bridge Replacement over Ware River	100% review completed, PS&E due March 4 and Ad date is 8/13/22
608473	South Hadley	Resurfacing Route 116	Advertised 12/11/21, Bids opened Jan. 19, low bidder Ludlow Construction
609515	Northampton	SRTS -Safe Routes to School - Bridge St.	PS&E is due Jan. 26 th , ROW certificate needed, Ad date is July 23, 2022
608719	Amherst	Norwottuck Rail Trail Resurfacing	100% was received on November 18, 2021, Ad date is Aug. 6, 2022

Mr. Woelfel then called on Peter Frieri of the MassDOT District One office in Lenox to present District One’s updates on relevant transportation projects within its jurisdiction. Mr. Frieri reported that District One currently has three TIP projects programmed in FFY 2022 – 2026:

Project ID	Municipality	Project	Report delivered by Peter Frieri of MassDOT District One Office
606797	Cummington	Retaining Wall Replacement on Route 9	Currently evaluating design options and working on 25% design
609287	Worthington	Phase 2 of Route 143 Reconstruction	100% design received from CHA on 12/3/21, under MassDOT review
612031	Worthington	Resurfacing of Route 112 from roundabout to the Huntington Town line	Preliminary design work is upcoming in the next year

Mr. Woelfel thanked Mr. Frieri and Mr. Amaral for their updates and he then moved on to the next agenda item.

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

PVTA Administrator Sandra Sheehan reported that in late December, MassDOT issued a report to the Massachusetts Legislature on the performance of the transit authorities. She remarked that none of the Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs) met their performance targets. Ms. Sheehan indicated, however, that the PVTA during 2021 served essential low income workers and people who rely on public transit for school and shopping. She reported that the Massachusetts Association of Regional Authorities held a meeting to discuss workforce shortage, its effects and what the PVTA is doing to retain drivers, mechanics and other employees. Ms. Sheehan explained that the RTAs have requested \$101 million in state contract assistance including a base of \$94 million with an additional \$3.5 million for fuel and insurance costs and an additional \$3.5 million for workforce development and retention. Ms. Sheehan reported that the PVTA ridership level is about 60% of the 2019 level but she is very pleased with the G73E route from Northampton to Springfield via the Holyoke Mall having 5,000 riders per month. She added that the PVTA is working with the PVPC to submit the PVTA’s Transit Asset Management Plan.

10. Other Business

Mr. Woelfel announced that the next virtual MPO meeting is scheduled for February 22, 2022. There being no other business, Mr. Woelfel called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

MOVED BY RICHARD SULLIVAN, PRESIDENT AND CEO, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS, SECONDED BY WALTER GUNN, CHAIRMAN, PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION, TO ADJOURN THIS JANUARY 25, 2022 MEETING OF THE PIONEER VALLEY REGION’S MPO.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, THE JANUARY 25TH MPO MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 10:45 A.M. WITHOUT OBJECTION.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Sullivan, Administrative Assistant Specialist
 Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

List of Documents and Other Items Distributed at the January 25, 2022 MPO Meeting

1. *Pioneer Valley Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Agenda: January 25, 2022*
2. *Minutes of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Meeting: November 23, 2021*
3. *2023 -2027 TIP and 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Development Schedule*
4. *Massachusetts Department of Transportation Safety Performance Measures – January 2022*