

Minutes of the Thursday, January 31, 2017 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:

David Mohler	Executive Director of Strategic Planning, 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
Marcus J. Boyle	Chair, Board of Selectmen, Town of Hatfield
Tim Brennan	Executive Director, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) Representing Walter Gunn, Chairman, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC)
Richard A. Cohen	Mayor, Town of Agawam
Richard Kos	Mayor, City of Chicopee
Alex Morse	Mayor, City of Holyoke
David Narkewicz	Mayor, City of Northampton, Representing Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA)
Patrick Paul	Highway Director, Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT), District Two Representing MassDOT Highway Administrator Thomas J. Tinlin
Doug Slaughter	Town of Amherst Selectboard

Guests and PVPC Staff Present:

Rick Sullivan	President and CEO, Economic Development Council of Western Massachusetts
Mike Bolduc	MassDOT District Two Office (Northampton)
Daniel Call	City of Westfield
Matt Chase	Senior Project Manager, Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc., (VHB)
Mark Cressotti	Vice-Chair of the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) and City Engineer, City of Westfield
Jim Czach	Chairman, Joint Transportation Committee & Town Engineer, Town of West Springfield
David Elvin	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Christopher Golba	Superintendent, Department of Public Works, Town of Agawam
Peter Frieri	MassDOT District One Office (Lenox)
Scott Hanson	Principal Planner, City of Springfield
Ken Ho	BETA Group
Jeff Hoynoski	MassDOT District Two Office (Northampton)
Andrew Krar	Town Engineer, Town of Longmeadow
Richard Masse	MassDOT District Two Office (Northampton)
Andrew McCaul	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Jeff McCollough	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Michael McManus	Superintendent, Department of Public Works, City of Holyoke
Mark Moore	MassDOT District 1 (Lenox)
Dan Murphy	City of Easthampton
Jeffrey Neece	Superintendent, Public Works Department, City of Chicopee
Dawn Nims	Civil Engineer, Town of Agawam
Angela Otis	Selectboard, Town of Goshen
Bryan Pounds	MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning (OTP), MassDOT
Dana Roscoe	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Gary Roux	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Marc Strange	Director of Planning and Development, Town of Agawam
Louise Sullivan	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Support Staff
Peter Vancini	Department of Public Works, Longmeadow, MA
Marvin Ward	MassBike – Easthampton
Steve Williams	Director, Department of Public Works, Town of Belchertown

1. Chairman's Call to Order, Introductions and Opening Remarks

David Mohler, Executive 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 31, 2017 meeting of the Pioneer Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to order at 10:00 a.m. and he welcomed and thanked all those in attendance. Following introductions, Mr. Mohler moved to take up the minutes of the previous MPO meeting held on July 25, 2016.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting of the Pioneer Valley MPO Held on July 25, 2016

Mr. Mohler called for a motion to approve the minutes of the previous Pioneer Valley MPO meeting which was held on July 27, 2017.

MOVED BY DAVID NARKEWICZ, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NORTHAMPTON, SECONDED BY GEORGE ARCHIBLE OF THE TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 25, 2016 PIONEER VALLEY MPO MEETING AS PRESENTED. THERE BEING NO FURTHER COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS, THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

3. Review, Discussion and MPO Approval To Release Proposed Amendments to the Current 2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) For the Required 30-day Public Review

Mr. Mohler called on PVPC Principal Planner Dana Roscoe to review a series of proposed amendments to the Pioneer Valley region's current, FFY 2017 Pioneer Valley Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Mr. Roscoe stated that federal law requires that amendments made to the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) are to be advertised for public review for a period of 30 days. Mr. Roscoe called the MPO members attention to the relevant handout entitled *2017 - 2021 Pioneer Valley Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Proposed Amendments – January 2017*, and he explained that this handout document describes a cost increase to the Southwick Congamond Road Project (604033) from \$6,549,979 to \$7,172,979 as well as a cost increase to the Ludlow Center Street Reconstruction Project (605011) from \$5,485,350 to \$5,845,350 which will be funded by a combination of \$4,364,358 in Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds; \$1,080,992 in Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funds; and \$400,000 in Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funds.

Mr. Roscoe indicated that the Goshen Route 9 Resurfacing Project (608126) went out to bid in August and this was possible because every year the Commonwealth has an opportunity to capture federal transportation funds from other states which have been unable to spend their full allocation of federal funds. As a result, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) redistributes unused funds to states such as Massachusetts, which can absorb those funds. This fiscal year, Massachusetts received \$50 million dollars in surplus funding from other states which enabled the Goshen West Street Reconstruction Project (605150) to be included in the TIP for a total amount of \$4,058,137 (STP). Mr. Roscoe added that the redistribution funds captured by Massachusetts back in August has also enabled the addition of the Goshen West Street Reconstruction Project (605150) for a total amount of \$3,800,000 (STP). Finally, Mr. Roscoe noted that the funding programmed in the TIP for the Pioneer Valley Bike Share Project (PV001) has been increased by \$172,000 for a new project total of \$1,343,971. At this point, Mr. Roscoe stated he had completed his report on amendments to Section 1 of the TIP and he moved to address Section 1D of the TIP document using the handout entitled *2017 Pioneer Valley Region MPO Transportation Improvement Program*. Mr. Roscoe indicated that the Springfield Route I-91 Viaduct Deck Replacement Project (607731) was also a recipient of \$9,000,000 of federal redistribution funds and given this, Mr. Roscoe indicated that this element of the Springfield Route I-91 Viaduct Deck Replacement Project be removed from the current year TIP because it has already been paid for. Mr. Roscoe added that in FFY 2018 of the Pioneer Valley Region MPO Transportation Improvement Program, the Palmer Route 67 Resurfacing Project (608253) will also received redistribution funds for a total of \$3,138,441 (STP) so that it is no longer listed as a FFY 2017 TIP project. Mr. Roscoe stated that he had completed his report on the proposed amendments to the highway component of the TIP and he would now cover the transit components of the TIP.

Mr. Roscoe referred to the handout document entitled *Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Project List (FY2017)* and he noted that the local funding programmed for the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority's Westfield Intermodal (Transit) Terminal has been changed to state funding but the total project cost remains unchanged at \$827,843. Mr. Roscoe underscored that this change in funding source is shown for informational purposes only and therefore, no action on the MPO is required.

At this point, Mr. Mohler called for a motion to approve the release of this series of proposed amendments to the Pioneer Valley region's current, FFY 2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the required 30-day public review.

MOVED BY RICHARD COHEN, MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF AGAWAM, SECONDED BY SELECTMAN MARCUS BOYLE OF THE TOWN OF HATFIELD, TO APPROVE THE RELEASE OF A SERIES OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE PIONEER VALLEY REGION'S CURRENT, FFY2017-2021 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AS OUTLINED BY STAFF FOR THE REQUIRED 30-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD.

Mr. Mohler asked if there were any questions or further discussion on the subject motion.

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

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

4. Review, Discussion and MPO Approval To Release Proposed Amendments to the Pioneer Valley Public Participation Process for the Required 45-day Public Review

PVPC Senior Transportation Planner, Jeff McCollough explained that Pioneer Valley Public Participation Process describes the recommended procedures that the Pioneer Valley MPO will follow for: releasing federal transportation planning and programming documents for public review; accepting and responding to such public comments; and ensuring broad and timely distribution of transportation documents to the public at large using newspapers, internet postings, libraries, social media and informational forums, among others. Mr. McCollough noted that one proposed amendment to the Public Participation Process will change the required public review time period for applicable MPO documents that are released for public review from the current 30-day public review period to a 21-day public review period.

Mr. Roscoe explained that this particular amendment is being proposed because MassDOT has requested more uniformity in the scheduling of MPO meetings. Mr. Roscoe explained that going forward, MPO meetings will be scheduled for the last Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. and if there's not sufficient business to warrant an MPO meeting being convened, the subject meeting will be cancelled. Mr. Roscoe underscored that since there will be occasions when there won't be 30 days between two consecutive MPO meetings, the proposed reduction from a 30-day to a 21-day review period will resolve this problem. Mr. Roscoe cited, for example, that if an MPO meeting occurs on the last Tuesday of one month, proposed TIP amendments could be put out for a 21-day period and the MPO can still meet on the last Tuesday of the following month to formally act on them. At this point, Mr. Mohler called for a motion to address this agenda item.

MOVED BY RICHARD COHEN, MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF AGAWAM, SECONDED BY GEORGE ARCHIBLE OF THE TOWN OF BELCHERTOWN, TO APPROVE THE RELEASE OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE PIONEER VALLEY PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS FOR THE REQUIRED 45-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW. THERE BEING NO FURTHER QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS, THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

5. Review, Discussion and MPO Decision on Whether to Initiate Deliberations With MassDOT on Modifying the Current MOU Provisions to Allow the Mass Economic Development Council to become a Voting Member of the Pioneer Valley MPO

Mr. Brennan explained that a vote to allow the Economic Development Council (EDC) to become a voting member of the Pioneer Valley MPO had been discussed in detail at the last two MPO meetings. Mr. Brennan explained that the original proposal to expand the membership of the Pioneer Valley MPO to include the Economic Development Council of Western Massachusetts was first proposed in April of 2006 with implementation following in August of 2006 which resulted in the Western Massachusetts Economic Development Council (EDC) being added as an ex-officio member of the Pioneer Valley MPO, with the understanding this was being done at request of MassDOT on a pilot, trial basis. Recently, Mr. Brennan said he had asked all the MPO members to review the *Memorandum of Understanding Relating to the Comprehensive, Continuing, Cooperative Transportation Planning and Process and the Metropolitan Planning Organization* which had been included in their July 25, 2016 MPO meeting packet and to consider the recommended revision outlined on page 2 which, if approved, would allow the President and CEO of the Western Massachusetts Economic Development Council (EDC) to become an established voting member of the Pioneer Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). Accordingly, at the July 25th MPO meeting, it had been collectively agreed this recommendation would be taken up and voted on at today's MPO meeting. Mr. Brennan explained, however, that at the July 25th meeting, MassDOT officials indicated they need more time to consider this proposal. Mr. Mohler, at this point, said there were some concerns about adding non-elected officials to the MPO although he underscored that the Department has no issue or concerns about the EDC of Western Massachusetts but rather about the possibility of establishing a precedent that might not be desirable in all instances. Nevertheless, Mr. Mohler said that a favorable vote by the local representatives on the Pioneer Valley MPO would be needed to trigger negotiations and that the two state agency members on the MPO would not participate in this particular vote.

MOVED BY RICHARD KOS, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CHICOPEE, SECONDED BY RICHARD COHEN, MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF AGAWAM, TO SUPPORT INITIATION DELIBERATIONS WITH MASSDOT ON MODIFYING THE CURRENT MOU PROVISIONS TO ALLOW THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS TO BECOME A VOTING MEMBER OF THE PIONEER VALLEY MPO

At this point, PVPC Principal Planner Gary Roux advised the MPO members that according to the current MOU, one of the two MassDOT representatives to the MPO must vote on a motion in order for it to pass. Mr. Mohler replied that he would vote "yes" but he stated that voting "yes" doesn't mean that MassDOT's answer on adding the EDC as a voting MPO member will be "yes." Our concern, he stated, is that beginning a process of an expanding MPO membership beyond elected officials may result in other people seeking to become MPO voting members, and MassDOT is still in the process of deciding whether it is appropriate to engage in such an expansion. Nevertheless, Mr. Mohler said that Transportation Secretary Pollack will ultimately need to make a decision for the Commonwealth on how to proceed. Mr. Mohler then called for a vote on the pending motion.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED WITH ONLY MASSDOT REPRESENTATIVE PATRICK PAUL ABSTAINING FROM THE VOTE.

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

6. Staff Update on the Mass Moves Commonwealth Conversation Outreach Session Planned for Western Massachusetts on March 28, 2017

Mr. Brennan reported that a statewide initiative, entitled MassMoves, is aimed at the creation of a new, statewide, 21st Century vision for transportation in the Commonwealth. This initiative funded by the Barr Foundation, will facilitate nine public workshops across the state. Mr. Brennan stated that the MassMoves workshop for western Massachusetts is scheduled for Tuesday, March 28, 2017. Mr. Brennan stated that the workshop is scheduled to be held at the PVPC immediately following the March 28th Pioneer Valley MPO meeting and the workshop will run from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Mr. Brennan further explained that all the members of the State Senate from Western Massachusetts are expected to attend and participate in the MassMoves session and therefore he urged the Pioneer Valley MPO members to stay and engage in the March 28th MassMoves workshop.

Mr. Mohler 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 March 23, 2016

Mr. Mohler called on 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 the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) staff has been developing the new 2018 – 2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and recently emailed the PVPC Technical Evaluation Criteria (TEC) forms to the municipalities. Mr. Czach underscored that these REC forms need to be completed and returned to the PVPC by February 24, 2017. Mr. Czach indicated that the Transportation Sub-Committee will meet in March and will reevaluate TIP projects and review their status. He urged the JTC members to submit all necessary information for any TIP project proposed to be listed in a future year of the region's TIP. Mr. Czach stated that in the next few months, a draft TIP projects list will be submitted to the MPO members for their consideration.

Mr. Czach reported that a Chapter 90 Sub-Committee meeting will be held immediately following the February 8, 2017, JTC meeting to discuss an array of funding sources: Chapter 90, MassWorks, federal highway funds and local capital improvement funds among others. Mr. Czach said there would be an emphasis on the Chapter 90 formula and whether or not the Chapter 90 funding formula needs to be adjusted. Mr. Czach reported that there are at least seven municipalities as well as several MassDOT representatives who are interested in attending the upcoming February 8th Chapter 90 Sub-Committee meeting.

Mr. Czach reported that there will also be a discussion at the February 8th, Chapter 90 Sub-Committee meeting about the idea of a regional sales tax to fund transportation improvement projects in the Pioneer Valley region. Mr. Czach explained that for the past ten years, the residents of Colorado Springs have had a 1% sales tax in place that is dedicated to transportation improvement projects in that region. Mr. Czach explained that this is an additional source of revenue which typically allocates 55% to capital projects, 35% to maintenance and 10% to transit. Mr. Czach stated that after ten years, 80% of the residents of Colorado Springs again voted to retain their 1% sales tax. He added that twenty of 58 California counties already have transportation sales taxes in place and these taxes fund transportation infrastructure at a rate nearly twice that of the state gas tax. Mr. Brennan interjected that regional ballot initiative legislation was passed by the Massachusetts State Senate last year but not by the Massachusetts House. However, this legislation has been re-filed and will be taken up during the current, two year long legislative session.

Mr. Mohler 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. Mohler 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 the Goshen Route 9 Resurfacing Project (608126) was awarded on January 24th to Warner Brothers Construction which was the low bidder. Mr. Frieri also reported that the Chesterfield Bridge Replacement at Ireland Street over the Bronson Brook Project (607549) had reached the 25% design stage back in October 2016 and continues to progress. Mr. Frieri added that the Goshen West Street Reconstruction Project (605150) is anticipated to reach the 100% design stage by late February with the final project cost anticipated to be approximately \$4 million.

Mr. Mohler next called on Jeff Hoynoski of the MassDOT District Two office in Northampton to present District Two's updates on relevant transportation projects within their jurisdiction. Mr. Hoynoski reported that: the Ludlow Center Street Reconstruction Project (605011) has reached the 75% design stage; the Improvements to Lower Westfield Road in Holyoke at I-91 Project (606903) is also at the at 75% design stage; the Amherst-Hadley Route 9 Sidewalk Construction Project (608023) has received its PS&E last week; Southwick's Congamond Road Reconstruction Project (604033) is now at 100% design stage and will soon be applying for its PS&E; the Agawam-West Springfield Bridge

Replacement on Route 147 Project (605384) is at 75% design stage; the Mill Street Bridge Replacement Project in Amherst (607528) is at 75% design stage, and the Agawam, Chicopee, Holyoke, West Springfield Stormwater Improvements Project (608192) has a bid opening scheduled for March 21, 2017.

Mr. Mohler thanked Mr. Frieri and Mr. Hoynoski for their District One and Two project updates and he moved to take up the next agenda item.

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

Mr. Mohler called for a report and update from Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA) and Mr. Roscoe replied that he had attended the recent Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA) Advisory Board meeting. Mr. Roscoe reported that there were three key topics addressed at the most recent PVTA Advisory Board meeting which included the following:

1. Administrator Mary MacInnes submitted her retirement notice and will be leaving her position at the end of April 2017
2. The Westfield Intermodal Terminal is scheduled to open in early April 2017
3. The move from the Springfield Bus Terminal to the Union Station bus facility is scheduled for mid-April 2017

Mr. Brennan inquired about the status of the Springfield Maintenance Facility and Mayor Narkewicz, who chairs the PVTA Advisory Board, replied that funds to advance the PVTA's new Springfield Maintenance Facility have been secured and the project is moving forward on schedule.

Mr. Mohler thanked Mr. Roscoe and Mayor Narkewicz for their updates on PVTA activities and he moved to take up the final agenda item.

10. Other Business

Mr. Mohler asked if there was any further business for the MPO members to address at today's meeting but nothing was identified. Mr. Roscoe noted that the next MPO meeting is scheduled to be held on the last Tuesday of February, namely on February 28, 2017, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

There being no further business for the MPO members to conduct, Mr. Mohler called for a motion to adjourn the January 31, 2017 Pioneer Valley MPO meeting.

MOVED BY RICHARD COHEN, MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF AGAWAM, SECONDED BY ALEX MORSE, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF HOLYOKE, TO ADJOURN THE JANUARY 31, 2017 MEETING OF THE PIONEER VALLEY REGION'S MPO. THERE BEING NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, THE MPO MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 10:29 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 31, 2017 MPO Meeting

1. Pioneer Valley Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Meeting Notice and Agenda: January 31, 2017
2. Minutes of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Meeting: Wednesday, July 25, 2016
3. Memorandum of Understanding Relating to the Comprehensive, Continuing, Cooperative Transportation Planning and Programming Process and MPO
4. 2017- 2021 Pioneer Valley Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Proposed Amendments – January 2017
5. 2017 Pioneer Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization Public Participation Plan
6. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Project List (FY2017)