

Minutes of the Tuesday, October 24, 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, 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
Scott Colburn	Senior Analyst, Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA)
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
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 Jonathan Gulliver
Doug Slaughter	Town of Amherst Selectboard
Rick Sullivan*	President and CEO, Economic Development Council of Western Massachusetts
Kenneth Miller*	Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

(* denotes non-voting members)

Guests and PVPC Staff Present:

Mike Bolduc	MassDOT District Two Office (Northampton)
Liz Botelho	City of Chicopee
Tim Brennan	Executive Director, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC)
Daniel Call	City of Westfield
Matt Chase	Engineer, Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB)
Mark Cressotti	Vice-Chair of the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) and City Engineer, City of Westfield
Jim Deni	Town of Ware Department of Public Works
Peter Frieri	MassDOT District One Office (Lenox)
Jeff Hoynoski	MassDOT District Two Office (Northampton)
Dick Kilhart	Director of Public Works, Town of Ware
Andrew McCaul	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Jeff McCollough	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Rich Masse	MassDOT District Two Office
Mark Moore	MassDOT District 1 (Lenox)
Jeffry Neece	Superintendent, Chicopee Department of Public Works
Dawn Nims	Engineer, Town of Agawam
Dana Roscoe	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Gary Roux	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Gabe Sherman	Project Manager, MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning (OTP)
Louise Sullivan	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Support Staff
Steve Williams	Director of Public Works, Town of Belchertown
Price Armstrong	Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA)

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

David Mohler, 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 October 24, 2017 meeting of the Pioneer Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to order at 10:05 a.m. Mr. Mohler then welcomed and thanked all those in attendance and called for introductions from meeting attendees.

Following introductions, Mr. Mohler moved to take up the minutes of the previous MPO meeting held on August 22, 2017.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting of the Pioneer Valley MPO Held on August 22, 2017

Mr. Mohler called for a motion to approve the minutes of the previous Pioneer Valley MPO meeting which was held on August 22, 2017.

MOVED BY WALTER GUNN, CHAIRMAN, PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION (PVPC), SECONDED BY CHARLES KANIECKI, CHAIRMAN, SOUTHAMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 22, 2017 PIONEER VALLEY MPO MEETING AS PRESENTED. THERE BEING NO FURTHER COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS, THE MOTION WAS THEN APPROVED BY THE MPO MEMBERS PRESENT

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

3. Review, Discussion and MPO Approval to Release Amendments to the 2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Including Specific Transit Amendments and Possible Amendments to the Highway TIP for the Required 21-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 FFY 2018 Pioneer Valley Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Mr. Roscoe called the MPO members attention to the handout document entitled *Summary of Proposed Changes to the 2018-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – October 24, 2017* which outlines the highway and transit amendments which are being proposed for FFY 2018-2022. Mr. Roscoe explained that a \$56,891,767 Section 2A bridge project originally scheduled for FFY 2019 has now been added to the FFY 2018 TIP and project financing has been divided over the next five fiscal years as delineated by Mr. Roscoe to the MPO members as follows.

HIGHWAY - FFY 2018 – Section 2 Bridge Program

- Add funding for *Bridge Reconstruction work encompassing Route I-91 over US Route 5 and Hockanum Road* (Project #606552) in Northampton for \$10,000,000, Advanced Construction (AC) Year 1 of 5, (Total Cost is \$56,891,767 allocated over 5 fiscal years)
- Add *Bridge Rehabilitation work encompassing Main Street over the Quaboag River* (Project #608870) in Palmer for \$3,000,000
- Add *Bridge Structural Steel Beam Cleaning and Painting on Route I-91 over Westfield Road* in Holyoke (Project #607959) for \$1,564,522

FFY 2019 - Section 2 Bridge Program

- Decrease funding for *Bridge Reconstruction work encompassing Route I-91 over Hockanum Road in Northampton* (Project #606552) from \$56,891,767 to \$10,642,615, AC Year 2 of 5

FFY 2020 - Section 2 Bridge Program

- Add funding for *Bridge Reconstruction work encompassing Route I-91 over Hockanum Road in Northampton* (Project #606552) for a total of \$12,642,615, AC Year 3 of 5

FFY 2021 - Section 2 Bridge Program

- Add funding for *Bridge Reconstruction work encompassing Route I-91 over Hockanum Road in Northampton* (Project #606552) for a total of \$11,642,615, AC Year 4 of 5

FFY 2022 - Section 1A Regionally Prioritized

- Increase STP funding for the *Reconstruction of Memorial Avenue (Route 147), from Colony Road to the Memorial Avenue Rotary* in West Springfield (Project #608374) from \$12,235,690 to \$13,650,890 in order to fully fund this \$17,980,000 project. (STP \$13,980,000, TAP \$545,638, HSIP \$1,080,992 and CMAQ \$2,702,480)
- Add funding for *Bridge Reconstruction work encompassing Route I-91 over Hockanum Road* in Northampton (Project #606552) for a total of \$11,693,922, AC Year 5 of 5

TRANSIT- FFY 2018 Section 5307

- Move local funds (\$918,593) to State (\$621,593) for a new state funds total of \$1,540,112; total cost stays the same at \$2,161,631

TRANSIT- FFY 2018 Section 5310

- Add funding for the replacement of PVTA vans (17) for a total cost of \$1,004,700
- Add funding for Mobility Management and Travel Training for a total cost of \$78,074
- Add funding for Town of Ware for operation of the Quaboag Community Connector up to 50% federal share equaling \$113,214 and \$56,607 of local funding
- Add funding for a Hill Town CDC Planning project for a total cost of \$32,813

TRANSIT- FFY 2018 Other Non-Federal

- Add funding for the replacement of two vans for the Stavros Center for Independent Living for a total cost of \$115,300 (\$92,240 in federal funding and \$23,060 in local funding)

TRANSIT- FFY 2020 Other Non-Federal

- Add funding for PVTA's *Cottage Street Transit Garage and Maintenance Facility, Phase II, Year 2* in Springfield for a total cost of \$11,500,000

TRANSIT- FFY 2021 Other Non Federal

- Add Funding for PVTA's *Cottage Street Transit Garage and Maintenance Facility, Phase II, Year 2* in Springfield for a total cost of \$23,300,000

Mr. Roscoe stated that the above cited list of proposed TIP amendments now need to be released for a 21-day public review and if during that time, there are further changes or additions, the MPO members will be asked to act on them at the next MPO meeting. At this point, Mr. Mohler called for a motion to authorize the release of this series of proposed amendments to the Pioneer Valley region's *FFY 2018-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)* as outlined by Mr. Roscoe for a required 21-day public review period.

MOVED BY DAVID NARKOWITZ, CHAIRMAN OF THE PVTA ADVISORY BOARD, SECONDED BY CHARLES KANIECKI, CHAIRMAN, SOUTHAMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN, TO APPROVE THE RELEASE OF THE PROPOSED SERIES OF AMENDMENTS TO THE PIONEER VALLEY REGION'S FFY2018-2022 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) FOR THE REQUIRED 21-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD SUBJECT TO THE INCLUSION OF A SERIES OF RECOMMENDED HIGHWAY AND TRANSIT AMENDMENTS TO THE PIONEER VALLEY REGION'S TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AS HAVE BEEN OUTLINED TO THE MPO MEMBERS BY PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION (PVPC) STAFF.

Mr. Mohler asked if there were any questions or further discussion needed regarding 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. Presentation from MassDOT Staff person Quinn Malloy on the Project Intake Tool and other GeoDOT Products

Mr. Mohler introduced Quinn Malloy, MassDOT GIS Analyst/Transportation Planner, to discuss GeoDOT, an internet-based GIS portal and platform created by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) that enables the public to view, create and share GIS data in multiple formats. Ms. Malloy stated that GeoDOT is a new online tool which enables MassDOT to share data between the state and local partners including all of the Commonwealth's MPOs. Ms. Malloy explained that MassDOT's goal is to minimize repetitive tasks and time consuming processes. Ms. Malloy added that the GeoDOT portal will provide the public access to the most up-to-date transportation related GIS data and she underscored that MassDOT will continue to refine the data and add new data as soon as it becomes available. At this point, Ms. Malloy pointed to the first screen of the GeoDOT portal, <http://maddot.maps.arcgis.com/home/index.html> and explained that the GeoDOT portal consists of interactive maps, open data, information dashboards, historic maps, hyperlinks to custom maps, GeoDOT training videos, and other relevant reports.

Ms. Malloy explained the next web page, entitled *Web-based Workflows*, has custom tools and maps that can all be accessed through a single account. She further explained that each of the Pioneer Valley municipalities will be given an account password to access the GeoDOT portal once the portal is "live" online. Ms. Malloy reported that Pioneer Valley MPO members, and municipal officials and staff attending today's meeting, can obtain a password by filling out an enrollment form as early as today. Mr. Roscoe asked if there can only be one account and one password provided to each municipality. Ms. Malloy replied that additional municipal accounts can be requested from MassDOT.

Ms. Malloy indicated that the next page of the GeoDOT portal features the MassDOT Project Intake Tool, *MaPIT*, which is a web-based application that is intended to streamline completion of the municipal Project Need Form (PNF) and the Project Initiation Form (PIF). Ms. Malloy explained that *MaPIT* will provide a way to complete the municipal Project Need Form (PNF) and the Project Initiation Form (PIF) online and she underscored that, beginning in October of 2017, both the PNF and PIF will need to be completed online. PVPC Senior Transportation Planner Andy McCall interjected that paper forms can still be submitted to the PVPC and staff members here at the Planning Commission will enter data online for those member communities which submit their TIP projects in paper form. Ms. Malloy emphasized that one of the goals of GeoDOT is to make it easier for municipalities to fill out these forms rather than having to hire a contractor in order to complete them.

Ms. Malloy next demonstrated the sketching capability of the *MaPIT* tool which enables the user to draw a polygon around a proposed project's geographic area on an appropriate map. She explained that the *MaPIT* software provides users with economic, environmental, social equity, bike/pedestrian and other types of information about their encircled project area. Ms. Malloy added that a separate scoring module will soon be developed which will allow MassDOT officials to score projects within the GeoDOT application.

Mr. Mohler thanked Ms. Malloy for her interesting and timely presentation and he then moved to take up agenda item #5.

5. Update from MassDOT on the Status of the Pioneer Valley Region's MPO Proposal to Amend the Memorandum of Agreement to Extend Voting Privileges to the Western Mass Economic Development Council

Mr. Mohler called on PVPC Executive Director Tim Brennan to discuss the Pioneer Valley Region's MPO proposal to amend the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in order to extend MPO voting privileges to the Western Mass Economic Development Council. Mr. Brennan reminded members that the Pioneer Valley MPO had previously voted to extend voting privileges to the Western Mass Economic Development Council; however, MassDOT officials had responded that there was a need to investigate possible potential impacts of adding a non-municipal voting member to the Pioneer Valley MPO. Mr. Mohler announced that the MassDOT

investigation has been completed and MassDOT concurs that the Western Mass Economic Development Council is eligible to become a voting member of the Pioneer Valley MPO. Mr. Brennan indicated that at the next MPO meeting, a revised *Memorandum of Understanding Relating to the Comprehensive, Continuing, Cooperative Transportation Planning and Programming Process and The Metropolitan Planning Organization* will be presented to the MPO members for their formal approval which in turn will allow the Economic Development Council of Western Massachusetts to be recognized as a voting member of the Pioneer Valley MPO. Mr. Brennan thanked Mr. Mohler and Transportation Secretary Pollack for their support of this recommendation and seeing it be implemented in 2017.

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

6. Draft Pioneer Valley Safety Compass – Overview of the New Crash Report Summarizing Crash Data Trends for Each of the 43 Communities in the Pioneer Valley

PVPC Principal Planner Gary Roux reported that the PVPC's new *Pioneer Valley Safety Compass* evolved from the third iteration of our region's *Top 100 High Crash Intersections in Pioneer Valley* Report. Mr. Roux stated that multiple comments have been received from communities whose crash data did not appear in the *Top 100 High Crash Intersections in Pioneer Valley* report. Given this, Mr. Roux explained that the draft version of the *Pioneer Valley Safety Compass* was developed to provide all 43 communities in the Pioneer Valley with crash data trends that can assist them in increasing safety on their roadways. Mr. Roux indicated that the crash data was provided by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) and the data encompasses the period from 2012 to 2014. Mr. Roux stated that each of the 43 communities has a two-page format in the *Pioneer Valley Safety Compass* and each community will receive a copy of all of their crash data on a flash drive via their Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) representative.

Mr. Roux explained that PVPC staff worked in collaboration with the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) to develop a format for the *Pioneer Valley Safety Compass* to include crash data that would be most helpful to the communities. Mr. Roux indicated this resulted in slightly different data sets for urban and rural communities. This is a result of the higher number of crashes that are typically experienced in an urban area. Mr. Roux further explained that any community that had more than 50% of its 2010 Census population residing within a designated urban area had been classified as urban for the entire community. He reported that the lower number of crash locations in a rural community, in some cases, allowed PVPC staff to provide more specific detail on the crash data trends.

Mr. Roux pointed to a screen profile of the urban community of Longmeadow and indicated that the fatal crashes are indicated by blue dots, injury crashes by red dots and property damage crashes by green dots. Mr. Roux reported that 627 crashes were reported in the Town of Longmeadow during the calendar years of 2012 to 2014, and he indicated the chart entitled *Driver Contribution Codes for Single Vehicle Crashes*. Mr. Roux explained that it is easier to determine driver contribution codes for single vehicle crashes than for a multi-vehicle crash due to the format in which this data is entered by MassDOT. Mr. Roux then displayed crash data for the Town of Belchertown and highlighted that Belchertown experienced the highest number of crashes of all the rural communities in the region with a total of 699 crashes. He reported that the predominate Driver Contribution Code for single vehicle crashes was driving too fast or inattention and that most of these crashes occurred during daylight hours.

Mr. Roux announced that that a final version of the *Pioneer Valley Safety Compass* will be completed by the end of the current calendar year and he underscored that the PVPC staff members are very interested to hear any comments or questions on the content and format of the draft version of the Safety Compass. Due to the time required to map the crash data, no changes will be possible to the maps section of this document but changes can be considered for future updates to the *Pioneer Valley Safety Compass*. Mr. Roux asked the MPO members to please contact him with their questions or to send him their comments and feedback as soon as possible.

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 August 22, 2017

Mr. Mohler 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 indicated that the JTC met earlier this month and reviewed the draft version of the *Pioneer Valley Safety Compass*. Mr. Czach reported that the JTC members are still doing research in their quest to find a member of the pedestrian community and/or a member of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) community who would be interested in participating in JTC meetings on a trial basis. Mr. Czach announced that James Lowenthal will be delivering a presentation to the JTC members about the effects of LED lighting at the JTC's December meeting. Mr. Czach added that Mr. Lowenthal's presentation will occur during the "Other Business" agenda item to accommodate those who need to leave at the close of the meeting for other appointments.

Mr. Mohler thanked Jim Czach for his report on behalf of the JTC and he 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 *Bridge Replacement at Ireland Street over the Bronson Brook* (Project #607549) in the Town of Chesterfield was advertised on September 16, 2017 and will have a bid opening in February 2018. Mr. Frieri further reported that the *West Street Reconstruction* (Project #605150) in the Town of Goshen was also advertised on September 16th and will likewise have a bid opening in February 2018. Mr. Frieri added that the West Street Project in the Town of Goshen is at 100% design with DER approval received in April 2017. Mr. Frieri announced that the *Resurfacing and Related Work on Route 9 in Cummington, as well as the Route 112* (Project #608126) received its Notice to Proceed and the project is nearly 40% complete with an anticipated completion date targeted for the spring of 2018. Mr. Frieri completed his update by reporting that there are two bridge projects proposed in the Pioneer Valley's FFY 2019 TIP in the Town of Huntington (Project #608258) and Middlefield (Project #608249).

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 District Two's jurisdiction. Mr. Hoynoski reported the following:

- The *Intersection Improvements at Route 187 and 57* (Project #604203) in Agawam is at 25% and design public hearing is scheduled for October 25th.
- The *Improvements at Interchange 19 at Route 9 and Damon Road* in Northampton (Project #604597) is now at the 75% design stage and the designer is working on the 100% submission.
- The *Reconstruction of Western Avenue, Phase I*, in Westfield (Project #603449) has its 100% design submission due in December. This project is at 75% and the designer is working on 100% submission
- The *Reconstruction of Glendale Road* in Southampton (Project #604738) just received its 100% submission, and it is under review by MassDOT.
- The *Resurfacing on Heritage, Front and Dwight Street* in Holyoke (Project #607256) has its designer currently working on its 75% submission.
- The *Resurfacing Brimfield Road (Phase I)* in Holland (Project #604962) has its field survey complete and the designer is working on preparing the 25% design submission.
- 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.
- The *Lyman Street Bridge Replacement over First Level Canal* in Holyoke (Project #600936) had its design public hearing held at the end of September and the designer is working on the 75% submission.

- The *Bridge Rehabilitation Project on Main Street over the Quaboag River* in Palmer (Project #608870) had a site meeting held at the end of September and is now in the design process.
- The *North End Pedestrian Path Construction* in Springfield (Project #607589) is at 75% design stage submission and is currently under review by MassDOT.

Mr. Mohler thanked Mr. Frieri and Mr. Hoynoski 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. Mohler next called for a report and update from Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA) Senior Analyst Price Armstrong announced he was representing Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA) Administrator Sandra Sheehan who could not attend today's meeting due to a prior engagement. Mr. Armstrong announced that the PVTA's new Transit Operations Maintenance Facility on Cottage Street in Springfield will be completed by January of 2018. Mr. Price reported that as a result of recently awarded community grants, the PVTA has received funding for 17 vehicles from Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT). Mr. Price also announced that the PVTA will be installing 80 – 85 landing pads at 143 bus stops in the City of Springfield in order to make PVTA bus stops more handicap accessible for its bus riders. Mr. Price indicated that the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA) is updating its public participation process. Mr. Price explained that the PVTA wants to hear from the public about how it can do a better job communicating with its transit riders and learning what their needs are and he announced that the PVTA will hire a travel trainer next year who will instruct seniors and people with mobility impairments how to safely and independently use the PVTA's bus system.

Mr. Mohler thanked Mr. Armstrong for his report on PVTA activities and initiatives and he then moved to take up the next agenda item

9. Other Business

Mr. Mohler asked if there was any further business for the MPO members to address at today's meeting. Mr. Brennan replied that Massachusetts is starting the process of updating the Strategic Highway Safety Plan. Mr. Brennan explained that safety data trends are showing increases in certain areas of the state, especially an increase statewide in bicycle and pedestrian fatalities and serious injuries. Mr. Brennan stated that the goal of the Strategic Highway Safety Plan update is to reduce the occurrence of fatalities and serious injuries on the Commonwealth's roadways and to move towards the goal of zero fatalities across Massachusetts.

Mr. Roscoe reported that the PVPC currently has three visiting fellows from Mexico, Peru and Uruguay that will be at the Commission over the next three to four weeks and these three individuals will be working in PVPC's Environment and Land Use Section. Mr. Roscoe also announced that the next MPO meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 28th. Mr. Brennan noted that the Pioneer Valley Region's MPO proposal to amend the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which will extend voting privileges to the Western Mass Economic Development Council will be voted on at that November 28th MPO meeting.

There being no further business, Mr. Mohler adjourned this October 24th, 2017 Pioneer Valley MPO meeting at 10:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy W. Brennan, Executive Director
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

List of Documents and Other Items Distributed at the October 24, 2017 MPO Meeting

1. *Pioneer Valley Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Meeting Notice and Agenda: October 24, 2017*
2. *Minutes of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Meeting: Wednesday, August 22, 2017*
3. *Summary of Proposed Changes to the 2018-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – October 24, 2017*
4. *Pioneer Valley Safety Compass – October 2017*
5. *2018 Pioneer Valley Region Transportation Improvement Program*
6. *TIP 2018 – 2022*