

Minutes of the Tuesday, December 22, 2020 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:

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
Roger Fuller	Selectboard Member, Town of Chesterfield
Walter Gunn	Chairman, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC)
Nicole LaChapelle	Mayor, City of Easthampton
Richard Masse	MassDOT District Two Office Representing Massachusetts Department of Transportation Highway Division Administrator Jonathan Gulliver
William Reichelt	Mayor, Town of West Springfield
Sandra Sheehan	Administrator, Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA)
Rick Sullivan	President and CEO, Economic Development Council of Western Massachusetts

Guests and PVPC Staff Present:

Rana Al-Jammal	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Daryl Amaral	MassDOT District 2 Office, Acting State Aid Engineer
Patrick Beaudry	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Public Affairs
Peter Frieri	MassDOT, District 1 Office
Derek Krevat	Regional Planning Coordinator, MassDOT Planning
Andrew McCaul	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Kimberly H. Robinson	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Executive Director
Andrew Reovan	PVPC Liaison with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
Dana Roscoe	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Gary Roux	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
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

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, called the December 22, 2020 meeting of the Pioneer Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to order at 10:01 a.m. Mr. Mohler then asked for a roll call from the MPO members present as follows: Richard Masse, MassDOT District Two, Representing Massachusetts Department of Transportation Highway Division Administrator Jonathan Gulliver; Roger Fuller, Chesterfield Selectboard; Walter Gunn, Chairman, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission; Rick Sullivan, President and CEO, Economic Development Council of Western Massachusetts; and Nicole LaChapelle, Mayor of Easthampton. PVPC Principal Planner Dana Roscoe confirmed that this roll call constitutes a quorum.

Following the roll call, Mr. Mohler moved to take up the minutes of the previous MPO meeting held on November 24, 2020.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting of the Pioneer Valley MPO Held on November 24, 2020.

Mr. Mohler called for a motion to approve the minutes of the previous Pioneer Valley MPO meeting which was held on November 24, 2020.

MOVED BY RICK SULLIVAN, PRESIDENT AND CEO, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS, SECONDED BY RICHARD MASSE, MASSDOT DISTRICT TWO, REPRESENTING THE MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION HIGHWAY DIVISION, MASSDOT DISTRICT TWO, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 24, 2020 PIONEER VALLEY MPO MEETING AS PRESENTED.

Mr. Mohler 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 Approval to Endorse Proposed Amendments to the 2021 Pioneer Valley Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Currently Advertised for the Required 21-day public review period

Mr. Mohler called on PVPC Principal Planner Dana Roscoe to discuss the 2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Mr. Roscoe reported that the FFY 2021 proposed amendment currently out for public review is a Monson/Palmer Bridge (697688) project over the Quaboag River for \$10.2 million. Mr. Roscoe reported that in FFY 2022, an I-91 Bridge in Northampton (606552) project is decreasing by \$3.3 million and in FFY 2023 and FFY 2024 this Northampton I-91 Bridge project is being removed from the advanced construction (AC) schedule. Mr. Roscoe further reported that the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA) was successful in securing a Helping to Obtain Prosperity for Everyone (HOPE) Grant for \$680,000. Mr. Roscoe stated that since these proposed amendments were out for the required 21-day public review period during which no comments were received, he recommended a motion for endorsement. Mr. Mohler asked if there were any questions for Mr. Roscoe. Rick Sullivan expressed concern regarding the I-91 Bridge in Northampton (606552) project because Northampton Mayor, David Narkewicz, is not present at today's meeting. Richard Masse replied that due to the availability of other funding, the programming of the remaining funds in in FFY 2023 and FFY 2024 was reduced. Mr. Masse explained that this Northampton project is already advertised and this is a correction regarding the funding that is spread out over several years. Mr. Mohler asked if there were any more questions and there being none, he called for a motion to endorse the proposed amendments to the 2021 Pioneer Valley Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

MOVED BY RICK SULLIVAN, PRESIDENT AND CEO, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS), SECONDED BY WALTER GUNN, CHAIRMAN OF THE PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION (PVPC), TO ENDORSE THE PROPOSED SERIES OF AMENDMENTS TO THE PIONEER VALLEY REGION'S CURRENT, FFY2021 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AS RECOMMENDED 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 none, Mr. Mohler then requested a roll call and each of the MPO members in attendance responded affirmatively.

4. 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 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 that the I-91 Bridge in Northampton (606552) project had a December 1st bid opening; the Chicopee Traffic Signal Improvements and Ramp Resurfacing at the I-91 Interchange had a bid opening on November 24th; and the Granby-South Hadley Resurfacing and related work on Route 202 (607474) Project was recently awarded on December 9th to Ludlow Construction.

Mr. Amaral stated that two TIP projects recently received their Notice to Proceed (NTP). The Chicopee Reconstruction and Related Work on Fuller Road, from Memorial Dr. (RTE 33) to Shawinigan Dr. (604434) Project received its NTP on November 24th and its preconstruction meeting has been rescheduled. Also, the Springfield-Intersection Improvements at Berkshire Avenue, Cottage and Harvey Streets (608718) Project received its NTP on November 16th with a preconstruction meeting held on December 9th.

Mr. Amaral added that there are two new submissions for FFY 2021. The Amherst Route 9 and Rt. 116, University Drive and South Pleasant Street (608084) Project received its PS&E on December 21st and is currently under review. The District One and District Two Resurfacing in Multiple Locations (601858) Project received its PS&E on November 16th and its ROW on November 19th with an advertising date for March 20, 2021.

Mr. Mohler thanked Mr. Amaral for his updates and called for a District One update. Since there was no one present from District One at that time to deliver an update, Mr. Mohler moved on to the next agenda item.

5. 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 did not arrive in time to deliver her update.

6. Other Business

Mr. Mohler asked the date of the next MPO meeting. Mr. Roscoe replied that in the event of a January MPO meeting, the meeting time will need to be rescheduled from a 10:00 a.m. start time to a 2:00 p.m. meeting time because the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) will be attending a Massachusetts Association of Regional Planning Agencies (MARPA) meeting at 10:00 a.m. on January 26, 2021.

Mr. Mohler asked if there was any other business. There being none, he then called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

MOVED BY RICK SULLIVAN, PRESIDENT AND CEO, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS), SECONDED BY WALTER GUNN, CHAIRMAN OF THE PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION (PVPC), TO ADJOURN THIS DECEMBER 22, 2020 MEETING OF THE PIONEER VALLEY REGION'S MPO. THERE BEING NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, THIS DECEMBER 22th MPO MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 10:16 A.M. WITHOUT OBJECTION.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly H. Robinson, Executive Director
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission