

Minutes of the Tuesday, March 27, 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:**

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
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
Richard Kos	Mayor, City of Chicopee
Ken Miller*	Assistant Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
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 Jonathan Gulliver, Acting Highway Administrator
Sandra Sheehan*	Administrator, Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA)
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:**

Stuart Beckley	Town Manager, Town of Ware
Mike Bolduc	MassDOT District Two Office (Northampton)
Elizabeth Botelho	City Engineer, City of Chicopee
Tim Brennan	Executive Director, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC)
Daniel Call	City of Westfield
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)
Kien Ho	Beta Group, Town of Ludlow
Jeff Hoynoski	MassDOT District Two Office (Northampton)
Amir Kouzehkanani	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Andrew Krar	Town Engineer, Town of Longmeadow
Rich Masse	MassDOT District Two Office (Northampton)
Andrew McCaul	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Jeff McCollough	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
John Morgan	CHA Consulting, Inc.
Mark Moore	MassDOT District 1 (Lenox)
Dan Murphy	City Engineer, City of Easthampton
Jeffry Neece	Superintendent, Chicopee Department of Public Works
Margaret O'Neal	Town of Worthington
Gary Roux	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Dana Roscoe	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Charley Rose	Selectboard Chair, Town of Worthington
Gabe Sherman	Project Manager, MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning (OTP)
Matt Sokop	City Engineer, Springfield Department of Public Works
Louise Sullivan	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Support Staff
Steve Williams	Director, Department of Public Works, Town of Belchertown

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 March 27, 2018 meeting of the Pioneer Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to order at 10:03 a.m. Mr. Mohler then welcomed and thanked all those in attendance and called for introductions from the MPO members and meeting attendees present.

Following introductions, Mr. Mohler moved to take up the minutes of the previous MPO meeting held on January 23, 2018.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting of the Pioneer Valley MPO Held on January 23, 2018

Mr. Mohler called for a motion to approve the minutes of the previous Pioneer Valley MPO meeting which was held on January 23, 2018.

MOVED BY DOUG SLAUGHTER, TOWN OF AMHERST SELECTBOARD, SECONDED BY CHARLES KANIECKI, CHAIRMAN, SOUTHAMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 23, 2018 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. Update from PVPC Staff on the List of Transportation Projects Currently Included in the PVPC Universe of Projects for Consideration of Funding and Selection of Potential Scenarios for Programming the FFY 2019-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Mr. Mohler called on PVPC Principal Planner Dana Roscoe to review the list of transportation projects currently included in the PVPC Universe of Projects for programming in the region's next FFY 2019-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Mr. Roscoe indicated that there are 32 TIP projects listed alphabetically in the distributed document entitled *Summary of Scenarios* totaling just under \$200 million dollars. Mr. Roscoe stated that these are the projects that will populate the Pioneer Valley's TIP over the next five years. Mr. Roscoe noted that at the last MPO meeting, Rick Sullivan of the EDC had asked why the *I-91 at the Longmeadow Curve Project* in Longmeadow was not listed in the Universe of Projects. Mr. Roscoe explained that the projects listed in the Universe of Projects have all been presented to the MassDOT Project Review Committee (PRC) and the PRC has endorsed the projects and assigned each of them a 6-digit project code to allow MassDOT staff to bill time to these projects. Mr. Roscoe indicated although the I-91 Longmeadow project is recognized as an important regional transportation project and has been included in the long-range Pioneer Valley Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), it has not yet been presented to the PRC and does not have an assigned MassDOT project code.

Elizabeth Botelho, City Engineer for Chicopee, commented that she didn't see two Chicopee River Walk TIP projects among the projects listed. Mr. Roscoe replied that the transportation projects that comprise PVPC's *Summary of Scenarios* list include only those that meet the target funding. He stated that the two Chicopee River Walk projects being referenced by Ms. Botelho are proposed to be funded using statewide funding sources and therefore are incorporated in the list of TIP projects to be programmed using a different funding source. Given this, Mr. Roscoe underscored that these two Chicopee projects will advance. Andrew Krar, Town Engineer for Longmeadow, asked about the status of a Longmeadow, specifically, an important project on Longmeadow Street south of Converse Street. Mr. Roscoe replied that this Longmeadow project is not on the list because it is not currently under consideration for funding in the TIP within the next five years.

Mr. Roscoe announced that a late afternoon phone call from MassDOT officials yesterday has caused a change to the color-coded TIP document that had been prepared for today's MPO meeting. Accordingly, Mr. Roscoe asked the MPO members to discard the *Summary of Scenarios* handout and turn their attention to the document entitled *Based on*

*FFY2018-2022 TIP*. Mr. Roscoe explained that a major project in the City of Northampton, which requires multiple property takings, will result in delays. Specifically, Northampton's *Reconstruction of Damon Road, From Route 9 to Route 5, Including Drainage System Repairs and Slope Stabilization at the Norwottuck Rail Trail*, Project #608236 has been moved from FFY 2019 into FFY 2020 thereby creating a surplus of more than \$10 million dollars in FFY 2019. As a result, FFY 2019 in the TIP will now include the following four projects:

- *Intersection Improvements at Baystate and Berkshire Avenue* – in Springfield, Project #608411 for \$1.8 million dollars
- *Reconstruction of Route 187 from South of South Westfield Street to Route 57*– in Agawam, Project #600513 for \$2.2 million dollars
- *Improvements and Related Work on Routes 202 and 21 from Turkey Hill Road to South Main Street* – in Belchertown, Project #608412 for \$4.7 million dollars
- *Intersection Improvements at Main Street, West Street, North Street, South Street and Church Street* – in Ware, Project #607987 for \$3.6 million dollars

Mr. Roscoe indicated that with the four above listed projects programmed in the TIP, just over \$12 million dollars still is available for programming. Mr. Roscoe explained that because the Northampton Damon Road project #608236 can't move forward in FFY 2019, there's only one unprogrammed candidate project that could be programmed in 2019 along with a potential project commitment of \$400,000 for the PVTA. Mr. Roscoe reported that in a discussion with MassDOT District One and Town of Worthington officials, District One officials had concluded that a Worthington Project namely, *Route 143 Reconstruction and Related Work*, Project #606912 estimated at \$16.3 million dollars could be possibly programmed in the TIP as two separate projects which would reduce its current total cost of \$16.3 million dollars with a larger TIP project programmed in Year One, FFY 2019, and a smaller scale project programmed in the TIP in a future year. Mr. Roscoe stated that since the Northampton Damon Road project is unable to move forward, a first phase of the Worthington Route 143 project is being proposed for FFY 2019 of the TIP. David Narkewicz, Mayor of Northampton clarified that the City's Damon Road project has been on the TIP for a long time and the City has performed all right-of-way takings and the removal of two abandoned houses that need right-of-way takings is the state's responsibility. Mr. Roscoe replied that the MPO staff has been reluctant to concede that this project cannot advance in FFY 2019 but that, unhappily, is the reality of the situation.

Brian Sullivan, Mayor of Westfield, asked how moving an initial phase of the Worthington Route 143 Project into the FFY 2019 TIP with a larger project cost and a second phase with a smaller project cost in Year Two will affect the TIP projects already recommended to advance in the FFY 2019-2020 list. Mr. Roscoe clarified that he indicated that the smaller Worthington project would be programmed in a future year and not necessarily in the Year Two or FFY 2020. Mr. Roscoe stated that FFY 2020 of the TIP is currently over programmed by \$6 million and to achieve fiscal constraint, \$6 million will need to be removed to comply with federal regulations. Mr. Roscoe indicated this could potentially be accomplished in one of two ways: (1) the *Improvements and Related Work on Route 20, Court Street and Western Avenue, Lloyds Hill Road to High Street/Mill Street Intersection Phase II* Project #607773 in Westfield could be removed from FFY 2020 or (2) the following three projects could be removed, namely:

- *Intersection Improvements at Berkshire Avenue, Cottage and Harvey Streets* in Springfield, Project #608718
- *Intersection Improvements at Cottage Street, Industry Avenue and Robbins Road* in Springfield, Project #608782
- *Improvements and Related Work on Routes 9 & 116, from University Drive to South Pleasant Street* in Amherst, Project #608084

Either of these two actions would result in cutting \$6 million out of FFY 2020 of the TIP such that FFY 2020 of the TIP will once again be fiscally constrained.

Mr. Roscoe noted that whether or not Westfield's proposed *Improvements and Related Work on Route 20, Court Street and Western Avenue, Lloyds Hill Road to High Street/Mill Street Intersection Phase II* Project #607773 could be advanced in the TIP from FFY 2020 into FFY 2019 will need to be confirmed by MassDOT District Two officials. In response, Rich Masse of District Two commented that this Westfield project needs at least five more months in the schedule prior to it being advertised and it could be ready in February of 2020. Mr. Roscoe further noted that Phase I of this project is programmed in FFY 2018 of the TIP but it has not yet been advertised and so it is likely to be advertised late so

construction realistically won't begin for another nine months. Mr. Roscoe asked if it is possible to program Phase I and Phase II in sequential years. Mr. Masse replied that this will not create a problem for MassDOT District Two but it could be an issue for the City of Westfield.

At this point, Mr. Roscoe stated there appears to be two options for Year One, FFY 2019, of the TIP which he summarized as follows:

Option 1

- Springfield Project #608411 (\$1.8 million), Agawam Project #600513 (\$2.2 million), Belchertown Project #608412 (\$4.7 million) and the Ware Project #607987 (\$3.6 million)
- The PVTA's second year of CMAQ funding at \$400,000
- The funding balance entirely assigned to an initial phase of the Worthington Route 143 Project #606912

Option 2

- Westfield Project #607773 (\$6.2 million) – which means 60% of this project will be programmed in FFY 2019 of the TIP
- Worthington Project #606912 (a little over \$4.0 million) – which means 40% of the Route 143 project will be programmed in the FFY 2019 of the TIP
- The PVTA's second year of CMAQ funding at \$400,000

Mr. Masse asked about the status of costs for the current year (FFY 2018) TIP projects and Mr. Roscoe replied that he learned yesterday there are cost overruns for a Westfield TIP project and a Holland TIP project but he hadn't yet been given the revised cost estimate for each of these two projects. Mr. Masse stated that the revised cost estimate for the Westfield Project, #603449, in FFY 2018 is now \$7,993,910 while Mr. McCaul noted that the project's previous cost estimate was \$6.1 million.

Mr. Masse then stated that the current cost estimate for the Northampton Project, #604597, is \$8,388,383 while the cost estimate for the Holland Project, #604962, is now \$2,919,446. At this point, Mr. McCaul stated that these cost increases cause the FFY 2018 TIP to now be over programmed by \$4,369,770. Mr. Roscoe then asked if there are other potential sources of funds for the Westfield #603449 Project. Mark Cressotti, Engineer Westfield, responded that there might be federal redistribution funds or another Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funding category that could be tapped. Mr. Mohler stated that there will be no additional funds for this project from the FHWA and no community should rely on redistribution funds to fill a gap in a given TIP year. Ken Miller, Assistant Division Administrator of the FHWA, underscored there's already \$50 million in redistribution funding accounted for across Massachusetts and so a request for Westfield for funding beyond that \$50 million would not be considered. Mr. Masse stated that he has additional information to offer on the *Resurfacing and Related Work on Brimfield Road, From the Brimfield and Holland Town Line to Wales Road, Phase I* in Holland Project #604962. Based on the latest project submissions, MassDOT District Two officials believe that this Holland project is at very high risk of not being ready for advertisement in FFY 2018 and probably should be considered for FFY 2019. Mr. Roscoe stated that if we remove the Holland Project from the FFY 2018 TIP, it still doesn't completely resolve FFY 2018 of the TIP being over programmed. Mark Cressotti interjected that there is the ability to constrain the cost of the Westfield Project #603449 by reducing the scope of the project by \$1.5 million.

Mr. Mohler asked if there was money left over from the target and Mr. Roscoe responded that currently we are \$6 million over the target. Mr. Roscoe stated if the Holland Project is removed from the FFY 2018 TIP, the TIP will need \$1.5 million which the Westfield Project #603449 can provide. Mr. Mohler then asked if everyone was comfortable moving the Holland Project out of the FFY 2018 and presumably moving it into the FFY 2019 of the TIP. At this point, Mr. Mohler suggested that the MPO members address and vote on agenda item #4 and then return to complete the discussion of agenda item #3. Mr. Mohler's suggestion was then agreed to by consensus and the MPO members moved on to agenda item #4.

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

With no further discussion about the funding sources available or selection of potential project scenarios for programming FFY 2019-2023 of the Pioneer Valley region's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) completed, Mr. Mohler called for a motion on needed amendments to the current FFY 2018 of the TIP in order for these amendments to be released for a required 21 day public comment period.

MOVED BY PATRICK PAUL, OF THE MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (MASSDOT), DISTRICT TWO, SECONDED BY CHARLES KANIECKI, CHAIRMAN, SOUTHAMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN, TO APPROVE THE RELEASE OF A SERIES OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE PIONEER VALLEY REGION'S CURRENT FFY 2018 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) FOR THE REQUIRED 21-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD INCORPORATING THE NECESSARY MODIFICATIONS AND CORRECTIONS THAT HAVE BEEN OUTLINED BY PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION (PVPC) STAFF INCLUDING THE REMOVAL OF A FFY 2018 PROJECT INVOLVING RESURFACING AND RELATED WORK ON BRIMFIELD ROAD IN HOLLAND (604962); INCORPORATING A COST INCREASE IN A PROJECT INVOLVING ROUTE 20 ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS ON COURT STREET AND WESTERN AVENUE FROM LLEWELLYN DRIVE EASTERLY TO LLOYD'S HILL ROAD (PHASE I) IN WESTFIELD (603449) FROM \$\$6,133,933 TO \$7,993,910; AND INCORPORATING A COST INCREASE TO A PROJECT INVOLVING IMPROVEMENTS TO THE ROUTE I-91 EXIT 19 INTERCHANGE AT ROUTE 9 AND DAMON ROAD IN NORTHAMPTON (604597) FROM \$7,438,490 TO \$8,388,383.

Mr. Mohler asked if there were any questions or further discussion needed regarding the subject motion. A request was made to have everyone notified by email once the amendments were finalized. Mr. Mohler replied that these emails will be provided and all relevant TIP information will also be posted on the PVPC's website.

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

Mr. Roscoe clarified that the MPO members will be asked to formally approve these three TIP amendments to FFY 2018 as delineated in the motion at their next MPO meeting however these proposed TIP amendments are subject to comments that may occur during the required 21-day public review period and cannot be considered finalized until the MPO members have voted to endorse them. At this point, Mr. Mohler announced he would now return to agenda item #3

3. Update from PVPC Staff on the List of Transportation Projects Currently Included in the PVPC Universe of Projects for Consideration of Funding and Selection of Potential Scenarios for Programming the FFY 2019-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) (CONTINUED)

Mr. Roscoe then returned to the discussion of how to program the proposed projects for FFY 2019 of the TIP and he outlined the following list of projects:

- *Intersection Improvements at Bay Street and Berkshire Avenue* in Springfield, Project #608411
- *Reconstruction of Route 187 from 425 feet South of South Westfield Street to Route 57 (Phase I)* in Agawam, Project #600513
- *Improvements and Related Work on Routes 202 & 21, from Turkey Hill Road to South Main Street* in Belchertown, Project #608412
- *Intersection Improvements at Main Street, West Street, North Street, South Street & Church Street* in Ware, Project #607987-
- *Resurfacing and Related Work on Brimfield Road, from the Brimfield/Holland Town Line to Wales Road (Phase I)* in Holland, Project #604962
- PVTa: P21 Express - Year 2 Operating Assistance
- *Route 143 Reconstruction and Related Work – (Phase I)* in Worthington, Project #606912

Mr. Roscoe further explained, that for purposes of complying with fiscal constraint, the recommended list of TIP projects proposed for FFY 2020 is as follows:

- *Improvements and Related Work on Route 20, Court Street and Western Avenue, Lloyds Hill Road to High Street/Mill Street Intersection (Phase I)* in Westfield, Project #607773
- *Reconstruction and Related Work on Fuller Road, from Memorial Drive (Route 33) to Shawinigan Drive* in Chicopee, Project #604434
- *Reconstruction of Damon Road, from Route 9 to Route 5, Includes Drainage System Repairs and Slope Stabilization at the Norwottuck Rail Trail* in Northampton, Project #608236

Mr. McCaul stated that if \$1.4 million is moved from Phase I to Phase II of the Westfield Project #607773, FFY 2020 will be over programmed by \$224,000. In response, Mr. Roscoe suggested that, for TIP budgeting purposes, the Westfield project's cost will be reduced by \$224,000.

Mr. Mohler noted that there is one project in Holyoke and another project in West Springfield that will be receiving funding assistance from the state. Mayor Alex Morse of the City of Holyoke, asked: (1) if there is assurance that the Holyoke project will be funded by the state; and (2) if moving the Holyoke project out of the FFY 2019 TIP will delay the project. Mr. Mohler confirmed an assurance that the state will, or already has provided a statewide list of regional TIP projects with funds committed by the state and this Holyoke project is on this statewide list at an estimated cost of \$9.6 million dollars. Mr. Mohler added that given its importance, the subject project will be funded with federal resources. Mr. Masse indicated that this Holyoke project will not be ready in FFY 2019 due to construction and right-of-way issues but the project will be ready for advertisement in FFY 2020 with an advertisement anticipated during the second half of FFY 2020.

Mr. Mohler then asked for an MPO discussion of the projects for FFY 2021 of the TIP. Mr. Roscoe replied that the following TIP projects are being proposed for FFY 2021:

- *Intersection Improvements at Berkshire Avenue, Cottage and Harvey Streets* in Springfield, Project #608718
- *Intersection Improvements at Cottage Street, Industry Avenue and Robbins Road* in Springfield, Project #608782
- *Improvements and Related Work on Routes 9 & 116, from University Drive to South Pleasant Street* in Amherst, Project #608084

Mr. Roscoe suggested that in addition to the two proposed Springfield TIP projects (listed above) and the proposed Amherst Project #608084, the following two TIP projects are proposed to be added for FFY 2021, namely:

- *Intersection Improvements at King Street, North Street & Summer Street and at King Street and Finn Street* in Northampton, Project #607502
- *Improvements and Related Work on Union Street (Route 141) from Payson Avenue to High Street* in Easthampton, Project #608577

Mr. Roscoe further explained any remaining FFY 2021 funds could be designated for the *Reconstruction on Route 9, from Middle Street to Maple/South Maple Street* in Hadley, Project #605032 which is a mega-project that will clearly need to be programmed over two years.

Mr. Roscoe next then outlined a list of proposed TIP projects to be programmed in FFY 2022 of the TIP, namely:

- *Reconstruction of Memorial Avenue (Route 147), from Colony Road to the Memorial Avenue Rotary* in West Springfield, Project #608374
- *Improvements at 2 Locations on Route 202: School Street and Five Corners* in Granby, Project #606895
- *Reconstruction of the Route I-91 Interchange 17 and Route 141* in Holyoke, Project #606156

Mr. Roscoe reiterated that the remainder of the Hadley Project #605032 would be programmed in FFY 2023 along with the remainder of the *Route 143 Reconstruction and Related Work (Phase II)* in Worthington, Project #606912.

After an in depth discussion of the merits of the *Rehabilitation of East Street – from College Highway Easterly to County Road* in Southampton Project #604653 as well as the *Resurfacing and Related Work on Longmeadow Street (Route 5) from the Connecticut State Line to Converse Street* in Longmeadow Project #607430, Mr. Mohler asked whether there was a motion to program the Longmeadow Project in FFY 2023 of the TIP.

MOVED BY WALTER GUNN, CHAIRMAN, PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION (PVPC), SECONDED BY DAVID NARKEWICZ, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NORTHAMPTON, TO PROGRAM FUNDING FOR THE *RESURFACING AND RELATED WORK ON LONGMEADOW STREET (ROUTE 5) FROM THE CONNECTICUT STATE LINE TO CONVERSE STREET* IN LONGMEADOW, PROJECT (#607430), IN FFY 2023 OF THE PIONEER VALLEY REGION'S DRAFT FFY 2019-2023 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

Mr. Mohler asked if there were any questions or discussion on the subject motion at which Charles Kaniecki, Chairman of the Southampton Board of Selectmen, asked about the status of the Southampton Project #604653. Mr. Roscoe responded that TIP programming occurs every year and he explained that the next available programming year of the TIP would be in FFY 2024. Mr. Kaniecki asked if the Southampton Project would be programmed in FFY 2024 and Mr. Mohler replied that there is no guarantee this project would be programmed in the FFY 2024 TIP but it certainly could be considered by the MPO members.

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

Mr. Mohler asked if there was a transit element of the TIP to review and Mr. Roscoe replied that there was not a plan to present the transit element at today's MPO meeting. Mr. Mohler then stated that the draft FFY 2019-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) will need to be released in early April including the transit element which Mr. Roscoe concurred with. Mr. Roscoe added that the revised TIP will be emailed to the MPO members and shared with the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) since the JTC will be asked to make TIP recommendations which will be presented and acted on at the next MPO meeting which is scheduled for April 24th.

Mr. Mohler called on Mayor David Narkewicz to address the next agenda item

5. Update from Northampton Mayor David Narkewicz on the Status of PVTA Funding Included in the Governor's Budget and the Potential Impact to PVTA Operations

Mayor Narkewicz, speaking as the Chair of the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA) Advisory Board, reported that the PVTA Advisory Board has been working over the last several months in collaboration with the PVTA staff to clarify potential cuts in service stemming from the proposed level funding of PVTA's state contract assistance for Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs) which provides for 49% of the PVTA's budget. Mayor Narkewicz further reported that service reductions that were made last year to close a budget gap have adversely impacted communities. Mayor Narkewicz added that public feedback that resulted from recent PVTA public meetings and presentations that were held in various PVTA communities is being processed.

Mayor Narkewicz stated that through a combination of proposed fare increases and service reductions including weekend and evening service, 2018 will mark the second year of very significant service reductions. Mayor Narkewicz reported that the PVTA Advisory Board is working to advocate with the Massachusetts Senate and House of Representatives to restore the State Contract Assistance line item for RTAs to its original \$88 million dollars which would avert these service cuts and fare increases. Mayor Narkewicz indicated that PVTA officials will be joining other RTAs tomorrow in Boston for a meeting to discuss these potential service cuts with members of the Massachusetts Senate and House of Representatives. He urged the MPO members to share their concern regarding these potential service cuts with their legislators and to seek their support for \$88 million of state support for the Massachusetts RTAs in the FY 2019 state budget.

Mr. Mohler asked if there were any further questions. There being none, he moved to take up agenda item #6.

6. Presentation from PVPC Staff on the Environmental Justice Impacts Resulting from the Proposed PVTA Service Reductions

Mr. Mohler called on PVPC Principal Planner David Elvin to present the Environmental Justice impacts from the proposed PVTA service reductions. Mr. Elvin stated as Transit Planner at the PVPC, he works closely with the PVTA and the PVTA is obligated to assess the potential Environmental Justice impacts resulting from proposed PVTA FFY 2019 service reductions. Mr. Elvin indicated that today he will be sharing a preliminary analysis of these PVTA service cuts as they have been proposed and presented at recent public hearings.

Mr. Elvin stated that within the 627 square mile PVTA service area, there 27 cities and towns being served by 43 bus routes and on a typical day, the PVTA provides approximately 45,000 rides per day to residents in its service area. Mr. Elvin delineated the proposed bus service changes as follows:

- Reduce Saturday service to Sunday levels resulting in elimination or loss of 50% - 60% of Saturday service
- Reduce frequencies after 6:00 p.m. weekdays with half as many evening trips
- Reduce service on UMass/Five Colleges routes when school is not in session.
- Restructure low-performing routes in: Easthampton, Holyoke, Palmer, South Deerfield, Ware, Whately and Wilbraham

Mr. Elvin reported that among the impacts of the proposed bus service changes, there will be 77 changes to bus routes, 57 of which are considered major changes affecting 39 of 43 bus routes that will result in 25% less service on a route in a single day. Mr. Elvin added that 1.1 million or 10% of the rides per year will likely be impacted resulting in the elimination of 16.5% annual revenue miles which doesn't include the 3.6% revenue miles eliminated in September 2017.

Mr. Elvin stated that the PVTA is committed to ensuring that no person is denied services on the basis of race, color, or national origin and all PVTA services are provided in compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Mr. Elvin explained that under the 2012 requirements of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) as described in the FTA Title VI Circular 4702.1B, the PVTA must identify a major service change, which is defined by Title VI as any single route that loses 25% or more of its revenue miles or its bus stops in a single day, and the PVTA must set a statistical threshold for the difference between minority, non-minority, low income customers and non-low income customers based on rider survey data. That equity analysis data must then be presented to the PVTA Advisory Board before any action can be taken. Mr. Elvin reported that these FTA 2012 requirements pertain to operators of 50 or more buses and there are two transit authorities in Massachusetts that operate 50 or more buses, the PVTA and the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA). Mr. Elvin stated that the PVTA is subject to the same reporting and compliance obligations as the MBTA whereas the 14 other transportation authorities in Massachusetts do have to comply with some civil rights reporting requirements but a lesser level than the level the PVTA is required to meet.

Mr. Elvin then proceeded to explain and define the PVTA Title VI Policy Thresholds, namely Major Service Change, Disparate Impact (DI) Analysis, Disproportionate Burden (DB) Analysis and Variance Threshold as related to ridership and bus routes. For these explanations and definitions, please refer to the attached 9-page PowerPoint presentation entitled *Potential Environmental Justice Impacts Resulting from Proposed PVTA FY2019 Service Reductions* as presented by PVPC Principal Transit Planner David Elvin.

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 January 23, 2018

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 reported that there was a discussion of the status and ranking of TIP projects at the last two JTC meetings. Mr. Czach indicated that at the upcoming April JTC meeting, there will be further discussion of the projects listed in the Universe of Projects and the JTC members will formulate a recommendation to present to the MPO members at the April MPO meeting.

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 on the following TIP projects:

- The *West Street Reconstruction* in the Town of Goshen (Project #605150) has a bid opening scheduled for March 20th
- The *Bridge Replacement at Ireland Street over the west branch of Bronson Brook* in the Town of Chesterfield (Project #607549) which had a bid opening on March 6th.
- *Resurfacing and Related Work on Route 9 over the Westfield River* in the Town of Cummington (Project #607939) has had its bid opening postponed until May
- *Bridge Maintenance on Route 112 Over the Westfield River* in the Town of Huntington (Project #608258) is currently moving forward
- Bridge Replacement Project on Chester Road over Smart Brook in the Town of Middlefield (Project #608249) is currently at the 25% design stage

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 its jurisdiction. Mr. Hoynoski reported the following:

- The *Intersection Improvements at Route 187 and 57* in the Town of Agawam (Project #604203) is at the 75% design stage and the 100% design stage is due in April
- The *Improvements at Interchange 19 at Route 9 and Damon Road* in the City of Northampton (Project #604597) is at the 100% design stage and the PS&E is due in May
- The *Reconstruction of Western Avenue, Phase I*, in the City of Westfield (Project #603449) is at the 100% design stage and is currently under review
- The *Reconstruction of Glendale Road* in the Town of Southampton (Project #604738) is now at the 100% design stage and will receive its PS&E approval very soon
- The *Resurfacing on Heritage, Front and Dwight Street* in the City of Holyoke (Project #607256) is currently at the 75% design stage with the 100% design stage due in April
- The *Resurfacing of Brimfield Road (Phase I)* in the Town of Holland (Project #604962) is at the 75% design stage
- The *Amherst- Hadley- Northampton- Transit Signal Priority Upgrades at Various Locations Route 9* (Project 608786) is at the 75% design stage and is currently under review
- The *North End Pedestrian Path Construction* in the City of Springfield (Project #607589) is at the 75% design stage and is expected to reach the 100% design stage in April

There being no questions from MPO members, 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 called for a report and update from Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA) Administrator Sandra Sheehan. Ms. Sheehan distributed two documents to the MPO members entitled *PVTA Proposed Service Changes* and *PVTA Fare Change Proposals*. Ms. Sheehan explained that one document lists the bus routes being modified and the communities being affected and the other delineates proposed fare increases. Ms. Sheehan reported that the PVTA has held 15 public outreach activities of which 7 were public hearings and the PVTA received 1,600 online comments, 110 paper comments and over 200 emails, letters, phone messages and oral comments. Ms. Sheehan explained that it's difficult to mitigate all the comments received with only a limited amount of RTA funding support available. Ms. Sheehan stated that changes made to routes or fare amounts are subject to Environmental Justice requirements as set forth in Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. She added that the hope is that the final budget amount allotted to the PVTA will be increased so that these changes won't have to occur and significant adverse impacts on transit-dependent PVTA bus riders can ideally be avoided.

10. Other Business

Mr. Mohler asked if there was any other business to conduct and there being none, Mr. Mohler called for a motion to adjourn the March 27, 2018 Pioneer Valley MPO meeting. Mr. Roscoe announced that the next Pioneer Valley MPO meeting is scheduled for April 24th at 10:30 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 MARCH 27, 2018 MEETING OF THE PIONEER VALLEY REGION'S MPO. THERE BEING NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, THE MARCH 27TH MPO MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 11:28 A.M. WITHOUT OBJECTION

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy W. Brennan, Executive Director  
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

**List of Documents and Other Items Distributed at the March 27, 2018 MPO Meeting**

1. *Pioneer Valley Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Meeting Notice and Agenda: March 27, 2018*
2. *Minutes of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Meeting: Wednesday, January 23, 2018*
3. *2018 Pioneer Valley Region Transportation Improvement Program*
4. *Draft 2019 – 2023 TIP Project Ranking - CMAQ*
5. *Scenario Summary*
6. *Summary of Scenarios*
7. *Based on 2018-2022 TIP*