

Minutes of the Tuesday, April 23, 2019 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:

Steve Woelfel	Deputy 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)
Richard Kos	Mayor, City of Chicopee
Nicole LaChapelle	Mayor, City of Easthampton
John Martin	Chair, Southampton Board of Selectmen
Richard Masse	MassDOT District Two Office Representing Massachusetts Department of Transportation Highway Division Administrator Jonathan Gulliver
Alex Morse	Mayor, City of Holyoke
David Narkewicz	Mayor, City of Northampton, Representing Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA)
Sandra Sheehan*	Administrator, Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA)
Brian Sullivan	Mayor, City of Westfield
Rick Sullivan	President and CEO, Economic Development Council of Western Massachusetts
Brandon Wilcox*	Community Planner, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

(* denotes non-voting member) Woelfel

Guests and PVPC Staff Present:

Price Armstrong	PVTA Manager of Planning and Analysis
Ryan Bartlett	Federal Transit Administration
Pat Beaudry	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) Manager of Public Affairs
Eric Bernardin	Vice President, Full & O'Neill, Inc.
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	Columbia Greenway, City of Westfield
Matt Chase	Transportation Market Leader for VHB
Jeremy Cigal	Engineer, City of Westfield
Chris Cignoli	Director of Public Works, City of Springfield
Van Kacoyannakis	Civil Engineer, VHB
Andrew Krar	Town Engineer, Town of Longmeadow
Derek Krevat	Transportation Planner, MassDOT
Nick Lapoint	Senior Transportation Engineer, Fuss & O'Neill
Andrew McCaul	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Jeff McCollough	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Mark Moore	MassDOT District One Office (Lenox)
Peg O'Neal	Town of Worthington, Executive Assistant of the Selectboard
Dana Roscoe	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Charley Rose	Selectboard Chair, Town of Worthington
Steve Williams	Director, Department of Public Works, Town of Belchertown
Gary Roux	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Leah Sirman	Federal Transit Administration
Louise Sullivan	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Support Staff

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

Steve Woelfel, Deputy Executive Director, Office of Transportation Planning, Massachusetts Department (MassDOT) Representing MPO Chair Stephanie Pollack, Massachusetts Secretary of Transportation and Chief Executive Officer, called the April 23, 2019 meeting of the Pioneer Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to order at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Woelfel then welcomed and thanked all those in attendance and called for introductions from the MPO members and those in attendance.

Following introductions, Mr. Woelfel moved to take up the minutes of the previous MPO meeting held on March 26, 2019.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting of the Pioneer Valley MPO Held on March 26, 2019

Mr. Woelfel called for a motion to approve the minutes of the previous Pioneer Valley MPO meeting which was held on March 26, 2019.

MOVED BY RICHARD KOS, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CHICOPEE, SECONDED BY ALEX MORSE, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF HOLYOKE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 26, 2019 PIONEER VALLEY MPO MEETING AS PRESENTED. THERE BEING NO FURTHER COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS, THE MOTION WAS THEN APPROVED BY THE MPO MEMBERS PRESENT

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

3. Review Discussion and MPO Approval to Release Proposed Amendments to the 2019 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) for the 21-day Public Comment Period

Mr. Woelfel called on PVPC Principal Planner Dana Roscoe to discuss the proposed amendments to the 2019 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP). Mr. Roscoe noted that the 2019 TIP is the current existing TIP and he called the MPO members attention to the document included in today’s meeting packet entitled *Summary of Proposed Changes to the 2019-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) — April 2019*. Mr. Roscoe listed the proposed amendments by identifying the TIP projects constituting the amendments and delineating the changes proposed to the following TIP projects:

Project ID	Municipality	Project	Proposed Change
606912	Worthington	Reconstruction & Related Work on Route 143 (Phase 1)	Change project description to read: Reconstruction & Related Work on Route 143 (Phase 1) Cold Street to Chesterfield Town Line
609429	Palmer - Ware	Resurfacing of Route 32	Add Project for \$3,204,720 (HPP)
PV0002	Longmeadow	Rehabilitate Pondsides Road including a gravel parking area and replace 2 culverts	Add project for \$2,260,000 (FLAP Funding)
608251	Holyoke	Systematic Bridge Maintenance	Change funding from NHPP-off to NHPP-on
603783	Westfield	Columbia Greenway Rail Trail	Increase cost from \$6,532,896 to \$7,474,369

Mr. Roscoe explained that the last proposed amendment outlines the federal performance measure targets adopted by the MPO and includes the narrative for the target setting procedure. Mr. Woelfel added that the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has required that this language for the required target setting be added. Mr. Roscoe stated that these amendments as presented are being proposed to be released for a required 21-day public review period. Mr. Woelfel then called for a motion to approve the release of the proposed amendments to the draft FFY 2019 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) as presented by staff for the 21-day Public Comment Period.

MOVED BY DAVID NARKEWICZ, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NORTHAMPTON, SECONDED BY WALTER GUNN, CHAIRMAN OF THE PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION (PVPC), TO APPROVE THE RELEASE OF A SERIES OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE PIONEER VALLEY REGION’S CURRENT DRAFT FFY 2019 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) FOR THE REQUIRED 21-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD SUBJECT TO MODIFICATIONS AND CORRECTIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN OUTLINED BY PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION (PVPC) STAFF.

Mr. Woelfel 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. Woelfel then moved to take up agenda item #4.

4. Review Discussion and MPO Approval to Release the 2020-2024 Draft Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) for the 21-day Public Comment Period

Mr. Woelfel called on PVPC Principal Planner Dana Roscoe to discuss the 2020 Draft Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP). Mr. Roscoe noted that this was the most discussed the agenda item at the last MPO meeting on March 26th and at that meeting, there was general agreement that the following TIP projects would be programmed in the 2020 element:

607502	Northampton	NORTHAMPTON - INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT KING STREET, NORTH STREET, & SUMMER STREET, AND AT KING STREET & FINN STREET
604043	Chicopee	CHICOPEE - RECONSTRUCTION & RELATED WORK ON FULLER ROAD, FROM MEMORIAL DR (RTE 33) TO SHAWINIGAN DR (2.0 MILES)
608236	Northampton	NORTHAMPTON - RECONSTRUCTION OF DAMON ROAD, FROM ROUTE 9 TO ROUTE 5, INCLUDES DRAINAGE SYSTEM REPAIRS & SLOPE STABILIZATION AT THE NORWOTTUCK
608718	Springfield	SPRINGFIELD - INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT BERKSHIRE AVENUE, COTTAGE AND HARVEY STREETS
PV0001	Multiple	NORTHAMPTON, AMHERST, CHICOPEE, EASTHAMPTON, HADLEY, HOLYOKE, SOUTH HADLEY, SPRINGFIELD AND WEST SPRINGFIELD – VALLEY BIKE SHARE (PHASE II)
PV0002	Multiple	PIONEER VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY'S P-21 EXPRESS – FUNDING FOR YEAR 3

Mr. Roscoe reminded the MPO members that the Westfield Project #607773 moved from 2020 to 2021 and he presented the following TIP projects proposed for the 2021 element:

607773	Westfield	WESTFIELD- IMPROVEMENTS & RELATED WORK ON ROUTE 20, COURT STEET & WESTERN AVENUE, LLOYDS HILL ROAD TO HIGH STREET/MILL STREET INTERSECTION (PHASE II)
608084	Amherst	AMHERST – IMPROVEMENTS & RELATED WORK ON ROUTES 9 & 116 FROM UNIVERSITY DRIVE TO SOUTH PLEASANT STREET
608782	Springfield	SPRINGFIELD - INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT COTTAGE STREET. INDUSTRY AVENUE AND ROBBINS ROAD
605032	Hadley	HADLEY, RECONSTRUCTION ON ROUTE 9, FROM MIDDLE STREET TO MAPLE/SOUTH MAPLE STREET

Mr. Roscoe stated that in 2022, there are four TIP projects programmed including the first phase of the West Springfield project and the remainder of the Hadley project as shown below:

608374	West Springfield	WEST SPRINGFIELD- RECONSTRUCTION OF MEMORIAL AVENUE (ROUTE 147), FROM COLONY ROAD TO THE MEMORIAL AVENUE ROTARY (1.4 MILES)
605032	Hadley	HADLEY, RECONSTRUCTION ON ROUTE 9, FROM MIDDLE STREET TO MAPLE/SOUTH MAPLE STREET
608577	Easthampton	EASTHAMPTON- IMPROVEMENTS AND RELATED WORK ON UNION STREET (ROUTE 141) FROM PAYSON AVENUE TO HIGH STREET (0.36 MILES)
606450	Holyoke	TRAFFIC SIGNAL UPGRADES AT 15 INTERSECTIONS ALONG HIGH & MAPLE STREETS

Mr. Roscoe indicated that the 2023 element of the TIP includes the remainder of the West Springfield #608374 project, the Granby Five Corners #606895 project and the Wales #608163 project:

608374	West Springfield	WEST SPRINGFIELD- RECONSTRUCTION OF MEMORIAL AVENUE (ROUTE 147), FROM COLONY ROAD TO THE MEMORIAL AVENUE ROTARY (1.4 MILES)
606895	Granby	GRANBY – IMPROVEMENTS @ 2 LOCATIONS ON ROUTE 202: SCHOOL STREET & FIVE CORNERS
608163	Wales	WALES - RECONSTRUCTION & IMPROVEMENTS ON MONSON ROAD, FROM THE MONSON TOWN LINE TO REED HILL ROAD

Mr. Roscoe explained that the MPO members did not resolve the 2024 element of the TIP at their last meeting on March 26th. After that meeting, MassDOT staff reviewed the Springfield (#608717) reconstruction at the “X” project and found ineligible expenses that reduced the cost of the project and allowed it to be programmed in the 2024 element of the draft FFY 2020-2024 TIP. Mr. Roscoe reported that at their last meeting on April 10th, the JTC members considered the proposal to include three TIP projects in the 2024 element: the second phase of the Worthington #609287 project, the Longmeadow #608881 project, and the Springfield “X” #608717 project as listed below. Mr. Roscoe stated that JTC members agreed that these three projects be recommended to the MPO members for their approval.

609287	Worthington	WORTHINGTON- RECONSTRUCTION & RELATED WORK ON ROUTE 143 (PHASE II)
608881	Longmeadow	LONGMEADOW- SPRINGFIELD- RESURFACING AND INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS ON LONGMEADOW STREET (ROUTE 5) AND CONVERSE STREET (0.84 MILES)
608717	Springfield	SPRINGFIELD- RECONSTRUCTION OF SUMNER AVENUE AT DICKINSON STREET AND BELMONT AVENUE (THE “X”)

Woelfel then called for a motion to approve the release of the proposed amendments to the draft FFY 2020 - 2024 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) as presented by staff for the 21-day Public Comment Period.

MOVED BY RICHARD KOS, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CHICOPEE, SECONDED BY DAVID NARKEWICZ, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NORTHAMPTON, TO APPROVE THE RELEASE OF A SERIES OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE PIONEER VALLEY REGION’S DRAFT FFY 2020 - 2024 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) FOR THE REQUIRED 21-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD SUBJECT TO MODIFICATIONS AND CORRECTIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN OUTLINED BY PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION (PVPC) STAFF.

Mr. Woelfel 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. Roscoe then explained that one-half of the FFY 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) consists of highway TIP projects and the other half of the TIP contains transit TIP projects. He called the MPO members’ attention to the document distributed in today’s meeting packet entitled *TIP 2020 – 2024* which illustrates the proposed funding for the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA) major capital expenditure items over the next five years as shown in the table below.

Fiscal Year	Major Capital Expenditures	Total Projected Capital Expenditures
FFY 2020	Bus replacements, facilities management, shelters, and equipment	\$24.6 million
FFY 2021	The replacement of fifteen 40-FT buses and other line items in Section 5307 for \$22.4 million; replacement of fourteen 35-FT buses in Section 5339 for \$9.3 million; and non-federal funded additional maintenance line items for \$80,000	\$31.89 million
FFY 2022	\$15.2 million in bus purchases, shop equipment and maintenance in Section 5307; and an additional \$32 million in expenditures in Section 5309	\$47.3 million
FFY 2023	\$12 million in expenditures in Section 5307 and \$18.2 million in expenditures in Section 5339	\$30.3 million
FFY 2024	\$13.2 million in expenditures in Section 5307 and \$14.3 million in expenditures in Section 5339	\$27.5 million

Mr. Roscoe explained that the PVTA assembles these capital expenditures and then submits them to the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT). Mr. Roscoe stated that the FFY 2020 – 2024 transit element is being proposed for a 21-day public review period, and Mr. Woelfel underscored that appropriate descriptive language needs to be established before endorsement.

Woelfel then called for a motion to approve the release of the proposed transit amendments to the draft FFY 2020 – 2024 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) as presented by staff for the 21-day Public Comment Period.

MOVED BY DAVID NARKEWICZ, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NORTHAMPTON, SECONDED BY ALEX MORSE, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF HOLYOKE, TO APPROVE THE RELEASE OF A SERIES OF PROPOSED TRANSIT AMENDMENTS TO THE PIONEER VALLEY REGION'S DRAFT FFY 2020 - 2024 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) FOR THE REQUIRED 21-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD SUBJECT TO MODIFICATIONS AND CORRECTIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN OUTLINED BY PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION (PVPC) STAFF.

Mr. Woelfel 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. Woelfel then called for a motion to approve the release of the proposed amendments to the draft FFY 2020 - 2024 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) as presented by staff for the 21-day Public Comment Period.

MOVED BY WALTER GUNN, CHAIRMAN OF THE PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION (PVPC), SECONDED BY DAVID NARKEWICZ, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NORTHAMPTON, TO APPROVE THE RELEASE OF A SERIES OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE PIONEER VALLEY REGION'S DRAFT FFY 2020 - 2024 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) FOR THE REQUIRED 21-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD SUBJECT TO MODIFICATIONS AND CORRECTIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN OUTLINED BY PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION (PVPC) STAFF.

Mr. Woelfel 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. Woelfel then moved to take up agenda item #5.

5. Review Discussion and MPO Approval to Release the 2020 Draft Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for the 21-day Public Comment Period

Mr. Woelfel called on PVPC Principal Planner Gary Roux for an update on the status of the *2020 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)*. Mr. Roux noted that the *Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)* describes all the anticipated transportation planning activities that will be carried out in the upcoming fiscal year. Mr. Roux called the MPO members' attention to the Executive Summary on page 1 of the draft document entitled *Pioneer Valley Unified Planning Work Program: Fiscal Year 2020, October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020*. Mr. Roux then highlighted some of the tasks listed under *Work Element 3* on page 1 of the Executive Summary. He explained that PVPC staff in collaboration with the PVTA is proposing a transit survey for the fixed bus route in the northern service area which will follow-up on the current survey currently being completed on the southern service area. Mr. Roux reported that other tasks planned are a study of freight bottlenecks in the region; an update of the Regional Congestion Management Process; a congestion management study of travel times on all of the interstate ramps in the region; an addendum to the Regional At-grade Shared Use Path Crossings study and an update of the Regional Top 100 High Crash Intersections and Safety Compass reports.

Mr. Roux indicated that the JTC members discussed the draft UPWP at their meeting earlier this month and they agreed that it is ready to be released for the required 21-day public comment period. Mr. Woelfel then called for a motion to release the Pioneer Valley's Draft FFY 2020 UPWP for the required 21-day public review.

MOVED BY JOHN MARTIN, CHAIRMAN OF THE SOUTHAMPTON SELECTBOARD, SECONDED BY RICHARD KOS, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CHICOPEE, TO AUTHORIZE THAT THE PROPOSED DRAFT VERSION OF THE PIONEER VALLEY REGION'S FFY 2020 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) BE RELEASED FOR THE REQUIRED 21 DAY PUBLIC REVIEW.

Mr. Woelfel 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. Woelfel then moved to take up agenda item #6.

6. Review Discussion and MPO Endorsement of Performance Based Planning Agreement Previously Discussed at the February 26th MPO Meeting

Mr. Woelfel called on Derek Krevat, Transportation Planner for the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) for a discussion of the Performance Based Planning Agreement. Mr. Krevat reported that the MassDOT Performance Based Planning Agreement was discussed at the February MPO meeting and all MPOs are required to carry out performance-based planning and support MassDOT's targets in safety, pavement, asset management, bridge performance, freight, and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ). Mr. Krevat reported that the Performance Based Planning Agreement has been endorsed by all the Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs) and an endorsement from the MPO members was being requested at today's meeting.

Mr. Woelfel then called for a motion to approve the endorsement of the Performance Based Planning Agreement. MOVED BY JOHN MARTIN, CHAIR OF THE SOUTHAMPTON SELECTBOARD, SECONDED BY ALEX MORSE, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF HOLYOKE, TO ENDORSE THE MASSDOT PERFORMANCE BASED PLANNING AGREEMENT.

Mr. Woelfel asked if there were any questions or comments.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS, THE MOTION WAS THEN UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Mr. Woelfel then moved to take up the next agenda #7.

7. Update by PVPC Staff on the Status of the 2020 Regional Transportation Plan Development

Mr. Woelfel called on PVPC Principal Planner Gary Roux for an update on the status of the Pioneer Valley region's 2020 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). Mr. Roux called the MPO members' attention to the document entitled *2020 RTP Status* that identifies the chapter titles of Chapters 1 – 18. Mr. Roux indicated that a link to a drop box has been emailed to all the MPO members in order to present draft chapters of the RTP as they are completed. He announced that there are now six chapters in draft form and more chapters will be completed in May. Mr. Roux stated that the draft 2020 RTP needs to be delivered to MassDOT by the end of May and proposed for a 21-day public comment at the June MPO meeting.

8. 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 26, 2019

Mr. Woelfel 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 the primary focus of the last JTC meeting was the development of the Pioneer Valley 2020 – 2024 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) and the PVPC's proposed FFY 2020 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). In addition, Mr. Czach noted that the membership of the JTC was discussed. He explained that based on the results of the region's last federal certification review, there was a recommendation to add non-voting JTC representatives to represent the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) and pedestrian populations. After a one-year, successful trial period of both ADA and pedestrian representatives attending JTC meetings, Mr. Czach reported that the JTC members approved full voting membership for both ADA and pedestrian representatives serving on the JTC.

Mr. Woelfel thanked Mr. Czach for his report and he then moved to take up the next agenda item.

9. Updates from MassDOT District One and District Two Officials on Relevant Transportation Issues and Projects of Interest to the Pioneer Valley MPO Members

Mr. Woelfel called on Mike Bolduc of the MassDOT District Two office in Northampton to present District Two's updates on relevant transportation projects within its jurisdiction. Mr. Bolduc reported on District Two's FFY 2019 TIP transportation improvement projects as follows:

- The *Intersection Improvements* at Route 187, 100 and 57 in the Town of Agawam (Project #604203) Phase I is at 100% design phase and is scheduled to be advertised in June 2019.
- The *Intersection Improvements* at Bay Street and Berkshire Avenue in the City of Springfield (Project #608411) is at 100% design, its PS&E is due this week, and this project will be advertised in August 2019.
- The *Intersection Improvements on Main Street* project in the Town of Ware (#604987) is at 100% design stage, will receive its PS&E this morning and this project will be advertised in August 2019.
- The *Intersection Improvements on Brimfield Road* in the Town of Holland (Project #604962) is scheduled to have its bid opening on May 14th.
- *Interstate Maintenance Resurfacing of Route I-391* in the Cities of Chicopee and Holyoke (Project #607560) had its bid opening on April 17th and the subject project was awarded to Palmer Paving.
- *Kelly School Safe Routes to School Program* in the City Holyoke (Project #608790) is at 100% design phase, had its closing today and is scheduled to be advertised in September 2019.

Mr. Woelfel next called on Mark Moore of the MassDOT District One office in Lenox, in Peter Frieri's absence, to present District One's updates on relevant transportation issues and projects. Mr. Moore reported on three of District One's FFY 2019 TIP projects as follows:

- *Route 112 Bridge Maintenance over Sykes Brook* in the Town of Huntington, (Project #608928) had its bid opening on April 17th.
- *Bridge Replacement Project on Chester Road over Smart Brook* in the Town of Middlefield (Project #608249) has its bid opening scheduled for May 14th.
- *Route 143 Reconstruction and Related Work – Phase I – (Split Phase Project)* in the Town of Worthington, (Project #606912) is now at 100% design stage, its Environmental and Right-of-Way is under review and the project is on schedule to be advertised this summer.

There being no further questions or comments from MPO members, Mr. Woelfel thanked Mr. Bolduc and Mr. Moore for their MassDOT District Two and District One project updates and he moved to take up the next agenda item.

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

PVTA Administrator Sandra Sheehan reported that the Task Force on RTA Performance and Funding released its final report on April 8th. Ms. Sheehan explained that the Task Force has recommended that the State Legislature fund the Commonwealth's 15 Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs) in the amount of \$90.5 million coupled with an annual escalation. The Task Force has also recommended that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreement with MassDOT be instituted that identifies the performance targets assigned to each of the RTAs. Ms. Sheehan stated that the PVTA Advisory Board, at its last meeting, approved a draft budget based on Governor Charlie Baker's budget of \$82 million for the RTAs which presents the PVTA with an estimated FY 2020 deficit of \$1.7 million. Ms. Sheehan said the hope is that the State Legislature will ultimately pass an amendment in the House that will increase the Administration's total amount from \$82 million to \$90.5 million and, if so, the PVTA's funding support will be sufficient to maintain its current level of transit services.

Ms. Sheehan reported that the PVTA Advisory Board, at its last meeting, approved a new program aimed at seniors. She stated that seniors will ride on the PVTA's fixed route system on Tuesdays at no cost beginning on July 1st. Ms.

Sheehan explained that this is to entice seniors to use PVTA's network of fixed routes because it is a simpler component of the bus system for them to utilize. Ms. Sheehan added that PVTA staff members will be visiting senior centers to take picture IDs and teach those seniors unfamiliar with the PVTA fixed route bus system on how to travel on PVTA buses.

Mr. Woelfel thanked Ms. Sheehan for her PVTA update report and he then moved to take up the last agenda item.

11. Other Business

Brian Wilcox, Community Planner for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), explained that every four years, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) are required to conduct a Federal Certification Review. Mr. Wilcox reported that last Thursday, FHWA and the FTA in collaboration with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) met here at the PVPC and conducted the PVPC's Transportation Certification Review. Mr. Wilcox stated that a public meeting is required for input in the planning process as part of the Certification Review and that public meeting will be held at the PVPC later today from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. Mr. Wilcox added that there is a flyer with information on today's public meeting that is included with the MPO members' meeting packet and he encouraged the MPO members to attend this afternoon's public meeting. He added that the FHWA is accepting comments on the region's transportation planning process through this Friday, April 26th and he urged the MPO members to submit any questions or comments on transportation planning in the Pioneer Valley region to him or his FTA colleagues.

At this point, Mr. Roscoe announced that the next Pioneer Valley MPO meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 28th at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Woelfel then called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

MOVED BY RICK SULLIVAN, PRESIDENT AND CEO, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS, SECONDED BY BRIAN SULLIVAN, MAYOR OF WESTFIELD, TO ADJOURN THE APRIL 23, 2019 MEETING OF THE PIONEER VALLEY REGION'S MPO. THERE BEING NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, THE APRIL 23rd MPO MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 10:30 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 26, 2019 MPO Meeting

1. *Pioneer Valley Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Meeting Notice and Agenda: April 23, 2019*
2. *Minutes of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Meeting: Wednesday, March 26, 2019*
3. *Summary of Proposed Changes to the 2019-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – April 2019*
4. *2020 2024 Transportation Improvement Program*
5. *2019 Transportation Improvement Program*
6. *TIP 2020 – 2024 (Transit)*
7. *2020 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)*
8. *2020 RTP Status*
9. *Public Meeting Announcement: Transportation Planning Process, Tuesday, April 23, 2019*