

Minutes of the Tuesday, May 25, 2021 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 James Tesler, Acting 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
David Narkewicz	Mayor, City of Northampton
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
John Vieux	Mayor, City of Chicopee

Guests and PVPC Staff Present:

Daryl Amaral	MassDOT District 2 Office, Acting State Aid Engineer
Patrick Beaudry	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Manager, Public Affairs
Mark Cressotti	City Engineer, City of Westfield
Peter Frieri	MassDOT, District 1 Office
Michelle Ho	Senior Project Manager, MassDOT
Andrew McCaul	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Mark Moore	Sr. Project Development Engineer, MassDOT Highway Division
Bryan Pounds	Manager of MPO Activities, MassDOT
Andrew Reovan	PVPC Liaison with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
Kimberly H. Robinson	Executive Director, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC)
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 Jamey Tesler, Acting Massachusetts Secretary of Transportation and Chief Executive Officer, called the May 25, 2021 meeting of the Pioneer Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to order at 10:02 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; Walter Gunn, Chairman, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission; Rick Sullivan, President and CEO, Economic Development Council of Western Massachusetts; William Reichelt, Mayor of West Springfield; David Narkewicz, Mayor of Northampton; Nicole LaChapelle, Mayor of Easthampton; Roger Fuller, Selectboard Member, Town of Chesterfield; John Vieux, Mayor of Chicopee; and Sandra Sheehan, Administrator, Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVRTA). 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 April 27, 2021.

2. MPO Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting of the Pioneer Valley MPO Held Remotely on April 27, 2021

Mr. Mohler called for a motion to approve the minutes of the previous Pioneer Valley MPO meeting which was held on April 27, 2021.

MOVED BY WALTER GUNN, CHAIRMAN, PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION, SECONDED BY RICHARD SULLIVAN, PRESIDENT AND CEO, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 27, 2021 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 Endorsement of the Draft 2022-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

PVPC Principal Planner Dana Roscoe called the MPO members attention to the two tables shown on the Zoom screen entitled *2022 – 2026 TIP Funding Breakdown*. Mr. Roscoe indicated that the top table reflected transit funding and the bottom table reflected highway funding. Mr. Roscoe stated that the total Transit Capital Investments shown in the Transit table for each of the 2022-2026 fiscal years are as follows:

Transit	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Transit Capital Investment	\$25,770,768	\$27,160,305	\$30,516,886	\$24,751,604	\$24,299,150

Mr. Roscoe explained that in FFY 2022, the majority of transit funding is comprised of federal 5307 dollars for the purchase of buses and for capital expenses. He added that the majority of the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority’s expenditures are for replacing a large percentage of its overall fleet because of its age.

Pointing to the Highway table, Mr. Roscoe indicated that this table reflects just the regional funding appropriations. He reported that the Pioneer Valley makes up approximately 10.8% of the Commonwealth’s population and road miles and it receives an equivalent portion of the federal funds.

Mr. Roscoe listed the total highway target funds for each of the years as follows:

Highway	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Total Target Funds	\$26,839,851	\$27,426,056	\$27,785,521	\$27,136,864	\$26,432,171

Mr. Roscoe remarked that that PVPC staff collects all the TIP projects that are eligible for federal aid. Then staff works with the MPO and the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) using a prioritization process in order to make a recommendation for the expenditure of approximately \$25 million per year in local funds. Mr. Roscoe explained that PVPC staff began with a universe of TIP projects in excess of \$310 million but then had to determine how to work with an annual availability of approximately \$25 million per year. The result, he said, is the list of TIP projects next being shown on the Zoom screen. Mr. Roscoe underscored that this TIP project list has been reviewed at the February, March and April MPO meetings and now in May, it's time to finally endorse this draft 2022-2026_Transportation Improvement Program.

Mr. Roscoe announced that for 2022, there is an additional \$29 million available from statewide sources. He reported that the first highway project listed for FFY 2022 is Year 2 for \$17 million of the \$26 million Hadley Reconstruction on Route 9 (605032) Project followed by the Holyoke Traffic Signal Upgrades at 15 Intersections (606450) Project; Year 1 of the three-year West Springfield Memorial Avenue (608374) Project; and the Easthampton Union Street from Payson Avenue to High Street (608577) Project. Also, the Northampton Bridge Replacement (606552) Project; the South Hadley Resurfacing (608473) Project; the Ware Bridge Replacement (605126) Project; the Northampton Safe Route to School (609515) Project; the second half of the Holyoke Traffic Signal Upgrades (606450) Project and the Amherst-Belchertown Norwottuck Rail Trail Resurfacing (608719) Project.

For FFY 2023, Mr. Roscoe reported the Granby Improvements on Route 202 (606895) Project listed twice because of two different funding sources; the Wales Improvements on Monson Road (608163) Project; and Year 2 of the West Springfield Memorial Avenue (608374) Project. Mr. Roscoe reported that there is \$44 million of statewide expenditures for FFY 2023. He reported bridge work in the Ludlow (609120) Project; the Wales Bridge Replacement (608847) Project; the Springfield Safety Improvements on St. James Avenue (608565) Project; the Holyoke-West Springfield Rehabilitation of Route 5 (604209) Project; the Longmeadow Safe Routes to School (609517) Project; the Springfield Improvements on St. James Avenue at Tapley Street (608560) Project; the Springfield McKnight Rail Trail (608157) Project; and the Agawam Safe Routes to School (610652) Project.

Mr. Roscoe reported for FFY 2024: the Cummington Retaining Wall Replacement (606797) Project; the final year of the West Springfield Memorial Avenue (608374) Project; the Springfield "X" (608717) Project; and Phase 2 of the Worthington Reconstruction on Route 143 (609287) Project. Also for FFY 2024, Mr. Roscoe stated on the state side, there is 4.1M of additional spending on a Monson Bridge Replacement (608846) Project and the Hampden Bridge Maintenance (610779) Project.

For FFY 2025, Mr. Roscoe reported the Holland Resurfacing on Brimfield Road (608727) Project; the Longmeadow-Springfield Resurfacing on Longmeadow Street (608881) Project; and the Northampton Downtown Complete Streets on Route 9 (609286) Project. Mr. Roscoe announced an additional approximately \$72 million in state funding for the Springfield Bridge Project (609409) Project; the Westhampton Bridge Maintenance (610768) Project; the Northampton Bridge Replacement (608869) Project; the Hadley Bridge Replacement (608460) Project; the Monson-Palmer Bridge Replacement (604136) Project; the Worthington Pavement (612031) Project; the Chicopee Safe Routes to School (SRTS)

(612079) Project; the Springfield SRTS (612080) Project; the Northampton Rocky Hill Greenway Trail (608413) Project; and the Easthampton-Northampton Shared-Use Path (610657) Project.

Mr. Roscoe reported the following TIP Projects in FFY 2026: the South Hadley Reconstruction of Main Street (608785) Project; the Chicopee Intersection Improvements (609061) Project; the Holyoke Resurfacing of Cabot and Race Streets (609065) Project and the Springfield-Chicopee Guide and Traffic Sign Replacement on a Section of I-291 (611953) Project.

Mr. Roscoe noted that his presentation of the FFY 2022 – 2026 TIP was now complete and public comments were received and addressed during the required 21 day public review period. Mr. Mohler then asked for a motion to endorse the FFY 2022 – 2026 TIP.

MOVED BY RICHARD SULLIVAN, PRESIDENT AND CEO, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS, SECONDED BY WALTER GUNN, CHAIRMAN, PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION, TO ENDORSE THE PIONEER VALLEY REGION'S DRAFT FFY 2022-2026 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AS PRESENTED BY PVPC STAFF

Mr. Mohler requested a roll call and each of the MPO members in attendance responded affirmatively.

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

Mr. Mohler thanked Mr. Roscoe for his presentation and he called on PVPC Principal Planner Gary Roux to discuss the next agenda item.

4. Update Review, Discussion and MPO Endorsement of the draft 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

PVPC Principal Planner Gary Roux reported that the draft 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) was released for a 21 day public review and it is the annual summary of all the proposed planning tasks scheduled over the next federal fiscal year from October 1st of this year until September 30th of next year, 2022. He noted that comments were received from MassDOT and the Federal Highway Administration but the most significant comment was a request from Walk/Bike Springfield for a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) task to build a website for the Connecticut River Walk and Bikeway. Mr. Roux reported that after an internal discussion, it was decided to develop a 3.1 UPWP planning task on a regional level incorporating PVPC historical information and information from MassDOT to address this request. He added that all comments received will be addressed in the final version of the UPWP. Mr. Mohler then asked for a motion to endorse the draft FFY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

MOVED BY WALTER GUNN, CHAIRMAN, PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION, SECONDED BY RICHARD MASSE, REPRESENTING MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION HIGHWAY DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR JONATHAN GULLIVER, TO ENDORSE THE DRAFT FFY 2022 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) AS PRESENTED BY STAFF

Mr. Mohler requested a roll call and each of the MPO members in attendance responded affirmatively.

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

Mr. Mohler thanked Mr. Roux for his presentation and he called on PVPC Principal Planner Dana Roscoe to discuss the next agenda item.

5. Review Discussion and MPO Endorsement of the Required Annual 3C Self Certification of the 3C Planning Process

Mr. Roscoe explained that the Annual Certification of the 3C Transportation Planning Process is required annually to confirm that there is compliance with the Federal Government and Federal Transit Administration requirements. Mr. Roscoe noted that normally the MPO members sign an endorsement sheet to indicate that the Pioneer Valley Municipal Policy Organization (MPO) is abiding by all federal rules and regulations that govern the MPO; however, due to the pandemic, only a single signoff by Chair David Mohler is required. There being no questions or comments, Mr. Mohler then called for a motion to approve the endorsement of the Annual 3C Self Certification Document.

MOVED BY RICK SULLIVAN, PRESIDENT AND CEO, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS, SECONDED BY WALTER GUNN, CHAIRMAN, PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION, TO ENDORSE THE ANNUAL CERTIFICATION OF THE 3C TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCESS FOR THE PIONEER VALLEY REGION.

Mr. Mohler requested a roll call and each of the MPO members in attendance responded affirmatively.

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

Mr. Mohler moved on to the next agenda item

6. Review Discussion and MPO Endorsement of the Required Annual Greenhouse Gas Emission (GHG) Self Certification

PVPC Principal Planner Dana Roscoe stated that a motion from the MPO members is required to confirm that the Pioneer Valley MPO is complying with greenhouse gas emission limitation requirements. Mr. Roscoe stated again that only the Chair's signature will be required for endorsement. Mr. Mohler then asked for a motion.

MOVED BY RICK SULLIVAN, PRESIDENT AND CEO, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS, SECONDED BY WALTER GUNN, CHAIRMAN, PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION,, TO ENDORSE THE REQUIRED ANNUAL GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION (GHG) SELF CERTIFICATION DOCUMENT FOR THE PIONEER VALLEY REGION

Mr. Mohler requested a roll call and each of the MPO members in attendance responded affirmatively.

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

Mr. Mohler moved on to the next agenda item

7. 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 on the following TIP projects:

- Springfield Intersection Improvements on Cottage, Industry and Robbins Road (608782) Project had a recent bid opening on May 11, 2021.
- Westfield Route 20, Court Street and Lloyds Hill, Phase 2 (607773) Project also had a recent bid opening on May 4, 2021.

- Hadley Route 9, Mill Street to Maple Street Project (605032) is in its final stage of design. Its final PS&E is due in late June or early July, and it has an advertisement date of September 11, 2021.
- Amherst Routes 9 and 116 (608084) Project was advertised on April 24, 2021 and its bid opening is scheduled for June 8, 2021.
- Districts One and Two Resurfacing at Multiple Locations (610858) Cross-District Project received its PS&E in January 2021; no right of way; its environmental clearance was issued on April 24th; and its advertisement date is May 29th.

Mr. Mohler then called on Peter Frieri of the MassDOT District One office in Lenox to present District One's updates on relevant transportation projects within its jurisdiction. Mr. Frieri reported that 100% design of the Worthington Route 143 Reconstruction Project (609287) Phase 1 is anticipated at end of June. He added that Phase 1 is half completed and has a completion date for August of 2021.

Mr. Mohler thanked Mr. Frieri and Mr. Amaral for their updates and he then moved on to the next agenda item.

8. 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 remarked that PVTA's ridership continues to recover. Ms. Sheehan reported that ridership in the Greater Springfield area is 64% of what it was pre-COVID-19; UMass ridership is 25% of previous levels and Northampton's ridership is 44% compared to its previous pre-COVID level. Ms. Sheehan explained that last week, the PVTA Advisory Board approved the PVTA's 2022 budget and gave its approval for the Towns of Palmer and Ware to coordinate with the Quaboag Connector with microtransit mode of transportation for the Town of Ware. Ms. Sheehan stated that the Advisory Board has approved service between Northampton and Springfield through the Holyoke Mall and service between Amherst and Worcester via Route 9. She added that service will begin on June 27th. Ms. Sheehan added that the PVTA Advisory Board approved free service on Tuesdays for Seniors and a pilot program for mobile ticketing using an application on a smart phone.

9. Other Business

Mr. Mohler asked if there was any other business and Mr. Masse announced that he will be retiring next month after 36 years with MassDOT. Mr. Masse thanked everyone especially the PVPC Staff and his MassDOT colleagues. Mr. Mohler announced that the next MPO meeting is scheduled for June 22, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

There being no other business, Mr. Mohler called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

MOVED BY RICHARD MASSE, REPRESENTING MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION HIGHWAY DIVISION ADMINISTRATOR JONATHAN GULLIVER, SECONDED BY DAVID NARKEWICZ, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NORTHAMPTON, TO ADJOURN THIS MAY 25, 2021 MEETING OF THE PIONEER VALLEY REGION'S MPO.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, MAY 25TH MPO MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 11:10 A.M. WITHOUT OBJECTION.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly H. Robinson, Executive Director
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

List of Documents and Other Items Distributed at the May 25, 2021 MPO Meeting

1. *Pioneer Valley Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Meeting Notice and Agenda: May 25, 2021*
2. *Minutes of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Meeting: April 27, 2021*
3. *Draft 2022 – 2026 TIP*
4. *Draft FY2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)*
5. *TIP Comments*
6. *Revised PVMPO Self Certification 2021*