

Minutes of the Tuesday, May 26, 2020 Virtual 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
Jim Czach*	Chairman, Joint Transportation Committee & Town Engineer, West Springfield
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 and Chair of the PVTA Advisory Board
William Reichelt	Mayor, Town of West Springfield

*denotes non-voting member

Guests and PVPC Staff Present:

Rana Al-Jammal	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Mike Bolduc	MassDOT District 2 Office (Northampton)
Michelle Chase	Engineer, Town of Agawam
Mark Cressotti	City Engineer, City of Westfield
Peter Frieri	MassDOT, District 1 Office
Laura Hanson	MassDOT, District 2 Office (Northampton)
Kien Ho	Vice President, Beta Group
Michelle Ho	MassDOT
Timothy Keane	Town Engineer, Town of Longmeadow
Derek Krevat	Regional Planning Coordinator, MassDOT Planning
Nick Lapointe	Fuss and O’Neill
Andrew McCaul	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Jeff McCollough	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Ken Miller	Deputy Division Administrator, FHWA
Bryan Pounds	Manager, MPO Activities, MassDOT Planning
Kimberly H. Robinson	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Executive Director
Steve Savaria	Fuss and O’Neill
Charley Rose	Town of Worthington
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 May 26, 2020 meeting of the Pioneer Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to order at 10:00 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; David Narkewicz, Mayor of Northampton and PVTA Advisory Board Chair; Roger Fuller, Chesterfield Selectboard; Walter Gunn, Chairman, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission; William Reichelt, Mayor of West Springfield; 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 April 28, 2020.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting of the Pioneer Valley MPO Held on April 28, 2020.

Mr. Mohler called for a motion to approve the minutes of the previous Pioneer Valley MPO meeting which was held on April 28, 2020.

MOVED WALTER GUNN, CHAIRMAN OF THE PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION (PVPC), SECONDED BY RICHARD MASSE, , MASSDOT DISTRICT TWO, REPRESENTING THE MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION HIGHWAY DIVISION, MASSDOT DISTRICT TWO, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 28, 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 Endorsement of Proposed Amendments to the 2020 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 Draft 2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Mr. Roscoe stated that the proposed amendments to the 2020 Highway and Transit Pioneer Valley Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) were out for the required 21-day public review period during which no comments were received. The Transit TIP amendment added \$333,000 in 5307 funding for the BeHealthy Partnership Rideshare pilot; and the highway component of the TIP increased the Year 1 funding for the *Northampton Bridge Reconstruction I-91 over Route 5, BMRR, and Hockanum Road (606552)* Project incurred an increase from \$4,671,793 to \$8,803,322 in Year 1 with a total cost increase for the five-year project from \$56,891,767 to \$60,423,296.

Mr. Mohler asked if there were any questions for Mr. Roscoe and there being none, he called for a motion to endorse the proposed amendments to the 2020 Pioneer Valley Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

MOVED BY WALTER GUNN, CHAIRMAN OF THE PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION (PVPC), SECONDED BY DAVID NARKEWICZ, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NORTHAMPTON, TO ENDORSE THE PROPOSED SERIES OF AMENDMENTS TO THE PIONEER VALLEY REGION'S CURRENT, FFY2020 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AS PRESENTED BY 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.

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

4. Review, Discussion and MPO Endorsement of Proposed Amendments to the FFY 2021-2025 draft Pioneer Valley Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Required 21-day public review

Mr. Mohler called on PVPC Principal Planner Dana Roscoe to discuss the FFY 2021-2025 draft Pioneer Valley Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Mr. Roscoe reported that the TIP projects for 2021 are as follows: the *Hadley Reconstruction on Route 9* (605032) Project, the *Westfield Improvements and Related Work on Route 20, Court Street and Western Avenue* (607773) Project, the *Amherst Improvements and Related Work on Routes 9 and 116* (608084) Project, the *Springfield Intersection Improvements on Industry, Robbins and Cottage Street* (608782) Project and the replacement of two Route I-91 bridges in Northampton (606552).

Mr. Roscoe reported the FFY 2022 TIP projects consist of the *Hadley Reconstruction on Route 9* (605032) Project, the *Holyoke Traffic Signal Upgrades at 15 Intersections along High and Maple Streets* (606450) Project, Year 1 of the *West Springfield Reconstruction of Memorial Avenue* (608374) Project, and the *Easthampton Improvements and Related Work on Union Street* (608577) Project. Mr. Roscoe indicated that statewide for FFY 2022, there are the *Granby Resurfacing and Related Work on Route 202* (606895) Project, the *Westfield Resurfacing and Related Work on Routes 10 and 202* (608487) Project, the *Northampton Bridge Reconstruction of Route 91 over Route 5, the BMRR and Hockanum Road* (606552) Project and the *South Hadley Resurfacing and Related Work on Route 116* (608473) Project, the *Northampton Bridge Street Elementary School Improvements* (609515) Project, the *Agawam Robinson Park Elementary School Improvements (SRTS)* (610652) Project, the *Springfield McKnight Community Trail Construction* (608157) Project, and the *Amherst-Belchertown Norwottuck Rail Trail Resurfacing* (608719) Project.

Mr. Roscoe reported three highway TIP projects for FFY 2023: the *Granby Improvements at Two Locations on Route 202* (606895) Project, the *Wales Reconstruction and Improvements on Monson Road* (608163) Project and the second year of the *West Springfield Reconstruction of Memorial Avenue* (608374) Project. Statewide FFY 2023 TIP projects are the *Springfield Intersection of St. James Avenue and Carew Street* (608565) Project, the *Wilbraham Resurfacing and Related Work on Route 20* (608489) Project, the *Northampton Bridge Replacement* (606552) Project, the *Wales Bridge Replacement* (608847) Project, the *Ludlow Bridge Replacement* (609120) Project, the *Springfield Bridge Replacement* (609409) Project, the *Longmeadow Blueberry Hill Elementary School Improvements (SRTS)* (609517) Project and the *Springfield Improvements on St. James Avenue* (608560) Project.

The FFY 2024 TIP projects as delineated by Mr. Roscoe are Year 3 of the *West Springfield Reconstruction of Memorial Avenue* (608374) Project, the *Springfield Reconstruction of Sumner Avenue at Dickinson Street and Belmont Avenue (the "X")* (608717) Project, and Phase II of the *Worthington Reconstruction and Related Work on Route 143* (609287) Project. FFY 2024 statewide projects are as follows: the *Hadley Bridge Replacement, Bay Road* (608460) Project, the *Hampden Rockadundee Bridge* (S10757) Project, the *Northampton Rocky Hill*

Greenway Multi-use Trail (608413) Project and the final year for the Northampton Bridge Replacement (606552) Project and the Monson Bridge Replacement (608846) Project.

Mr. Roscoe then reviewed the FFY 2025 TIP projects: the *Longmeadow-Springfield Resurfacing and Intersection Improvements (608881) Project and the Northampton Complete Streets Corridor and Intersection Improvements on Main Street (609286) Project* along with the following statewide projects: the *Westhampton Perry Hill Road Bridge (S10760) Project, the Northampton Bridge Replacement (608869) Project, the Monson-Palmer Bridge Replacement (604136) Project and the Easthampton-Northampton Shared-Use Path Along Mount Tom Road (610657) Project.*

Mr. Roscoe reported that during the 21-day public review period for the series of proposed amendments to the FFY 2021-2025 draft TIP, 20 comments were received from MassDOT and 19 of them have been addressed and the 20th comment involves mapping which will be completed soon. Mr. Roscoe concluded his presentation by reviewing the projects in the Transit TIP for FFY 2021-2025 and he noted that the 20 comments mentioned earlier included comments on both the highway and the transit TIP.

Mr. Mohler then called for a motion for an endorsement of the FFY 2021-2025 Pioneer Valley Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

MOVED BY DAVID NARKEWICZ, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NORTHAMPTON, SECONDED BY NICOLE LACHAPPELLE, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF EASTHAMPTON, TO ENDORSE THE PIONEER VALLEY REGION'S FFY2021 - 2025 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 requested a roll call and each of the MPO members in attendance responded affirmatively.

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

5. Review and MPO Endorsement of the FFY 2021 Pioneer Valley Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

PVPC Principal Planner Gary Roux stated that comments were received during the UPWP's 21-day public review and PVPC staff has accomplished the work required to satisfy all the comments. Mr. Roux explained that the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is a required program that summarizes the planning tasks to be undertaken beginning October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021. Mr. Roux asked if there were any questions and there being none, he requested that the MPO members endorse the FFY 2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Mr. Mohler then called for a motion.

MOVED BY WALTER GUNN, CHAIRMAN OF THE PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION (PVPC), SECONDED BY WILLIAM REICHEL, MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF WEST SPRINGFIELD, TO ENDORSE THE FFY 2021 PIONEER VALLEY UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) 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 requested a roll call and each of the MPO members in attendance responded affirmatively.

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

6. Springfield UZA Memorandum of Understanding

PVPC Principal Planner Gary Roux explained that UZA stands for Springfield's Urbanized Area as a result of the 2010 census. Mr. Roux stated that the Pioneer Valley MPO is required by this memorandum to identify the role of all agencies involved in the planning process. He stated that the Springfield UZA Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is modeled on the Boston UZA MOU. Because the Springfield Urbanized Area extends into the state of Connecticut, the MPO has consulted with the appropriate Connecticut transportation authorities under the guidance of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. Mr. Roux noted that the Memorandum's language now includes all of the Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs) in addressing the requirements under the FAST Act to include them as part of Pioneer Valley MPO's regional planning process. Mr. Roux indicated that the MPO members are being asked to authorize the MassDOT Secretary of Transportation to sign this memorandum on behalf of the Pioneer Valley MPO

Mr. Mohler called for a motion to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to execute this Memorandum on behalf of the MPO.

MOVED BY WALTER GUNN, CHAIRMAN OF THE PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION (PVPC), SECONDED BY RICHARD MASSE, REPRESENTING THE MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION HIGHWAY DIVISION, MASSDOT DISTRICT TWO, TO AUTHORIZE STEPHANIE POLLACK, MASSACHUSETTS SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION, TO SIGN THE SPRINGFIELD UZA MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON BEHALF OF THE PIONEER VALLEY MPO

7. Other Business

- 3C Self Certification
- Greenhouse Gas Certification

Mr. Roscoe explained that under the Continuing, Comprehensive, and Cooperative Planning Process and 3C self-certification contract, the MPO is required to commit to federal requirements and certifications on an annual basis. Mr. Roscoe underscored that the 3C Certification and the Greenhouse Gas Certification both apply to FFY 2021-2025. Mr. Mohler indicated that because MPO members cannot sign the certificates due to MPO meetings being virtual online meetings, he would sign for the MPO members and he asked if a vote authorizing him to sign should be taken.

MOVED BY DAVID NARKEWICZ, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NORTHAMPTON, SECONDED BY WALTER GUNN, CHAIRMAN OF THE PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION (PVPC), TO AUTHORIZE DAVID MOHLER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING, MASSDOT, TO EXECUTE THE 3C AND THE GREENHOUSE GAS CERTIFICATIONS ON BEHALF OF THE PIONEER VALLEY MPO.

Mr. Mohler asked the date of the next MPO meeting. Mr. Roscoe replied that unless an action requires MPO involvement, the tentative date for the next MPO meeting will be the last Tuesday in August.

8. Adjourn

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

MOVED BY WALTER GUNN, CHAIRMAN OF THE PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION (PVPC), SECONDED BY DAVID NARKEWICZ, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NORTHAMPTON, TO ADJOURN THIS MAY 26, 2020 MEETING OF THE PIONEER VALLEY REGION'S MPO. THERE BEING NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, THIS MAY 26th MPO MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 10:40 A.M. WITHOUT OBJECTION.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly H. Robinson, Executive Director
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission