

Minutes of the Tuesday, April 28, 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)
Richard Masse	MassDOT District One 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

\*denotes non-voting member

**Guests and PVPC Staff Present:**

Mike Bolduc	MassDOT District 2 Office (Northampton)
Elizabeth Botelho	DPW Superintendent, City of Chicopee
Paul Burns	Director of Transit Operations, Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA)
Andrew McCaul	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Jeff McCollough	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
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

**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 April 28, 2020 meeting of the Pioneer Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to order at 10:10 a.m. Mr. Mohler then asked for a roll call from the MPO members present as follows: Richard Masse, MassDOT District One, Representing Massachusetts Department of Transportation Highway Division Administrator Jonathan Gulliver; David Narkewicz, Mayor of Northampton; Roger Fuller, Chesterfield Selectboard; Walter Gunn, Chairman, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission; William Reichelt, Mayor of West Springfield; and Rick Sullivan, President and CEO, Economic Development Council of Western Massachusetts. 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 March 24, 2020.

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

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

MOVED BY DAVID NARKEWICZ, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NORTHAMPTON, SECONDED BY ROGER FULLER, SELECTBOARD MEMBER, TOWN OF CHESTERFIELD, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 24, 2020 PIONEER VALLEY MPO MEETING AS PRESENTED.

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

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

3. Review, Discussion and MPO 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 noted every project on the FFY 2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), as discussed at the March 24th MPO meeting, has increased in cost. However, Mr. Roscoe underscored that MassDOT made additional funds available above and beyond Pioneer Valley MPO's target funding specifically Highway Infrastructure Program (HIP) funds and as a result, there were no projects removed from the projected FFY 2020 TIP list even though every project had increased in cost.

Mr. Roscoe announced that during the 21-day required public review period, a few comments were received. He noted that the total project cost of the Chicopee Fuller Road Project (604434) has increased due to some utility work. Mr. Roscoe indicated that the City of Chicopee is working with MassDOT District 2 to resolve these cost increases by considering possible cost reductions in order to remain within the project's existing budget. He added that the City of Chicopee has committed in writing to MassDOT District 2 to move forward at the \$9.7 million project figure that was agreed upon.

Mr. Roscoe noted a comment from MassDOT reporting that there has been a cost increase for the Westhampton Bridge Replacement Project (608631) from \$1.9 to \$2.7 million. Mr. Roscoe stated that MassDOT commented that the funding for the Northampton Damon Road Project (608236) and the Springfield Intersections Project (608718) needed to be updated. He added that a comment received from the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA) will be addressed within the Other Business Agenda Item.

Mr. Mohler asked for a motion to approve these amendments to the current TIP but Rich Masse interjected that MassDOT District Two does not yet have a cost estimate from the City of Chicopee for the Chicopee Fuller Road Project's utility estimate that agrees with the programmed TIP project's cost. Mr. Roscoe responded that he has email correspondence from the City of Chicopee stating that the project's cost will be kept within the targeted amount and that Chicopee's DPW Superintendent, Elizabeth Botelho is on the phone. Ms. Botelho explained that after speaking with Chicopee Electric regarding their cost increase, she has collaborated with the City's consultant on formulating options to reduce the cost so that the project's cost remains as programmed. Ms. Botelho stated that it appears that the City will

participate with some funding thereby reaching the programmed amount. Ms. Botelho added that she hopes that the MPO members will vote to move forward with the Chicopee Fuller Road Project.

Mr. Mohler stated that the Chicopee project is over budget and it's scheduled to be advertised on May 30th. Mr. Mohler remarked that if the programmed cost isn't met by June, the TIP will have to be amended and the \$9.7 million used to fund another TIP project. Mike Bolduc clarified that the current TIP has the Chicopee project scheduled to be advertised in late July. Mr. Mohler replied that the Chicopee project still needs to meet its programmed cost by June. Mr. Mohler then called for a motion to endorse the series of proposed amendments to the FFY 2020 TIP.

MOVED BY DAVID NARKEWICZ, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NORTHAMPTON, SECONDED BY WALTER GUNN, CHAIRMAN OF THE PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION (PVPC), TO ENDORSE THE PROPOSED SERIES OF AMENDMENTS TO THE PIONEER VALLEY REGION'S CURRENT, 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 Approval to Release 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 since the last MPO meeting on March 24th, there has been a JTC meeting on April 9th and a MassDOT Project Review Committee meeting on April 16th. He stated that today a MPO motion is needed to release the FFY 2021-2025 draft Pioneer Valley Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for a required 21-day public review.

Mr. Roscoe explained that after much discussion at the March 24th MPO meeting, there was a commitment to a list of FFY 2021- 2025 TIP projects. Mr. Roscoe remarked that there was a great deal of discussion of TIP projects listed in FFY 2024 and FFY 2025. He reminded members that on March 24th, there was not enough funding to support the Worthington project (609287) in FFY 2024 so it was moved into FFY 2025.

Mr. Roscoe then reviewed the FFY 2021, FFY 2022, and FFY 2023 Lists of TIP projects as presented in March.

TIP Year	Project ID	Municipality	Project
FFY 2021	607773	Westfield	Improvements & Related Work on Route 20, Court Street & Western Avenue, Lloyds Hill Road to High Street/Mill Street Intersection (Phase II)
FFY 2021	608782	Springfield	Intersection Improvements at Cottage Street, Industry Avenue and Robbins Road
FFY 2021	608084	Amherst	Improvements/Related Work on Routes 9 and 116
FFY 2021	605032	Hadley	Reconstruction on Route 9

TIP Year	Project ID	Municipality	Project
FFY 2022	608374	West Springfield	Reconstruction of Memorial Avenue
FFY 2022	608577	Easthampton	Improvements/Related Work on Union Street from Payson Avenue to High Street

FFY 2022	605032	Hadley	Reconstruction on Routes 9 (Phase II)
FFY 2022	606450	Holyoke	Traffic Signal Upgrades at 15 Intersections

TIP Year	Project ID	Municipality	Project
FFY 2023	608374	West Springfield	Reconstruction of Memorial Avenue
FFY 2023	606895	Granby	Improvements at 2 Locations on Route 202: School Street and Five Corners
FFY 2023	608163	Wales	Reconstruction & Improvements on Monson Road

Mr. Roscoe stated at the March 24th MPO meeting that there was a commitment in FFY 2024 to TIP projects in Springfield, West Springfield, Longmeadow and Easthampton then FFY 2025 was populated with TIP projects in Holyoke, South Hadley and Worthington as shown below.

TIP Year	Project ID	Municipality	Project
FFY 2024	608717	Springfield	Reconstruction of Sumner Avenue at Dickinson Street and Belmont Avenue (The "X")
FFY 2024	608374	West Springfield	Reconstruction of Memorial Avenue
FFY 2024	608881	Longmeadow	Resurfacing/Intersection Improvements on Longmeadow Street and Converse Street
FFY 2024	608423	Easthampton	Improvements/Related Work on Route 10 in Easthampton and Southampton

TIP Year	Project ID	Municipality	Project
FFY 2025	609065	Holyoke	Resurfacing & Related Work on Cabot and Race Streets (Center City Connector)
FFY 2025	608785	South Hadley	Main Street Road Improvement
FFY 2025	609287	Worthington	Reconstruction & Related Work on Route 143 (Phase II)

Mr. Roscoe reported that between the MPO March 24th meeting and the JTC meeting on April 9th, TIP project funding changes allowed the Worthington project to be reconsidered for FFY 2024. In addition, the Northampton Complete Street project with a TEC score of 80 out of 100 points (the highest scoring TIP project on the list) should be considered for the FFY 2025 TIP. Mr. Roscoe explained that at the April 9th JTC meeting after much discussion and many votes taken regarding the Worthington project and the Longmeadow Resurfacing project, the recommendation was that the Worthington project would return to FFY 2024 and the Northampton Complete Street project and the Longmeadow Resurfacing/Intersection Improvements on Longmeadow Street and Converse Street Project would be programmed in FFY 2025 as shown below.

TIP Year	Project ID	Municipality	Project
FFY 2024	608717	Springfield	Reconstruction of Sumner Avenue at Dickinson Street and Belmont Avenue (The "X")
FFY 2024	608374	West Springfield	Reconstruction of Memorial Avenue (Year 3)
FFY 2024	609287	Worthington	Reconstruction & Related Work on Route 143 (Phase II)

TIP Year	Project ID	Municipality	Project
FFY 2025	609286	Northampton	Downtown Complete Streets Corridor and Intersection Improvements on Main Street (Route 9)
FFY 2025	608881	Longmeadow	Resurfacing/Intersection Improvements on Longmeadow Street and Converse Street

Mr. Mohler then asked Jim Czach to discuss the recommendation for FFY 2024 and FFY 2025. Mr. Czach reported that after a lengthy discussion, the JTC members voted to bring the Worthington project into FFY 2024 because it is Phase II of the project and as time passes, the project cost will increase. Mr. Czach stated that all the projects discussed are excellent projects. He stated that the Northampton project was placed in FFY 2025 because it is the highest ranking project. Mr. Czach underscored that the goal is for the draft FFY 2021-2025 TIP to be fiscally constrained.

After a brief summary of the FFY 2021 – 2025 TIP projects given by Mr. Roscoe, Mr. Mohler asked for a motion to release the proposed FFY 2021 – 2025 for a required 21-day public review period.

MOVED BY DAVID NARKEWICZ, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NORTHAMPTON, SECONDED BY RICK SULLIVAN, PRESIDENT AND CEO, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS, TO APPROVE THE RELEASE OF THE PROPOSED SERIES OF AMENDMENTS TO THE PIONEER VALLEY REGION'S FFY2021 - 2025 DRAFT TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) FOR THE REQUIRED 21-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW 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.

Mr. Roscoe stated that five years of transit funding is included in the FFY 2021 – 2025 TIP and the JTC members also have recommended that the proposed transit amendments for those five years be released for the required 21-day public review period. Mr. Mohler then called for a motion to approve the release of the proposed Transit Component FFY 2021 – 2025 DRAFT TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) amendments for a required 21-day public review period.

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 ONE, TO APPROVE THE RELEASE OF THE PROPOSED SERIES OF TRANSIT COMPONENT AMENDMENTS TO THE PIONEER VALLEY REGION'S FFY2021 - 2025 DRAFT TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) FOR THE REQUIRED 21-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW 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, Discussion and MPO Approval to Release the FFY 2021 Pioneer Valley Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for the Required 21 day public review

PVPC Principal Planner Gary Roux stated that the MPO members are being asked today to approve the release of the draft FFY 2021 Pioneer Valley Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for the Required 21 day public review. Mr. Roux explained that the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) summarizes the planning tasks to be undertaken beginning October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021. Mr. Roux stated that the UPWP is a required program which is based on guidance received from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT). He noted that some of the highlights of the FFY 2021 UPWP are user surveys centering on the Westfield Columbia River Greenway Trail and the Southwick Rail Trail which is often frequented by Connecticut residents; a user survey of the northern tier PVTA routes which will be delayed until students are back at UMass Amherst; a study of the traffic flow on Park Street in the center of the Town of Belchertown; and recommendations

resulting from a road safety audit completed on the Route 20 corridor in Westfield and West Springfield to implement and improve design.

Mr. Mohler then called for a motion to approve the release of the proposed the FFY 2021 Pioneer Valley Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for a required 21 day public review.

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 THE FFY 2021 PIONEER VALLEY UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) FOR THE REQUIRED 21-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW 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. Update on the Status of the PVTA Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP)

Paul Burns reported that under the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan's final rule, any agency that receives FTA funds is required to develop a safety plan which would include a process and procedures to implement a safety management system. Mr. Burns explained that as part of that process, the PVTA Advisory Board approved the PTASP and seeks the input and active participation from community stakeholders including the Pioneer Valley MPO. He added that the PVTA is required to develop a hazard risk assessment and the results will be used to form the PVTA's decision making process moving forward. Mr. Burns stated that the PVTA has until December to establish targets.

7. Other Business

Sandra Sheehan, Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA) Administrator, requested an amendment to the FFY 2021-2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) transit component for the inclusion of the PVTA project entitled Right Care Pioneer Valley that will be awarded through the Healthcare Access Mobility Design Challenge Grant. Ms. Sheehan explained that the objective is to improve transportation access to health care in the region. She further explained that the PVTA is partnering with the PVPC, Baystate Health, the Caring Health Center, Way Finders, the Sparrow Center, Greater Springfield Senior Services and others to implement this program. Ms. Sheehan reported that the PVTA is in the process of submitting the grant application through the FTA Transit System which requires this proposed project to be included in the FFY 2021-2025 TIP under Section 5310 of the Federal Transit Administration.

Mr. Mohler asked for a motion to include the PVTA's Right Care Pioneer Valley Project in the proposed series of transit component amendments to the Pioneer Valley region's FFY 2021 - 2025 draft Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

MOVED BY DAVID NARKEWICZ, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NORTHAMPTON, SECONDED BY RICK SULLIVAN, PRESIDENT AND CEO, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS, TO APPROVE THE INCLUSION OF THE PROPOSED PVTA'S RIGHT CARE PIONEER VALLEY PROJECT IN THE RELEASE OF THE TRANSIT COMPONENT

AMENDMENTS TO THE PIONEER VALLEY REGION'S FFY2021 - 2025 DRAFT TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) FOR THE REQUIRED 21-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW

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.

PVPC Principal Planner Gary Roux announced that the PVPC is requesting MPO members to respond to a 13-question survey being emailed this week. Mr. Roux explained that purpose of the survey is to obtain opinions on how the PVPC can improve and enhance virtual meetings and events.

Mr. Mohler announced that the next MPO is scheduled for May 26th and he asked if there was any other business. There being none, he then called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

MOVED BY RICK SULLIVAN , PRESIDENT AND CEO, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS, SECONDED BY WALTER GUNN, CHAIRMAN OF THE PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION (PVPC), TO ADJOURN THE APRIL 28, 2020 MEETING OF THE PIONEER VALLEY REGION'S MPO. THERE BEING NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, THIS APRIL 28TH MPO MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 10:50A.M. WITHOUT OBJECTION

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly H. Robinson, Executive Director  
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission