

Minutes of the Tuesday, August 28, 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:

Steve Woelfel	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
Walter Gunn	Chairman, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC)
Charles Kaniecki	Chairman, Southampton Board of Selectmen
Richard Masse	MassDOT District Two Office (Northampton) Representing Jonathan Gulliver, MassDOT Highway Administrator for the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT)
Ken Miller*	Assistant Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
William Reichelt	Mayor, Town of West Springfield
Sandra Sheehan	Administrator, Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA)
Doug Slaughter	Town of Amherst Selectboard
Rick Sullivan	President and CEO, Economic Development Council of Western Massachusetts

(* denotes non-voting member)

Guests and PVPC Staff Present:

Mike Bolduc	MassDOT District Two Office (Northampton)
Daniel Call	City of Westfield
Julia Carey-Ruiz	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Christine Champeau	Senior Engineer, Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc., (VHB)
Matt Chase	Senior Project Manager, Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc., (VHB)
Michelle Chase	Town Engineer, Town of Agawam
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)
Randall Kemp	Highway Superintendent, Town of Southampton
Nicholas Lapointe	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)
Robert Peirent	City Engineer, City of Holyoke
Daniel Robelo	Senior Project Manager, BETA Group
Dana Roscoe	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Gary Roux	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Jason Scott	Town of Longmeadow Department of Public Works
Gabe Sherman	Project Manager, MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning (OTP)
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

Stephen 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, Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT), called the August 28, 2018 meeting of the Pioneer Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to order at 10:09 a.m. Mr. Woelfel then welcomed and thanked all those in attendance and called for introductions from the MPO members.

Following introductions, Mr. Woelfel moved to take up the minutes of the previous MPO meeting held on July 24, 2018.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting of the Pioneer Valley MPO Held on July 24, 2018

Mr. Woelfel called for a motion to approve the minutes of the previous Pioneer Valley MPO meeting which was held on July 24, 2018.

MOVED BY RICHARD SULLIVAN, PRESIDENT AND CEO, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS, SECONDED BY WALTER GUNN, CHAIRMAN, PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION (PVPC), TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 24, 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. Woelfel then moved to address the next agenda item

3. Review, Discussion and MPO Endorsement of Proposed Amendments to the Pioneer Valley Long Range Regional Transportation Plan currently advertised for the Required 21-day Public Review

Mr. Woelfel called on PVPC Principal Planner Gary Roux to review a series of proposed amendments to the Pioneer Valley region's Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). Mr. Roux reported that at the last MPO meeting on July 24th, the MPO members released the 2018 *Air Quality Conformity Determination* document for a 21-day public review and comment period. Mr. Roux explained that the reason for the document's release is based on a recent court action involving the air quality conformity determination process. Mr. Roux underscored that the Pioneer Valley MPO is well below the established emissions budget for this region. Mr. Roux stated that no comments were received during the 21-day public review and comment period for the 2018 *Air Quality Conformity Determination* document, and he asked that a motion be made to endorse the document as an amendment to the Pioneer Valley Long Range Regional Transportation Plan.

Mr. Woelfel called for a motion to endorse the 2018 *Air Quality Conformity Determination* document as an amendment to the Pioneer Valley Long Range Regional Transportation Plan.

MOVED BY CHARLES KANIECKI, CHAIRMAN, SOUTHAMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN, SECONDED BY WALTER GUNN, CHAIRMAN, PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION (PVPC), TO ENDORSE the 2018 *AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY DETERMINATION* DOCUMENT AS AN AMENDMENT TO THE PIONEER VALLEY LONG RANGE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN

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

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

4. Review, Discussion and MPO Endorsement of Proposed Amendments to the 2018 Pioneer Valley Transportation Improvement Program currently advertised for the Required 21-day Public Review Period

Mr. Woelfel called on PVPC Principal Planner Dana Roscoe to address the MPO endorsement of proposed amendments to the 2018 Pioneer Valley Transportation Improvement Program. Mr. Roscoe reported that because there was an increase in the cost of the *Bridge Replacement - Lyman Street over First Level Canal* Project (600936) in Holyoke from

\$8,019,013 to \$8,977,713, the proposed amended project was released at the last MPO meeting for a 21-day public review. Mr. Roscoe further reported that no comments were received and he asked for a motion from the MPO members to endorse the recommended amendment to the current FFY 2018 Pioneer Valley Transportation Improvement Program.

Mr. Woelfel then called for a motion to endorse the recommended amendment to the Pioneer Valley region's current, FFY 2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

MOVED BY RICHARD SULLIVAN, PRESIDENT AND CEO, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS, SECONDED BY CHARLES KANIECKI, CHAIRMAN, SOUTHAMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN, FOR THE MPO TO ENDORSE THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE PIONEER VALLEY REGION'S CURRENT, FFY 2018 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP), FOLLOWING THE CONCLUSION OF A REQUIRED 21-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD, AS OUTLINED BY PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION (PVPC) STAFF

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

Mr. Woelfel then moved to take up the next agenda item.

5. Update on the Status of the Outstanding Projects on the 2018 TIP Awaiting Advertisement

Mr. Woelfel called on PVPC Principal Planner Dana Roscoe to deliver an update on the status of the outstanding TIP projects on the list of the FFY 2018 TIP projects awaiting advertisement. Mr. Roscoe called the attention of the MPO members to the color-coded handout document in today's meeting packet entitled *2018 TIP Project Status*. Mr. Roscoe announced that the projects highlighted in green have been advertised and he indicated that the *Intersection Improvements at Route 187 and Route 57 Project (604203)* in Agawam should have also been highlighted in green as a project that has been advertised.

Mr. Roscoe reported that there are five TIP projects that have not yet been advertised. These projects are listed below:

- *The Improvements at Interchange 19 at Route 9 and Damon Road* in Northampton (Project #604597)
- *The Resurfacing on Heritage, Front and Dwight Street from Maple Street to the 1st Level Canal* in Holyoke (Project #607256)
- *The Amherst- Hadley- Northampton- Transit Signal Priority Upgrades at Various Locations* (Project 608786)
- *The Bridge Replacement — Lyman Street over the First Level Canal* in Holyoke (Project 600936)
- *The North End Pedestrian Path Construction Between Plainfield Street and Birnie Avenue* in Springfield (Project 607589)

Mr. Roscoe stated that these five projects listed above are expected to be advertised within the next three weeks.

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

6. Update of the Status of the Transportation Performance Measures Currently Underway in the Pioneer Valley Region

Mr. Woelfel called on PVPC Principal Planner Gary Roux to discuss the Transportation Performance Measures currently underway in the Pioneer Valley Region. Mr. Roux reported that at the January 23rd MPO meeting, the MPO members approved the adoption for our region of the statewide required *Massachusetts Safety Performance Measures and Targets* as set forth by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT). Mr. Roux explained that the current transportation bill establishes targets in set categories which require completion by certain dates. He stated that the safety targets identify improvements designed to reduce personal injuries and fatalities in motorized and non-motorized vehicles. Mr. Roux explained that the requirements for *Safety Performance Measures 1 and 2* include pavement and bridge conditions along with congestion reduction. There is also a

requirement for a transit management plan to be developed by the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA) which will then be presented to the Pioneer Valley MPO members for their approval. Mr. Roux underscored that because the PVTA Transit Management Plan has a deadline of October 1st, the Pioneer Valley Transit Management Plan will be brought before the MPO members for endorsement at their September MPO meeting. Mr. Roux added that because the performance measures for pavement, bridge and congestion have an adoption deadline of mid-November, the MPO members will review these performance measures for adoption and endorsement at their October MPO meeting. Mr. Roux reported that no recommendations to deviate from the requirements for the *Massachusetts Safety Performance Measures and Targets* have been received. Mr. Roux indicated that MassDOT will provide specific information for the Pioneer Valley region to use to compare how the Pioneer Valley's performance on meeting the required performance measures compares to the statewide performance statistics. He noted that the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) members will review how well the Pioneer Valley did in meeting its *Massachusetts Safety Performance Measures and Targets* and then the JTC members will present their recommendations to the MPO members.

Mr. Woelfel then moved to take up the next agenda item.

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 July 24, 2018

Mr. Woelfel called on PVPC Principal Planner Dana Roscoe in Jim Czach's absence to report on issues and projects discussed at the last meeting of the Pioneer Valley region's Joint Transportation Committee (JTC). Mr. Roscoe reported that there hasn't been a JTC meeting held since July 24th.

Mr. Woelfel 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. Woelfel 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 three District One TIP projects:

- *Resurfacing and Related Work on Route 9 over the Westfield River* in the Town of Cummington (Project #607939) was recently awarded its PS&E and was awarded its Notice to Proceed (NTP) on August 8th
- *Bridge Replacement Project on Chester Road over Smart Brook* in the Town of Middlefield (Project #608249) is at the 75% design phase (CLD Engineering) and is currently under review by MassDOT
- *Route 143 Reconstruction and Related Work – (Split Phase Project)* in the Town of Worthington, Project #606912 has a 100% design package anticipated next month in September for both phases.

Mr. Woelfel next 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 the following TIP Projects:

- The Intersection Improvements at Route 187 and 57 in the Town of Agawam (Project #604203) was advertised this past Saturday, August 25th, and has its bid opening scheduled for November 6th
- The Improvements at Interchange 19 at Route 9 and Damon Road in the City of Northampton (Project #604597) will be advertised on September 1st but in the meanwhile, there is still work needed on its right-of-way (ROW) and its PS&E
- The *Reconstruction of Western Avenue, Phase I*, in the City of Westfield (Project #603449) was advertised on August 11 and its bid opening will be on October 30th
- The *Reconstruction of Glendale Road, Phase 2* in the Town of Southampton (Project #604738) was advertised on July 14th and a bid opening is scheduled for September.
- The *Resurfacing on Heritage, Front and Dwight Street* in the City of Holyoke (Project #607256) will be advertised on September 15th.
- The *Amherst- Hadley- Northampton- Transit Signal Priority Upgrades at Various Locations Route 9* (Project 608786) has its PS&E currently under review and work is progressing

- The *Bridge Replacement over Lyman Street in Holyoke* (Project 600936) has just received its PS&E and is currently under review but will be advertised on September 15th
- The *Bridge Rehabilitation P-01-005, Main Street Over Quaboag River* in Palmer (Project #608870) was advertised on June 23rd and has its bid opening on August 14th
- The *Bridge Cleaning and Painting over Westfield Road in Holyoke* (Project #607959) was advertised on December 23, 2018 and the bid was awarded to Allied Painting. This project is waiting for its Notice to Proceed (NTP)
- The *North End Pedestrian Path Construction Between Plainfield Street and Birnie Avenue* in Springfield (Project #607589) has just received its PS&E and has been reviewed. Advertisement is scheduled for September 8th.

There being no further questions or comments from MPO members, Mr. Woelfel thanked Mr. Frieri and Mr. Bolduc 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. Woelfel called for a report and update from Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA) Administrator Sandra Sheehan. Ms. Sheehan announced that additional money has been allocated to the transit system. Ms. Sheehan reported that the PVTA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) for an additional \$1.6 million dollars resulting in a deficit of a little over \$750,000. Ms. Sheehan further reported that the PVTA will be making changes to its bus routes beginning on Sunday, August 26th and again on Tuesday, September 4th which will result in the elimination of \$778,000 worth of service in Wilbraham, Palmer, Ware and the Amherst-Northampton area as well as some changes in Holyoke, Chicopee and Springfield. Ms. Sheehan stated that the PVTA is developing its Transit Asset Management Plan which will be presented at the PVTA Advisory Board meeting in September to be followed by a presentation of the PVTA Transit Asset Management Plan to the MPO members at their September MPO meeting. Ms. Sheehan added that the PVTA officials are finalizing the PVTA's Title VI program which is due on October 1st and she will present an update on that program to the MPO members also at their September meeting.

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

10. Other Business

Mr. Woelfel asked if there was any other business to be discussed and Mr. Roscoe stated that the September MPO meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Tuesday, September 26th and the October MPO meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 23rd, also at 10 a.m. Mr. Woelfel asked if there was any other business to conduct and there being none, Mr. Woelfel called for a motion to adjourn the August 28, 2018 Pioneer Valley MPO meeting.

MOVED BY RICHARD SULLIVAN, PRESIDENT AND CEO, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS, SECONDED BY CHARLES KANIECKI, CHAIRMAN, SOUTHAMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN, TO ADJOURN THE AUGUST 28, 2018 MEETING OF THE PIONEER VALLEY REGION'S MPO. THERE BEING NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, THE AUGUST 28th MPO MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 10:25 A.M. WITHOUT OBJECTION

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy W. Brennan, Executive Director
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

List of Documents and Other Items Distributed at the August 28, 2018 MPO Meeting

1. *Pioneer Valley Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Meeting Notice and Agenda: August 28, 2018*
2. *Minutes of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Meeting: Wednesday, July 24, 2018*
3. *2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Bridge Section Summary of Proposed Changes July 24, 2018*
4. *2018 Pioneer Valley Region Transportation Improvement Program*
5. *Air Quality Conformity Determination*
6. *2018 TIP Project Status*