

Minutes of the Tuesday, May 22, 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:

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
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)
Charles Kaniecki	Chairman, Southampton Board of Selectmen
Richard Kos	Mayor, City of Chicopee
Richard Masse	MassDOT District Two Office (Northampton) Representing Jonathan Gulliver, MassDOT Highway Administrator for the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT)
Alex Morse	Mayor, City of Holyoke
David Narkewicz	Mayor, City of Northampton, Representing Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA)
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)
Elizabeth Botelho	City Engineer, City of Chicopee
Tim Brennan	Executive Director, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC)
Gary Brougham	Town Administrator, Town of Belchertown,
Daniel Call	City of Westfield
Michelle Chase	Town Engineer, Town of Agawam
Mark Cressotti	Vice-Chair of the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) and City Engineer, City of Westfield
Peter Frieri	MassDOT District One Office (Lenox)
Jeff Hoynoski	MassDOT District Two Office (Northampton)
Amir Kouzehkanani	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Andrew Krar	Town Engineer, Town of Longmeadow
James R. Labrie	Selectman, Southampton Board of Selectmen
Andrew McCaul	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Jeff McCollough	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Michael McManus	Superintendent, Holyoke Department of Public Works
Mark Moore	MassDOT District 1 (Lenox)
Margaret O'Neal	Town of Worthington
Claire O'Neill	MassDevelopment/Belchertown
Dan Robelo	Beta Group, Inc.
Dana Roscoe	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Gary Roux	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Gabe Sherman	Project Manager, MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning (OTP)
Matt Sokop	City Engineer, Springfield Department of Public Works
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, Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT), called the May 22, 2018 meeting of the Pioneer Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to order at 10:02 a.m. Mr. Mohler then welcomed and thanked all those in attendance and called for introductions from the MPO members.

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

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

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

MOVED BY RICHARD KOS, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CHICOPEE, SECONDED BY CHARLES KANIECKI, CHAIRMAN, SOUTHAMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 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. Mohler then moved to address the next agenda item

3. Review, Discussion and MPO Endorsement of the Proposed Amendments to the FFY 2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Currently Advertised for the Required 21-day Public Review

Mr. Mohler called on PVPC Principal Planner Dana Roscoe to review a series of proposed amendments to the Pioneer Valley region's current, FFY 2018 Pioneer Valley Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Mr. Roscoe stated that this FFY 2018 TIP is the current TIP which will be in effect for three more months. Mr. Roscoe called the MPO members' attention to the document in their meeting packet entitled *2018-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Bridge Section: Summary of Proposed Changes April 24, 2018*. Mr. Roscoe explained that this document delineates the proposed changes that were submitted for public review at the last MPO meeting held on April 24th. Mr. Roscoe indicated that there are five bridge projects including one project encompassing multiple bridges. He stated that no additional bridge projects have been added and none have been deleted since the proposed TIP amendments were sent out for public review. Mr. Roscoe indicated that in some cases, there have been changes in the way the projects are funded due to dollar amount changes and there have been some changes to the years in which the dollars are being programmed. Mr. Roscoe reported that no comments were received during the required 21-day public review and he requested that the MPO members endorse the recommended amendments to the FFY 2018 Pioneer Valley Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). At this point, Mr. Mohler called for a motion to endorse the proposed amendments to the FFY 2018 Pioneer Valley Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

MOVED BY RICHARD MASSE, MASSDOT DISTRICT TWO OFFICE (NORTHAMPTON), SECONDED BY RICHARD SULLIVAN, PRESIDENT AND CEO, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS, TO ENDORSE THE PROPOSED SERIES OF AMENDMENTS TO THE PIONEER VALLEY REGION'S CURRENT, FFY2018 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) FOLLOWING THE CONCLUSION OF A REQUIRED 21-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD.

Mr. Mohler asked if there were any questions or further discussion on the subject motion.

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

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

4. Review, Discussion and MPO Endorsement of the Draft FFY 2019 – 2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) currently advertised for the Required 21-day Public Review

Mr. Mohler again called on PVPC Principal Planner Dana Roscoe to address the draft version of the Pioneer Valley region's proposed FFY 2019 - 2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Mr. Roscoe first asked the MPO members to refer to the applicable handout document entitled *2019 Pioneer Valley Region Transportation Improvement Program*. Mr. Roscoe then explained that the TIP consists of a highway component and a transit component. Mr. Roscoe stated that the comments which were received during the required 21-day public review of the Draft FFY 2019 – 2023 TIP are delineated in the document included in today's meeting packet entitled *2019-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) — Comments Received During Public Review – May 2018*. Mr. Roscoe reported that approximately 25 comments have been received including one in support of the reconstruction of Sumner Avenue at Dickinson Street and Belmont Street (the "X") in Springfield; one comment from the Town of West Springfield in support of the reconstruction of Memorial Avenue from Colony Road to the Memorial Avenue Rotary in West Springfield; one comment requesting the MPO clarify a TIP description reflecting that East Longmeadow is now governed by a Town Council; 19 comments in support of the improvements and related work on Route 202 and Route 21 in Belchertown; and several project updates from MassDOT officials along with their comments. Mr. Roscoe underscored that no highway component TIP projects have been added or removed from the draft FFY 2019 – 2023 TIP and, therefore, it is virtually identical to the TIP which the MPO released for a 21-day required public review period at the April 24th MPO meeting.

Mr. Roscoe announced that there are several changes in the transit component of the draft FFY 2019 – 2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and he called the MPO members' attention to the single-page email document included in the meeting packet which was received earlier today from Gabe Sherman of the MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning, delineating these transit TIP changes. Mr. Roscoe explained that there is a line item for bus shelters and benches that has been reduced from \$100,000 to \$80,000. Mr. Roscoe underscored, however, that the significant change is in the purchase of buses category noting that at the previous MPO meeting, there was a discussion about the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA) purchasing four 40-foot and four 35-foot standard transit buses for a total of eight vehicles in FFY 2019. Mr. Roscoe emphasized that the PVTA will still purchase those 8 vehicles in FFY 2019 but all 8 vehicles to be purchased are now going to be electric buses. There will be no buses purchased that are powered by diesel engines. Given this, Mr. Roscoe reported that the line item for the four 40-foot buses will increase from \$2.26 million to \$2.836 million; the line item for the four 35-foot buses will increase from \$2.2 million to \$2.956 million; and an additional line item of \$1.247 million will be added for electric amenities including charging stations. Mr. Roscoe further emphasized that the funding source for these eight buses along with the charging stations will be 100% funded by using of VW Settlement funds. He explained that the United States government is using the Volkswagen Settlement funds to address the air quality issues that resulted when Volkswagen evaded the emissions process and was severely fined by our federal government.

Mr. Mohler asked if the MPO members had any questions for Mr. Roscoe. There being none, Mr. Mohler called for a motion to endorse the draft Pioneer Valley FFY 2019 – 2023 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, TO ENDORSE THE AMENDED VERSION OF THE PIONEER VALLEY REGION'S PROPOSED FFY 2019 – 2023 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) REFLECTING THE INCREASE IN COST OF TWO PIONEER VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY (PVTA) BUS PURCHASE LINE ITEMS AND THE ADDITION OF A THIRD LINE ITEM FOR ELECTRIC AMENITIES.

Mr. Mohler asked if there were any questions or further discussion on the subject motion.

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

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

5. Review, Discussion and MPO Endorsement of the Draft FFY 2019 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) currently Advertised for the Required 21-day Public Review

Mr. Mohler called on PVPC Principal Planner Gary Roux to discuss the draft version of the region's FFY 2019 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Mr. Roux indicated that the Draft 2019 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) was released for the required 21-day public review period at the April 24th MPO meeting with the majority of review comments generated coming from the MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning. Mr. Roux stated that a summary sheet, entitled *Summary of Comments on the DRAFT UPWP*, is included in today's MPO meeting packet. Mr. Roux reported that all changes to the draft UPWP that were requested by MassDOT have been addressed. Given this, Mr. Roux requested that the MPO members vote to endorse the revised final draft version of the Pioneer Valley's proposed FFY 2019 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Mr. Mohler then called for a motion to address this issue.

MOVED BY ALEX MORSE, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF HOLYOKE, SECONDED BY RICHARD SULLIVAN, PRESIDENT AND CEO, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS, TO ENDORSE THE AMENDED VERSION OF THE PIONEER VALLEY REGION'S PROPOSED FFY 2019 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) AS RECOMMENDED BY THE PVPC STAFF.

Mr. Mohler asked if there were any questions or further discussion on the subject motion.

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 then moved to take up the next agenda item.

6. 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 27, 2018

Mr. Mohler 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 at the last JTC meeting, which was held on May 9th, the JTC members discussed the draft TIP and UPWP documents that have been endorsed at today's MPO meeting.

Mr. Mohler thanked Mr. Czach for his report and he then moved to take up 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 Peter Frieri of the MassDOT District One office in Lenox to present District One's updates on relevant transportation issues and projects. Mr. Frieri stated that there were no major updates since the previous MPO meeting and he then reported on the following two District One TIP projects:

- *Bridge Replacement Project on Chester Road over Smart Brook* in the Town of Middlefield (Project #608249) is currently working toward achieving 75% design status
- *Route 143 Reconstruction and Related Work – (Phase I)* in the Town of Worthington, Project #606912 anticipates achieving 100% design status this summer

Mr. Mohler 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 the following:

- The *Intersection Improvements at Route 187 and 57* in the Town of Agawam (Project #604203) is at the 100% design stage and will be advertised by the end of the summer
- The *Improvements at Interchange 19 at Route 9 and Damon Road* in the City of Northampton (Project #604597) is at the 100% design stage and work is being done on the PS&E which is due by the end of the summer
- The *Reconstruction of Western Avenue, Phase I*, in the City of Westfield (Project #603449) is at the 100% design stage and working on the PS&E. A new preliminary cost estimate has been received and the cost is awaiting the submission of the PS&E

- The *Reconstruction of Glendale Road, Phase 2* in the Town of Southampton (Project #604738) has received its PS&E. Work is being done on the ROW and advertisement is anticipated in June
- The *Resurfacing on Heritage, Front and Dwight Street* in the City of Holyoke (Project #607256) has its 100% design stage currently under review. This project's cost has increased by \$400,000 and work is currently underway in order to have the project's cost reduced
- The *Amherst- Hadley- Northampton- Transit Signal Priority Upgrades at Various Locations Route 9* (Project 608786) has a priority upgrade and is at the 75% design stage
- The *Bridge Rehabilitation P-01-005, Main Street Over Quaboag River* in Palmer (Project #608870) has completed PMT reviews
- The *North End Pedestrian Path Construction* in the City of Springfield (Project #607589) has completed PS&E; environmental assessment has been cleared; working on the ROW and this project is expected to be advertised in approximately two weeks

There being no further questions or comments from MPO members, Mr. Mohler 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.

8. 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. Mohler called for a report and update from Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA) Administrator Sandra Sheehan. Ms. Sheehan announced that a Pioneer Valley Transit Authority Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for tomorrow and the main item on the agenda will be the PVTA's FY 2019 budget. She reported that PVTA staff is still planning to implement a 20% fare increase effective July 1st and transit service reductions are targeted to begin in September. Ms. Sheehan also reported that the PVTA is working on its Transit Action Management Plan which she plans to present to the MPO members at their September meeting. She added that the PVTA is reviewing its implementation of Title VI in collaboration with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC).

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

9. Other Business

Mr. Mohler asked if there was any other business to be discussed and Mr. Roscoe requested an update on MassDOT's new Capital Investment Plan (CIP) encompassing FY 2019 – 2023 which is currently out for public review. Mr. Mohler stated that a public meeting on the CIP will be held tonight in Pittsfield at 6:00 p.m. He indicated that the CIP will be submitted for a 21-day public review; comments will be taken and addressed; and the updated MassDOT CIP will be finalized by July 1, 2018.

Mark Cressotti asked if the cost of a TIP project should be the same when it's listed in both the TIP and CIP documents. Mr. Mohler responded "yes" stating that the actual TIP project cost should always be the same both in MPO's TIP as well as the CIP document. He said if this is not the case, please notify MassDOT officials accordingly.

Mr. Roscoe announced that the next Pioneer Valley MPO meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, June 26th at 10 a.m.

Mr. Mohler asked if there was any other business to conduct and there being none, Mr. Mohler called for a motion to adjourn the May 22, 2018 Pioneer Valley MPO meeting.

MOVED BY DAVID NARKEWICZ, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NORTHAMPTON, SECONDED BY WALTER GUNN, CHAIRMAN, PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION (PVPC), TO ADJOURN THE MAY 22, 2018 MEETING OF THE PIONEER VALLEY REGION'S MPO. THERE BEING NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, THE MAY 22ND MPO MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 10:16 A.M. WITHOUT OBJECTION

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy W. Brennan, Executive Director
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

List of Documents and Other Items Distributed at the May 22, 2018 MPO Meeting

1. *Pioneer Valley Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Meeting Notice and Agenda: May 22, 2018*
2. *Minutes of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Meeting: Wednesday, April 24, 2018*
3. *2019 Pioneer Valley Region Transportation Improvement Program*
4. *TIP 2019 – 2023 (Transit)*
7. *2018-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Bridge Section Summary of Proposed Changes April 24, 2018*
8. *2019-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Comments Received During Public Review – May 2018*
9. *Summary of Comments on the Draft UPWP*
10. *Transit TIP Comments Received from Gabe Sherman (MassDOT)*