

Minutes of the Tuesday, May 23, 2017 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:

Stephen Woelfel	Deputy 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
Richard Cohen	Mayor, Town of Agawam
Jim Czach*	Chairman, Joint Transportation Committee & Town Engineer, Town of West Springfield
Walter Gunn	Chairman, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC)
Charles Kaniecki	Southampton Board of Selectmen
Richard Kos	Mayor, City of Chicopee
Alex Morse	Mayor, City of Holyoke
David Narkewicz	Mayor, City of Northampton, Representing Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA)
Patrick Paul	Highway Director, Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT), District Two Representing MassDOT Highway Administrator Thomas J. Tinlin
Doug Slaughter	Town of Amherst Selectboard
Rick Sullivan*	President and CEO, Economic Development Council of Western Massachusetts
Brandon Wilcox*	Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

(* denotes non-voting members)

Guests and PVPC Staff Present:

Rana Al-Jammal	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Mike Bolduc	MassDOT District Two Office (Northampton)
Tim Brennan	Executive Director, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC)
Daniel Call	City of Westfield
Matt Chase	Senior Project Manager, Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc., (VHB)
Michelle Chase	Town Engineer, Town of Agawam
Jeremy Cigal	Utility Engineer, City of Westfield
Stephen Crane	Town Administrator, Town of Longmeadow
Mark Cressotti	Vice-Chair of the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) and City Engineer, City of Westfield
Nicholas Dines	Professor, University of Massachusetts Amherst
David Elvin	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Peter Frieri	MassDOT District One Office (Lenox)
Carolyn Hart-Lucien	Chief Information Officer, Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA)
Jeff Hoynoski	MassDOT District Two Office (Northampton)
Randall Kemp	Superintendent, Southampton Department of Public Works
Richard Masse	MassDOT District Two Office (Northampton)
Andrew McCaul	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Jeff McCollough	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Mary MacInnes	Administrator, Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA)
Nicholas Lapointe	Senior Transportation Engineer, Fuss & O'Neill
Michael McManus	Superintendent, Department of Public Works, City of Holyoke
Mark Moore	MassDOT District 1 (Lenox)
Dan Murphy	City Engineer, City of Easthampton
Dawn Nims	Civil Engineer, Town of Agawam
Bryan Pounds	MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning (OTP), MassDOT (Boston)
Dana Roscoe	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Gary Roux	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Steve Savaric	Engineer, Fuss & O'Neill
Matthew Sokop	Springfield Department of Public Works
Louise Sullivan	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Support Staff
Marvin Ward	MassBike – Easthampton
Steve Williams	Director, Department of Public Works, Town of Belchertown

1. Chairman's Call to Order, Welcome and Opening Remarks

Steve Woelfel, Director of Strategic Planning at the Office of Transportation Planning, Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT), representing Stephanie Pollack, Massachusetts Secretary of Transportation and Chief Executive Officer, Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT), called the May 23, 2017 meeting of the Pioneer Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to order at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Woelfel then welcomed and thanked all those in attendance and called for introductions from meeting attendees. At this point, Tim Brennan, Executive Director of the Pioneer Planning Commission introduced and welcomed Charles Kaniecki from the Southampton Board of Selectman as a new Pioneer Valley MPO member representing several rural communities in the western tier of the Pioneer Valley region.

Following introductions, Mr. Woelfel moved to take up the minutes of the previous MPO meeting held on April 25, 2017.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting of the Pioneer Valley MPO Held on April 25, 2017

Mr. Woelfel called for a motion to approve the minutes of the previous Pioneer Valley MPO meeting which was held on April 25, 2017.

MOVED BY RICHARD COHEN, MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF AGAWAM, SECONDED BY DAVID NARKEWICZ, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NORTHAMPTON, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 25, 2017 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 Approval To Endorse the Proposed Amendments to the Current 2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Mr. Woelfel called on PVPC Principal Planner Dana Roscoe to review a series of proposed amendments to the Pioneer Valley region's current, FFY 2017 Pioneer Valley Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Mr. Roscoe stated that there are three proposed changes to the Pioneer Valley region's current, FFY 2017 Pioneer Valley Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Mr. Roscoe directed the MPO members attention to the relevant handout entitled *2017 Pioneer Valley Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Proposed Amendments – May 2017* and stated that the three proposed amendments to the current, FFY 2017 TIP can be summarized as follows:

(1) a cost increase to the *Congamond Road Reconstruction Project in Southwick (604033)* from \$7,172,979 to \$7,227,498; (2) a cost increase to the *Agawam – West Springfield Bridge Replacement Project* which encompasses the bridge at *Route 147 over the Westfield River and Intersection and Signal Improvements at 3 Locations Project (605384)* from \$23,173,893 to \$29,349,426; and (3) a cost increase to the *Amherst Bridge Replacement Project, Bridge A-08-008, on Mill Street over the Mill River (607549)*, from \$2,075,400 to \$3,028,770.

With respect to the transit section of the FFY 2017 TIP, Mr. Roscoe announced that during the 21-day public review, five additional changes were identified, namely:

- Add \$621,519 in Federal Funds for Buying a Replacement 40-FT Bus (Match in FY 2018)
- Add \$596,000 in Federal Funds for Window and Brick Restoration, at PVTA Office and SATCO Facility (Match in FY 2018)
- Add \$216,000 in Federal Funds for Replacement Mini Buses for the Shuttles (3) (Match in FY 2018)
- Add \$3,909,174 in Federal Funds for Cottage Street Garage Facility Design, Construction and Administration (Match in FY 2018)
- Add \$160,000 in Federal Funds for Design/Construction and Retrofit of SATCO Facility in Springfield (Match in FY 2018)

Mr. Roscoe further explained that the federal share of FFY 2018 funds for these five transit projects are being moved into FFY 2017 while the required state matching share of funding for these projects will remain programmed in FFY

2018. Mr. Roscoe noted that these five revisions are the only changes that have been proposed to the transit section of the FFY 2017 TIP during the 21-day public review.

At this point, Mr. Woelfel called for a motion to endorse this series of proposed amendments to the Pioneer Valley region's current, *FFY 2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)*.

MOVED BY RICHARD COHEN, MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF AGAWAM, SECONDED BY WALTER GUNN, CHAIRMAN OF THE PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION (PVPC), FOR THE MPO, TO ENDORSE THE PROPOSED SERIES OF AMENDMENTS TO THE PIONEER VALLEY REGION'S CURRENT, FFY2017 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP), FOLLOWING THE CONCLUSION OF A REQUIRED 21-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD, AS OUTLINED BY PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION (PVPC) STAFF

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

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

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

4. Review, Discussion and MPO Approval of the Draft 2018 - 2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Mr. Woelfel once again called on PVPC Principal Planner Dana Roscoe to discuss the draft version of the Pioneer Valley FFY 2018 - 2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Mr. Roscoe asked the Pioneer Valley MPO members to refer to the applicable handout document included in today's MPO meeting packet entitled *FFY 2018-2022 TIP Summary of Changes Proposed During Public Review – May 2017*. Mr. Roscoe stated that this document summarizes the changes that have been proposed to the draft TIP document since the last MPO meeting was held back on April 25, 2017. Mr. Roscoe then reviewed and discussed the specific changes to the TIP for FFY 2018;

- Remove \$500,000 in CMAQ funding that was programmed for *Intersection Improvements at Route 187 and Route 57 in Agawam (Project 604203)* and replace with \$500,000 in STP funds with the total project cost remaining unchanged at \$3,288,000
- Reduce funds programmed for *Resurfacing and Related Work on Heritage Street, Front Street and Dwight Street between Maple Street and the 1st Level Canal in Holyoke, (Project 607256)* from \$3,758,081 to \$2,283,489 because non-participating costs were included in the total \$3,758,081 estimated cost of this project. Mr. Roscoe stressed the non-eligible project costs had to be eliminated resulting in the lowered \$2,283,489 total cost for this project.

Alex Morse, Mayor of Holyoke, asked Mr. Roscoe to further explain the rationale for this proposed cost reduction for the subject Holyoke project. Mr. Roscoe, in turn, referred Mayor Morse's request for an explanation to Richard Masse of the MassDOT District Two office. Mr. Masse replied that one of the streets included in this project is not eligible to receive federal aid but, nevertheless, there is likely supplemental funding available from the City of Holyoke or through the MassWorks Program that could fund the project work that's not eligible for the federal aid. Mayor Morse concluded this means there will be an approximate \$1.5M funding shortfall that will need to be addressed. Mr. Roscoe suggested that the City of Holyoke will need to collaborate with the MassDOT District Two Office in order to close this \$1.5 million funding gap. Mr. Roscoe added that an endorsement of the Draft 2018 – 2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) at today's MPO meeting will ensure that federal funding will be available during the FFY 2018 period which will encompass October 1, 2017 through September 30, 2018. Mayor Morse asked Mr. Roscoe to confirm that the City of Holyoke is receiving the maximum amount of federal funds available for this TIP project. Mr. Roscoe replied that the \$2,283,489 in federal funding being provided is the maximum amount of federal funds available for this particular Holyoke improvement project (Project 607256).

Mr. Roscoe then summarized the other two other proposed changes to the FFY 2018 element of the draft TIP which include:

- Increase the cost of *Resurfacing and Related Work on Brimfield Road, between the Brimfield/Holland Town Line to Wales Road* in the Town of Holland (Project 604962) from \$1,140,089 to \$1,409,592.
- Apply \$500,000 in CMAQ funding to support PVTA Express Bus Service from the City of Springfield to the City of Holyoke (PVTA Route P21) via Route I-391

Mr. Roscoe reported that in FFY 2019, the proposed changes to the region's draft TIP document are as follows:

- Reduce STP funding for *Intersection Improvements at Bay Street and Berkshire Avenue in Springfield (Project 608411)* from \$853,408 to \$853,008 for a total, revised project cost of \$1,934,000
- Increase funding for the *Reconstruction of Route 187, between South Westfield Street and Route 57 in Agawam*, from \$2,323,443 to \$2,505,613 (Project 600513)

Mr. Roscoe continued with an overview of the FFY 2020 element of the draft TIP noting that there is a reduction in the STP funding programmed for *Improvements and Related Work on Route 20, encompassing Court Street and Western Avenue and Lloyds Hill Road to the High Street/Mill Street Intersection in Westfield (Project 607773)* from \$6,531,379 to \$5,898,533. In addition, Mr. Roscoe explained a slight increase in the estimated cost of *Improvements at 2 Locations on Route 202 in Granby at School Street and Five Corners (Project 606895)* from \$1,371,297 to \$1,489,637. For the FFY 2021 element of the draft TIP, Mr. Roscoe reported an increase to the estimated cost of *Intersection Improvements at King Street, North Street and Summer Street as well as King and Finn Streets in Northampton (Project 607502)* from \$3,702,674 to \$3,854,765.

Mr. Roscoe explained that all the comments received during the required 21-day public review period relative to the region's draft FFY 2018 -2022 TIP document align with everything delineated in the handout entitled *FFY 2018-2022 TIP Summary of Changes Proposed During Public Review – May 2017*. Mr. Roscoe added that the actual letters which were received during the 21-day public review period have also been included in today's meeting packet along with a one page summary sheet of comments.

Mr. Woelfel asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the region's draft FFY 2018 – 2022 TIP. Richard Kos, Mayor of Chicopee, responded saying that he wished to express concern regarding the delay of the *Reconstruction and Related Work on Fuller Road, from Memorial Drive (Route 33) to Shawinigan Drive in Chicopee (Project 604434)* which he first proposed as a TIP project in FFY 2005 and is now being pushed back into FFY 2022 in the draft TIP. Mr. Roscoe responded that the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) meets on a monthly basis, reviews all proposed TIP projects and the members do their best to produce a balanced list of proposed TIP projects and recommendations to present to the MPO for consideration and action. Mr. Roscoe explained that the delay of the Chicopee Fuller Road (Project 604434) resulted from *Work on Routes 202 and 21 from Turkey Hill Road to South Main Street (Project 608412) in Belchertown* being added to the FFY 2019 element of the draft TIP. Mr. Roscoe continued saying that this Chicopee project has been a TIP project since 2005 and, unfortunately, has continued to increase in its estimated cost and has languished on the region's TIP projects list.

Mr. Woelfel asked Richard Masse for a comment regarding the *Reconstruction and Related Work on Fuller Road, from Memorial Drive (Route 33) to Shawinigan Drive in Chicopee (Project 604434)*. Mr. Masse replied that the Chicopee (604434) project is at the 25% design stage and could be ready to advance by FFY 2020. Mr. Woelfel stated that he intended to return to the discussion of the subject Chicopee (604434) project after Mr. Roscoe had concluded his report on the Transit Section of the FFY 2018-2022 TIP. In response, Mr. Roscoe reported that no changes were made to the Transit Section of the region's draft FFY 2018-2022 TIP during the required 21-day public review period. Mr. Woelfel asked if MPO members had any questions regarding the transit components of the TIP. There being none, Mr. Woelfel asked if there were comments on any other aspects of the draft TIP now under consideration by the MPO members.

Stephen Crane, Town Administrator for the Town of Longmeadow, indicated that he wished to advocate for the inclusion, in the foreseeable future, of two Longmeadow Street (Route 5) improvement projects in the TIP noting that one project is located north of Converse Street and the other is located south of Converse Street. Walter Gunn, Chairman of the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, noted that the *Resurfacing & Related Work on Longmeadow Street (Route 5) in Longmeadow from the Connecticut State Line to Converse Street in Longmeadow (607430)* is no longer listed in the FFY 2021 portion of the draft TIP. Mr. Roscoe explained that the Longmeadow (607430) project was listed in the FFY 2021 element of the draft TIP at an estimated cost of \$3,066,336 and then additional intersection work increased the cost to approximately \$5.9 million which exceeded the regional funding target and resulted in this project having to be removed from the FFY 2021 element of the draft TIP. Mr. Roscoe added that the removal of the Longmeadow (607430) project from the FFY 2021 element resulted in making \$3.2 million of funding available in the FFY 2021 portion of the draft TIP prior to it going out for the required 21-day public review period.

Mr. Woelfel then returned to the *Reconstruction and Related Work on Fuller Road, from Memorial Drive (Route 33) to Shawinigan Drive in Chicopee (604434)* project. Mr. Roscoe reported that Mayor Kos advocated for this Chicopee (604434) project to be programmed in the FFY 2019 element of the TIP. Mr. Roscoe suggested that moving the Chicopee project to FFY 2019 would disrupt every other project currently programmed in FFY 2019. He therefore suggested that Chicopee's Fuller Road project be moved into FFY 2020 and proceeded to circulate a two-page handout, entitled *2020 – Pioneer Valley Region Transportation Improvement Program* illustrating a series of proposed changes that would enable Chicopee's Fuller Road Improvements (Project 604434) to be programmed in the FFY 2020 element of the Pioneer Valley's draft FFY 2018-2022 TIP. Mr. Roscoe asked the MPO members to note that this two-page handout is color-coded with the color orange indicating the elimination and the blue indicating the addition of a given project. Mr. Woelfel asked Mr. Roscoe to walk the MPO members through this sequence of proposed changes outlined in the subject handout.

Mr. Roscoe stated that the Chicopee's Fuller Road (604434) improvement project can be accommodated in the FFY 2020 element of the FFY 2018-2022 TIP by:

- Removing the *Improvements at 2 Locations on Route 202 at School Street and Five Corners in Granby (Project 606895)* from the FFY 2020 element of the FFY 2018-2022 TIP
- Reducing the FFY 2020 element of the FFY 2018-2022 TIP, Year 1 funding for the *Reconstruction on Route 9, from Middle Street to Maple/South Maple Street in Hadley (Project 605032)* since this improvement is programmed over two years, FFY 2020 and FFY 2021, with a revised year one estimated cost of \$3,771,903
- Increasing the amount of funding programmed for Year 2 of the *Reconstruction on Route 9, From Middle Street to Maple/South Maple Street in Hadley (Project 605032)* in the FFY 2021 element of the FFY 2018-2022 TIP to a revised Year 2 total estimated cost of \$17,470,536
- Removing the *Reconstruction of the Route I-91 Interchange 17 and Route 141 in Holyoke (Project 606158)* from the FFY 2021 element of the FFY 2018-2022 TIP
- Adding the *Reconstruction of the Route I-91 Interchange 17 and Route 141 in Holyoke (Project 606158)* into the FFY 2022 element of the FFY 2018-2022 TIP
- Moving the *Improvements at 2 Locations on Route 202: School Street and Five Corners in Granby (Project 606895)* into the FFY 2022 element of the FFY 2018-2022 TIP
- Adding the *Reconstruction and Related Work on Fuller Road, from Memorial Drive (Route 33) to Shawinigan Drive, in Chicopee (Project 604434)* to the FFY 2020 element of the FFY 2018-2022 TIP at a total estimated cost of \$8,101,167

In short, Mr. Roscoe stated that the *Reconstruction of the Route I-91 Interchange 17 and Route 141 in Holyoke (Project 606158)* as well as the *Improvements at 2 Locations on Route 202: School Street and Five Corners, in Granby (Project 606895)* will essentially exchange places with the *Reconstruction and Related Work on Fuller*

Road in Chicopee, thereby enabling the Chicopee project to be programmed in the FFY 2020 element of the region's proposed FFY 2018-2022 TIP.

At this point, Mr. Woelfel subsequently called for a motion to respond to this staff recommendation.

MOVED BY RICHARD KOS, MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF CHICOPEE, SECONDED BY RICHARD COHEN, MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF AGAWAM, TO APPROVE THE PROGRAMMING OF THE *RECONSTRUCTION AND RELATED WORK ON FULLER ROAD, FROM MEMORIAL DRIVE (ROUTE 33) TO SHAWINIGAN DRIVE, IN CHICOPEE (PROJECT 604434)* IN THE FFY 2020 ELEMENT OF THE PIONEER VALLEY FFY 2018 - 2022 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AND TO MAKE THE REVISIONS TO THE TIMING OF TWO OTHER PROJECTS THAT MAKE THIS FFY 2020 PROJECT FUNDING FOR THE FULLER ROAD IMPROVEMENTS IN CHICOPEE POSSIBLE. THERE BEING NO FURTHER COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS, THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE MPO MEMBERS PRESENT.

After a short discussion, Mr. Woelfel called for a motion to endorse the Pioneer Valley region's proposed Draft FFY 2018 - 2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) as amended by the MPO members.

MOVED BY RICHARD COHEN, MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF AGAWAM, SECONDED BY DAVID NARKEWICZ, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NORTHAMPTON, TO ENDORSE THE DRAFT PIONEER VALLEY REGION'S PROPOSED FFY 2018-2022 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AS AMENDED BASED ON THE FINAL SERIES OF REVISIONS RECOMMENDED BY THE STAFF.

Mr. Woelfel asked if there were any further questions or comments regarding the subject motion but none was forthcoming.

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

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

5. Review, Discussion and MPO Approval to Endorse the Draft 2018 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Mr. Woelfel next called on PVPC Principal Planner Gary Roux to review the draft version of the Pioneer Valley's proposed FFY 2018 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) document. Mr. Roux indicated that the Draft 2018 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) was released for the required 21-day public review period and it generated one comment letter from the MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning. Mr. Roux stated that a summary sheet entitled *Summary of Comments on the DRAFT UPWP*, along with a copy of MassDOT's comment letter was included in today's MPO meeting packet. Mr. Roux reported that all changes requested by MassDOT have been addressed and he therefore requested that the MPO endorse the revised final draft version of the Pioneer Valley region's proposed FFY 2018 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Mr. Woelfel then called for a motion to address this issue.

MOVED BY DAVID NARKEWICZ, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NORTHAMPTON, SECONDED BY RICHARD KOS, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CHICOPEE, TO ENDORSE THE AMENDED VERSION OF THE PIONEER VALLEY REGION'S PROPOSED FFY 2018 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) AS RECOMMENDED BY THE STAFF. THERE BEING NO FURTHER QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS, THE MOTION WAS THEN UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE MPO MEMBERS PRESENT.

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

6. Review, Discussion and MPO Approval to Endorse the Draft Critical Urban and Rural Freight Corridors

Mr. Roux stated that at the last MPO meeting held on April 25th, the draft version of a *Critical Urban and Rural Freight Corridors* document was released for the required 21-day public review. Mr. Roux further explained that these critical corridors are intended to be included in an updated Massachusetts state freight plan once it has been accepted by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Mr. Roux indicated that the MPO members have received, in their meeting packet, a summary sheet entitled, *Summary of Comments on the Draft Critical Freight Corridors for the Pioneer Valley*, along with a map depicting the location of these critical freight corridors. Mr. Roux indicated that two review comments

were received from the Town of Palmer that have now been addressed. Given this, he requested MPO approval of the Pioneer Valley region's recommended *Critical Urban and Rural Freight Corridors*.

Mr. Woelfel called for a motion to address this agenda item.

MOVED BY RICHARD COHEN, MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF AGAWAM, SECONDED BY ALEX MORSE, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF HOLYOKE, TO ENDORSE THE DRAFT VERSION OF THE PIONEER VALLEY REGION'S LISTING OF CRITICAL RURAL FREIGHT CORRIDORS (CRFCs) AND CRITICAL URBAN FREIGHT CORRIDORS (CUFCs) AS AMENDED. THERE BEING NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE MPO MEMBERS PRESENT.

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

7. Review, Discussion and MPO Endorsement of Both the Annual 3C Self Certification Document and the Air Quality Self Certification Document

Mr. Woelfel Mr. Woelfel called on PVPC Principal Planner Dana Roscoe to review the planning region's Annual 3C Self Certification Document and the Air Quality Self Certification Document. PVPC Principal Planner Dana Roscoe explained that each year in order to be eligible for federal funds, MPOs across the U.S. are required to maintain a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive (3C) transportation-planning process that results in plans and programs consistent with the planning objectives of these metropolitan areas. Given this, Mr. Roscoe stated that a vote by the Pioneer Valley's MPO is being sought today in order to certify that our region's Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is meeting all of the relevant federal transportation guidelines and regulations including Title VI, which collectively govern the appropriate expenditure of federal transportation funds.

Mr. Woelfel asked if there were any questions or comments from the MPO members about this year's 3C self-certification process. There being no questions or comments, Mr. Woelfel called for a motion to endorse the annual self-certification of the Pioneer Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization's transportation planning process.

MOVED BY RICHARD COHEN, MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF AGAWAM, SECONDED BY WALTER GUNN, CHAIRMAN OF THE PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION (PVPC), TO ENDORSE THE ANNUAL CERTIFICATION OF THE 3C TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCESS FOR THE PIONEER VALLEY REGION. THERE BEING NO FURTHER QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS, THE MOTION WAS THEN UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Mr. Woelfel then moved to take up agenda item 8.

8. Update from PVPC Executive Director Timothy Brennan on the Current Status of Passenger Rail Projects in the Pioneer Valley Region

Mr. Brennan stated that he would be presenting an update to a report he had delivered to the MPO members back on March 3, 2017 in which he discussed the merits of adding additional passenger rail service on the Knowledge Corridor between Springfield and Greenfield. Mr. Brennan stated that today's update focuses on the expansion of passenger rail service on the Knowledge Corridor north of Springfield in order to better serve the cities of Holyoke, Northampton and Greenfield. Mr. Brennan explained that over the past 2 ½ years, this has been an on-going priority project envisaging a way to add two daily, roundtrip trains in the morning and two daily, roundtrip trains in the evening along with Amtrak's existing Vermonter's train which operates on the Knowledge Corridor. Mr. Brennan noted that the Knowledge Corridor has strong ridership which continues to grow and the hope was to bring forward a project that could be included in the region's FFY 2019-2023 Transportation Improvement Program to program federal CMAQ funds that would be used to offset an anticipated operating deficit which has been estimated in the \$3 to 5 million per year range.

The best case scenario for adding north and south service, Mr. Brennan stated, is one which the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) is actively pursuing in concert with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) that calls for an expansion of north-south service in FFY 2019, the fiscal year which will begin on October 1, 2018. Mr. Brennan reported that this project was recently submitted to MassDOT for Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) consultation process which is necessary in order to obtain CMAQ funding to help underwrite the cost of the anticipated yearly operating deficit. Mr. Brennan reported that Stephanie Pollack, Massachusetts Secretary of Transportation, has

indicated that any passenger rail service added to the Knowledge Corridor has to be on a pilot basis and she has also made clear that the region will be expected to absorb the cost of the annual operating deficit. Mr. Brennan explained that the methodology of bringing this project to CMAQ consultation has not yet come to closure.

Mr. Brennan stated that another critical step will be to determine how to flex CMAQ dollars for this purpose. Mr. Brennan said that the PVPC and FRCOG are continuing to work with MassDOT staff to resolve this and related issues and to, ideally, implement expanded rail service as soon as possible. Mr. Brennan added that the PVPC continues to await the arrival of a definitive, reliable, cost estimate for expanded passenger rail service on the Knowledge Corridor from Amtrak as this information will be critical to our ability to move forward with this pilot rail service on the Knowledge Corridor.

Mr. Brennan noted that a much more expensive, longer range, expanded passenger rail project is establishing a rail connection linking Boston, Worcester, Palmer, Springfield, Hartford and New Haven. Mr. Brennan stated that the Northern New England Intercity Rail Initiative (NNEIRI) Final Report was issued last June and the NNEIRI recommendations will need to be included in an updated version of the Massachusetts State Rail Plan that is targeted for completion by the close of 2017. Mr. Brennan reported that in a conversation with Rail & Transit Administrator Astrid Glynn, he learned that the state is getting ready to release a comprehensive list of potential rail projects from across Massachusetts and that the NNEIRI will be included in that universe. Mr. Brennan stated it remains to be seen whether the NNEIRI project will be selected as a recommended project in this new state rail plan but that is one of our region's top objectives in terms of an east-west rail link with Boston.

9. 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 April 25, 2017

Mr. Woelfel 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 next JTC meeting in June, discussions will begin to ensure that the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a financially constrained document and an effort will be made to clarify the definition of what constitutes the 25% design stage. Mr. Czach indicated that over the next five years, there will be many proposed smaller-scale TIP projects which will result in increased funding competition and as a result, more careful decisions will be needed relative to the evaluation and scoring of proposed TIP projects.

Mr. Czach reported that after the last JTC meeting on April 25th, he met with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission staff and MassDOT District One staff to discuss and learn about MassDOT's design process. At the next JTC meeting, Mr. Czach plans to work with MassDOT District One and District Two staff members to construct a 5-point design scale, 0 to 5, defining the various stages which establish the 25% design stage for a proposed TIP project.

Mr. Woelfel thanked Jim Czach for his report on behalf of the JTC and he then moved to take up the next agenda item.

10. 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 that District One has three programmed projects in the current 2017 FFY. Mr. Frieri reported that the *Bridge Replacement at Ireland Street over the Bronson Brook Project* in Chesterfield (Project 607549) reached the 75% design stage on May 10th and these design plans are currently under review. Mr. Frieri noted that the *Route 9 Resurfacing Project in Goshen* (Project 608126) has already gone out to bid and a Notice to Proceed (NTP) was issued to Warner Brothers Construction as of April 21, 2017. Mr. Frieri also reported that on April 4, 2017, the 100% design plans were received for the municipally designed *West Street Reconstruction (Project 605150) in Goshen*. Finally, Mr. Frieri said that the last project he would touch on, is not currently listed in the TIP, but he wanted to report that the Town of Worthington is funding design plans for a major Route 143 reconstruction project that on May 1, 2017 reached the 75% design stage.

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 District Two's jurisdiction. Mr. Bolduc reported that the *Center Street Reconstruction Project (Project 605011) in Ludlow* reached 100% design stage on May 12, 2017 and it will be advertised by MassDOT in August; *Improvements to Lower Westfield Road in Holyoke at Route I-91 (Project 606903)* will reach the 100% design stage June 1, 2017; the *Amherst-Hadley Route 9 Sidewalk Construction Project (608023)* has received its PS&E and will be advertised in July; the *Congamond Road Reconstruction Project (604033) in Southwick* reached the 100% design stage in January 2017 and has had a cost amendment; the *Agawam-West Springfield Bridge Replacement on Route 147 Project (605384)* reached 100% design stage in March and will be advertised for bids in August; the *Mill Street Bridge Replacement Project in Amherst (Project 607528)* reached its 100% design stage; received its PS&E on May 19, 2017 and this project is scheduled to be advertised in August of 2017.

Mr. Woelfel thanked Mr. Frieri and Mr. Bolduc for their District One and Two project updates and he moved to take up the last agenda item.

11. Other Business

Mr. Woelfel asked if there was any further business for the MPO members to address at today's meeting. Mr. Brennan commented that he had asked Executive Director David Mohler of the Office of Transportation Planning about the MPO voting status of the Economic Development Council of Western Massachusetts, and Mr. Brennan said he was hoping for a resolution of this request finally began to move forward by summer. Mr. Brennan also commented on a series of MassMoves statewide workshops on transportation issues and concerns which include the compilation of survey data that was collected from the nine workshops held across the Commonwealth. Mr. Brennan stated that the western Massachusetts workshop was the most heavily attended throughout the state with over 100 participants. Mr. Brennan announced that he has made a request for a MassMoves staff presentation at a future Pioneer Valley MPO meeting that would summarize the key findings in a MassMoves final report.

Mr. Roscoe announced that the next MPO meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held on Tuesday, June 27th beginning at 10:00 a.m. There being no further business, Mr. Woelfel called for a motion to adjourn the May 23, 2017 Pioneer Valley MPO meeting.

MOVED BY ALEX MORSE, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF HOLYOKE, SECONDED BY DAVID NARKEWICZ, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NORTHAMPTON, TO ADJOURN THE MAY 23, 2017 MEETING OF THE PIONEER VALLEY REGION'S MPO. THERE BEING NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, THE MAY 23RD MPO MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 11:00 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 23, 2017 MPO Meeting

1. *Pioneer Valley Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Meeting Notice and Agenda: May 23, 2017*
2. *Minutes of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Meeting: Wednesday, April 25, 2017*
3. *Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Project List (FY2018)*
4. *2017 Pioneer Valley Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Proposed Amendments – May 2017*
5. *Summary of Comments on the Draft Unified Planning Work Program*
6. *2017 Pioneer Valley Region MPO Transportation Improvement*
7. *2018 Pioneer Valley Region MPO Transportation Improvement*
8. *2018-2022 TIP Comments Received During Public Review – May 2017*
9. *Summary of Changes Proposed During Public Review – May 2017*
10. *Summary of Comments on the Draft Critical Freight Corridors for the Pioneer Valley MPO*
11. *2020 Pioneer Valley Transportation Improvement Program*