

Minutes of the Tuesday, January 22, 2019 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:

Richard Masse	Project Development Engineer, MassDOT District Two Office, 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)
Sandra Sheehan	Administrator, Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA)
Brian Sullivan	Mayor, City of Westfield
Rick Sullivan	President and CEO, Economic Development Council of Western Massachusetts
Brandon Wilcox*	Community Planner, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

(* denotes non-voting member)

Guests and PVPC Staff Present:

Price Armstrong	PVTA Manager of Planning and Analysis
Gary Briere	MassBike
Elizabeth Botelho	City Engineer, City of Chicopee
Tim Brennan	Executive Director, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC)
Daniel Call	Columbia Greenway, City of Westfield
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)
Andrew Krar	Town Engineer, Town of Longmeadow
Derek Krevat	Transportation Planner, MassDOT
Andrew McCaul	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Jeff McCollough	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Mike McManus	Superintendent, Holyoke Department of Public Works
Mark Moore	MassDOT District One Office (Lenox)
Margaret Peg O’Neal	Town of Worthington, Executive Assistant of the Selectboard
Daniel Robelo	Senior Project Manager, BETA Group
Dana Roscoe	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Charley Rose	Selectboard Chair, Town of Worthington
Gary Roux	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
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

Richard Masse, Project Development Engineer, MassDOT District Two Office, Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) Representing MPO Chair Stephanie Pollack, Massachusetts Secretary of Transportation and Chief Executive Officer, called the January 22, 2019 meeting of the Pioneer Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to order at 10:04 a.m. Mr. Masse then welcomed and thanked all those in attendance and called for introductions from the MPO members and those in attendance.

Following introductions, Mr. Masse moved to take up the minutes of the previous MPO meeting held on October 23, 2018.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting of the Pioneer Valley MPO Held on October 23, 2018

Mr. Masse called for a motion to approve the minutes of the previous Pioneer Valley MPO meeting which was held on October 23, 2018.

MOVED BY RICK SULLIVAN, PRESIDENT AND CEO, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS, SECONDED BY RICHARD KOS, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CHICOPEE, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 23, 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. Masse then moved to address the next agenda item

3. Update on Recent Administrative Adjustments Made to the 2019 Element of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Mr. Masse called on PVPC Principal Planner Dana Roscoe to discuss a recent administrative adjustment made to the Pioneer Valley region's FFY 2019 TIP. Mr. Roscoe reported that in December, the MPO members were advised of an administrative adjustment to a cost change on a bridge project in the Town of Huntington. Mr. Roscoe explained that an administrative adjustment does not require a 21-day public review period if the project's cost change is less than 10% and so, in this case, no further action is required.

Mr. Masse then moved to take up the next agenda #4.

4. Review Discussion and MPO Approval to Release Amendments to the 2019 Transit TIP, as well as any Highway TIP Amendments that may be Necessary for the Required 21-day Public Review Process

Mr. Masse called on PVPC Principal Planner Dana Roscoe to discuss proposed amendments to the FFY 2019 Transit TIP and the Highway TIP. Mr. Roscoe stated that he was not made aware of any highway changes but there are Section 53-10 transit changes as highlighted in green on the document entitled *TIP 2019: 2019 – 2023* included in today's MPO meeting packet. Mr. Roscoe explained that there are 7 additional line item amendments listed ranging from purchasing vans to operating assistance. He also noted that on page 2, there are 3 additional non-federal items which include the replacement PVTA vans and vehicles. At this point, Mr. Roscoe requested that the MPO members approve putting these proposed TIP transit amendments out for a required 21-day public review and then to action them at the February MPO meeting, when the members would be asked to adopt the TIP changes.

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 RELEASE OF PROPOSED TRANSIT AMENDMENTS TO THE PIONEER VALLEY REGION'S CURRENT, FFY 2019 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) FOR THE REQUIRED 21-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD SUBJECT TO THE SPECIFIC MODIFICATIONS AND CORRECTIONS THAT HAVE BEEN OUTLINED BY PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION (PVPC) STAFF

Mr. Masse asked if there were any questions or further discussion needed regarding the subject motion.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED BY THE MPO MEMBERS PRESENT WITH ONE MPO MEMBER, MAYOR RICHARD KOS OF THE CITY OF CHICOPEE, ABSTAINING FROM THE VOTE.

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

5. Brief Presentation on Safety Performance Measures for Calendar Year 2019

Mr. Masse called on PVPC Principal Planner Gary Roux to present an update on the Safety Performance Measures for calendar year 2019. Mr. Roux stated that at the last MPO meeting in February, the MPO members agreed to adopt the state's Safety Performance Measures Targets as required under the *Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act of 2012* (MAP-21 - Section 1203) and also under the *Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST) Act of 2015*. By way of a review, Mr. Roux reported that MPO can adopt the state targets which place the burden of reporting on the state or, alternatively, the MPO can adopt its own set of specific targets which places the burden of reporting on the Pioneer Valley JTC and MPO members. Mr. Roux explained that given the newness of the safety performance targets and the availability of recent data as to how these targets will apply to the planning work being done, Mr. Roux stated that it appears to make more sense for the MPO members to adopt the state targets. Mr. Roux further reported that the federal government's Performance Measure 1 (PM1) Safety Measure targets are required to be adopted annually whereas the Pavement/Bridge Performance Measure (PM2) targets while the System Performance Measure (PM3) targets are required to be adopted only every two years. Mr. Roux indicated that 5 safety targets which are required by the above-cited federal transportation laws include the following elements:

- Total number of fatalities
- Rate of fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled (VMT)
- Total number of serious or incapacitating injuries
- Rate of incapacitating injuries per 100 million VMT
- Total number of combined incapacitating injuries and fatalities for non-motorized modes

Referring to a PowerPoint slide illustrating 5-year rolling averages that depict ranges for *Total Fatalities* as set by MassDOT, Mr. Roux pointed out that the trend line indicates that the total number of fatalities has increased slightly from 361 during the period 2011- 2015 to 364 fatalities during the period 2012- 2016. Mr. Roux added that the projected 2019 target has increased slightly to 353 fatalities as compared to the 2018 target of 352. Mr. Roux indicated, using the next PowerPoint slide entitled *Total Incapacitating Injuries* with 5-year rolling averages, evidence of a downward trend for total number of incapacitating injuries during the period 2008 to 2016 with the subject PowerPoint slide showing 3595 incapacitating injuries tallied during 2008- 2012 as compared to 3146 incapacitating injuries for the period 2012- 2016. Similarly, Mr. Roux explained that the projected 2018 target for years 2014- 2018 of 2896 incapacitating injuries dropped down to 2801 as a target for 2015- 2019.

For the *Total Combined Non-Motorized Injuries & Fatalities*, Mr. Roux reported an opposite trend is underway with the number of injuries and fatalities increasing in every 5-year time band while the targets for 2018 and 2019 remained the same. Mr. Roux underscored that no one wants to see this increase in injuries and fatalities but rather that everyone wants to achieve a decrease with the total not exceeding 541 total injuries and fatalities. Therefore, for the purpose of establishing a projected safety target for 2018 and 2019, 541 total injuries and fatalities is the projected target for both years. Mr. Roux stated that although there was quite an increase in total number of fatalities in 2016 as compared to 2015, there was a slight decrease realized in the number of non-motorist fatalities. Mr. Roux added that for the *Combined Non-motorized Injuries and Fatalities 5 Year Averages*, the Massachusetts statewide totals are showing a trend that's in a positive direction

On the other hand, Mr. Roux reported that there was a huge spike in incapacitating injuries in excess of 600 in 2011. He explained that this large increase could be attributed to the City of Springfield because, at that time, Springfield crash data had been included for the first time in the total number of fatalities recorded. However, Mr. Roux also reported there was a slight drop in incapacitating injuries for both the Pioneer Valley and the overall Massachusetts totals for both the time periods of 2011-2015 and 2012-2016.

Following several clarification questions, Mr. Masse thanked Mr. Roux for his presentation and he then moved to take up the next agenda item.

6. Introduction of a Performance based Planning Agreement for Discussion and Feedback

Mr. Masse once again called on PVPC Principal Planner Gary Roux to discuss a performance based planning agreement. Mr. Roux underscored that the Safety Performance targets, as required by federal law, must be adopted no later than the end of February 2019. Mr. Roux reported that the data presented at today's meeting is the same data that had been presented to the region's JTC members earlier this month and its members had voted to recommend using MassDOT's targets for the required Safety Performance Measures. Mr. Roux further indicated that if the MPO members agree with the JTC's recommendation, the MPO could next need to also approve the adoption of the state targets for our region's required Safety Performance Measures. Mr. Masse asked if an advance release for public comment was needed before the MPO can act. Mr. Roux replied that he understood the release for public comment is at the discretion of the MPO members but that the MPO members can certainly choose to vote on the Safety Performance Measures at their meeting in February. On a separate topic, Mr. Brennan asked the length of the lag time for receiving the most recent data. Mr. Roux replied that the 2017 and part of the 2018 data are currently in draft form but this data is not yet available for publication. Mr. Roux noted, however, that he expects the 2017 vehicle injury data and fatality data to become final soon. He added that the subject data is reported about two and one half years after the relevant reporting period.

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

7. Update by PVPC Staff on the Status of the 2020 Regional Transportation Plan Development

Principal Planner Gary Roux stated that the MPO members may have previously seen the brief video that was produced by the PVPC for the Pioneer Valley's 2020 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). Mr. Roux explained that idea of the video is to present a conversation starter for the members of RTP focus groups convened by the staff. Mr. Roux turned on the video which began by asking the question: "What does regional transportation mean to you?" After the video was presented to the MPO members, Mr. Roux indicated that the video had been presented to four topical focus groups including: infrastructure, bicycle/pedestrian, transit, and environmental.

Mr. Roux then called the MPO members attention to a handout document entitled *2020 RTP Vision and Goals for the Pioneer Valley MPO*. Mr. Roux explained that this draft document outlines the Regional Transportation Plan's vision and goals as well as the transportation needs and strategies to be incorporated into the new plan. Mr. Roux stated that this draft document was drafted based on the feedback received both during and after the previously cited focus groups. He added that a copy of the survey entitled *2020 Update to the Regional Transportation Plan* is also in today's meeting packet. Mr. Roux urged the MPO members to participate in the survey and to widely distribute it. He indicated that the survey expands on the questions asked in the video and staff will continue to accept feedback and completed surveys. Mr. Roux stated that a total of 64 responses to PVPC's survey have been received to date.

The first question on the survey, Mr. Roux explained, asks that projects be ranked from 1 to 9 based on importance with 1 being the most important. Mr. Roux noted that the intent of the first question is to compare what types of projects are being considered for the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) in comparison to what projects are most important to people. Mr. Roux stated that the top three future transportation improvement projects that survey respondents selected included the I-91 Viaduct Improvements; a proposed new Massachusetts Turnpike Interchange in Blandford; increased funds for roadway maintenance, the east-west passenger rail options which are currently under study; funding for the regional transit system; and funding for PVTA's bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Mr. Roux reported that another interesting question that was posed to the JTC members was to have them identify their primary mode of transportation and what they considered to be their ideal transportation choice.

Mr. Roux explained that in an attempt to obtain information for the new 2020 Regional Transportation Plan, he analyzed the responses to the first question by removing repetitive words such as *Pioneer Valley* and *regional transportation*. Mr. Roux reported that of the 64 responses to the survey at this time, 40 replied to the first question

and the highest percentage of responses was in favor of an integrated transportation system that significantly improved connections between various transportation modes.

Mr. Roux underscored that an MPO-endorsed Pioneer Valley RTP will be needed no later than July and the draft version of this RTP will be available in May or June and it's draft RTP must be released for a required 21-day public review period. Mr. Roux added that the MPO members will continue to receive staff updates on the draft 2020 RTP document. Mr. Masse asked if there any questions or comments for Mr. Roux and there being none, he moved to take up the next agenda item.

8. Update on Recruitment Efforts for Two Vacant Alternate MPO seats

Mr. Roscoe stated that Roger Fuller, Chairman of the Chesterfield Board of Selectman does not yet have an alternate to represent 17 rural Pioneer Valley municipalities. Mr. Roscoe reported that there were two selectmen who were interested in applying for the alternate position to represent these 17 towns: John Martin from the Town of Southamptton and Charlie Rose from the Town of Worthington. All 17 communities were balloted and John Martin received the most votes and will now serve as the MPO alternate to Roger Fuller. Mr. Roscoe indicated that the alternate seat for David Narkewicz, Mayor of Northampton and Chairman of the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA) is vacant and represents 5 communities: Northampton, Hadley, South Hadley, Amherst and Easthampton. Mr. Roscoe reported that there are three individuals interested in serving as alternate for Mayor Narkewicz including: the new Chairperson of the Amherst Town Council, the Mayor of Easthampton and a Selectperson from the Town of South Hadley. Mr. Roscoe noted that these three individuals have submitted their background information which will be sent out to each of the 5 communities that will be voting to select their MPO alternate. Mr. Roscoe added that he will be able to report the results of this at February MPO meeting.

Mr. Masse thanked Mr. Roscoe for his update and he moved on to address the next agenda item.

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 July 24, 2018

Mr. Masse 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 the primary topic for discussion at the last JTC meeting focused on a report of the infrastructure focus group. Several of the topics that the JTC members discussed included simplifying the RTP vision statement, reducing vehicle fatalities, as well as severe injuries, the Current Mass Dot Complete Streets Program, bridge improvement needs, and transit access to Bradley Airport, among others.

Mr. Czach reported that earlier this month, the JTC members had focused their attention on the development of the region's next Transportation Improvement Program after the PVPC staff had distributed transportation evaluation forms to municipalities to solicit all desired transportation projects. He added that the JTC members will be meeting in February to discuss this universe of transportation improvement projects and then again in March review and discuss the list of the projects that were compiled across the region. Mr. Czach emphasized that those which have a project listed in the TIP need to be sure that they have returned their transportation evaluation forms to the PVPC as soon as possible.

Mr. Masse thanked Mr. Czach for his report 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. Masse 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 three of District One's FFY 2019 TIP projects as follows:

- *Route 112 Bridge Maintenance over Sykes Brook* in the Town of Huntington, (Project #608928) is ready to be advertised
- *Bridge Replacement Project on Chester Road over Smart Brook* in the Town of Middlefield (Project #608249) is at the final design was received in December and its right-of-way and environmental clearance is pending.

- *Route 143 Reconstruction and Related Work* – (Split Phase Project) in the Town of Worthington,(Project #606912) The project received its 100% design in October. The project’s cost is within the TIP programing limits and the project needs its final design approved and its environmental clearance.

Mr. Masse next called on Jeff Hoynoski of the MassDOT District Two office in Northampton to present District Two’s updates on relevant transportation projects within its jurisdiction. Mr. Hoynoski reported on District Two’s FFY 2019 TIP transportation improvement projects as follows:

- The *Intersection Improvements* at Route 187 and 57 in the Town of Agawam (Project #604203) is at 100% design phase
- The *Intersection Improvements* at Bay Street and Berkshire Avenue in the City of Springfield (Project #608411) is at 100% design
- The *Improvements & Related Work on Route 202* and 21 in the Town of Belchertown (Project #608412) is at 100% design and now under review
- The *Intersection Improvements on Main Street* in the Town of Ware (Project #604987) is at 100% design stage
- The *Intersection Improvements on Brimfield Road* in the Town of Holland (Project #604962) is at 100% design stage
- *Interstate Maintenance Resurfacing of Route I-391* in the Cities of Chicopee and Holyoke (Project #607560) has reached final100% design and is due to be advertised soon
- *Resurfacing of Route 202* in the Towns of Granby and South Hadley (Project #607474) is at 100% design
- *Kelly School Safe Routes to School Program* in the City Holyoke (Project #608790) is at 75% design phase
- *Signal Improvements at 13 Intersections* in the City of Chicopee (Project #607735) is at the 75% design phase
- *Roundabout Construction at Intersection Routes North King and Hatfield Streets* in the City of Northampton (Project #606555) is at the 75% design phase
- *Highway Lighting Upgrade on I-91 in Chicopee and West Springfield* (608600) has its bid opening scheduled for April 2nd
- *Columbia Greenway Rail Trail Construction* in Westfield (Project 603783) is at 100% design and design phase currently under review

There being no further questions or comments from MPO members, Mr. Masse thanked Mr. Frieri and Mr. Hoynoski for their District One and District Two project updates and he moved to take up the next agenda item.

11. Updates from Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA) Administrator Sandra Sheehan on Relevant Transit Issues and Projects of Interest to the Pioneer Valley MPO Members

PVTA Administrator Sandra Sheehan reported that the legislatively mandated PVTA Task Force has held 13-14 meetings to discuss potential required performance measures to be adopted to measure the performance of each of the RTA’s transit systems. Ms. Sheehan stated that several RTA Task Force listening sessions have been postponed but will be rescheduled and will include a meeting that’s to take place somewhere here in western Massachusetts. Ms. Sheehan further reported that the PVTA’s new Operations and Maintenance facility which is located on Cottage Street in Springfield has a temporary Certificate of Occupancy and the PVTA plans to move its existing Springfield–based operations to Cottage Street on April 1st. She added that the PVTA will be renovating and converting its garage in the north-end of Springfield to accommodate para-transit operations and related maintenance. Ms. Sheehan reported that Governor Baker will be releasing the Commonwealth’s budget soon and the PVTA staff are looking forward to learning what the allocation of funding resources will be available to the Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs) in FFY 2020 and how this funding will affect PVTA transit services next fiscal year.

Mr. Masse thanked Ms. Sheehan for her PVTA update report and he then moved to take up the last agenda item.

12. Other Business

Mr. Masse asked if the MPO members had any other business. Mr. Roscoe responded that the document entitled *2019 Pioneer Valley Region Transportation Improvement Program* that was distributed at today's meeting reflects the universe of all the TIP projects of which the PVPC staffs are aware. There are 61 TIP projects listed in 28 communities. 14 of the 61 projects are currently programmed in the region's TIP and these projects represent in excess of \$300 million dollars. Mr. Roscoe underscored that this list needs to be examined in order to ensure that there are no important projects from Pioneer Valley cities and towns that are missing.

Rick Sullivan offered to make a motion to approve the Safety Performance Measures since a recommendation to approve them was received from the JTC but Mr. Masse responded that the Safety Performance Measures agenda item was not listed on the agenda as action item; therefore, a motion to approve will need to wait for the next MPO meeting in February.

At this point, Mr. Roscoe announced that the next Pioneer Valley MPO meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 26th at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Masse then called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

MOVED BY GEORGE ARCHIBLE, BELCHERTOWN BOARD OF SELECTMEN, SECONDED BY RICK SULLIVAN, PRESIDENT AND CEO, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS, TO ADJOURN THE JANUARY 22, 2019 MEETING OF THE PIONEER VALLEY REGION'S MPO. THERE BEING NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, THE JANUARY 22ND MPO MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 10:45 A.M. WITHOUT OBJECTION

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy W. Brennan, Executive Director
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

List of Documents and Other Items Distributed at the January 22, 2019 MPO Meeting

1. *Pioneer Valley Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Meeting Notice and Agenda: January 22, 2019*
2. *Minutes of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Meeting: Wednesday, October 23, 2018*
3. *Draft 2020 -2024 TIP Project List*
4. *2020 2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development Schedule*
5. *TIP 2019 - 2023*
6. *2019 Pioneer Valley Region Transportation Improvement Program*
7. *2020 RTP Vision and Goals for the Pioneer Valley MPO*
8. *2020 Update to the Regional Transportation Plan SURVEY*
9. *Massachusetts Department of Transportation Safety Performance Measures*