

**Pioneer Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Committee Zoom Meeting
October 25, 2022 – 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**

MPO Members Present:

Roger Fuller	Selectboard, Town of Chesterfield
Joshua A. Garcia	Mayor, City of Holyoke
Walter Gunn	Chairman, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
Nicole LaChapelle	Mayor, City of Easthampton
Simmons, Paula	MassDOT, District Two, representing Jonathan Gulliver MassDOT Highway Division Administrator
Doug Slaughter	Chairman, Pioneer Valley Transit Authority Advisory Board
Rick Sullivan	President and CEO, Economic Development Council of Western Massachusetts
Stephen Woelfel	Director of Strategic Planning, Office of Transportation Planning, Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) representing MPO Chair Jamey Tesler, Massachusetts Secretary of Transportation and CEO

Guests and PVPC Staff Present:

Daryl Amarald	MassDOT Highway District 2
William Dwyer	Hadley, JTC Chair
Mark Moore	MassDOT Highway District one
Peter Frieri	MassDOT Highway District one
Alexis Hosea-Abbott	MassBike – JTC
Shatoyia Jones	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Admin Assistant
Kacoyannakis, Van	Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. (VHB)
Klem, Christopher	MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning
Derek Kravat	MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning
Peter Kuusisto	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission – Transit Planner
Andrew McCaul	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Jeffrey McCollough	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Andrew Reovan	Federal Highway Administration
Dana Roscoe	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Gary Roux	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Andrew Wang	MassDOT – Office of Transportation Planning
Leah Sirmin	Federal Transit Administration
Miranda Briseño	MassDOT – Office of Transportation Planning
Mark Cressotti	City of Westfield – Resident
Connor Knightly	Town of West Springfield
Dawn Nims	City of Holyoke
Patrick Beaudry	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission – Public Affairs
Matt Gamelli	City of Westfield

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1. Chairman’s Call to Order: Welcome and Opening Remarks

Stephen Woelfel called the October 25, 2022 Pioneer Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Dana Roscoe stated that there was a quorum and initiated the roll call. The following MPO members responded that they were present: Stephen Woelfel, Paula Simmons, Doug Slaughter, Roger Fuller, Mayor Nicole LaChapelle, Mayor Joshua A. Garcia and Walter Gunn.

2. MPO Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting of the Pioneer Valley MPO held Remotely on September 27, 2022

Mr. Woelfel called for a motion to approve the September 27, 2022 Pioneer Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) meeting minutes.

MOVED BY DOUG SLAUGHTER; SECONDED BY WALTER GUNN.

Upon no further questions, comments or adjustments, the September 27, 2022 MPO minutes were approved.

Mr. Roscoe initiated roll call. All MPO members in attendance were in concurrence.

3. Presentation – Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA) –2022 Transit Asset Management Plan (TAM)

Jeff McCollough stated that the Public Participation Plan (PPP) has completed its 45-day outreach regarding the minor update for virtual meeting formatting and reported that there were no comments.

Stephen Woelfel called for a motion to approve the closing of the public review period and approve the current PPP updates.

MOVED BY WALTER GUNN; SECONDED BY DOUG SLAUGHTER

Mr. Roscoe initiated roll call. All MPO members in attendance were in concurrence

4. Review, discussion and MPO Approval to Release the Proposed Amendments to the PVMPO Transportation Evaluation Criteria (TEC)—for the required 21-day Review and Comment Period

Andrew McCaul reported that a TEC analysis has been conducted and the findings have been shared with both the MPO and JTC at previous meetings. He shared a table of the

Transportation Evaluation Criteria (TEC)

System Preservation, Modernization and Efficiency	Livability	Mobility
Improves Substandard Pavement 8	Design is consistent with Complete Streets policies 3	Improves efficiency, reliability and attractiveness of public transit 4
Improves Intersection Operations 6	Provides multi-modal access to a downtown, village center, or employment center 2	Improves existing peak hour LOS 6
In a Congestion Management Process Area 5 7	Reduces auto-dependency 2	Reduces traffic congestion 7-5
	Project serves a targeted development site 2	
	Completes off-road bike and ped network 3	
Maximum Score	12	15
Was 19		Was 17

- Move 2 points from 3C - Mobility – reduces traffic congestion to 1C – System Preservation, Modernization and Efficiency – In a CMP Area
 - 1C is directly related to our Congestion Management Process (CMP) and the federal performance measure related to the CMP.
 - 3C relates to congestion not identified in the CMP
- These change increases the emphasis on performance-based measure



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approved January 2022 TEC and proceeded to summarize the changes made to the table in the areas of system preservation, modernization and efficiency, livability, and mobility.

Environment and Climate Change

Mr. McCaul stated that the goal is to add emphasis to federal requirements sections and proceeded to share that the environment and climate change criterion were consolidated to enhance project efficiency and reduce wildlife mortality by promoting mode shift, adding a carbon reduction program for 0.5 points (BIL influenced) and points for adding a project that improves habitat connectivity (BIL influenced).

Transportation Evaluation Criteria (TEC)

Improves air quality	I
± 2	
Reduces CO2 emissions	
±	
Promotes mode shift	II
±	
Improves fish and wildlife passage	
1	
Supports Green Communities	
0.5	
Improves storm resilience	I
3	
Carbon Reduction Program	C
0.5	
Project Improves Habitat Connectivity	
1	
12.5	
Was 12	

Environment and Climate Change

- Consolidate –Improves air quality and Reduces CO2 emissions
 - Same analysis for each criteria
 - Scale scoring – 2 points if show’s 25% or greater reduction in CO2, VOC and NOX
- Remove – Promotes mode shift, category was duplicative
- Add Carbon reduction program for (0.5 points) – BIL related point
- Add Project improves habitat connectivity for (1 point) – BIL related point

The Pioneer Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization



Quality of Life

Mr. McCaul proceeded to share that the changes made under the Quality of Life to reduce points for the ITS Strategies implementation from 2 to 1 point because the criteria was identified as not effective

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Transportation Evaluation Criteria (TEC)

Implements ITS Strategies	2
Improves Network Wayfinding	1
Access to Sensative Receptiors	1
Length of Time Project has been in queue for TIP funding	1
Construction of Rest Areas	0.5
	10.5
	Was 11

Quality of Life

- Reduce – Implements ITS Strategies from 2 to 1 point
 - Criteria was identified as not effective
 - Add addition language regarding the installation of permanent monitoring equipment
- Add Construction of rest areas for (0.5 points) – BIL related point

Environment Justice Title VI

Environment Justice Title VI proposes a new criterion based on language influenced by the BIL which requires you to go through the MassDot in which you identify an underserved community and receive points for that. He proceeded to ask the MPO to endorse the document for a 21-day public review to have the document endorse by the January meeting to have the TEC ready for endorsement to be used for future projects.

Mr. Woelfel asked for a motion to release the current TEC updates for the required 21 day public review and comment period.

MOVED BY WALTER GUNN; SECONDED BY RICK SULLIVAN.

Rick Sullivan asked whether the scoring favors urban and suburban areas to rural projects.

Mr. McCaul stated that the language has been shifted to be more inclusive of rural areas, but the criteria is not intended to favor either. Mr. McCaul confirmed that the criteria will not negatively impact rural scoring.

Walter Gunn posed a hypothetical question regarding a regional issue with a transportation corridor and asked is there a regional level measurement.

Mr. McCaul responded that when gauging how a community infrastructure impacts access to jobs, there is no sure way to score that, but it is important to look at criteria that can be added to address the issue of access to employment in rural areas.

Mr. Woelfel asked Mr. Gunn and Mr. Sullivan if they would be okay with having that being worked on within the next month. Mr. Gunn and Mr. Sullivan agreed.

Mr. Roscoe initiated roll call. All members in attendance were in concurrence.

5. Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) –Public Outreach Update

Gary Roux reported that all the farmer’s market’s outreach sessions have been completed and stated that it was an efficient form of outreach in which there was focused conversation with individuals that would not have otherwise been accessed. Mr. Roux noted that paper surveys seemed to have been preferred with most individuals as opposed to online surveys. He stated that the next public outreach will be at Pope Francis High School Career Day on November 10, 2022.

Mr. Roux shared a summary of transit thoughts by city:

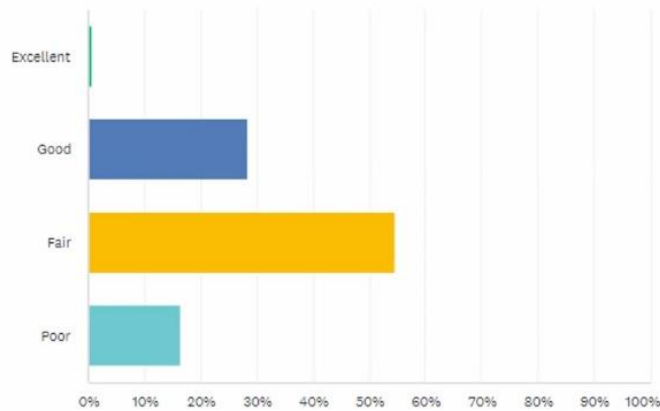
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- *Amherst*: more bus service, limited
- *Springfield*: car dependency, crappy roads
- *Easthampton*: inadequate, poor, lack of connectivity, inequitable
- *Northampton*: expensive, car centric, more public transit / more service, unsustainable
- *Westfield*: expensive and need for different modes of transit

Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) - Outreach

I think that the current condition of transportation in the Pioneer Valley region is:

Answered: 134 Skipped: 6



Mr. Roux noted that there is a Holyoke event coming up and will bring updates in the future and shared a high demand for 5 out of the 6 things identified:

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Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) - Outreach

	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL	SCORE
▼ Funding necessary maintenance of roads and bridges.	38.33% 46	15.00% 18	10.00% 12	15.00% 18	15.00% 18	6.67% 8	120	4.27
▼ Improve bicycle path network connections and amenities for riders and pedestrians.	21.05% 24	14.04% 16	26.32% 30	17.54% 20	14.91% 17	6.14% 7	114	3.90
▼ Fund operation and maintenance of our regional transit system.	15.52% 18	25.00% 29	25.86% 30	20.69% 24	8.62% 10	4.31% 5	116	4.05
▼ Add more train trips to the east-west passenger rail service to connect the Pioneer Valley region in the west with Boston in the east.	26.02% 32	28.46% 35	16.26% 20	13.01% 16	11.38% 14	4.88% 6	123	4.30
▼ Implement projects that help reduce roadway crashes causing fatalities and serious injuries.	9.40% 11	17.95% 21	15.38% 18	23.08% 27	25.64% 30	8.55% 10	117	3.37
▼ Remove physical and visual barriers to the Connecticut River and Riverwalk in Springfield by redesigning the raised highway at that section of the Interstate I-91 Viaduct.	3.67% 4	1.83% 2	7.34% 8	5.50% 6	16.51% 18	65.14% 71	109	1.75

Mr. Roux shared that the initial public outreach has been completed and the committee is now looking at engaging in virtual focus groups for environment, transit and general infrastructure from November to December with a vision wrap to take place with PVPC in December to have draft vision goals in January with a draft release in February and March., environmental justice consultation in April and endorsement in July.

FFY 2024 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) - Schedule

Schedule	Milestone
September/October 2022	Public outreach at local farmer’s markets – 4-6 events
November/December 2022	RTP Focus Groups – Env., Transit, Bike/Ped, Infra.
December 2022	PVPC Commission Meeting – RTP Visioning
January 2023	Draft RTP Vision, Goals and Emphasis Areas
February – March 2023	Draft Chapter release for MassDOT/MPO review
April 2023	RTP Environmental Consultation
April/May 2023	Air Quality Conformity/Financial Constraint
May 2023	Environmental Justice, Title VI and Justice 40
June 2023	Draft RTP release for 21 day public comment period
July 2023	RTP Endorsement



6. Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Grant Opportunity Presentation

Miranda Briseño shared an overview of the Safe Routes to School infrastructure and stated that there were two grants awards available: *Signs and Lines* and *SRTS*

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Infrastructure Grants, which is more in-depth and offers more structure. Ms. Briseño stated that eligible applicants are K-12 schools or school campuses that have been a partner of Safe Routes to School for at least 6 months. She continued to share examples of eligible projects which must benefit the students primarily and be ADA accessible: transportation, construction and capital improvements, sidewalk and crossing improvements, traffic calming and a range of bicycle improvements and facilities. She added that non-eligible projects include recurring costs (i.e. payroll for crossing guards), pavement maintenance, travel lane improvements or school bus improvement projects.

Ms. Briseño shared that there is no match required for this grant unless there is a non-qualifying cost in which the municipality would need to absorb the cost and stated that project cost estimates are as follows:

- **Small Project Budget:** \$250K or less
- **Medium Project Budget:** \$250K - \$800K
- **Large Project Budget:** \$800K - \$1.5 million

She stated that projects must meet ADA guidelines and Engineer Directives for highway design projects which includes people walking and biking. She noted that share the road arrows do not qualify as a true bicycle facility and infrastructure must connect to a complete street network nearby the partner school for maximum connectivity. She concluded her presentation with a note that the municipality must be a co-applicant on all applications with the application deadline being November 18, 2022. She stated that applicants will be notified January 2023 and the 5-year process of design, review and programming with the TIP will ensue shortly after.

Mr. Woelfel invited the committee to put in an application or to reach out to Ms. Briseño directly for any additional questions or concerns.

7. Updates from MassDOT District One and District Two Officials on relevant transportation issues and projects of interest to the Pioneer Valley MPO Members

Daryl Amarald from District 2 reported that the following recently active projects:

- **Project 605126 Ware Bridge Replacement on Route 32 Palmer-Ware River:** advertised on September 10, bid opening date: November 15
- **FFY23 Project 606895 Granby Improvements on Route 202 School Street and Five Corners:** at 100% design submitted on August 19, currently under review; comments due October 3, September 9, 2023 ad date
- **FFY23 Project 608073 Westfield River Levee Multi-Use Path Construction from Ellsworth Street to Williams Riding Way,** at 100% design, ep due November 7, 2022, September 9, 2023 ad date
- **FFY24 Project 608163 Wales Reconstruction and Improvements on Monson Rd from Monson Town Line to Reedhill Road:** at 75% design and 100% submission due February 25, 2023 with March 2, 2024 ad date
- **FFY24 Project 608717 Springfield Reconstruction at the X on Sumner Avenue at Dickinson Street and Belmont Avenue:** 75% design, 100% design submission due October 14 with January 6, 2024 ad date

Peter Frieri from District 1 reported the following recently active projects:

- **FFY23 Retaining Wall on Route 9 in Cummington:** awaiting a revised 75% design due mid-December 2022

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- **FFY24 Phase 2 of Reconstruction of Route 143 in Worthington Program:** final design due from CHA, the town design firm in October 2022
- **FFY24 Replacement of 2 Municipal Bridges in Williamsburg at Bridge Street and South Main Street over the Mill River:** scheduled for public hearing after 25% design is approved, designed by VHB
- **FFY25 Preliminary Design Resurfacing on Route 112 in Worthington from the Huntington Town Line to New Roundabout at Worthington Corners**
- **FFY26 Mountain Street Reconstruction Project in Williamsburg:** updated project schedule to include a narrower cross-section: revised 25% design anticipated
- **FFY27 Preliminary Greenway Design by VHB in Williamsburg:** 25% design anticipated by 2023
- **FFY27 Reconstruction of North Road and Damon Pond in Chesterfield:** anticipated 75% design

8. Updates from PVTA Administrator Sandra Sheehan on Relevant Transit-Related Issues and Projects of Interest to the Pioneer Valley MPO Members

Sandra Sheehan had a conflict and was not able to join.

9. Other Business

Mr. Roscoe invited Leah to comment on certification.

Leah Sirmin stated that the certification review is under way in partnership with PVPC in which there will be a review of planning documents with a January onsite meeting with staff and public review to follow. Ms. Sirmin noted that the public review is a good opportunity to federal opportunities to learn what is being done in region and invited the MPO to reach out with any additional questions or concerns.

Mr. Woelfel stated that the next meeting is November 29, 2022 to accommodate Holiday Thanksgiving.

10. Adjournment

Upon no further questions or comments, Mr. Woelfel asked for a motion to adjourn the October 25, 2022 Pioneer Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization Meeting (MPO).

MOTIONED BY WALTER GUNN; SECONDED BY RICK SULLIVAN.

All MPO members in attendance were in concurrence.

Mr. Woelfel adjourned the October 25, 2022 Pioneer Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Zoom meeting at 10:45 a.m.

Additional Documents Included

- [Public Participation Plan \(PPP\) –2022 Update \(Currently Out for 45-Day Public Review and Comment\)](#)

Prepared by Shatoyia Jones, PVPC Administrative Assistant—11.15.2022