

Minutes of the Tuesday, February 26, 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:**

Bryan Pounds	Manager, MPO Activities, 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
Tim Brennan	Executive Director, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC)
Tina Cote*	Administrator, Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA)
Jim Czach*	Chairman, Joint Transportation Committee & Town Engineer, Town of West Springfield
Nicole LaChapelle	Mayor, City of Easthampton
Richard Masse	MassDOT District Two Office Representing Massachusetts Department of Transportation Highway Division Administrator Jonathan Gulliver
Alex Morse	Mayor, City of Holyoke
David Narkewicz	Mayor, City of Northampton, Representing Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA)
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:**

Rana Al-Jammal	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Price Armstrong	PVTA Manager of Planning and Analysis
Pat Beaudry	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) Manager of Public Affairs
Van Kayanna	VHB
Mike Bolduc	MassDOT District Two Office (Northampton)
Gary Briere	MassBike
Elizabeth Botelho	City Engineer, City of Chicopee
Daniel Call	Columbia Greenway, City of Westfield
Matt Chase	Transportation Market Leader for VHB
Jeremy Cigal	Engineer, 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
Matt Sokop	City Engineer, City of Springfield
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

Bryan Pounds, Manager, MPO Activities, Office of Transportation Planning, Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) Representing MPO Chair Stephanie Pollack, Massachusetts Secretary of Transportation and Chief Executive Officer, called the February 26, 2019 meeting of the Pioneer Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to order at 10:02 a.m. Mr. Pounds then welcomed and thanked all those in attendance and called for introductions from the MPO members and those in attendance.

Following introductions, Mr. Pounds moved to take up the minutes of the previous MPO meeting held on January 22, 2019.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting of the Pioneer Valley MPO Held on January 22, 2019

Mr. Pounds called for a motion to approve the minutes of the previous Pioneer Valley MPO meeting which was held on January 22, 2019.

MOVED BY RICK SULLIVAN, PRESIDENT AND CEO, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS, SECONDED BY BRIAN SULLIVAN, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF WESTFIELD, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 22, 2019 PIONEER VALLEY MPO MEETING AS PRESENTED. THERE BEING NO FURTHER COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS, THE MOTION WAS THEN APPROVED BY THE MPO MEMBERS PRESENT

Mr. Pounds then moved to address the next agenda item.

3. Review Discussion and MPO Endorsement of Amendments to the 2019 Transit Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Currently out for Public Review

Mr. Pounds called on PVPC Principal Planner Dana Roscoe to discuss MPO endorsement of amendments to the transit components of the region's 2019 TIP which are currently out for public review. Mr. Roscoe called the MPO members attention to the handout document entitled *TIP 2019 - 2023* and he indicated that there are seven Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5303 funded transit projects listed on the front and back sides of this document along with three, additional carry-over non-federally funded transit projects. Mr. Roscoe reported that the three non-federally funded transit projects were voted by the MPO to be released for a 21-day public review and since that decision, there have been no comments received during the 21-day public review period. Given this, Mr. Roscoe recommended that the MPO members move forward with the endorsement of these proposed amendments to the region's current Transit Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Mr. Pounds asked if there were any questions or comments for Mr. Roscoe. There being none, Mr. Pounds asked if there was a motion to approve the subject TIP amendments as proposed.

MOVED BY TIM BRENNAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION (PVPC), 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, FFY2019 TRANSIT TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) FOLLOWING THE CONCLUSION OF A REQUIRED 21-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD.

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

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

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

4. Review Discussion and MPO Endorsement of Regional Safety Performance Measures for Calendar Year 2019 as Discussed at the last MPO Meeting on January 22, 2019

Mr. Pounds called on PVPC Principal Planner Gary Roux to discuss the Pioneer Valley MPO's endorsement of a series of proposed regional Safety Performance Measures for 2019. Mr. Roux stated that at the last MPO meeting, an update was given on the 2019 regional Safety Performance Measures and Targets which the Pioneer Valley MPO members are required to adopt every year. Mr. Roux stated that he can present this same update report again if needed; however, a copy of this presentation has been included with today's meeting packet. Mr. Roux reported that the JTC members, at their January meeting, had agreed to recommend adoption of the statewide regional Safety Performance Measures and recommended MPO endorsement of the statewide regional targets for safety. Mr. Pounds asked if the MPO wanted to see the presentation or if they had any comments or questions. Rick Sullivan asked if the JTC members at their last meeting had recommended endorsement of the statewide regional Safety Performance Measures and Targets. Mr. Czach responded and confirmed that the JTC members had recommended the MPO's endorsement. There being no further comments or questions, Mr. Pounds called for a motion to address this item.

MOVED BY GEORGE ARCHIBLE, BELCHERTOWN BOARD OF SELECTMEN, SECONDED BY RICHARD SULLIVAN, PRESIDENT AND CEO, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS, FOR THE PIONEER VALLEY MPO TO ENDORSE THE REGIONAL SAFETY PERFORMANCE MEASURES AND TARGETS AS DEVELOPED BY THE MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION. THERE BEING NO FURTHER QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS, THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE MPO MEMBERS PRESENT

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

5. Update by Brandon Wilcox of FHWA on the Status of the Pioneer Valley Region's 2019 Federal Certification Review

Brandon Wilcox, Community Planner for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), explained that every four years, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), in concert with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) and the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA) conduct a Federal Certification Review to evaluate the performance of the PVPC and its continuing oversight and day-to-day management of the Pioneer Valley region's MPO's transportation planning process. Mr. Wilcox stated that as part of this certification process, FHWA officials have scheduled a Certification Review meeting on April 18th at the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission at which the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Review Team members will conduct this Federal Certification Review process in concert with MPO and JTC members. Mr. Pounds asked if there were any comments or questions for Mr. Wilcox. There being none, Mr. Pounds moved to take up the next agenda item after thanking Mr. Wilcox for his presentation.

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

Mr. Pounds asked the MPO members to refer to the document entitled *Performance-Based Planning and Programming Agreement* enclosed in today's meeting packet that refers to the development of an agreement regarding mutual responsibilities in carrying out performance-based planning and programming among applicable metropolitan planning organizations, states, and public transportation operators. Mr. Pounds noted that, last year, the Boston Census-designated Urbanized Area (UZA) agreement was updated in accordance with the 2010 census and new federal planning regulations stemming from the *Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act*, (MAP-21), and the *Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act*. This updated Boston UZA agreement is now being used as a template. Mr. Pounds stated that FHWA officials have requested feedback be solicited on this *Performance-Based Planning and Programming Agreement* from Pioneer Valley MPO members and the feedback and comments that are received will be discussed at the MPO's next meeting in April. Mr. Pounds added that the deadline for the MPO's formal endorsement of the *Performance-Based Planning and Programming Agreement* is June 2019.

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

7. Update by PVPC Staff on the Status of the 2020 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) Development With Overview of Project Rankings, Discussion and Feedback

Principal Planner Dana Roscoe called the MPO members attention to the document printed in color and entitled *2019 Pioneer Valley Region Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)*. Mr. Roscoe stated that there are two actions that can be applied to the TIP: there can be an amendment that is put out for public review and then the MPO members act on it, or there can be a staff adjustment that does not require MPO action. The adjustment that's been made to the *Systematic Bridge Maintenance Project*, #608251 in Holyoke can be found on page 2 of the *2019 Pioneer Valley Region Transportation Improvement Program* document. Mr. Roscoe explained that in the case of this bridge maintenance project, the cost and project scope are the same but the description has been changed and this constitutes a TIP adjustment. Rich Masse, MassDOT District Two Project Development Engineer, noted that every year MassDOT has to apply for funding for bridge maintenance. Mr. Masse stated that this year MassDOT will be cleaning and painting the bridges that carry Interstate I-91 over lower Westfield Road in Holyoke. Mr. Pounds added that placeholders for this systematic bridge maintenance have been included in the region's 2019 TIP document.

Mr. Roscoe next addressed the development schedule of the FFY 2020 – 2024 TIP by referring to the document entitled *2020 -2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development Schedule*. Mr. Roscoe indicated that the schedule calls for the MPO to review the Universe of transportation projects and provide feedback at today's MPO meeting. He further indicated that at the next MPO meeting on March 26th, the MPO members will review a series of more refined TIP scenarios as well as reviewing and providing feedback on the JTC's list of preferred TIP projects. Mr. Roscoe added that a draft version of the region's 2020 – 2024 TIP will need to be put out for its required 21- day public review in April. Mr. Pounds interjected with a clarification saying that at the March 26th MPO meeting, JTC members will recommend multiple TIP scenarios and the MPO members will be asked to take action on a preferred scenario which will also constitute a crucial step in the development of MassDOT's Capital Investment Plan (CIP). Mr. Pounds stated that in April a draft 2020 – 2024 TIP will be put out for a 21-day public review in April.

Mr. Roscoe then referred to the document entitled *2020-2024 STP Project List – February 15, 2019* which is commonly known as the "Zebra Sheet" because of its design. Mr. Roscoe explained that the Zebra Sheet lists approximately 50 projects referred to as the "Universe of Projects" that are eligible for funding and these 50 projects represent close to \$330 million dollars in total. These are currently all the projects that are eligible for funding and inclusion in the region's TIP. Mr. Roscoe pointed to the first TIP project on the list entitled *Reconstruction of Damon Road, from Route 9 to Route 5*, Project #608236 in Northampton and said that he would use this project to explain the TIP project categories listed on the document and how a TIP project is programmed in the region's Transportation Improvement Program. Mr. Roscoe explained that this *Reconstruction of Damon Road, from Route 9 to Route 5*, Project #608236 in Northampton is currently programmed in the FFY 2020 year of the TIP; its design status is 100%; it has obtained plan, specification and estimate (PS&E) approval; its Technical Evaluation Criteria (TEC) score, which is based on a scale of zero to 100, is 66.5 making it the 4th highest ranked project in the "Universe of Projects" at an estimated cost of approximately \$10 million dollars. Mr. Roscoe continued his overall comments saying that there will be a Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) consultation required to ascertain whether any component of this Northampton TIP project would be eligible for federal CMAQ dollars. Mr. Roscoe added that the Northampton TIP project is also eligible for highway safety grant funding; is within MassDOT District 2 jurisdiction; and is located within an Environmental Justice area.

Mr. Roscoe next called the MPO members attention to the distributed document entitled *Draft 2020-2024 Target Projects* and he noted that the TIP projects listed on this document represent the staff's best guess last year in the selection of TIP projects to be included in the draft 2020-2024 TIP document. Mr. Roscoe noted that there are a number of potential TIP projects that have not yet been programmed. Mr. Roscoe reported that last year, 5 years were programmed for the TIP and the *Draft 2020-2024 Target Projects* document is the result, but there is an issue to be addressed and resolved in FFY 2020. He explained that, last year, the costs of the three TIP projects listed below were within the \$25 million dollar budget but this year the costs have increased to \$26 million resulting in \$1 ½ million dollars being over budget for the FFY 2020 year of the TIP

607773	Westfield	WESTFIELD- IMPROVEMENTS & RELATED WORK ON ROUTE 20, COURT STEET & WESTERN AVENUE, LLOYDS HILL ROAD TO HIGH STREET/MILL STREET INTERSECTION (PHASE II)
604434	Chicopee	CHICOPEE- RECONSTRUCTION & RELATED WORK ON FULLER ROAD, FROM MEMORIAL DR (RTE 33) TO SHAWINIGAN DR (2.0 MILES)
608236	Northampton	NORTHAMPTON- RECONSTRUCTION OF DAMON ROAD, FROM ROUTE 9 TO ROUTE 5, INCLUDES DRAINAGE SYSTEM REPAIRS & SLOPE STABILIZATION AT THE NORWOTTUCK

Mr. Roscoe reported at last week's JTC meeting, the JTC members discussed whether there was any flexibility in the cost estimates of the Westfield, Chicopee and Northampton TIP projects that would negate over programming the TIP. The discussion included whether there might be other funding sources or whether any one of the three TIP projects should be moved into FFY 2021 or whether any of the FFY 2021 TIP projects could be moved to address the funding gap. Mr. Roscoe underscored that in developing the new TIP encompassing FFY 2020-2024, we must stay within the existing budget and not over program.

Mr. Czach reported that at the February 20th JTC meeting, the Westfield, Chicopee and Northampton representatives were asked to examine their designs and cost estimates to see if anything could be moved or project costs adjusted. For instance, could a TIP project on the borderline between the third and fourth quarters of the fiscal year be advanced into the next fiscal year with the hope this TIP project could be advertised in the first quarter of the next federal fiscal year. Mr. Czach further reported that PVPC staff was asked to create various TIP scenarios for FFY 2020 to present to the JTC members for review at their March meeting while populating the out years of the TIP with the highest ranking TIP projects.

Mr. Roscoe reported that PVPC staff members meet annually with MassDOT officials on TIP Day and this year they spoke to every person who could have a role in any of the TIP projects in the bridge, right-of-way, permitting and environmental sections. Every TIP project on the list was reviewed and discussed in order to reach agreement on the realistic ability of the projects to move forward and there were two TIP projects that were culled out as questionable in terms of their respective time table to be advertised, namely:

608577	Easthampton	EASTHAMPTON- IMPROVEMENTS AND RELATED WORK ON UNION STREET (ROUTE 141) FROM PAYSON AVENUE TO HIGH STREET (0.36 MILES)
608374	West Springfield	WEST SPRINGFIELD- RECONSTRUCTION OF MEMORIAL AVENUE (ROUTE 147), FROM COLONY ROAD TO THE MEMORIAL AVENUE ROTARY (1.4 MILES)

Mr. Roscoe stated that it appeared that the two TIP projects listed above would likely not advance in the fiscal year in which they were currently programmed. Mr. Pounds interjected that there are many facets of a TIP project that to be examined in addition to its design status. He underscored that the recommendations that come from this year's TIP Day deliberations constitute MassDOT's best guess as to when each of the TIP projects can be advertised. Mr. Pounds emphasized that these recommendations serve as a guide and it's up to the MPO members to decide when a given project gets programmed in the TIP. Mr. Roscoe then stated that there are two projects (Easthampton #608577 and West Springfield #608374 listed above) that may or may not remain in the year in which they are currently programmed. Therefore, Mr. Roscoe outlined that the potential changes might include:

- The Easthampton TIP project might have to move from FFY 2021 to FFY 2022
- The West Springfield TIP project may have to move from fiscal years 2022 and 2023 to fiscal years 2023 – 2024
- Adding projects to FFY 2024 as there are no TIP projects programmed in FFY 2024

Mr. Roscoe also reported that the JTC staff members have advised that the highest ranked project on the Zebra Sheet, which is

608717	Springfield	SPRINGFIELD- RECONSTRUCTION OF SUMNER AVENUE AT DICKINSON STREET AND BELMONT AVENUE (THE "X")
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will need to be programmed first in FFY 2024 and then have the rest of FFY 2024 populated by other feasible improvement projects. He explained that doing this outlines a TIP scenario which will be presented, along with others, to the MPO members at their March meeting.

Mr. Pounds asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the development process for the FFY 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Alex Morse, Mayor of Holyoke, responded by advocating for the TRAFFIC SIGNAL UPGRADES AT 15 INTERSECTIONS ALONG HIGH AND MAPLE STREETS, Project #606450, in Holyoke for which he noted that an additional \$4 million dollars is needed. Nicole LaChapelle, Mayor of Easthampton, stated that she would be amenable if Easthampton's IMPROVEMENTS AND RELATED WORK ON UNION STREET FROM PAYSON AVENUE TO HIGH STREET, Project #608577 were to be moved from FFY 2021 provided she received a strong commitment that the project would be advertised in the first quarter of the following fiscal year.

Mr. Pounds thanked Mr. Roscoe for his report on the TIP issues the MPO will not have to address and he then moved on to take up the next agenda item

8. Update by PVPC Staff on the Status of the 2020 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Development

Mr. Roux presented a PowerPoint entitled *2020 Update to the RTP for the Pioneer Valley MPO* and reviewed the vision, goals, emphasis areas and problem statements encompassed by the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). Mr. Roux asked the MPO members to convey their thoughts regarding the types of projects they would like to see included in the Pioneer Valley's new RTP. Mr. Roux requested that the MPO members send him their questions, comments and suggestions noting that a draft RTP document needs to be presented to the MPO members at their April or May meeting. Mr. Roux added that the RTP will need to be endorsed by the MPO members by no later than July 23, 2019.

Mr. Pounds thanked Mr. Roux 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. Pounds 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 discussion at the last JTC meeting was development of the new FFY 2020 – 2024 Pioneer Valley Transportation Improvement Program. Mr. Czach underscored that if a municipality has a project that's listed on the region's Zebra Sheet, a representative of that municipality needs to attend the next two JTC meetings. Mr. Pounds interjected that MassDOT is working off the latest design submissions and will be confirming each project's estimated costs for consideration at the next MPO meeting.

Mr. Czech also reported that at their last meeting, JTC members agreed to review at-grade crossing on paths.

Mr. Pounds 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. Pounds 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) was advertised on February 2nd and the project has a bid opening scheduled for April 17th
- *Bridge Replacement Project on Chester Road over Smart Brook* in the Town of Middlefield (Project #608249) is at its final design phase
- *Route 143 Reconstruction and Related Work – (Split Phase Project)* in the Town of Worthington, (Project #606912) is awaiting its final design and that project is within its budget

Mr. Pounds 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)* Phase I is scheduled to be advertised in June and its PS&E is due soon
- The *Intersection Improvements at Bay Street and Berkshire Avenue in the City of Springfield (Project #608411)* is at 100% design and scheduled to be advertised in August
- The *Improvements & Related Work on Route 202 and 21 in the Town of Belchertown (Project #608412)* was at 100% design last month and it's scheduled to be advertised in August
- The *Intersection Improvements on Main Street in the Town of Ware (Project #604987)* is at 100% design stage and will be advertised in August
- The *Intersection Improvements on Brimfield Road in the Town of Holland (Project #604962)* received its PS&E in January and is scheduled to be advertised next week
- *Interstate Maintenance Resurfacing of Route I-391 in the Cities of Chicopee and Holyoke (Project #607560)* has its bid opening scheduled for April 17th
- *Resurfacing of Route 202 in the Towns of Granby and South Hadley (Project #607474)* has been environmentally cleared and 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 100% design phase and will be advertised in September
- *Roundabout Construction at Intersection Routes North King and Hatfield Streets in the City of Northampton (Project #606555)* is at the 75% design phase and will be advertised in September
- *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

There being no further questions or comments from MPO members, Mr. Pounds thanked Mr. Frieri and Mr. Hoynoski for their MassDOT 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 introduced and welcomed Tina Cote, Administrator for Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA) as her guest at today's MPO meeting. Then Ms. Sheehan reported that this fiscal year the PVTA had received additional state funds totaling \$1,600,000 but the PVTA in 2019 still has a budget deficit. Ms. Sheehan stated that the PVTA provides transit services to a largely transit-dependent population and given this, any changes to PVTA services caused by a budget deficit cuts ridership and adversely affects the quality of life for people who rely on the PVTA transit system. However, Ms. Sheehan underscored that the RTA Task Force is going to produce a report soon which is believed will outline a vision for the RTAs across the Commonwealth, and she hopes that this new vision will enlist the broad support it needs in order to become a reality. Ms. Sheehan added that PVTA will be relocating its Springfield bus maintenance operations from Main Street to its new facility on Cottage Street in April.

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

## 12. Other Business

Mr. Pounds asked if the MPO members had any other business. Mr. Brennan responded that a public meeting on MassDOT's new East-West Rail Study is scheduled for Tuesday evening on March 12th at the UMass Center in downtown Springfield starting at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Pounds reported on the Safe Routes to School Program saying that MassDOT officials were pleased with the number of applications that were received. The applications are being reviewed and a list of recommended projects will soon be developed. Mr. Pounds stated that money will be set aside this year and programming will begin next year.

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

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

MOVED BY DAVID NARKEWICZ, MAYOR OF NORTHAMPTON, SECONDED BY RICK SULLIVAN, PRESIDENT AND CEO, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS, TO ADJOURN THE FEBRUARY 26, 2019 MEETING OF THE PIONEER VALLEY REGION'S MPO. THERE BEING NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, THE FEBRUARY 26th MPO MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 11:07 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: February 26, 2019*
2. *Minutes of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Meeting: Wednesday, January 22, 2019*
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. *Performance-Based Planning and Programming Agreement*
8. *Draft 2020-2024 Target Projects*
9. *2020-2024 STP Project List – February 15, 2019 (Zebra Sheet)*