

Minutes of the Tuesday, March 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
Tina Cote*	Administrator, Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA)
Jim Czach*	Chairman, Joint Transportation Committee & Town Engineer, Town of West Springfield
Walter Gunn	Chairman, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC)
Richard Kos	Mayor, City of Chicopee
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)
Domenic Sarno	Mayor, City of Springfield
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

(\* denotes non-voting member)

**Guests and PVPC Staff Present:**

Price Armstrong	PVTA Manager of Planning and Analysis
Pat Beaudry	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) Manager of Public Affairs
Mike Bolduc	MassDOT District Two Office (Northampton)
Elizabeth Botelho	City Engineer, City of Chicopee
Tim Brennan	Executive Director, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC)
Daniel Call	Columbia Greenway, City of Westfield
Matt Chase	Transportation Market Leader for VHB
Michelle Chase	Town Engineer, Agawam
Jeremy Cigal	Engineer, City of Westfield
Chris Cignoli	Director of Public Works, City of Springfield
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)
Van Kacoyannakis	Civil Engineer, VHB
Andrew Krar	Town Engineer, Town of Longmeadow
Derek Krevat	Transportation Planner, MassDOT
Nick Lapoint	Senior Transportation Engineer, Fuss & O'Neill
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)
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
Marvin Ward	MassBike Easthampton

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 March 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 February 26, 2019.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting of the Pioneer Valley MPO Held on February 26, 2019

Mr. Pounds called for a motion to approve the minutes of the previous Pioneer Valley MPO meeting which was held on February 26, 2019.

MOVED BY RICK SULLIVAN, PRESIDENT AND CEO, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS, SECONDED BY RICHARD MASSE, PROJECT DEVELOPMENT ENGINEER, MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (MASSDOT) TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 26, 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 the PVTA Transit Asset Management Plan Targets as Presented at the September 25, 2018 MPO Meeting

Mr. Pounds called on PVTA Senior Transit Operations Analyst Price Armstrong to discuss the PVTA Transit Asset Management Plan Targets. Mr. Armstrong noted that he presented the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA) Asset Management Plan to the MPO members at the September 25, 2018 MPO meeting. Mr. Armstrong explained that the Federal Transit Authority (FTA) requires transit agencies to inventory, assess and establish State of Good Repair performance measures for their rolling stock or revenue vehicles; equipment and supervisory vehicles; along with the requirement that annual targets be set to evaluate performance. Mr. Armstrong reported that PVTA's five-year horizon and capital plan have a \$23.7 million funding shortfall. He stated that the PVTA is asking the MPO members to adopt the PVTA's annual Transit Asset Management (TAM) Plan Targets under the required federal requirements as reflected on page 7.1 in the document entitled *PVTA Transit Asset Management Plan* which is included in today's meeting packet.

Mr. Pounds asked that a motion be made to approve the PVTA Transit Asset Management Plan Targets and he indicated that he would open a discussion if there were any questions or comments.

MOVED BY ALEX MORSE, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF HOLYOKE, SECONDED BY RICHARD KOS, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF CHICOPEE, TO ENDORSE THE PIONEER VALLEY TRANSIT AUTHORITY (PVTA) TRANSIT ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN TARGETS AS PRESENTED

Mr. Pounds asked if there were any questions or comments.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS, THE MOTION WAS THEN UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

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

4. Update by PVPC Staff on the Status of the 2020 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) Development With Discussion of JTC Recommended Scenarios And MPO Selection of a Preferred List of Projects

Mr. Pounds called on PVPC Principal Planner Dana Roscoe to discuss the JTC recommended scenarios for the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) and the MPO members' selection of a preferred list of projects. Mr. Roscoe

reported that the JTC members at their last meeting on March 13th spent well over an hour discussing, debating and voting on two scenarios for the FFY 2020 – 2024 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) that are included in today’s meeting packet. Mr. Roscoe explained that the three TIP projects that have been included in Year 1 (FFY2020) as part of the JTC Scenario #1 appear below:

**FFY2020 – JTC TIP Scenario #1**

Project ID	Municipality	Project description	District	Funds	Total
607773	Westfield	WESTFIELD- IMPROVEMENTS & RELATED WORK ON ROUTE 20, COURT STEET & WESTERN AVENUE, LLOYDS HILL ROAD TO HIGH STREET/MILL STREET INTERSECTION (PHASE II)	2	STP	\$ 8,153,565
604434	Chicopee	CHICOPEE- RECONSTRUCTION & RELATED WORK ON FULLER ROAD, FROM MEMORIAL DR (RTE 33) TO SHAWINIGAN DR (2.0 MILES)	2	STP	\$ 8,034,211
608236	Northampton	NORTHAMPTON- RECONSTRUCTION OF DAMON ROAD, FROM ROUTE 9 TO ROUTE 5, INCLUDES DRAINAGE SYSTEM REPAIRS & SLOPE STABILIZATION AT THE NORWOTTUCK	2	STP	\$ 10,043,653
		Cost Reduction Option Westfield and Possibly Chicopee			\$ (500,000)
<b>Regionally Prioritized Projects subtotal ▶</b>					<b>\$ 25,731,429</b>
<b>Total Regional Federal Aid Funds Programmed ▶</b>					<b>\$ 25,731,429</b>

Mr. Roscoe underscored that the amount of funds targeted for Year 1 exceeds the current regional target. He stated that if additional funds can be secured, these three TIP projects can move forward but if the state is unable to provide additional funds, Scenario #2 must be considered. Mr. Pounds responded that there are no additional funds for TIP projects in 2020. Mr. Roscoe asked about a directive from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) stating that the Springfield urbanized area would receive an additional \$1.8 million which could be spent immediately and must be spent before 2022. Mr. Roscoe asked if that \$1.8 million was an option to offset the funding shortfall in Scenario #1. Mr. Pounds replied that MassDOT is aware of this \$1.8 million funding source but as yet, there is no decision by MassDOT regarding its distribution.

**Scenario #2**

Mr. Roscoe explained the proposed JTC TIP Scenario #2 for Year 1, the *Improvements & Related Work on Route 20* (#607773) Project in Westfield moves from FFY2020 to FFY2021. The new project list for Year 1 is presented below:

**FFY2020 – JTC TIP Scenario #2**

Project ID	Municipality	Project description	District	Funds	Total
604434	Chicopee	CHICOPEE- RECONSTRUCTION & RELATED WORK ON FULLER ROAD, FROM MEMORIAL DR (RTE 33) TO SHAWINIGAN DR (2.0 MILES)	2	STP	\$ 8,034,211
608236	Northampton	NORTHAMPTON- RECONSTRUCTION OF DAMON ROAD, FROM ROUTE 9 TO ROUTE 5, INCLUDES DRAINAGE SYSTEM REPAIRS & SLOPE STABILIZATION AT THE NORWOTTUCK	2	STP	\$ 10,043,653
608718	Springfield	SPRINGFIELD- INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT BERKSHIRE AVENUE, COTTAGE AND HARVEY STREETS	2	STP	\$ 2,280,751
607502	Northampton	NORTHAMPTON- INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT KING STREET, NORTH STREET & SUMMER STREET AND AT KING STREET & FINN STREET	2	STP	\$ 3,384,309
PV0001	Region	Valley Bike Share (Phase II)	2	STP	\$ 1,200,000.00
PV0002	PVTA Area	P 21 Express Year 3	2	STP	\$ 500,000.00
<b>Regionally Prioritized Projects subtotal ▶</b>					<b>\$ 25,442,924</b>
<b>Total Regional Federal Aid Funds Programmed ▶</b>					<b>\$ 25,442,924</b>

Domenic Sarno, Mayor of Springfield, asked if Scenario #2 could include the *Intersection Improvements at Cottage Street, Industry Avenue and Robbins Road* (#608782) in Springfield and the intersection at the “X” referring to the *Reconstruction of Sumner Avenue at Dickinson Street and Belmont Avenue (the “X”)* Project (#608717) in Springfield. Mr. Roscoe replied that the “X” is the number one project in the region and has the highest TEC score but it is one of the most complicated projects so it will not be a candidate for year 1. Mr. Roscoe stated that the *Intersection Improvements at Berkshire Avenue, Cottage and Harvey Streets* Project (#608718) moved into Year 1 based on its cost. Mr. Roscoe further stated that the *Intersection Improvements at Cottage Street, Robbins Road and Industry Avenue* (#608718) Project in Springfield is more expensive and cannot fit in Year 1 so it must remain in Year 2.

Mr. Pounds confirmed that members are comfortable with Year 1 of the JTC TIP Scenario #2 and hearing no opposition, Mr. Roscoe moved on to Year 2 of the JTC TIP Scenario #2. Mr. Roscoe again summarized the proposed scenario as presented below:

**FFY2021 – JTC TIP Scenario #2**

Project ID	Municipality	Project description	District	Funds	Total
607773	Westfield	WESTFIELD- IMPROVEMENTS & RELATED WORK ON ROUTE 20, COURT STEET & WESTERN AVENUE, LLOYDS HILL ROAD TO HIGH STREET/MILL STREET INTERSECTION (PHASE II)	2	STP	\$ 8,479,708
608782	Springfield	SPRINGFIELD- INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT COTTAGE STREET, INDUSTRY AVENUE AND ROBBINS ROAD	2	STP	\$ 2,858,325
608084	Amherst	AMHERST- IMPROVEMENTS & RELATED WORK ON ROUTES 9 & 116, FROM UNIVERSITY DRIVE TO SOUTH PLEASANT STREET (0.8 MILES)	2	STP	\$ 4,048,448
605032	Hadley	HADLEY- RECONSTRUCTION ON ROUTE 9, FROM MIDDLE STREET TO MAPLE/SOUTH MAPLE STREET	2	STP	\$ 10,917,510
<b>Regionally Prioritized Projects subtotal ▶</b>					<b>\$ 26,303,990</b>
<b>Total Regional Federal Aid Funds Programmed ▶</b>					<b>\$ 26,303,990</b>

Brian Sullivan, Mayor of Westfield, asked how certain he can be that the *Improvements & Related Work on Route 20, Court Street & Western Avenue, and Lloyds Hill Road to High Street/Mill Street Intersection* will be the first project of next year. Michael Bolduc from MassDOT District 2 expressed confidence this project could move forward on this schedule.

Hearing no further comments, Mr. Roscoe moved on to Year 3 of the JTC TIP Scenario #2. Mr. Roscoe again summarized the proposed scenario for the MPO as presented below:

**FFY2022 – JTC TIP Scenario #2**

Project ID	Municipality	Project description	District	Funds	Total
608374	West Springfield	WEST SPRINGFIELD- RECONSTRUCTION OF MEMORIAL AVENUE (ROUTE 147), FROM COLONY ROAD TO THE MEMORIAL AVENUE ROTARY (1.4 MILES)	2	STP	\$ 9,360,166
608577	Easthampton	EASTHAMPTON- IMPROVEMENTS AND RELATED WORK ON UNION STREET (ROUTE 141) FROM PAYSON AVENUE TO HIGH STREET (0.36 MILES)	2	STP	\$ 3,560,664
605032	Hadley	HADLEY- RECONSTRUCTION ON ROUTE 9, FROM MIDDLE STREET TO MAPLE/SOUTH MAPLE STREET	2	STP	\$ 13,932,231
<b>Regionally Prioritized Projects subtotal ▶</b>					<b>\$ 26,853,061</b>
<b>Total Regional Federal Aid Funds Programmed ▶</b>					<b>\$ 26,853,061</b>

Mr. Pounds called the MPO’s attention to Project # 606450 in Holyoke – *Traffic Signal Upgrades at 15 Intersections Along High and Maple Streets*. He reported that the cost of this project increased to \$9,828,000. While MassDOT has agreed to fund a total of \$4,789,307 of this project with statewide funds, an additional \$5,095,339 would need to be funded in Year 3 using the regional target funding. This could be accomplished by reducing the amount of advance construction (AC) funding for the West Springfield Project #608374 in Year 3 (FFY2022) and increasing this project’s cost in Year 4 (FFY2023). Mr. Pounds also reported that MassDOT has agreed to fund the entire cost of another Holyoke Project #606156 – *Reconstruction of I-91 Interchange 17 and Route 141* with statewide funding. In response, Mr. Roscoe summarized the impact of these changes on Year 4 of the JTC TIP Scenario #2 as summarized below:

**FFY2023 – JTC TIP Scenario #2**

Project ID	Municipality	Project description	District	Funds	Total
608374	West Springfield	WEST SPRINGFIELD- RECONSTRUCTION OF MEMORIAL AVENUE (ROUTE 147), FROM COLONY ROAD TO THE MEMORIAL AVENUE ROTARY (1.4 MILES)	2	STP	\$ 14,988,565
606895	Granby	GRANBY- IMPROVEMENTS @ 2 LOCATIONS ON ROUTE 202: SCHOOL STREET & FIVE CORNERS	2	STP	\$ 2,865,694
606156	Holyoke	HOLYOKE- RECONSTRUCTION OF I-91 INTERCHANGE 17 & ROUTE 141	2	STP	\$ —
609287	Worthington	WORTHINGTON- RECONSTRUCTION & RELATED WORK ON ROUTE 143 (PHASE II)	1	STP	\$ 9,614,080
<b>Regionally Prioritized Projects subtotal ▶</b>					<b>\$ 27,468,339</b>
<b>Total Regional Federal Aid Funds Programmed ▶</b>					<b>\$ 27,468,339</b>

Mr. Roscoe explained that because the state agreed to fund the Holyoke project (#606156), more regional target funding is now available, but there would not be enough to fund both the Granby (#606895) and Worthington (#609287) projects. This would require one of these projects to move to Year 5 (FFY2024) and a Year 5 project to possibly move to Year 4. Year 5 of the JTC TIP Scenario #2 is summarized below:

**FFY2024 – JTC TIP Scenario #2**

Project ID	Municipality	Project description	District	Funds	Total
608717	Springfield	SPRINGFIELD- RECONSTRUCTION OF SUMNER AVENUE AT DICKINSON STREET AND BELMONT AVENUE (THE "X")	2	STP	\$ 15,508,778.92
605048	Northampton	IMPROVEMENTS ON ROUTE 5 (MOUNT TOM ROAD) - FROM BRIDGE E-5-4 OVER THE MANHAN RIVER TO 850' SOUTH OF I-91 NB EXIT 18 RAMP (0.85 MILES)	2	STP	\$ 2,230,767.00
608163	Wales	WALES- RECONSTRUCTION & IMPROVEMENTS ON MONSON ROAD, FROM THE MONSON T.L. TO REED HILL ROAD (1.5 MILES)	2	STP	\$ 4,335,321.36
608881	Longmeadow	LONGMEADOW- SPRINGFIELD- RESURFACING AND INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS ON LONGMEADOW STREET (ROUTE 5) AND CONVERSE STREET (0.84 MILES)	2	STP	\$ 6,064,675
<b>Regionally Prioritized Projects subtotal ►</b>					<b>\$ 28,139,542</b>
<b>Total Regional Federal Aid Funds Programmed ►</b>					<b>\$ 28,139,542</b>

The MPO had a long discussion on possible alternatives to bring Year 4 and Year 5 of the Draft TIP into financial constraint. This discussion focused on the status and merits of five projects as summarized below:

Project ID	Municipality	Project description	Total
609287	Worthington	WORTHINGTON- RECONSTRUCTION & RELATED WORK ON ROUTE 143 (PHASE II)	\$ 9,614,080
606895	Granby	GRANBY- IMPROVEMENTS @ 2 LOCATIONS ON ROUTE 202: SCHOOL STREET & FIVE CORNERS	\$ 2,865,694
605048	Northampton	IMPROVEMENTS ON ROUTE 5 (MOUNT TOM ROAD) - FROM BRIDGE E-5-4 OVER THE MANHAN RIVER TO 850' SOUTH OF I-91 NB EXIT 18 RAMP (0.85 MILES)	\$ 2,230,767.00
608163	Wales	WALES- RECONSTRUCTION & IMPROVEMENTS ON MONSON ROAD, FROM THE MONSON T.L. TO REED HILL ROAD (1.5 MILES)	\$ 4,335,321.36
608881	Longmeadow	LONGMEADOW- SPRINGFIELD- RESURFACING AND INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS ON LONGMEADOW STREET (ROUTE 5) AND CONVERSE STREET (0.84 MILES)	\$ 6,064,675

Mr. McCaul made adjustments to Years 4 and 5 of the proposed TIP based on MPO feedback and suggestions to identify potential options for funding. The results of these proposed changes were displayed on the screens in the meeting room for input by the MPO members and audience. MassDOT District 2 spoke to the importance of the proposed Granby project. Mayor Sarno advocated for the Springfield "X" project. Both Walter Gunn and Andrew Krar spoke to the merits of the Longmeadow project. Mayor Narkewicz offered to have the Northampton project removed from Year 5. Charlie Rose from Worthington spoke in favor of the Worthington project. Mr. Pounds stated that MassDOT's preference is to continue with projects that have been previously prioritized on the TIP.

Mr. Krar asked when the status of the additional \$1.8 million to be received from FHWA will be known. Mr. Pounds replied that he does not yet have an answer. Mr. Brennan underscored that the \$1.8 million is geographically marked for this region and is not statewide funding. Mayor Morse recommended that a closer examination be made of the Springfield "X" project and the other projects discussed today as well as funding that is available to the region. Mr. Pounds replied that these suggestions can be considered because no vote on the TIP is being taken today. Mr. Pounds stated that the TIP projects currently programmed in Years 1 – 2 as part of the JTC Scenario #2 can be listed as presented and staff can update Year 3 to reflect the necessary changes to accommodate the Holyoke project. Years 4 and 5 could then be programmed with the remaining projects from the previous year's TIP leaving the TIP under-programmed in both years. It was agreed there could be a discussion on the status of all unprogrammed projects at the upcoming April JTC and MPO meetings.

Jim Czach asked what happens over the next two weeks if additional funding is found to fund the JTC TIP Scenario #1. Mr. Pounds replied that Scenario 1 cannot be funded. Mr. Czach stated that he would like to present just one scenario to the MPO members in April. Mr. Pounds replied that the JTC should recommend a scenario based on the information available at that time.

Mr. Pounds then summarized the recommendation by the MPO to remove the Northampton and Wales projects from the draft TIP and continue to fund the Granby, Longmeadow and Worthington projects. Mr. McCaul inquired about the Springfield "X" project. Mr. Pounds emphasized that the Springfield "X" project is being tabled for the time being until there is more information. Mr. Pounds also stated that JTC members will receive the preferred list of TIP projects at their April meeting and then they will need to make a recommendation on the TIP which could include the Springfield "X" project. Chris Cignoli stated that Springfield's 25% design has been submitted for the "X" project and it will be going to a public hearing in the next two months. Mr. Masse replied that the Springfield "X" project is still under review by MassDOT and there are some items included in its cost that may not be eligible for federal funding so the cost could change. Mr. Pounds said he would look into it before the April JTC meeting. Mr. Pounds responded to Mr. Masse's point indicating that MassDOT will research federal participation items for the Springfield "X" project and communicate their findings along with the status of projects to the JTC. Mr. Pounds stated that at the MPO meeting in April, the JTC will make a recommendation and present a draft TIP for FFY2020 - 2024.

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

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

Mr. Pounds called on PVPC Principal Planner Gary Roux for an update on the status of the 2020 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). Mr. Roux stated that there is a draft version of Chapters 1, 2 and 3 of the draft Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) document in today's meeting packets. This is to provide MPO members with the opportunity to review the draft RTP in smaller pieces prior to the release of the full draft RTP in June. Mr. Roux explained that Chapter 3 is a work in progress because it describes the public participation process and Chapter 3 will continue to be updated as comments are received on the document through the public participation process. Mr. Roux added that additional chapters will be presented to the MPO at their next meeting and that the RTP was on schedule to have a completed draft report for the June MPO meeting. The MPO will be asked to endorse the RTP at their July meeting.

Mr. Pounds thanked Mr. Roux for his report on the Regional Transportation Plan and he then moved on to take up the next agenda item.

6. Report from Jim Czach, the Chairman of the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC), on Important Transportation Issues and Projects Discussed Since the Last MPO Meeting was Held on 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 focus of the last JTC meeting was the Pioneer Valley 2020 – 2024 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP). Mr. Czach stated that the JTC members will prepare a draft list of TIP projects at their April 10th meeting to present to the MPO members later in April.

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

7. Updates from MassDOT District One and District Two Officials on Relevant Transportation Issues and Projects of Interest to the Pioneer Valley MPO Members

Mr. 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) will be advertised on March 9th and will go out to bid on May 14th
- *Route 143 Reconstruction and Related Work – Phase I – (Split Phase Project)* in the Town of Worthington, (Project #606912) is now at 100% design and is on schedule to be advertised this summer

Mr. Pounds next called on Mike Bolduc of the MassDOT District Two office in Northampton to present District Two's updates on relevant transportation projects within its jurisdiction. Mr. Bolduc reported on District Two's FFY 2019 TIP transportation improvement projects as follows:

- The *Intersection Improvements at Route 187 100 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 is scheduled to be advertised in August
- The *Intersection Improvements on Main Street* project in the Town of Ware (#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 was advertised last week
- *Interstate Maintenance Resurfacing of Route I-391* in the Cities of Chicopee and Holyoke (Project #607560) was advertised and its bid opening is scheduled for April 17th
- *Resurfacing of Route 202* in the Towns of Granby and South Hadley (Project #607474) is at 100% design and scheduled to be advertised in September
- *Kelly School Safe Routes to School Program* in the City Holyoke (Project #608790) is at 100% design phase and scheduled to be advertised in September
- *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 with 100% design expected at the end of April and it's scheduled to be advertised in September
- *Highway Lighting Upgrade on I-91 in Chicopee and West Springfield* (608600) has been advertised and its bid opening is scheduled for next week
- *Columbia Greenway Rail Trail Construction in Westfield* (Project 603783) is at 100% design and scheduled to be advertised in June

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

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

PVTA Administrator Sandra Sheehan reported that the PVTA Advisory Board will meet tomorrow to discuss a draft budget for fiscal year 2020. Ms. Sheehan explained that the draft budget is based on Governor Charlie Baker's allocation for the Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs) of \$82 million and as a result, the PVTA has a \$1.7 million deficit. Ms. Sheehan stated that at the \$82 million level, the PVTA will have to reduce its Saturday service. She reported that the Task Force on RTA Performance and Funding released a report on March 13th and there were public hearings last week. She noted that a substantial number of people attended the UMass PVTA hearing for western Massachusetts. Ms. Sheehan underscored that the PVTA is in support of the report's recommended amount of \$90.5 million for the RTAs which will enable support for the PVTA at its current level.

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

9. Updates from FRTA Administrator Tina Cote on Relevant Transit-Related Issues and Projects of Interest to the Pioneer Valley MPO Members

Tina Cote, Administrator for Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA) stated that the FRTA supports the Task Force on RTA Performance and Funding as well. Mr. Pounds thanked Ms. Cote for her FRTA update report and he then moved to take up the last agenda item.

12. Other Business

Mr. Pounds reported that the Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS) was launched this year. Mr. Pounds reported there were 14 Safe Routes to School Programs awarded this year with three communities in the Pioneer Valley being awarded with the SRTS program, namely, Agawam, Longmeadow and Northampton. Mr. Pounds underscored that the Safe Routes to School Program will be available every year and there will be an application process available this fall. Mr. Pounds added that \$15 million will be set aside beginning in 2020 with an annual allocation of \$5 million per year and he suggested that the MPO members email the SRTS Coordinator if they have questions.

At this point, Mr. Roscoe announced that the next Pioneer Valley MPO meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 23rd at 10:00 a.m.

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

MOVED BY ALEX MORSE, MAYOR OF HOLYOKE, SECONDED BY RICK SULLIVAN, PRESIDENT AND CEO, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS, TO ADJOURN THE MARCH 26, 2019 MEETING OF THE PIONEER VALLEY REGION'S MPO. THERE BEING NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, THE MARCH 26th MPO MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 11:35 A.M. WITHOUT OBJECTION

Respectfully submitted,

Timothy W. Brennan, Executive Director  
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

**List of Documents and Other Items Distributed at the March 26, 2019 MPO Meeting**

1. *Pioneer Valley Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Meeting Notice and Agenda: March 26, 2019*
2. *Minutes of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Meeting: Wednesday, February 26, 2019*
3. *Scenarios 1 and 2*
4. *2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development Schedule*
5. *2020 Pioneer Valley Regional Transportation Plan*
6. *PVTA Transit Asset Management Plan*
7. *2020-2024 STP Project List – February 15, 2019 (Zebra Sheet)*