

Minutes of the Tuesday, March 28, 2017 Meeting of the
Pioneer Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
held at the
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
60 Congress Street, Springfield, MA 01104-3419

MPO Members Present:

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Stephen Woelfel | Director of Strategic Planning, Office of Transportation Planning, Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) Representing MPO Chair Stephanie Pollack, Massachusetts Secretary of Transportation and Chief Executive Officer |
| George Archible | Belchertown Board of Selectmen |
| Richard Cohen | Mayor, Town of Agawam |
| Jim Czach* | Chairman, Joint Transportation Committee & Town Engineer, Town of West Springfield |
| Walter Gunn | Chairman, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) |
| Richard Kos | Mayor, City of Chicopee |
| Alex Morse | Mayor, City of Holyoke |
| David Narkewicz | Mayor, City of Northampton, Representing Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA) |
| Patrick Paul | Highway Director, Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT), District Two Representing MassDOT Highway Administrator Thomas J. Tinlin |
| Domenic Sarno | Mayor, City of Springfield |
| Doug Slaughter | Town of Amherst Selectboard |
| Rick Sullivan* | President and CEO, Economic Development Council of Western Massachusetts |
| Brandon Wilcox* | Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) |

(* denotes non-voting members)

Guests and PVPC Staff Present:

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Mike Albro | Assistant Town Engineer, Town of Agawam |
| Eric Bernardin | Vice President, Fuss & O'Neill |
| Mike Bolduc | MassDOT District Two Office (Northampton) |
| Tim Brennan | Executive Director, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) |
| Gary Briere | River's Edge Cycling and MassBike Pioneer Valley |
| Daniel Call | City of Westfield |
| Matt Chase | Senior Project Manager, Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc., (VHB) |
| Jeremy Cigal | Utility Engineer, City of Westfield |
| Mark Cressotti | Vice-Chair of the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) and City Engineer, City of Westfield |
| David Elvin | Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section |
| Paul Furgal | McMahon Associates |
| Peter Frieri | MassDOT District One Office (Lenox) |
| Jeff Hoynoski | MassDOT District Two Office (Northampton) |
| Andrew Krar | Town Engineer, Town of Longmeadow |
| Richard Masse | MassDOT District Two Office (Northampton) |
| Andrew McCaul | Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section |
| Jeff McCollough | Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section |
| Mary MacInnes | Administrator, Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA) |
| Nicholas Lapointe | Senior Transportation Engineer, Fuss & O'Neill |
| Michael McManus | Superintendent, Department of Public Works, City of Holyoke |
| Mark Moore | MassDOT District 1 (Lenox) |
| Dawn Nims | Civil Engineer, Town of Agawam |
| Bryan Pounds | MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning (OTP), MassDOT |
| Dana Roscoe | Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section |
| Gary Roux | Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section |
| Matt Sokop | Springfield Department of Public Works |
| Louise Sullivan | Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Support Staff |
| Marvin Ward | MassBike – Easthampton |
| Steve Williams | Director, Department of Public Works, Town of Belchertown |

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

Stephen Woelfel, Director of Strategic Planning at the Office of Transportation Planning, Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT), representing Stephanie Pollack, Massachusetts Secretary of Transportation and Chief Executive Officer, Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT), called the March 28, 2017 meeting of the Pioneer Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to order at 10:03 a.m. and he welcomed and thanked all those in attendance. Following introductions, Mr. Woelfel moved to take up the minutes of the previous MPO meeting held on January 31, 2017.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting of the Pioneer Valley MPO Held on January 31, 2017

Mr. Woelfel called for a motion to approve the minutes of the previous Pioneer Valley MPO meeting which was held on January 31, 2017.

MOVED BY RICHARD COHEN, MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF AGAWAM, SECONDED BY PATRICK PAUL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT TWO, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 31, 2017 PIONEER VALLEY MPO MEETING AS PRESENTED. THERE BEING NO FURTHER COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS, THE MOTION WAS THEN APPROVED WITH ONE ABSTENTION BY WALTER GUNN.

3. Review, Discussion and MPO Endorsement of Proposed Amendments to the Current 2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Mr. Woelfel called on PVPC Principal Planner Dana Roscoe to review a series of proposed amendments to the Pioneer Valley region's current, FFY 2017 Pioneer Valley Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Mr. Roscoe called the MPO members attention to the relevant handout entitled *2017 - 2021 Pioneer Valley Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Proposed Amendments – January 2017*, and he explained that this document was released for public review on January 31, 2017 and has been out for a required public review for almost 60 days. Mr. Roscoe reported that during the past 60 days, two comments were received from MassDOT: (1) a request to change the parameters of the Ludlow Center Street project (605011) consisting of an updated project name and description which now reads *Reconstruction of Center Street (Route 21) from Sewall Street to Beachside Drive*; (2) MassDOT requested a necessary cost increase to the Goshen West Street Reconstruction Project (605150) to a new total of \$4,345,300.

At this point, Mr. Woelfel called for a motion to act on the required MPO endorsement of these proposed amendments to the Pioneer Valley region's current, FFY 2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

MOVED BY GEORGE ARCHIBLE, BELCHERTOWN BOARD OF SELECTMEN, SECONDED BY RICHARD COHEN, MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF AGAWAM, TO ENDORSE THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE PIONEER VALLEY REGION'S CURRENT 2017 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AS RECOMMENDED BY THE PVPC STAFF.

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

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

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

4. Review, Discussion and MPO Endorsement of Proposed Amendments to the Pioneer Valley Public Participation Process

Mr. Woelfel called on PVPC Principal Planner Dana Roscoe to provide an update on the status of proposed amendments to the Pioneer Valley Public Participation Process (PPP). Mr. Roscoe indicated that the Pioneer Valley Public Participation Process (PPP) requires a 45-day public review period and the subject revised PPP document went out for review on January 31, 2017. Mr. Roscoe noted that during this review period, no comments were received. Mr. Roscoe stated that the only proposed amendment to the Public Participation Process is that it will change the required public review time period for applicable MPO documents that are

released for public review from the current 30-day public review period to a minimum 21-day public review period. Mr. Roscoe explained that this particular amendment is being proposed in order to pursue a consistent, monthly schedule for MPO meetings which, going forward, are meetings that have been scheduled for the fourth Tuesday of each month. Mr. Roscoe added that when there won't be 30 days between two consecutive MPO meetings, the proposed reduction from a 30-day to a 21-day review period will allow the MPO ample time to take action.

At this point, Mr. Woelfel called for a motion to endorse the proposed amendments to the Pioneer Valley Public Participation Process (PPP).

MOVED BY RICHARD COHEN, MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF AGAWAM, SECONDED BY PATRICK PAUL OF THE MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT TWO, TO ENDORSE THE PIONEER VALLEY REGION'S PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE PVPC STAFF. THERE BEING NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, THE MOTION WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE MPO MEMBERS PRESENT

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

5. Review and MPO Discussion of a Preferred Slate of Potential Projects to be Included in the Draft 2018 – 2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Discussion will include an Overview of a Future Passenger Rail Project for Consideration

Mr. Roscoe explained that for this agenda item he would be referring to three reference documents contained in today's MPO meeting packet namely: *Slate of Projects for FFY 2018-2022 TIP Consideration*, *PVTA Need FFY18-22*, and *STP Project Priority Ranking*. Mr. Roscoe explained that the *Slate of Projects for FFY 2018-2022 TIP Consideration* document alphabetically lists all the road and bridge projects that are potentially eligible for inclusion in the Pioneer Valley's TIP over the next five years. Mr. Roscoe indicated that the road and bridge projects that are candidates for MPO consideration for inclusion in year one of the region's TIP have been highlighted in this document. Mr. Roscoe stated that in years past, there have been more potential TIP projects than there has been available funding; however, more recently this has not been the case due in part to MassDOT's acceptance and support for its relatively new Complete Streets Program. Mr. Roscoe further explained that the Complete Streets Program includes amenities, such as expanded lanes for bikeways and additional sidewalks which in turn, which have required highway and road projects to secure additional right-of-way thus increasing the time that's required for a project's completion. Mr. Roscoe underscored that the road and bridge projects that are candidates for consideration to be included in year one of the Pioneer Valley's TIP do not exceed the regional funding target. Mr. Roscoe said that given this, the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) members are having difficulty finding potential TIP projects that would be ready to be advertised in FFY 2018; and the JTC remains open to entertain additional project candidates for FFY 2018 with a clear understanding that it doesn't make sense to commit FFY 2018 funding to projects that cannot realistically be advertised during the FFY 2018 period.

At this point, JTC Chairman, Jim Czach, commented that at its March 8th meeting, JTC members prioritized proposed projects and found project gaps in FFY 2018 of the region's TIP; however, he emphasized there are potential TIP projects that may be able to move forward in FFY 2018 and these candidates were discussed. Mr. Czach indicated that there will be further discussion of potential TIP projects at the April 12th JTC meeting which should result in a better understanding of the list of proposed projects that can be brought forward for consideration at the April 25th MPO meeting. Mr. Czach underscored that JTC members that have a project proposed for the TIP need to be sure that every project proposed has an updated status and a cost so that an updated, draft TIP can be presented to the Pioneer Valley MPO members at their next meeting on April 25th.

Alex Morse, Mayor of Holyoke, then requested an update on the status of the *Resurfacing and Related Work on Heritage Street, Front Street and Dwight Street from Maple Street to the 1st Level Canal Project (607256)* in the City of Holyoke. Mr. Roscoe replied that every year, PVPC staff travel to MassDOT District 2 office and meet with personnel in all the departments and this year, this Holyoke resurfacing project was not recommended for FFY 2018 of the TIP. PVPC Senior Transportation Planner, Andy McCaul stated that this Holyoke project has a design issue and it has been discovered that part of the project is not eligible for federal funding assistance. Mayor Morse underscored that the City

of Holyoke needs this project included in the FFY 2018 TIP. Mr. Woelfel asked if MassDOT District 2 could comment on the project. Jeff Hoynoski from MassDOT District 2 replied that the City of Holyoke needs to flesh out the City's contract with the project's design firm. Mayor Morse proposed having a conference call with the Holyoke Department of Public Works (DPW) to resolve the problem and Mr. Woelfel encouraged this call to be scheduled soon.

Mr. Woelfel then called on Tim Brennan to discuss a proposal for expanding passenger rail service on the Knowledge Corridor between Springfield and Greenfield. Mr. Brennan noted that the entire main line rail from the City of Springfield to the Vermont state line was rebuilt over the past several years using a combination of \$73 million of federal stimulus funds along with a significant investment from the MassDOT for a total cost of approximately \$130 million. Mr. Brennan stated that this allowed the Vermonter, an intercity, passenger train operated by Amtrak between St. Albans, Vermont and Washington, D.C., to be moved back onto the main line rail beginning in January 2015. Mr. Brennan underscored that the Vermonter which not runs on this rebuilt rail line currently provides only one northbound and one southbound train each day which is the reason why there is a long-standing desire for additional passenger rail service to be added to this rebuilt rail line in order to obtain a much higher rate of return on this major federal aid, state capital investment while also affording Pioneer Valley residents an enhanced service on the Knowledge Corridor.

Mr. Brennan reported that in August, 2015, he met briefly with Secretary Stephanie Pollack, in Holyoke, where she indicated that she might be willing to consider adding additional passenger rail service on the Knowledge Corridor on a pilot basis. Mr. Brennan further reported that at a subsequent February 3, 2016 MPO meeting, Secretary Pollack, serving as MPO Chair, made a verbal commitment that MassDOT was willing to enter into negotiations to initiate an expanded passenger rail service on the Knowledge Corridor as a pilot. Mr. Brennan added that during that February 3rd meeting, Secretary Pollack stated that MassDOT would work with our region to establish reliable estimates for the operating costs, capital costs and desired service parameters of this proposed Knowledge Corridor pilot rail program. Mr. Brennan reported that for over a year now, there have been meetings and discussions with MassDOT's Rail and Transit Division. Mr. Brennan announced that there are three key points relevant to this endeavor that need to be shared with the Pioneer Valley MPO members which include:

1. The additional pilot passenger rail service means that the Pioneer Valley region and Franklin County have to take responsibility for funding the net operating deficit which is forecast to be in the range of \$3 to 5 million per year.
2. Surplus and rehabilitated Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) rail equipment that could have been rebuilt and then redeployed to run on the Knowledge Corridor is no longer available because Massachusetts plans to enter into an agreement with Connecticut to provide Connecticut rail with surplus MBTA equipment that's needed over the next 4 – 5 years. Connecticut will after this period, rehabilitate this former MBTA rolling stock and return it to Massachusetts where it could conceivably be reassigned to the Knowledge Corridor.
3. If a pilot program for expanding passenger rail service on the Knowledge Corridor does move forward, the operational deficit funds of our two regions need to forward over an anticipated 3 year long pilot period. The only viable option is to commit Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) program funds which would clearly need the MPO members concurrence.

Mr. Brennan indicated that if the Pioneer Valley region and Franklin County work together, perhaps together they could achieve about \$3 million of CMAQ dollars per year over no less than a three-year period. Mr. Brennan underscored that because we don't have access to the option that would employ rehabilitated MBTA equipment, the only way to offer expanded passenger rail service in the future would be to obtain that service directly from Amtrak using these CMAQ funds. Mr. Brennan emphasized that using CMAQ funds would need to be programed in the TIP and thus require MPO approval. Mr. Brennan noted that there is precedent for such an approach. More specifically Mr. Brennan explained that several years ago, the Pioneer Valley MPO and the other MPOs across the state were asked by MassDOT to agree to remove CMAQ funds out of their regional targets and send them to the Wachusett Commuter Rail Station in Fitchburg in a total amount of about \$37 million dollars and he noted that the Pioneer Valley MPO had contributed \$4.2 million over a 3-year fiscal year period to this endeavor. Mr. Brennan indicated that there is no action being sought today from the MPO regarding CMAQ funding for this Knowledge Corridor rail pilot but this is a decision the MPO will likely need to take up and address in the not too distant future.

Mr. Brennan noted that the next critical step towards obtaining expanded passenger rail service on the Knowledge Corridor is to obtain a realistic cost estimate from Amtrak for expanded rail service — a task that MassDOT officials are currently in the midst of negotiating with Amtrak staff. Mr. Brennan reported that a tentative proposal has been submitted to Amtrak that would add two trains per day in the morning between Springfield and Greenfield as well as two daily trains in the evening. A key objective, Mr. Brennan said, is to enable a passenger to take an early morning train from Northampton, Holyoke or Greenfield which is traveling to New York City and then be able to return by rail on the same day. Mr. Brennan indicated that a report has been completed in concert with MassDOT and the consultant HDR that places the total range of estimated cost operational deficit coverage between \$3 million and \$5 million. Mr. Brennan stated that whether or not the Pioneer Valley region and Franklin County can together provide adequate funding to make this expanded passenger rail pilot a reality remains to be seen and will be far more achievable if the funding support needed is in the \$3 million range.

At this point, Mr. Woelfel underscored that in order for this project to be eligible for CMAQ funding, it must be presented to the CMAQ Consultation Committee and this will require that PVPC staff members demonstrate this project can meet several CMAQ program requirements. Mr. Woelfel then asked MPO members if they had any questions or comments. David Narkewicz, Mayor of the City of Northampton stated that he strongly supports expanded passenger rail service on the Knowledge Corridor since there is a pent up demand for more trains. Mr. Woelfel asked Mr. Roscoe what impact this pilot passenger service endeavor would have on the 5-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) since the TIP must remain financially constrained. Mr. Roscoe replied there would be an impact because an additional \$2 million in CMAQ funds in the FFY 2018 TIP would exceed the region's available FFY 2018 TIP funds by approximately \$1.5 million. Mr. Brennan speculated that the best case scenario for realizing expanded Knowledge Corridor rail service would be the summer/fall of 2018 noting that FFY 2019 actually begins on October 1, 2018.

Mr. Woelfel asked the MPO members to provide guidance to the PVPC staff relative to the proposed expanded rail service pilot and Mayor Morse asked Mr. Brennan when a cost estimate for the pilot might be finalized. Mr. Brennan replied that the estimate might arrive as early as April of this year. Rick Sullivan, President and CEO of the Economic Development Council (EDC) of Western Massachusetts asked if state-wide monies could be received in the same way that the commuter rail station in Fitchburg had received state-wide funding support. Mr. Brennan replied that the question of funding was raised in rail briefings with area legislators that were held last week and several commented that it would be very helpful if the state would be willing to contribute funds to close any potential funding gaps but whether this is a viable possibility is an unknown. Mr. Cressotti, Vice Chair of the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC), asked Mr. Brennan if the ridership rates for the pilot program will be similar to the ridership rates that Amtrak currently experiences with its Vermonter train. Mr. Brennan responded that since the last point in time when the Vermonter was not yet running on the main line and was stopping in Amherst, the ridership is up 82% and there was a 10% increase in ridership realized in calendar year 2016. Mr. Woelfel asked if the MPO members are willing to pursue the potential use of CMAQ funds for the Knowledge Corridor's expanded rail pilot project and discuss it further at the next MPO meeting. Richard Cohen, Mayor of Agawam, responded that he can't be in favor of the expanded rail pilot project until he knows how this project may impact other TIP projects; and therefore, more detailed information on this rail initiative will be needed. Mr. Woelfel responded this is true and that the PVPC staff members will need to determine what those impacts will be and then report back to the MPO members. Mr. Roscoe replied that PVPC staff will be attending the CMAQ Consultation Committee meeting that's been scheduled for April 12, 2017 and PVPC will work in concert with MassDOT staffing to assemble this information prior to the MPO's next meeting in April.

At this point, Mr. Roscoe moved on to review the transit components of the region's draft TIP referring to the document entitled *PVTA Need FFY 18-22* pointing out that the PVTA's total funding need in FFY 2018 and for each of the next four fiscal years is forecast to be much higher than it has been in past TIP years. The primary reason for this is the amortization of the PVTA's Cottage Street maintenance facility project in the City of Springfield which has to be programmed in the TIP over multiple years. Mary MacInnes, Administrator of the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA), interjected that the state has committed \$55 million to the Cottage Street project and that this state funding support has been approved by the MassDOT Board.

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

6. Staff Update on the Mass Moves Commonwealth Conversation Outreach Session Planned for Western Massachusetts on March 28, 2017

Mr. Brennan reported that tickets for the MassMoves Workshop encompassing Western Massachusetts, an initiative that is aimed at helping to create a new, statewide, 21st Century vision for transportation in Massachusetts, are no longer available as the event has essentially been sold out. Mr. Brennan said that pre-registration was requested for today's MassMoves workshop which is scheduled to begin at 12 noon today at the UMass Center in Springfield.

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

7. 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 March 23, 2016

Mr. Woelfel called on 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 Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) staff had met with the JTC last month and the key topic was the development of the region's new FFY 2018-2022 TIP. Mr. Czach stated that the conversation regarding the FFY 2018-2022 TIP will continue over the next two weeks and that a draft FFY 2018-2022 TIP document will be presented to the Pioneer Valley MPO members for consideration at their next meeting on April 25th.

Mr. Woelfel reminded MPO members that the Knowledge Corridor pilot rail project will be submitted to the CMAQ Consultation Committee on April 12th and PVPC Principal Planner Gary Roux indicated that after this April 12th CMAQ Consultation session, PVPC staff will have a better understanding of the air quality benefit of this rail project. Mr. Czach continued his report on the JTC saying that a representative from MassDOT's GIS section will speak at the next JTC meeting which is also scheduled for April 12th. Mr. Czach said that the GIS representative will explain how Chapter 90 relates to MassDOT GIS and will review the roadway inventory updating process; municipal tools that are available online; and provide summaries of mileage statistics that are compiled for individual communities.

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

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

Mr. Woelfel called on Peter Frieri of the MassDOT District One office in Lenox to present District One's updates on relevant transportation issues and projects. Mr. Frieri reported that the Goshen Route 9 Resurfacing Project (608126) was awarded on March 15th to Warner Brothers Construction. Mr. Frieri also reported that the Chesterfield Bridge Replacement at Ireland Street over the Bronson Brook Project (607549) had its public hearing at the end of January and this project continues to progress. Mr. Frieri added that the Goshen West Street Reconstruction Project (605150) is now at 75% design stage; environmental review comments are 100% submitted; and the MassDOT right-of-way section has determined that the right-of-way plan is sufficient to proceed as long as there are no design changes.

Mr. Woelfel next called on Jeff Hoynoski of the MassDOT District Two office in Northampton to present District Two's updates on relevant transportation projects within District Two's jurisdiction. Mr. Hoynoski reported that the Ludlow Center Street Reconstruction Project (605011) has reached the 75% design stage; proposed improvements to Lower Westfield Road in Holyoke at Route I-91 (606903) is a project now at the at 75% design stage and MassDOT expects it will reach the 100% design stage soon; the Amherst-Hadley Route 9 Sidewalk Construction Project (608023) has received its PS&E; Southwick's Congamond Road Reconstruction Project (604033) is now at 100% design stage; the Agawam-West Springfield Bridge Replacement on Route 147 Project (605384) is now at 100% design stage and is under review; the Mill Street Bridge Replacement Project in Amherst (607528) is proceeding to 100% design stage soon; and the Agawam, Chicopee, Holyoke, West Springfield Stormwater Improvements Project (608192) was advertised and has a MassDOT bid opening which is scheduled for July 8, 2017.

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

9. Updates from Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA) Administrator Mary MacInnes on Relevant Public Transit Issues and Projects of Interest to the Pioneer Valley MPO Members

Mr. Woelfel called for a report and update from Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA) Administrator Mary MacInnes. Ms. MacInnes reported that the redesign of the PVTA's Operations Maintenance Facility on Cottage Street in Springfield has been completed. Ms. MacInnes stated that funds were received from the state to construct this PVTA Maintenance Facility project but were not adequate and therefore, the project had to undergo some cost cutting but is moving forward. Ms. MacInnes reported that the Westfield Intermodal Center will open on April 28th and has been renamed the Olver Transit Pavilion and is located in Westfield's downtown business district.

Ms. MacInnes stated that she was not able to offer a comment on the PVTA needs list for the out years of the new TIP earlier in today's MPO meeting because MassDOT has substantially cut back funding support and is limiting the split for projects programmed in the out years of the TIP to 80/20 for all transit projects. As a result, Ms. MacInnes noted that this situation will prove challenging to the PVTA from both an operational and funding perspective since Massachusetts Governor Baker has submitted a proposed budget which provides \$80 million for Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs) which is the same dollar amount that was awarded to the RTAs back in FY 2015. Ms. MacInnes indicated that the PVTA has added new transit services in response to additional RTA funding provided by the State Legislature but it will be extremely difficult to continue these services in FY 2018 with RTA funding cut back to FY 2015 levels. Given this, Ms. MacInnes reported that the PVTA may have to use the maximum amount of federal funds allowed for preventive maintenance for its vehicles and for Americans with Disability Act (ADA) paratransit services in order to address a serious budget shortfall in FY 2018 and potentially subsequent years.

Mr. Woelfel thanked Ms. MacInnes for her updates on PVTA activities and he moved to take up the final agenda item.

10. Other Business

Mr. Woelfel asked if there was any further business for the MPO members to address at today's meeting. Mr. Roscoe announced that the next MPO meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, April 25th beginning at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Brennan took the opportunity to acknowledge and thank a former MPO member, Jeff Boyle from the Town of Hatfield who has stepped down from the MPO since he has resigned his selectboard seat about a month ago. Mr. Brennan praised Mr. Boyle as an extraordinarily conscientious MPO member over the past years and his public service will surely be missed.

There being no further business for the MPO members to conduct, Mr. Woelfel called for a motion to adjourn the March 28, 2017 Pioneer Valley MPO meeting.

MOVED BY RICHARD COHEN, MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF AGAWAM, SECONDED BY ALEX MORSE, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF HOLYOKE, TO ADJOURN THE MARCH 28, 2017 MEETING OF THE PIONEER VALLEY REGION'S MPO. THERE BEING NO FURTHER DISCUSSION, THE MPO MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 10:50 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 28, 2017 MPO Meeting

1. *Pioneer Valley Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Meeting Notice and Agenda: March 28, 2017*
2. *Minutes of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Meeting: Wednesday, January 31, 2016*
3. *STP Project Priority Ranking*
4. *2017- 2021 Pioneer Valley Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Proposed Amendments – January 2017*
5. *2017 Pioneer Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization Public Participation Plan*
6. *2017 Pioneer Valley Region MPO Transportation Improvement*
7. *Slate of Projects for FFY 2018-2022 TIP Consideration*
8. *PVTA Need FFY18-22*