

**PIONEER VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**  
**Minutes of the Virtual Meeting held on Tuesday, November 28, 2023**

MPO Members Present

Derek Krevat, Manager of MPO Activities, representing Monica Tibbits-Nutt, MassDOT Secretary and CEO  
Paula Simmons, District 2 Engineer, representing Jonathan Gulliver, MassDOT Highway Division Administrator  
Douglas Slaughter, Chair – Pioneer Valley Transit Authority  
John Vieau, Mayor – Chicopee  
Walter Gunn, Chair – PVPC  
Mark Gold, Select Board Member – Longmeadow  
Jeff McEwen, Federal Highway Administration (Ex-Officio)  
Joshua Barber, Community Planner – Federal Highway Administration (Ex-Officio)  
Tina Cote, Transit Authority Administrator – Franklin Region (Ex-Officio)  
Bill Dwyer, Chairman – Pioneer Valley Joint Transportation Committee (Ex-Officio)  
Peter Butler, Federal Transit Administration (Ex-Officio)  
Sandra Sheehan, Pioneer Valley Transit Authority Administrator (Ex-Officio)

Guest Present:

Daryl Amaral, District Planner – MassDOT Highway District 2  
Ben Breger, Assistant District Planner – MassDOT Highway District 2  
John Broderick, Director of Public Works – South Hadley  
Tori Halloran, Outreach Coordinator – Safe Routes to School  
Jen Healy, Rural Transit Program Manager – Quaboag Valley CDC  
Chris Klem, OTP, Regional Planning Coordinator – MassDOT  
Linda Leduc, Director of Public Works – Belchertown  
Claudia Lefko – Northampton Resident  
Jacqueline McCreanor – Northampton Resident  
Carolyn Misch, Director of Planning and Sustainability – Northampton  
Mark Moore, Project Development Engineer – MassDOT Highway District 1  
Gina-Louise Sciarra, Mayor – Northampton  
Andrew Wang, Transportation Program Manager – MassDOT Planning

PVPC Staff Present:

Rana Al-Jammal, Principal Transportation Planner  
Andrew McCaul, Senior Transportation Planner II  
Kimberly H. Robinson, Executive Director  
Gary Roux, Traffic Manager  
Dana Roscoe, Transportation Manager

1. Call to Order, Welcome, and Approval of the October 24, 2023, Metropolitan Planning Organization Meeting Minutes

The November 28, 2023, Metropolitan Planning Organization meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by Mr. Krevat. Roll call was taken, and a quorum of at least five members was noted.

MOVED BY WALTER GUNN, SECONDED BY MARK GOLD, TO APPROVE THE OCTOBER 24, 2023, METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION MINUTES. FOLLOWING A ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION PASSED WITH ONE ABSTENTION.

2. Public Comments

An appeal to the Organization to consider the amended 1B Plan concerning the downtown Northampton Main Street redesign was made by Northampton resident Jacqueline McCreanor.

3. Review, Discussion and MPO Approval to Endorse the Proposed Amendment #1 to the FFY 2024 TIP

Mr. McCaul reviewed the amendment proposed at the MPO meeting on October 24, 2023, which was released for public review and comment. It was noted that the hybrid van purchase will not be showing on the organization's TIP, but the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA) will purchase the vehicle on behalf of the Quaboag Community Development Corporation. He reported that no public comments had been received as of November 28, 2023.

With regard to potential repercussions of the Amendment on future projects, it was noted that fiscal constraint is exercised by reassigning yearly budgets for projects, depending on the Department of Transportation's overall cost increases and decreases. Considering the five-year timeline of the Amendment #1 proposal, budgetary flexibility will be possible for future projects. It was noted that an overall increase in project delays and budget cuts should be expected moving forward, due to inflation.

MOVED BY WALTER GUNN, SECONDED BY DOUGLAS SLAUGHTER, TO AUTHORIZE AN INCREASE FOR INTERSTATE MAINTENANCE PROJECT 612106 IN SPRINGFIELD AND CHICOPEE FROM \$15,900,816 TO \$23,667,942, TO ADD \$15,012,800 TO SPRINGFIELD SAFE STREETS FOR ALL (SS4A) FUNDING, AND TO ADD \$75,000 TO THE CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (CMMPO) FOR THE PURCHASE OF A HYBRID VAN FOR USE BY THE QUABOAG COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY FOLLOWING A ROLL CALL VOTE.

4. Review and Discussion of FFY 2024 TIP Adjustments

Mr. McCaul summarized the adjustments made to the FFY 2024 TIP, noting minor changes to item descriptions, minor cost increases, and changes in funding sources.

5. Review, Discussion, and MPO Approval to Release the Proposed Amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Governing the MPO

Mr. McCaul briefly reviewed the proposed changes to the Memorandum of Understanding and requested the Organization's approval to release the changes for a 21-day public review period. All submitted comments will be presented to the Organization at the next MPO meeting, as will any changes incorporated into the proposal as per the recommendation of the Organization.

With regard to proposed changes to the nomination election process, it was clarified that no term changes were being proposed, only minor changes to the processes of recruiting and appointing new recruits.

MOVED BY WALTER GUNN, SECONDED BY MARK GOLD TO APPROVE THE RELEASE OF THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING, FOR A 21-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY FOLLOWING A ROLL CALL VOTE.

6. Review, Discussion, and MPO Approval to Submit Comments on the Proposed 2020 Urbanized Area Update

A series of comments on the suggested update to the 2020 Urbanized Area were drafted and presented to the Organization. The draft is based on changes that occurred as a result of the 2020 Population Census, as reported to the Organization at the MPO meeting held on October 24, 2023. No additional comments have been reported since.

Federal fund eligibility was noted to be a major impact of the Urbanized Area. Rural minor collector roadways are not eligible for federal funding, while urban minor collector roadways are eligible, and local roads are not eligible for federal funding in either rural or urban areas.

MOVED BY WALTER GUNN, SECONDED BY DOUGLAS SLAUGHTER, TO APPROVE THE SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED 2020 URBANIZED AREA UPDATE, TO THE MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY FOLLOWING A ROLL CALL VOTE.

7. MPO Recruitment Efforts and Updated Membership

The membership update proposals made to the Organization at the MPO meeting held on October 24, 2023, were reviewed. Recruitment is ongoing for the four or five alternate seats that remain vacant, and the Organization will be updated on any advancements.

MOVED BY WALTER GUNN, SECONDED BY DOUGLAS SLAUGHTER, TO ENDORSE MAYORS MICHAEL A. MCCABE OF WESTFIELD AND GINA-LOUISE SCIARRA OF NORTHAMPTON AS VOTING MEMBERS, AND MAYORS WILLIAM C. REICHELDT OF WEST SPRINGFIELD AND NICOLE LACHAPELLE OF EASTHAMPTON AS ALTERNATE SEATS, ON THE METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2024. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY FOLLOWING A ROLL CALL VOTE.

8. Review of the PVTA Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP)

Ms. Sheehan presented a brief overview of the updated Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan that was approved by the PVTA Advisory Board on November 15, 2023. New data tracking measures and additional driver training have been introduced to mitigate transportation incidents. The finalized PTASP document will be presented to the MPO at a later date.

9. Updates from MassDOT District One and District Two Officials on Transportation Issues and Projects of Interest

Mr. Butler provided an update on the District One projects for fiscal year 2024, and projects scheduled for fiscal years 2025 and 2026. The Organization will be updated on the second information meeting that will be scheduled by MassDOT to address public comments on the design of the Williamsburg bridge replacement project.

Mr. Amaral provided an update on the District Two projects for fiscal year 2024, and projects scheduled for fiscal year 2025.

10. Updates from PVTA on Transit-Related Issues and Projects of Interest

Ms. Sheehan provided the Organization with PVTA updates, noting a 15% ridership increase in October, 2023, from October, 2022. More state funding was acquired that will allow increased service frequency, the extension of evening and weekend services, and the expansion of services in rural communities. PVTA is working with various operators to implement a series of service improvements, the first of which are scheduled for the middle of December, 2023. Additional funding was acquired for the Tri-Transit pilot program due to its success in 2022.

The overall goal of the PVTA is to restore all services that had been previously reduced due to budget cuts and shortage of staff.

11. Other Business

The date of the next Metropolitan Planning Organization meeting will be determined at a later time.

There being no further discussion, Mr. Gunn called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

MOVED BY WALTER GUNN, SECONDED BY DOUGLAS SLAUGHTER, TO ADJOURN THE NOVEMBER 28, 2023, METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION MEETING. THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED WITHOUT OBJECTION AT 10:49 A.M.

List of Documents and Other Items Distributed at this November 28, 2023, MPO Meeting:

- Metropolitan Planning Organization November 28, 2023, Meeting Notice and Agenda
- October 24, 2023, Meeting Minutes
- List of Participants
- Proposed Amendment #1 FFY 2024-2028 TIP
- Proposed MOU Amendment
- Proposed 2020 Urbanized Area Update