

# Minutes of the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) Zoom Meeting

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

## Present were:

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Alexis Hosea-Abbott	MassBike	Van Kacoyannakis	VHB
Ben Breger	MassDOT Highway District 2	Benjamin Murphy	Town of Monson
Dan Murphy	City of Easthampton	Tom Ruta	MassDOT Highway District 2
Connor Knightly	Town of West Springfield	Andy Krar	City of Springfield
Michelle Chase	Town Engineer, Agawam	Jim Czach	VHB
Nick Dines	Town of Williamsburg	Dmitriy Mayboroda	McMahon and Associates
Bill Dwyer	Town of Hadley, JTC Chair	Dan McCormack	BETA Group
Peter Frieri	MassDOT Highway District 1	Dawn Nims	City of Holyoke
Carolyn Emberley		Douglas Finn	Town of Westhampton
Carmen Rosado	STAVROS	Michael McManus	McMahon and Associates
Mike Fisher	BL Companies	Matt Smith	Town of Chesterfield
Geoff McAlmond	Town of Ware	Chris Klem	MassDOT - OTP
Mike Dionne	Mass Commission for the Blind		
<b>PVPC Staff</b>			
Andrew McCaul	Senior Transportation Planner	Gary Roux	Principal Planner
Jeffrey McCollough	Senior Transportation Planner		

## JOINT TRANSMISSION MEETING

### 1. Open Meeting

Mr. Dwyer opened the May 10, 2023, meeting at 10:00 am, stating that the meeting was being recorded. Roll call was taken by Mr. McCaul.

### 2. Minutes of Previous Meeting – April 12, 2023 Minutes

Mr. Dwyer requested a motion to approve April 12, 2023, JTC minutes.

MOVED BY DAN MURPHY, SECONDED BY Matt Smith, TO APPROVE THE APRIL 12, 2023, JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC) MEETING MINUTES. THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

There being no questions, Mr. Dwyer moved to take up agenda item 3.

### 3. FFY 2023 Transportation Improvement (TIP) Amendment

Mr. McCaul reported that the 2024-2028 TIP was in the process of being worked on, and it would become active on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. The living document was the 23 element of the 2023-2027 TIP. As projects advance, it is expected to need amendments. The version presented today is the fourth amendment. The JTC made a recommendation to the MPO to release the document for public review, the MPO released the amendment, so the document is currently out for review. There were two proposed changes to the TIP. The first was removing the Valley Bike Share Phase 3 due to not being able to keep all program projects in the fiscal year due to cost increases. There were concerns that the contracts for the project would not be completed in the current fiscal year, so the project was proposed to be incorporated into the draft FFY 2024-2028 TIP in FFY 2025. The second amendment was to increase the cost of the Wales Bridge Replacement by approximately \$500,000. There were no comments received from the public.

Mr. McCaul asked for a motion to recommend that the JTC recommend the proposed amendment to the MPO.

MOVED BY MATT SMITH, SECONDED BY DAN MURPHY, TO RECOMMEND TO MPO TO ENDORSE THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS. A ROLL CALL WAS TAKEN, AND THE ENDORSEMENT WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. McCaul clarified that the two projects were unrelated. He stated that there would be \$900,000 on the table, but there were two projects that would be going up in price and would need an amendment once those prices were known.

There being no questions, Mr. Dwyer moved to take up agenda item 4.

#### **4. Draft FFY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

Mr. Roux reported that the MPO released the Draft FFY 2024 UPWP for a 21-day public review. A draft version is available on the website. Comments will be accepted until Monday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>. There have yet to be any comments received.

A summary of the major studies was presented. The summary included the proposed bicycle and pedestrian safety report, housing tasks, inventory of electric vehicle charging stations, and updating congestion analysis. Springfield Roosevelt Avenue was included in case the finalizing was needed in October, but it should be completed in the current work program. The Complete Streets Assessment now incorporated freight as it came up at the federal certification review.

Mr. Roux asked for a recommendation to the MPO to endorse this at their May meeting.

MOVED BY GEOFF MCALMOND, SECONDED BY DOUGLAS FINN, TO RECOMMEND TO MPO TO ENDORSE THE DRAFT FFY 2024 UPWP. A ROLL CALL WAS TAKEN, AND THE ENDORSEMENT WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

There being no questions, Mr. Dwyer moved to take up agenda item 5.

#### **5. Draft FFY 2024-2028 TIP**

Mr. McCaul stated that the TIP was currently out for public review. There had been one comment received. This was a version of the TIP discussed with the JTC, and the JTC made a recommendation prior to the MPO meeting. Prior to the MPO meeting, there was a notification that the Town of Chesterfield's consultants submitted their design, with a \$6 million cost increase. The TIP was released without this change being made. The MassDOT comment was that the design was rejected, and the cost estimate reverted to the previous \$6.6 million. There was \$900,000 of funding available in year one, \$100,000 in year two, \$0 in year three, \$0 in year four, and just under \$2.5 million in year five. The current trend in project costs has been increasing, so the TIP will likely change significantly once the document becomes active on October 1. On the transit side, the projects included bus replacements, equipment purchases, facility improvements, upgrades, electrification, and electric bus purchases.

Mr. McCaul asked for a recommendation to the MPO to endorse the draft FFY 2024-2028 TIP.

MOVED BY DAN MURPHY, SECONDED BY MATT SMITH, TO RECOMMEND TO MPO TO ENDORSE THE FFY 2024-2028 TIP. A ROLL CALL WAS TAKEN, AND THE ENDORSEMENT WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Peter Frieri clarified that the submittal was not officially rejected, and it was likely that through the comment and review process, the revised cost would be resolved. Ben Breger reported that the 608717, the X project, that the

100% submittal was just received and is being reviewed. There was a fairly large cost increase of \$5 million from the previous estimate of \$12.5 million.

There being no questions, Mr. Dwyer moved to take up agenda item 6.

#### **6. FFY 2024 Regional Transportation (RTP) – Update**

Mr. Roux presented the updated RTP schedule. Mr. Roux stated that the environmental consultation was completed last week, and there were comments on the document from the consultation. He stated that next month, the JTC would be asked to release the document for the 21-day public comment period and will be looking for opportunities to develop outreach on the document. He reported that during the last RTP in 2019, there were three public meetings scheduled to solicit comments on the draft plan. For the coming year, it was proposed to have a virtual meeting on or around Wednesday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, that would be recorded and made available through the RTP webpage. Mr. Roux also recommended having one or two in-person meetings with the JTC and MPO, but suggestions for locations were needed. Mr. Roux stated that some of the Bay State bike events could be beneficial since people were already present. He stated that in-person events were the goal rather than virtual events. In the fall, the farmer's market outreach was highly effective. Dawn Nims suggested the Fourth of July event as a possibility. Mr. Roux stated he would provide an update in early June.

Mr. McCaul presented the online map that was developed and included many different layers, such as projects and project information. He stated that he sent a link for the maps to everyone and to send any comments or questions to Mr. Roux.

Mr. McCaul presented the FFY 2024 RTP regional funding breakdown. The SCA is MassDOT money provided to the PVTA. The RTACAP is MassDOT matching funds for capital expenditures. Bin 1, FFY 2024-2028, was mainly based on TIP funding. On the highway side, the target money was what was programmed in the TIP. The other statewide, non-interstate, NFA bridge, and interstate categories were historical percentages. The statewide bridges were left as the statewide bridge investments. The FFY 2024 RTP discretionary spending was presented. The 2016 RTP percentages were used to project what types of projects would be funded throughout the RTP. The high-priority projects with very large construction costs were highlighted. The needs part of the RTP was being worked on. Scenario planning would be used to plan the amount of funding needed to meet the performance targets.

Mr. Dwyer asked for a recommendation to the MPO to accept the financial numbers presented.

MOVED BY DAN MURPHY, SECONDED BY MATT SMITH, TO RECOMMEND TO MPO TO ACCEPT THE FINANCIAL NUMBERS PRESENTED. A ROLL CALL WAS TAKEN, AND THE ENDORSEMENT WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

There being no questions, Mr. Dwyer moved to take up agenda item 7.

#### **7. Safer Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program – Open Through July 10, 2023**

Mr. Roux stated that Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) was a grant opportunity. SS4A is a highly funded program through the BIL. Every agency that applied last year received some funding. Mr. Roux stated it was agreed across the region that this was a great opportunity, and the goal was to apply for a regional Safety Action Plan. Once accepted, this would allow implementation funding. The City of Springfield and the Town of Ware received funding for implementation funding during round one of the grant funding. Mr. Roux stated that the benefit of partnering would be that PVPC would be the lead and have the requirement of doing all of the accounting. Partnerships were also encouraged as part of the grant process. Mr. Roux stated it was the intention to file a regional application, including all of the communities. He stated more information would be sent out later in May, and an update would be provided at the June JTC meeting. Nick Dines asked how this would affect the

individual community's obligations for matching funds. Mr. Roux stated that he believed everything was handled under the grant applicant, although a 20% match was required. Last year, MassDOT committed to the match. Their initial response for this year was to ask how much was being applied for, which has yet to be determined. Mr. Dines asked what the minimum grant was. Mr. Roux stated that the grant's intended range was \$100,000 to \$10 million. Mr. Murphy asked if the next phase would be for the towns and cities to apply for their grants. Mr. Roux stated that it depended on how the application was intended in the action plan and who would be the lead.

## **8. Other Business**

Mr. Breger reported that the Municipal Small Bridge Program opened a funding round due on June 30<sup>th</sup> for locally owned bridges from 10 to 20 feet. He also stated that there was a public hearing for the Granby Project on May 16<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm.

Mr. Roux, that information was received from the safety section at MassDOT, and everyone should have received an email from Mr. McCaul. The recently passed act to reduce fatalities requires that motorists give cyclists and pedestrians four feet when passing. There were signs and the hardware to post the signs that MassDOT provided to communities if requested. The procedure was to send in the attached agreement by June 1<sup>st</sup>, and as many signs as desired were allowed. MassDOT would deliver the signs, but communities were asked to install them within 90 days of receiving them.

## **8. Adjourns**

There being no further business to conduct, Mr. Dwyer called for a motion to adjourn.

MOVED BY DAN MURPHY, SECONDED BY BEN MURPHY, TO ADJOURN THE MAY 10, 2023, JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC) MEETING. THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 10:54 AM WITHOUT OBJECTION.

Relevant documents distributed at this May 10, 2023, JTC meeting:

- Joint Transportation Committee May 10, 2023 Meeting Agenda
- Minutes of April 12, 2023, Joint Transportation Committee Meeting

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Respectfully Submitted by Minutes Services