

Minutes of the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) Zoom Meeting

Wednesday, April 12, 2023

Present were:

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Daryl Amaral	MassDOT District 2	Alexis Hosea-Abbott	MassBike
Ben Breger	MassDOT District 2	Betsy Johnson	Pedestrian Rep/WalkBike Springfield
Tom Kulig	Town of Russell	Mike Fisher	BL Companies
Nick Dines	Town of Williamsburg	Van Kacoyannakis	VHB
Bill Dwyer	Town of Hadley, JTC Chair	Tom Ruta	MassDOT Highway District 2
Tori Halloran	Outreach Coordinator Safe Routes to School	Randall Kemp	Town of Southampton
Jim Czach	VHB	Peter Frieri	MassDOT Highway District 1
Randall Kemp	Town of Southampton	Steve Savaria	Fuss and O'Neil
Carolyn Misch	City of Northampton	Chris Klem	MassDOT OTP
Matt Smith	Town of Chesterfield	Mike Dionne	Mass Commission for the Blind
Dawn Nimes	City of Holyoke		
Dan McCormack	BETA Group		
Peter Frieri	MassDOT District 1		
Dan Murphy	Easthampton		
Connor Knightly	West Springfield		
PVPC Staff			
Andrew McCaul	Senior Transportation Planner	Jeffrey McCollough	Senior Transportation Planner
Dana Roscoe	Principal Planner		
Gary roux	Principal Planner		

1. Open Meeting

Bill Dwyer opened April 12, 2023, meeting at 10:00 am, stating that the meeting was being recorded. Roll call was taken.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting – March 8, 2023 Minutes

Mr. Dwyer requested a motion to approve March 8, 2023, JTC minutes.

MOVED BY BETSY JOHNSON WALK.BIKE SPRINGFIELD, SECONDED BY CONNOR KNIGHTLY WEST SPRINGFIELD, TO APPROVE THE MARCH 8, 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 Transit TIP—Amendment Currently out for Public Review

Mr. McCaul reported that there was a procedural item. The MPO took action to add two-line items to the Transit TIP in January, one of which was a \$55 million electrification program and the other of which was a \$12 million grant for UMass garage construction. PVTA needed to free up some cap money, so this rehabilitation project was proposed to be moved.

Mr. Dwyer asked for a motion to recommend JTC endorse the proposed amendment.

MOVED BY DAN MURPHY EASTHAMPTON, SECONDED BY CONNOR KNIGHTLY WEST SPRINGFIELD, TO RECOMMEND JTC TO ENDORSE THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS. A ROLL CALL WAS TAKEN, AND THE ENDORSEMENT WAS APPROVED.

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

4. FFY 2023 Highway TIP Amendment

Mr. McCaul reported a proposed amendment was sent out, and when it was initially sent out, there were three projects. First, it was asked for action on the Valley BikeShare portion. After speaking with MassDOT, it was determined that waiting another month to verify cost increases for Granby intersection project and the Cummington Route 9 Retaining Wall makes sense. Today, the JTC was asked to remove the Valley Bike Share Phase 3 from the TIP, with an acknowledgment that it would be programmed in the 2024-2028 TIP. It was acknowledged that it was delaying phase three.

MOVED BY NICK DINES WILLIAMSBURG, SECONDED BY MATT SMITH CHESTERFIELD, TO RECOMMEND JTC TO ENDORSE THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS. 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 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Mr. Roux presented the Draft FFY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program and reminded everyone that the fiscal year runs from October 1st through September 31st. The funds involved federal and state funds, along with federal funds passed through the PVTa. There was \$1.7 million received in planning funds, a combination of planning funds and funding passed through FTA to become planning funds. Most of the tasks were similar to previous years, with the exception of 3.2, which was called Bike Pedestrian Safety Assistance. The transit money passed through the federal highway was broken down, all allocated to transit planning tasks. A new provision was that 2.5% of the funds go towards Complete Streets Funding. There was \$70,000 allocated for Complete Streets Funding, which was above 2.5%. The Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Complete Streets Subcommittee was worked with to develop a task that would create a map of all of the completed walk audits, update the crash data through the calendar year 2023, and identify locations that would benefit from additional planning work. Around this time next year, it will be planned to go around the communities and develop specific recommendations. Today's request was to JTC vote to recommend that the MPO release the document at the April 25th meeting. A full draft will be available next week and sent to MPO and MassDOT.

MOVED BY DAN MURPHY EASTHAMPTON, SECONDED BY RANDALL KEMP SOUTHAMPTON, TO RECOMMEND JTC TO ENDORSE THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS. A ROLL CALL WAS TAKEN, AND THE ENDORSEMENT WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

6. Draft FFY 2024-2028 TIP

Mr. McCaul presented the draft of the FFY 2024-2028 TIP. He stated that at the current time, just over \$900,000 in target funds were available in 2024. In 2025, there were some changes from the previous version. In Longmeadow, project 608881 had a \$2 million cost increase. The Valley BikeShare item will be removed from the 2023 and 2027 TIP. Because of the two additions, the 2025 year was overprogrammed by the Longmeadow project's \$2 million cost increase. The commitment to the North Hampton Project 609286 was reduced by \$2

million from \$17 million. The commitment was increased in 2026 to that project. Permission was received to advance construct the Williamsburg project's to allow these changes to the North Hampton Project. In 2027, there was \$2 million moved to the Williamsburg project. The other line items in 2026 stayed the same. In 2027, there was now \$200,000 available; in 2026, there was just under \$200,000 available; in 2025, there was just under \$100,000 available; and in 2028, there was \$2.4 million available.

There were multiple line items for each project for the Transit document due to the separation of the federal and state funds. PVTA will replace electric and hybrid buses, upgrade vans and shuttle buses, and perform general maintenance and updates to their facilities. In the first year, there will be \$20 million spent on capital expenses.

Mr. McCaul stated that the document is available online for the JTC to review.

MOVED BY DAN MURPHY EASTHAMPTON, SECONDED BY RANDALL KEMP SOUTHAMPTON, TO RECOMMEND THE RELEASE OF THE DRAFT 2024 – 2028 TIP BY THE MPO FOR THE REQUIRED 21-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD. A ROLL CALL WAS TAKEN, AND THE RECOMMENDATION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Carolyn Misch asked to view the Main Street total funding request for North Hampton. Mr. McCaul stated it was \$15.8 million in year one and \$3.8 in year two, with a total of just under \$20 million.

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

7. FFY 2024 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) – Update

Mr. Roux reported a date was set for the environmental consultation, which will be 10 am May 3rd, this is a requirement for development of the RTP. He stated that on the RTP page, there was an interactive map showing all the TIP projects that can be displayed on various environmental map layers. Staff have identified groups in the region and an email has been sent requesting comments and feedback. In addition, the safety chapter of the plan and its three appendices were uploaded.

Betsy Johnson asked who the environmental consultation was being sent to. Mr. Roux stated there was a list of approximately 15 environmental agencies that had been reached out to as part of the environmental focus group, and it was a combination of state and federal environmental agencies, tribal organizations, and local conservation commissions and planning boards. He stated that the list could be sent out to others if there were individuals to whom it should be sent. Betsy Johnson will send Mr. Roux a list of individuals who should receive the information.

Mr. Roux reported that the regional discretionary funding breakdown had not changed. However, there was a recommendation to ask for feedback on the change that reduced the roadway maintenance projects by 5%. In response to the feedback, 2.5% was taken from the congestion improvement total to increase the roadway maintenance to 65%. Mr. Roux asked for a motion to recommend to the MPO at the April meeting to adopt these percentages.

MOVED BY RANDALL KEMP SOUTHAMPTON, SECONDED BY DAN MURPHY EASTHAMPTON, TO RECOMMEND TO MPO TO ADOPT THE PROPOSED PERCENTAGES. A ROLL CALL WAS TAKEN, AND THE ENDORSEMENT WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Roux stated that the System Performance Report was an overview of items to be tracked for the region. The 17 targets developed in 2016 have been tracked over the last two regional transportation plans. Regarding the content and dates, some of the target dates have expired or do not fit well. The recommendation included continuing to carry over eight target items and modifying nine. The average driver delay was recommended to be modified by the number of unreliable road segments. It was proposed to change the On Road Bike miles to Bike

Facility Miles and include both on- and off-road bike facilities as one target. The language for greenhouse gas emissions was based on the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, and the determination was from the June 2022 GHG levels. The weight- and height-restricted closed bridges would be adjusted to maintain a downward trend in regional restricted bridge totals. The Park and ride lot use goal would be to increase the use by 5% over the 2019 average occupancy by 2030. The proposed change for the sidewalk infrastructure was to increase the total regional sidewalk mileage by 10% by 2030 over the 2018 mileage. Mr. McCaul asked for a motion to recommend to the MPO at the April meeting to adopt these new target changes as part of the 2024 RTP Systems Report.

MOVED BY MATT SMITH CHESTER FIELD, SECONDED BY BETSY JOHNSON WALK/BIKE SPRINGFIELD, TO RECOMMEND TO MPO TO ADOPT THE PROPOSED PERCENTAGES. A ROLL CALL WAS TAKEN, AND THE ENDORSEMENT WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

8. Other Business

Ben Breger reminded everyone that the deadline for new project submissions to the PRC was April 21st. In addition, he stated there was an upcoming virtual design public hearing for the North Hampton Complete Streets Corridor projects, and the public hearing was on Wednesday, April 26th from 6 to 8 pm. Individuals were encouraged to register for the meeting, so Ben Breger provided the link. The link was also available on the website.

9. Adjourns

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

MOVED BY RANDALL KEMP SOUTHAMPTON, SECONDED BY MATT SMITH CHESTERFIELD, TO ADJOURN THE APRIL 12, 2023, JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC) MEETING. THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 10:42 AM WITHOUT OBJECTION.

Relevant documents distributed at this April 12, 2023, JTC meeting:

- Joint Transportation Committee April 12, 2023 Meeting Agenda
- Minutes of March 8, 2023, Joint Transportation Committee Meeting

Respectfully Submitted by Minutes Services