

Minutes of the Pioneer Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Zoom Meeting
Tuesday, February 28, 2023

MPO Members Present:

Stephen Woelfel	Director of Strategic Planning, Office of Transportation Planning, Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) representing MPO Chair Gina Fiandaca, Massachusetts Secretary of Transportation and Chief Executive Officer
Joshua Garcia	Mayor, City of Holyoke
Mark Gold	Town of Longmeadow
Walter Gunn	Chair, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC)
William Reichelt	Mayor, Town of West Springfield
Paula Simmons	MassDOT, District Two, representing Jonathan Gulliver MassDOT Highway Division Administrator
Douglas Slaughter	Chair, Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA)
James Barry	Belckertown Selectboard
Rick Sullivan	President and CEO, Economic Development Council of Western Massachusetts
Domenic Sarno	Mayor of Springfield
Kimberly Robinson	

Guests and PVPC Staff Present:

Rana Al-Jammal	Senior Planner Specialist
Daryl Amaral	MassDOT District Two Office, Acting State Aid Engineer
William Dwyer	Town of Hadley, Planning Board
Michelle Ho	MassDOT
Van Kacoyannakis	VHB
Christopher Klem	MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning
Derek Krevat	MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning
Andrew McCaul	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Jeffrey McCollough	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Mark Moore	MassDOT Highway District 1
Gary Roux	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Sandra Sheehan	Administrator, Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA)
Jim Barry	Belchertown
Christopher Cignoli	City of Springfield
Tom Kulig	Town of Russell
Ben Murphy	Town of Monson
Geoff McAlmond	Town of Ware
Chris Klem	MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning
Mark Berman	Town of East Longmeadow
Adrienne Nunez	Massachusetts Municipal Association
Leah Sirmin	Federal Transit Authority
Connor Knighly	City of West Springfield
Andrew Reovan	Federal Highway Administration
Pat Beaudry	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
Michelle Ho	MassDOT Office of Capital Planning

Note: Because this meeting was held via Zoom, not all those present are included, as some participants were only identified by a phone number, and no name was available.

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

Stephen Woelfel, Director of Strategic Planning, MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning, representing MPO Chair Gina Fiandaca, Massachusetts Secretary of Transportation and CEO, called the February 28, 2023 meeting of the Pioneer Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to order at 10:00 a.m.

Gary Roux took roll call, and the following MPO members responded that they were present: Steve Woelfel, representing MPO Chair Gina Fiandaca; Paula Simmons, representing Jonathan Gulliver MassDOT Highway Division Administrator; Walter Gunn, Chair PVPC; Douglas Slaughter, Chair PVTA Advisory Board; Joshua Garcia, Mayor of Holyoke; William Reichelt, Mayor Town of West Springfield; James Barry, Belchertown Selectboard; Rick Sullivan, Western Mass EDC; Mark Gold, Town of Longmeadow. Mr. Roux confirmed that this roll call constitutes a quorum.

2. MPO Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting of the Pioneer Valley MPO Held Remotely on January 24, 2022

Mr. Woelfel called for a motion to approve January 24, 2023, meeting minutes of the Pioneer Valley MPO.

MOVED BY WALTER GUNN, SECONDED BY RICK SULLIVAN, TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 24, 2023, MEETING MINUTES OF THE PIONEER VALLEY MPO. THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE WITH ONE ABSENTION.

3. Transit TIP Amendment – Endorse

PVPC Senior Transportation Planner Andrew McCaul reported that five line items were awarded earlier in the year. They had to be added to the fiscal year 2023 Transit TIP. The items were released for public review, and no comments were received. They were all 53-10, which are competitive federal grants.

MOVED BY RICK SULLIVAN, SECONDED BY WALTER GUNN, TO ENDORSE THE TRANSIT TIP AMENDMENT. THE ENDORSEMENT WAS APPROVED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE.

4. Performance Measures – Endorse

PVPC Principal Planner Gary Roux reported there were two sets of measures, referred to as the PM2 measures, which were for measures of bridges and roadway conditions, and the PM3 measures, which were for congestion. The statewide targets were presented since they were usually the targets that were adopted. The PM2 proposed targets were at least 70% of the interstate pavement in the good category and less than 2% in the poor-quality category. For non-interstate, the targets were 30% good and less than 5% good. The target for bridges was at least 16% of all bridges considered good, and less than 12% considered poor condition.

PM3 targets were needed for the first time due to federal changes. The target for travel time reliability was 74% for interstate and 85% for non-interstate in 2024, and 76% for interstate and 87% for non-interstate in 2026. The target for truck time reliability was 1.80 in 2024 and 1.75 in 2026. The peak hour excessive delay was a new target, and the targets were in line with Springfield's of 6.5 in 2024 and 6 in 2026. The target for non-SOV travel in 2024 was 22.17%, and 22.24% in 2026. The target for emissions reduction was 0.28 kg of CO per day in 2024, and was to be determined for 2026.

It was recommended for MPO to adopt the statewide targets.

MOVED BY WALTER GUNN, SECONDED BY RICK SULLIVAN, TO ENDORSE THE P2 AND P3 PERFORMANCE MEASURES AS PRESENTED. THE ENDORSEMENT WAS APPROVED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE WITH ONE ABSENTION.

5. FFY 2023 TIP Amendment – Release

PVPC Senior Transportation Planner Andrew McCaul presented the regional target money for FFY2023. There was over \$3 million in funding for the rehabilitation of Route 5, and the current ad date was June 10th and was on schedule. The retaining wall in Cummington cost \$4.5 million, and its ad date was July 29th and was on schedule. The improvements in Granby were funded with \$1.7 million of safety money and \$2.8 million with the standard STDB

funding; the ad date was September 9th. The multi-use path in Westfield was approximately \$5 million and had an ad date of August 19th, which had been moved up from September. The construction of Memorial Avenue was in the pre-construction stages. The Valley Bike Share Expansion was approximately \$1.5 million and was waiting on contracts; there should be an update next month. Finally, the purchase of an electric bus and support training was approximately \$1.5 million. Mr. McCaul reported there were no proposed changes to the items.'

Mr. McCaul proposed two changes. The first was to change from a statewide project to a valley-wide project for interstate maintenance and related work on I-91. The second was to release the improvements on St. James Avenue at Tapley Street for public comment, as the new value was approximately \$6 million.

MOVED BY WALTER GUNN, SECONDED BY DOMENIC SARNO, TO SEND THE PROPOSED TIP AMENDMENT OUT AS PRESENTED BY ANDREW MCCAUL. THE ENDORSEMENT WAS APPROVED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE WITH ONE ABSENTION.

6. 2024-2028 TIP Development

PVPC Senior Transportation Planner Andrew McCaul reported that there were two elements, the transit side and the highway side. MassDOT was compiling all of the needs of transit authorities and was anticipated to have a draft list of projects soon. The schedule for the highway projects was presented. On February 28th, MPO will review the project list and provide feedback. Between now and March 8th, as much information as possible will be collected. In May, the final endorsement will be given. Mr. McCaul presented the list of possible projects. The top project was Route 143 Reconstruction. The green highlight indicated that the current fiscal year was still good for the project, the yellow indicated some concerns but no recommendations to move out of the current fiscal year, and the red indicated that the project would not be ready for the current fiscal year. It was discussed that the Springfield reconstruction of Summer Avenue was flagged due to environmental rule and regulation changes, but the project would be ready for the fiscal year 2024. The primary issue that was addressed was tree removal.

7. RTP Development Update

Mr. Roux shared the schedule for the update to the RTP Development plan. There were a few chapters that were being worked on for early review. Prior to the March meeting, a draft version of Chapters 1-3 and a draft version of the Regional Profile should be completed and ready for review. Mr. Roux stated that they were in good shape to stay on schedule.

8. Federal Certification Review

Andrew Reovan reported that a public meeting would be held following the MPO meeting to collect comments on the federal certification review. Every four years, certification is completed on every federally recognized MPO, and it was last conducted in 2019. Therefore, the last step in the federal certification review was to collect comments. Mr. Reovan stated anyone could email her or Leah Sirmin with any comments.

9. District One and District Two Updates

Daryl Amaral, MassDOT District Two, provided the following updates:

- **Project 606895** – The design was at 100%, and responses to comments were being waited on; the current ad date was September 9th.
- **Westfield River Levee Multipath Construction:** The design was at 100%, and responses to comments were being waited on; the current ad date was September 9th.
- **Project 604209** – The design was 100%, including the main water design, the PSNE was due April 17th, and the ad date was June 10th.
- **Project 608565:** The project was advertised on February 25th, and the opening date would be March 28th.
- **Project 608-163:** The design was 75%, and the current ad date was March 2nd, 2024.

- **Project 608-717:** The design was at 75% and due December 2nd, 2023; the current ad date was to be determined.

Peter Frieri, MassDOT District One, provided the following updates:

2023 Project: The FFY23 MassDOT District 1 design section will make a combined 100% submittal for the retaining wall replacement in early March. JZA was providing technical design support. The ad date was expected to be a bit earlier than July 2023.

2024 Projects: Two projects were planned for FFY24, including the Route 1 reconstruction in Worthington and two bridge replacements in Williamsburg. The reconstruction in Chesterfield should have a 75% design in March of 2023, and the Williamsburg Mountain Street Project should have a 75% design in June of 2023.

10. PVTA Updates

Sandra Sheehan reported that the ridership in January was up by 8% compared to 2022. She noted that UMass started the Spring semester on February 4th, so January had 50,000 fewer passengers. The PVT Advisory Board approved the extension of the Dollar Ride Program for seniors over the age of 60. Next week, the Massachusetts Association of Regional Transit Authorities is holding a luncheon to discuss next year's budget. An agreement with MassDOT for the use of one of the properties on Liberty Street for a training site was being finalized.

11. Other Business

Mr. Woelfel noted that the next virtual MPO meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 28, 2023. Walter Gunn asked about the hybrid law set to expire on March 31st. Mr. Woelfel stated that he had not heard anything; next month's meeting would be virtual.

MOVED BY WALTER GUNN, SECONDED BY RICK SULLIVAN, TO ADJOURN THE FEBRUARY 28, 2023, MEETING OF THE PIONEER VALLEY MPO. THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 10:50 A.M. WITHOUT OBJECTION.

Respectfully submitted,
Minutes Services

List of Documents Distributed at the February 28, 2023, MPO Meeting

1. MPO Agenda: February 28, 2023
2. January 24, 2023, MPO Meeting Minutes