

Minutes of the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) Zoom Meeting

Wednesday, March 8, 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
Gary Briere	MassBike	Van Kacoyannakis	VHB
Tom Kulig	Town of Russell	Chris Klem	MassDOT
Michelle Chase	Town Engineer, Agawam	Benjamin Murphy	Town of Monson
Nick Dines	Town of Williamsburg	Tom Ruta	MassDOT District 2
Bill Dwyer	Town of Hadley, JTC Chair	Timothy Keane	Town of Longmeadow
Tori Halloran	Outreach Coordinator – Safe Routes to School	Dan Murphy	City of Easthampton
Matt Gamelli	City of Westfield	Connor Knightly	City of West Springfield
Dawn Nims	City of Holyoke	Peter Shumway	City of Springfield
Doug Ellis	City of Chicopee	Peter Frieri	MassDOT District 1
Carmen Rosado	STAVROS	Geoff McAlmond	Town of Ware
Michael Fisher	BL Companies	Steve Savaria	Fuss & O’neill
Nick Dines	Town of Williamsburg	Betsy Johnson	Walk/Bike Springfield
Christopher Bouchard	Town of South Hadley	Alexis Hosea-Abbott	MassBike
Dan Banister	Town of Williamsburg	Mark Berman	Town of East Longmeadow
PVPC Staff			
Andrew McCaul	Senior Transportation Planner	Gary Roux	Principal Planner
Jeffrey McCollough	Senior Transportation Planner	Rana Al-Jammal	Senior Transportation Planner
Dana Roscoe	Principal Planner		

1. Open Meeting

Bill Dwyer opened March 8, 2023, meeting at 10:00 am, stating that the meeting was being recorded. Roll call was taken.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting – February 15, 2023 Minutes

Mr. Dwyer requested a motion to approve February 15, 2023, JTC minutes.

MOVED BY NICK DINES, SECONDED BY DAN BANISTER, CITY OF CHICOPEE, TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 15, 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 – Highway TIP – Amendment Currently out for Public Review

Mr. McCaul reported that an adjustment was needed for the Springfield-Chicopee-Interstate Maintenance and Related Work line on I-91 to change it from a statewide item to a Pioneer Valley project. In addition, the second line item, the improvements on St. James Avenue at Tapley Street, needed an amendment to adjust the value from \$4,107,816 to \$6,059,159. It was asked for the JTC to endorse these changes.

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

MOVED BY Nick Dines, SECONDED BY DAN MURPHY, TO RECOMMEND TO 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 4.

The current FFY 2023 Highway TIP was presented, and it was reported that all projects were in good shape.

4. FFY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Development

Mr. Roux reported that they were asking for potential studies to be included for upcoming development. He stated a draft document would be sent to the JTC before the April meeting. If a recommendation were given for the draft document, there would be a 21-day public release process. Then, a status update would be given in May. Mr. Roux reported that they were working with the Bicycle Pedestrian Subcommittee on identifying a potential task to improve the rate of safety in the region. Planning tasks would be used to identify how to increase safety. The studies would be smaller in scale, with the goal of completion within one year.

It was asked what a recent request might be. Mr. Roux reported that a recent request was to complete a study for the town of Munson to examine pedestrian accommodations and access to their senior center, along with studies on shared used paths and parking areas.

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

5. FFY 2024-2028 TIP Development – Preferred List of Projects

Mr. McCaul presented the development schedule. On March 28th, MPO would review the JTC recommendation of the preferred list of projects. In April, the list of projects will be finalized. The TIP and UPWP documents will be available for public review from April 26 through May 16.

Mr. McCaul presented the project rankings. There were two consecutive projects, one in Westfield and one in Granby, and based on the current list, they would be receiving statewide money. The four projects highlighted in red were due to waiting on the Safer School Project updated list.

Mr. McCaul presented that for the first year, the three projects were the Wales, Springfield, and Worthington projects. Based on the current cost estimate, there was \$947,186 remaining. The three projects programmed in 2025 experienced cost increases and were over budget by \$17,866. MassDOT was in communication with them to ensure the costs were correct. It may be possible to fund a portion of one project in 2026. In 2026 and 2027, there were remaining funds. Two additional projects were added to 2027, the Easthampton down project and the Westfield intersection improvement project. The Springfield Project was not deemed eligible for the next five-year TIP.

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. He stated there were three draft versions uploaded on the website. Internally, the most significant chapter of the RTP was examined. An executive summary was being developed since the chapter was approximately 100 pages. He reported it would be complete at approximately the end of March. He reported they were still on track to do Environmental Consultation. The virtual event will be held near the end of April. Drafts of the majority of chapters should be completed in May, and in June, it would be asked for an endorsement.

The regional discretionary funding breakdown was presented. The first five years were the current TIP and asked for some input on the desired level of funding for certain types of projects which is not a requirement but a desired goal. The poll results showed that roadway maintenance was the only item that some people believed had too much funding. Mr. Roux compared how the categorizations were funded in 2016 compared to 2020, along with the recommendation for 2024. He said he would send everyone this recommendation for feedback during the April meeting.

Mr. Roux stated that the System Performance Report was a desired outcome for the region. They were assessments but not requirements, and the targets were defined as excellent, good improvements. Mr. Roux reported that some targets might expire or not make sense anymore, and modification was necessary. He presented the 17 targets, the descriptions, and the 2020 status and reported approximately half needed to be modified. He stated he would send the information to the JTC and asked for feedback. He presented the proposed updated targets and asked for feedback by March 24th.

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

7. Other Business

Dana Roscoe reported that the governor submitted her first budget, including \$200 million per year for Chapter 90. The Mass Municipal Association and the Mayor of Springfield encouraged a \$300 million per year figure. This process was at the very preliminary stages, so Mr. Roscoe encouraged everyone to reach out.

8. Adjourns

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

MOVED BY BETSY JOHNSON, SECONDED BY DANA ROSCOE, TO ADJOURN THE MARCH 8, 2023, JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC) MEETING. THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 11:00 AM WITHOUT OBJECTION.

Relevant documents distributed at this March 8, 2023, JTC meeting:

- Joint Transportation Committee March 8, 2023 Meeting Agenda
- Minutes of February 15, 2023, Joint Transportation Committee Meeting

Respectfully Submitted by Minutes Services