

PIONEER VALLEY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)
Minutes of the Virtual Zoom Meeting Held on Wednesday, January 10, 2024

Committee Members Present:

Daryl Amaral, MassDOT Highway District 2
Dan Banister, Town of Williamsburg
Mark Berman, Town of East Longmeadow
Ben Breger, MassDOT Highway District 2
Paul Burns, PVTA
Nick Dines, Town of Williamsburg
William Dwyer, JTC Chair, Town of Hadley
Doug Ellis, City of Chicopee
Peter Frieri, MassDOT – Highway District 1
Alexis Hosea-Abbott, MassBike
Betsy Johnson, Walk/Bike Springfield
Van Kacyannakis, VHB
Timothy Keane, Town of Longmeadow
Nick Kiser, City of Chicopee
Chris Klem, MassDOT – OTP
Connor Knightly, Town of West Springfield
Geoff McAlmond, Town of Ware
Carolyn Misch, City of Northampton
Dan Murphy, City of Easthampton
Dawn Nims, MassDOT Highway District 2
Carmon Rosado, Stavros CIL
Thomas Ruta, MassDOT Highway District 2

PVPC Staff:

Gary Roux, Principal Planner, Traffic Manager
Dana Roscoe, Principal Planner, Transportation Manager
Jeffrey McCollough, Principal Transportation Planner
Carl Jackson, Principal Transit Planner
Andrew McCaul, Senior Transportation Planner II
Khyati Parmar, Senior Transportation Planner II

1. Open Meeting

The January 10, 2024, virtual Pioneer Valley Planning Commission Joint Transportation Committee meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by JTC Chair William Dwyer, who welcomed everyone in attendance. Roll call was taken, and there was a quorum.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meetings

Mr. Dwyer asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the October 11, 2023, and November 8, 2023, PVPC JTC meetings.

MOVED BY PAUL BURNS, SECONDED BY DAN MURPHY, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 11, 2023, AND NOVEMBER 8, 2023, PVPC JTC MEETINGS, AND THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Commented [JD1]: Please provide the names of the mover and seconder

3. FFY 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #2

Mr. McCaul shared the following amendments to FFY 2024-2028 TIP on Highway:

- Increase the cost of Worthington 609287 Route 143 Phase II from \$13,516,605 to \$17,769,587.

- Add \$3,791,961 (includes RTACAP match) in Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) funding for the PVTA O and M facility electrification project. Funds will be flexed to FTA.

Mr. McCaul shared the following amendments to FFY 2024-2028 TIP on Transit:

- Add \$209,391 in Mobility Assistance Program (MAP) funds for PVTA Beyond ADA Operating Assistance.
- Add \$130,352 in MAP funds for the PVTA Travel Training Program.
- Add \$54,560 in MAP funds for the Town of Ware – Quaboag Connector MM Project.
- Add \$209,245 in MAP funds for Town of Ware – Quaboag Connector Operations.
- Add \$14,407 in MAP funds for the Hilltown CDC Driver Pool.

Mr. Dwyer asked for a motion to release the FFY 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment #2.

MOVED BY PAUL BURNS, SECONDED BY CONNOR KNIGHTLY, TO RELEASE THE FFY 2024-2028 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENT #2 FOR PUBLIC COMMENT. A ROLL CALL WAS TAKEN, AND THE RECOMMENDATION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Commented [JD2]: Please provide the names of the mover and seconder

There being no questions, Mr. Dwyer moved to take up Item 4 of the agenda.

4. FFY 2024 Unified Planning Working Program (UPWP) Amendment #1

Mr. Roux provided the following proposed amendment to the FFY 2024 Unified Planning Working Program to include a new Electric Vehicle Charging Assessment and Development Plan for the Pioneer Valley Region:

- MassDOT has approved the use of \$60,000 in unspent PL Funding for the development of this plan.

The Plan will:

- Update PVPC's December 2017 report "Pioneer Valley Electric Vehicle Charging Station Plan/Guide."
- Develop model bylaws/ordinances for regional communities on requirements for EV infrastructure.
- Prepare a Public Charging Prioritization Plan to optimize the number of public charging stations.
- Develop a public engagement strategy to increase awareness and identify community barriers and opportunities.
- Develop recommendations for the region consistent with the Commonwealth's Clean Energy and Climate Plan for 2050.

Ms. Johnson recommended that charging stations be connected to streetlights in urban areas where many people depend on parking in the streets, and this should be added to the plan. Mr. Roux ensured that this plan would intend to start looking at what opportunities would exist for public charging. Ms. Johnson shared that more cars are going to be able to use the Tesla system in addition to the standard stage three. Therefore, fast charging is becoming critical.

Mr. Dwyer asked for a motion to release the FFY 2024 Unified Planning Working Program (UPWP) Amendment #1.

MOVED BY BETSY JOHNSON, SECONDED CAROLYN MIXCH BY, TO RELEASE THE FFY 2024 UNIFIED PLANNING WORKING PROGRAM (UPWP) AMENDMENT #1 FOR PUBLIC COMMENT. A ROLL CALL WAS TAKEN, AND THE RECOMMENDATION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Commented [JD3]: Please provide the name of the seconder

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

5. PVMPO FFY 2024-2028 Performance Measures

Ms. Parmar provided an update on safety performance measures, including targets for reducing fatalities, serious injuries, and non-motorized fatalities in the region. Mr. Roux asked for a recommendation from the JTC for the MPO to adopt the new 2024 and 2026 safety performance measure targets at their next meeting. He also noted that the Massachusetts Strategic Highway Safety Plan was updated in 2023 and that it is the document that outlines the approach Massachusetts is taking to reduce severe injuries

Mr. Klem of MasDOT clarified that the 2026 targets do not require a vote at this time, as they were more so illustrative. Massachusetts Highway Safety Section developed these 2026 targets for informational purposes to be in line with some

reporting. That was also in projections that are being done at the state and national level with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Therefore, meeting the requirements from FHWA technically only requires a vote for the 2024 targets. In addition, MasDOT has a scoring system that they use to vet all their projects.

MOVED BY PAUL BURNS, SECONDED BY DAN MURPHY, TO APPROVE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE JTC FOR THE MPO TO ADOPT THE NEW 2024 AND 2026 SAFETY PERFORMANCE MEASURE TARGETS AT THEIR NEXT MEETING. A ROLL CALL WAS TAKEN, AND THE RECOMMENDATION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED BY PAUL BURNS, SECONDED BY DAN MURPHY, TO ACCEPT THE FRIENDLY AMENDMENT TO CONFORM THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE NEW 2024 SAFETY PERFORMANCE MEASURE TARGETS TO THE MASDOT COMMENT. A ROLL CALL WAS TAKEN, AND THE RECOMMENDATION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

6. FFY 2025-2029 TIP Development

Mr. McCaul provided the schedule for developing the 2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The process will include reviewing existing approved projects, updating designs and costs, ranking projects, drafting the TIP, releasing it for public review in April-May 2024, accepting public comments in May 2024, and finalizing the TIP in May 2024.

Mr. McCaul presented an overview of Project Universe, which has the most sufficient data in the region for approved projects.

7. PVPC Congestion Analysis Update – Unclassified Congestion

Mr. McCaul briefly discussed congestion management using data from the Regional Integrated Transportation Information System (RITIS). Three trial locations experiencing high unclassified congestion were identified: Route 5 at Bliss Road in Longmeadow, Wilbraham Road at Parker Street in Springfield, and Broadway at St James Ave in Chicopee. Further analysis will be conducted to determine if future studies or low-cost improvements are needed at these locations.

8. Other Business

Urbanized Area Update: Mr. McCaul noted that MasDOT agreed with the recommendations of Pioneer region on everything except the Ludlow recommendation to extend the urban area to the complete boundaries of the Town of Ludlow, which was because of some of the zoning that exists in that area. Therefore, that was not submitted as an extension of the existing Springfield urban area. The other two areas that were not allowed to be changed were the City of Holyoke and the Town of Southampton, which is part of the Springfield urban area for a small section, and Holyoke is part of the Northampton urban area for the northern section of Holyoke. However, because they were defined that way by the Census Bureau, PVPC is not allowed to make a change at this time.

SS4A Award: PVPC was awarded a Safer Streets for All grant from the federal highway for the development of a regional action plan. The total amount is \$1.2 million, including the MasDOT match. The other communities in the region that had requested funding under this program also were successfully awarded a grant. They are the City of Westfield, the City of Chicopee, and the City of Holyoke.

JTC Recruitment: It was noted that multiple municipalities have zero membership, and then a significant number of alternate positions are vacant.

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Commented [JD5]: Please provide the names of the mover and seconder

Agenda: It was noted that another agenda item, “public comments,” will be included going forward at every meeting. This will allow the public to speak for a maximum of two minutes.

The Chair confirmed that there will be a meeting on January 10, 2024, and reminded attendees to mark their calendars.

MOVED BY DAN MURPHY , SECONDED BY CONNOR KNIGHTLY, TO ADJOURN THE JANUARY 10, 2024, COMMITTEE MEETING. THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED WITHOUT OBJECTION AT 10:55 A.M.

Commented [JD6]: Please provide the names of the mover and seconder

Relevant documents distributed at this January 10, 2024, JTC meeting:

- Joint Transportation Committee January 10, 2024, Meeting Agenda
- FFY 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #2
- PVMPO FFY 2024-2028 Performance Measures
- PVPC Congestion Analysis Update – Unclassified Congestion
- JTC Members and Alternates

Respectfully submitted,

Members not in attendance

Agawam	Montgomery
Amherst	Palmer
Barnes Municipal Airport	Pelham
Belchertown	Peter Pan Bus Lines
Blandford	Pioneer Valley Railroad
Brimfield	Plainfield
Chester	Russell
Chesterfield	South Hadley
Cummington	Southampton
Goshen	Southwick
Granby	Springfield
Granville	Tolland
Hampden	University of Massachusetts
Holland	Wales
Holyoke	Western Massachusetts EDC
Huntington	Westfield
Ludlow	Westhampton
Middlefield	Wilbraham
Monson	Worthington