

PIONEER VALLEY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)
Minutes of the Virtual Zoom Meeting Held on Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Committee Members Present

William Dwyer, JTC Chair	Town of Hadley
Alexis Hosea-Abbott	MassBike
Ben Breger	MassDOT Highway District 2
Betsy Johnson	Walk/Bike Springfield
Carolyn Misch	City of Northampton
Chris Klem	MassDOT – OTP
Dan McCormick	BETA Group
Dawn Nims	MassDOT Highway District 2
Doug Ellis	City of Chicopee
Geoff McAlmond	Town of Ware
John Broderick	South Hadley DPW
Mark Berman	Town of East Longmeadow
Maggie Chan	Northampton DPW
Matthew Smith	Chesterfield DPW
Michelle Chase	Agawam, Town Engineer
Nick Dines	Town of Williamsburg
Peter Frieri	MassDOT Highway District 1
Rod Kincaid	Town of Wales
Timothy Keane	Town of Longmeadow
Tori Halloran	Safe Routes to Schools
Van Kacoyannakis	VHB

PVPC Staff

Jeffrey McCollough, Principal Transportation Planner
Kyati Parmar, Senior Transportation Planner II
Gary Roux, PVPC Traffic Manager
Dana Roscoe, Transportation Manager
Rana Al-Jammal, Senior Transportation Planner

1. Open Meeting

The March 13, 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 Meeting

Mr. Dwyer asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2024, PVPC JTC meetings.

MOVED BY MATT SMITH, SECONDED BY DOUG ELLIS, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 10, 2024, PVPC JTC MEETINGS, AND THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

4. 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Update

Mr. McCaul provided an update on FFY 24-year program projects on the highway side, including anticipated cost increases and project timelines for all projects. Mr. McCaul specifically called to two projects funded with regional target funds: Wales (608163) Monson Road Reconstruction and Springfield (608717) The "X", both projects have experienced significant cost increase which will require an amendment. Neither project advertises until the 4th quarter of FFY24 therefore it is recommended that the amendment be delayed a couple months so staff can get a better handle on the final costs. It is anticipated that MassDOT will provide statewide funding to the "X" project in the amount the TIP is over programmed, this will result in FFY 2024 being back in fiscal constraint.

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

5. FFY 2025 Unified Planning Working Program (UPWP) Development

Mr. Roux provided an update on the development of the 2025 Unified Planning Work Program, including a proposed update to the regional bicycle and pedestrian plan. Funding levels were expected to increase by less than \$7,000, with a preference for requests advancing regional safety, especially for vulnerable roadway users. The FFY 2025 UPWP will be released for 21-day public comment at the April 23, 2023, MPO meeting. Afterward, the endorsement will be requested at the May 28, 2024, MPO meeting. The total funding in FFY 2024 was \$2,003,381, and in 2025, it will be \$2,010,055. There is a limited budget available for transportation planning assistance through the UPWP.

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

6. 2025–2029 TIP Development: Scenario Development

Mr. McCaul provided the schedule for developing the 2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP), mentioning that the MassDOT rail and transit division approved the draft transit TIP for distribution. A draft transit and highway project lists will be sent to the JTC for discussion on the proposed scenario for review, with the goal of making a final recommendation to the MPO in April 2024. Mr. McCaul highlighted massive cost increases in local projects, making it challenging to fund multiple projects. The proposed shifting of funds between projects in FY 2025, with the Northampton project experiencing a significant cost increase, was noted. The proposal is to move forward with two additional projects, despite being over program by \$16 million, and to get back in fiscal constraint.

Mr. McCaul explained that advanced construction (A/C) funding projects over multiple years is being reassessed because projects are being reevaluated. He added that A/C to funding projects will keep them on schedule and reduce delays. Mr. Klem questioned the cost increase for the Westfield intersection project and advised programming \$4.6 million, with wiggle room for potential cost increases.

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

7. Vulnerable Road Users Planning Study

Mr. Roux shared the Vulnerable Road User study within the UPWP, identifying study locations in Springfield, Ludlow, and Northampton. Plans for data collection and safety audits were outlined, involving community stakeholders. Emphasis was placed on the comprehensive analysis by including key participants like Walk Massachusetts. Ms. Johnson requested that Walk/Bike Springfield participate in the study.

Mr. Roux provided the following steps to be taken:

- Coordinate with each community through acceptance letters and the development of a scope of work.
- Collecting data by April and May 2024.

- Updating crash history through the local police department.
- Doing safety audits for each location for the summer of 2024.
- Recommending and reporting by September 30, 2024.

8. Other Business

EV Deployment Plan: Mr. Roux noted that the UPWP was amended to include an electric vehicle deployment plan, which was approved at the February 2024 MPO meeting. The request for proposals was expected to be released for the work in late March 2024.

The Chair confirmed that the next meeting will be on March 26, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. and reminded attendees to mark their calendars.

MOVED BY MATT SMITH, SECONDED BY BETSY JOHNSON, TO ADJOURN THE MARCH 13, 2024, COMMITTEE MEETING. THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED WITHOUT OBJECTION AT 10:35 A.M.

Relevant documents distributed at this March 13, 2024, JTC meeting:

- Joint Transportation Committee March 13, 2024, Meeting Agenda
- FFY 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- FFY 2024 TIP Project Status
- FFY 2025 Unified Planning Work Program
- Vulnerable Road Users Planning Study
- JTC Members and Alternates

Respectfully submitted,

Members not in attendance

Amherst	Montgomery
Barnes Municipal Airport	Palmer
Belchertown	Pelham
Blandford	Peter Pan Bus Lines
Brimfield	Pioneer Valley Railroad
Chester	Pioneer Valley Transit Authority
Cummington	Plainfield
Easthampton	Russell
Goshen	Southampton
Granby	Southwick
Granville	Springfield
Hampden	Tolland
Holland	University of Massachusetts
Holyoke	Western Massachusetts EDC
Huntington	Westfield
Ludlow	Westhampton
Middlefield	West Springfield
Mobility Impaired Representative	Wilbraham
Monson	Worthington