

PIONEER VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
Minutes of the Virtual Meeting held on Tuesday, April 23, 2024

Organization Members Present

Stephen Woelfel	Representing MPO Chair Monica Tibbetts-Nutt Secretary of Transportation and Chief Executive Officer	
Paula Simmons	Representing Massachusetts Department of Transportation Highway Division Administrator Jonathan Gulliver	
Roger Fuller	Selectboard Member	Town of Chesterfield
Joshua A. Garcia	Mayor	City of Holyoke
Mark Gold	Select Board Member	Longmeadow
Walter Gunn	Chairman of PVEC	Longmeadow
Kirstie Hostetter	Federal Transit Authority (FTA)	
Gina-Louise Sciarra	Mayor	Northampton
Sandra Sheehan	Administrator (Ex-Officio)	Pioneer Valley Transit Authority
Richard Sullivan	Economic Development Council	Western Massachusetts

PVPC Staff Present

Andrew McCaul, Senior Transportation Planner II
Carl Jackson, Principal Planner
Gary Roux, Principal Planner
Dana Roscoe, Principal Planner
Kimberley Robinson, Executive Director
Rana Al-Jammal, Principal Transportation Planner

Guests

Andrew Wang, MassDOT Planning
Carolyn Misch, Director of Planning and Sustainability
Chris Klem, MassDOT – OTP
Michelle Scott, MassDOT
Ron Kincaid, Road-Com Wales
Steve Savaria, Fuss & O'Neill
Timothy Keane, Town Longmeadow DPW
Tamarin Laurel, Selectboard Town of Middlefield
Fred Zimnoch, Resident of Northampton
Daryl Amaral, District Planner, MassDOT Highway District 2
Ben Breger, Assistant District Planner, MassDOT Highway District 2
John Broderick, Director of Public Works, South Hadley
William Dwyer, JTC Chair, Hadley
Peter Frieri, Project Development Engineer, MassDOT Highway District 1
Van Kacoyannakis, VHB
Derek Krevat, Manager of MPO Activities, MassDOT Highway District 2
Linda Leduc, Director of Public Works, Belchertown
Mark Moore, Project Development Engineer, MassDOT Highway District 1
Aaron Vega, Director of Planning, City of Holyoke
Karen Bi

1. Call to Order, Welcome, and Announcement of Quorum

The Metropolitan Planning Organization meeting on April 23, 2024, was called to order at 10:00 a.m. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was noted.

2. Approval of the March 26, 2024, Metropolitan Planning Organization Meeting Minutes

MOVED BY WALTER GUNN, SECONDED BY RICHARD SULLIVAN, TO APPROVE THE MARCH 26, 2024, METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION MINUTES. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY FOLLOWING A ROLL CALL VOTE.

3. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

4. Review, Discussion, and MPO Approval to Release the Proposed Amendment to the FFY 2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Required 21-Day Public Review Period

Andrew McCaul presented the proposal and noted that the TIP amendment does not impact PVPC's local discretionary dollars. This is a bridge project that experienced a cost increase. The amendment is for a cost increase to Cumington Bridge project (613116) Berkshire Trail (Route 9) over the Westfield River. The cost increased from \$3,790,714 to \$5,045,667, the reasons for the cost increase were: extent of repairs and unit prices adjustments.

MOVED BY WALTER GUNN, SECONDED BY RICHARD SULLIVAN, TO RELEASE THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE FFY 2024 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) FOR THE REQUIRED 21-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY FOLLOWING A ROLL CALL VOTE.

5. Review, Discussion, and MPO Approval to Release the Draft FFY 2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for the Required 21-Day Public Review Period

Gary Roux presented the transportation plan funding and tasks for FFY 2025. Mr. Roux outlined the funding included in the UPWP and the slight increase in funding from FFY 2024. The funding includes PL Funds - \$1,289,693, 5303 Funds - \$423,209 (transfer to FHWA), 5307 funds - \$310,000 (via PVRTA), estimated local funds - \$25,000 and the SS4A Grant award \$1,250,000. Mr. Roux discussed how the funding will be broken down by the tasks outlined in the draft FFY 2025 UPWP, Mr. Roux explained that this version of the budget has changed slightly since the March version. Mr. Roux also identified the break of how the transit funds would be used as well as the 2.5% of funding required to be applied to complete streets projects. Mr. Roux asked if there were any questions, if not we are asking the MPO to release the draft document for the 21-day review period.

MOVED BY WALTER GUNN, SECONDED BY RICHARD SULLIVAN, TO RELEASE THE DRAFT FFY 2025 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) FOR THE REQUIRED 21-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY FOLLOWING A ROLL CALL VOTE.

6. Review, Discussion, and MPO Approval to Release the Draft FFY 2025-2029 TIP for the Required 21-Day Public Review Period

Andrew McCaul highlighted the complete document that was circulated to the members, including the greenhouse gas analysis and equity analysis. Mr. McCaul reminded the members that the highway side includes regional discretionary dollars distributed by the MPO as well as statewide funded projects. Mr. McCaul outlined the transit projects being included in the TIP as well as the funding committed by MassDOT. Mr. McCaul explained that the project list show today has not changed since last month and that if there are not any questions then we are looking for a motion to release the draft FFY 2025-2029 TIP document for the required 21-day public review period.

Transit	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	GRAND TOTAL
Available Funds	\$125,838,109	\$54,440,808	\$41,156,665	\$40,051,616	\$72,286,357	\$333,773,555
Transit Capital Investment	\$59,648,141	\$48,252,670	\$34,359,784	\$26,069,213	\$35,244,961	\$203,574,769
5307	\$18,237,292	\$18,072,624	\$19,890,161	\$17,560,750	\$16,539,882	\$90,300,709
5339	\$26,622,704	\$18,128,810	\$1,741,752	\$1,330,626	\$1,096,810	\$48,920,702
DOF	\$0	\$0	\$4,640,000	\$1,755,882	\$10,479,297	
Other Federal	\$927,500	\$3,930,938	\$1,293,330	\$348,166	\$735,017	\$7,234,951
RTACAP Program	\$12,719,198	\$6,977,851	\$5,629,306	\$3,885,329	\$5,181,826	\$34,393,510
SCA Program	\$1,141,447	\$1,142,447	\$1,165,235	\$1,188,460	\$1,212,129	\$5,849,718

	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	GRAND TOTAL
All Other Programmed Funding	\$65,018,542	\$210,069,519	\$201,723,180	\$168,497,918	\$164,410,186	\$809,719,345
Total Target Funds	\$32,310,845	\$31,520,356	\$39,029,361	\$39,764,006	\$40,513,343	\$183,137,911
Total of Programmed	\$31,697,603	\$31,429,260	\$35,010,774	\$38,928,573	\$14,976,099	\$152,042,309
Programmed STBG	\$29,113,733	\$31,429,260	\$35,010,774	\$38,928,573	\$13,517,415	\$147,999,755
Programmed HSIP	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Programmed CMAQ	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,458,684	\$1,458,684
Programmed TAP	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Programmed VUS	\$2,583,870	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,583,870
Difference	\$613,242	\$91,096	\$4,018,587	\$835,433	\$25,537,244	\$31,095,602

MOVED BY WALTER GUNN, SECONDED BY RICHARD SULLIVAN, TO RELEASE THE DRAFT FFY 2025-2029 TIP FOR THE REQUIRED 21-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY FOLLOWING A ROLL CALL VOTE.

7. Review, Discussion, and MPO Approval of Annual Green House Gas (GHG) Self Certification

Dana Roscoe reminded the MPO that they are required to self certify the MPO’s commitment to the reduction of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions on a yearly basis. The certification includes 11 regulations.

This will certify that the Transportation Improvement Program and Air Quality Conformity Determination for the 2024 Long Range Transportation Plan is in compliance with all applicable requirements in the State Regulation 310 CMR 60.05: Global Warming Solutions Act Requirements for Transportation. The regulation requires the MPO to:

MOVED BY WALTER GUNN, SECONDED BY RICHARD SULLIVAN, TO APPROVE THE ANNUAL GREEN HOUSE GAS (GHG) SELF CERTIFICATION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY FOLLOWING A ROLL CALL VOTE.

8. Review, Discussion, and MPO Approval of Annual Self Certification of the 3C Planning Process

Mr. Roscoe explained that just like the GHG self-certification, the MPO is also required to certify the MPO meets the requirements of the 3C planning process.

The Pioneer Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization certifies that its conduct of the metropolitan transportation planning process complies with all applicable requirements, which are listed below, and that this process includes activities to support the development and implementation of the Regional Long-Range Transportation Plan and Air Quality Conformity Determination, the Transportation Improvement Program and Air Quality Conformity Determination, and the Unified Planning Work Program.

MOVED BY WALTER GUNN, SECONDED BY RICHARD SULLIVAN, TO APPROVE THE ANNUAL SELF CERTIFICATION OF THE 3C PLANNING PROCESS. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY FOLLOWING A ROLL CALL VOTE.

9. MassDOT Beyond Mobility Presentation

Derek Krevat, Manager of MPO Activities, presented the MassDOT Beyond Mobility plan, which is part of a larger initiative called MassDOT@15, which includes a strategic business plan and transportation funding task force. He discussed the development of a federal highway training plan, emphasizing public involvement and response. The plan prioritizes bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, wayfinding, and increased bus frequencies, with a focus on multimodal connections and transit stations. Prioritizing safety, reliability, and equity in the transportation plan for Massachusetts was expressed, as well as the call for more dedicated programs and capital plans to address safety concerns in Environmental Justice (EJ) areas. D. Krevat highlighted the problem of transportation being the most significant contributor to carbon emissions in Massachusetts, disproportionately located in EJ areas.

D. Krevat introduced new ideas and action items, including a study on land use and zoning reform for transit-oriented development. The plan calls for a program to prioritize projects promoting multimodal access to transit, with a focus on better connections to critical destinations. He discussed improving coordination with environmental partners to fund resiliency improvements, as well as the need for improved wayfinding signage, especially for people with disabilities or limited English proficiency.

10. MassDOT Capital Investment Plan (CIP) Development and How the CI Development Process Relates to the TIP/STIP

Michelle Scott provided an overview of the Massachusetts Transportation Investment Plan (CIP). MassDOT supports the CIP through federal and state funding sources, including bond cap and toll revenues. The CIP includes federal aid for highway projects and a state match for transit projects, with MPOs playing a significant role in decision-making. She highlighted similarities and differences between CIP and STIP, including funding sources and program priorities. CIP development is influenced by external factors like implementation of Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and fiscal constraints. The Commonwealth's CIP development timeline, including strategic priorities and iterative processes, was shared. The CIP is also influenced by various factors, such as changing travel demands, partner agency planning processes, and the guiding priorities of the Healy Driscoll administration.

M. Scott highlighted the \$16 billion CIP investments in reliability, modernization, safety, and asset management. Massachusetts invests in climate stewardship, transportation, and partnerships. She also noted that there will be upcoming opportunities for public comment on the CIP and transition to Beyond Mobility priorities.

R. Sullivan expressed concern about the Compass rail initiative in Western Massachusetts, citing a lack of federal funding and regional equity. M. Scott acknowledged the feedback and assured the committee that more robust information on Compass Rail would be provided in the upcoming CIP document.

11. Updates from MassDOT Highway District One and District Two Officials on Relevant Transportation Issues and Projects of Interest to the Pioneer Valley MPO Members

District Two provided updates on various transportation projects, including Wales Road reconstruction, Long Meadow Springfield resurfacing, and intersection improvements.

District One provided updates on the Worthington project and Westfield bridges, and municipal projects in Williamsburg and Chesterfield are underway.

12. Updates from PVRTA Administrator Sandra Sheehan on Relevant Transit-Related Issues and Projects of Interest to the Pioneer Valley MPO Members

Sandra Sheehan reported a 15% ridership increase due to service enhancements for some routes, with a 47% increase

on the UMass route.

13. Other Business

The date of the next Metropolitan Planning Organization meeting will be held on May 28, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

14. Adjournment

There being no further discussion, Mr. Gunn called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

MOVED BY WALTER GUNN, SECONDED BY RICHARD SULLIVAN, TO ADJOURN THE APRIL 23, 2024, METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION MEETING. THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED WITHOUT OBJECTION AT 11:00 A.M. THE MOTION CARRIED.