

PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION (PVPC)
Minutes of the Joint Transportation Committee Meeting
Wednesday, May 8, 2024, 10:00 A.M.

JTC Members Present:

William Dwyer, JTC Chair, Town of Hadley
Alexis Hosea-Abbott, MassBike
Allison McMordie, Westfield City Engineer
Andy K, Springfield Engineering
Ben Breger, MassDOT Highway District 2
Betsy Johnson, Walk/Bike Springfield
Butch Jackson, Road-Com Wales
Carmen Rosado, Stavros CIL
Carolyn Misch, City of Northampton
Chris Klem, MassDOT – OTP
Connor Knightly, Town of West Springfield
Dan Banister, Town of Williamsburg
Daryl Amaral, MassDOT Highway District 2
Dawn Nims, MassDOT Highway District 2
Dena Grochmal, Wilbraham DPW
Doug Ellis, City of Chicopee
Emmanuel Russell, Springfield Engineering
John Broderick, South Hadley DPW
Kris Baker, Northampton City Engineer
Maggie Chan, Northampton Traffic Engineer
Mark Berman, Town of East Longmeadow
Mark Moore, MassDOT Highway District 1
Michael McManus, Project Manager McMahan Associates
Michelle Chase, Agawam Town Engineer
Nick Dines, Williamsburg Greenway
Paul Burns, PVTA
Paul Furgal, Bowman Consulting
Timothy Keane, Town of Longmeadow
Tom Kulig, Town of Russell
Tori H, Safe Routes to School

PVPC Staff Present:

Jeffrey McCollough, Principal Planner
Gary Roux, PVPC Traffic Manager
Dana Roscoe, Principal Planner/Transportation Manager
Andrew McCaul, Senior Transportation Planner
Patty Gambarini, PVPC Chief Environment Planner
Rana Al-Jammal, PVPC Principal Transportation Planner

1. Open Meeting

The May 8, 2024, 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 Previous Meeting

Mr. Dwyer asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2024, JTC meeting.

MOVED BY PAUL BURNS, SECONDED BY BETSY JOHNSON, TO APPROVE THE APRIL 10, 2024, JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY FOLLOWING A ROLL CALL VOTE.

3. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

4. Review, Discussion, and Recommendations to the MPO to Endorse Amendment # 3 to the FFY 2024 TIP

Mr. McCaul shared that the MPO was asked to release an action item for a bridge project that experienced a \$1 million increase due to more extensive issues and higher prices. The action item has been out for 21 days of public review and has not received any comments. Mr. McCaul also mentioned several projects in the region have not been advertised yet and are going through their final design stages. Two of them are local discretionary projects that may need an amendment to the current tip due to cost increases. The MPO is working with MassDOT to finalize the details and will inform the body as soon as possible. The MPO is seeking a recommendation from the body to endorse the amendment.

MOVED BY PAUL BURNS, SECONDED BY CARMEN ROSADO, TO APPROVE THE MPO TO ENDORSE AMENDMENT # 3 TO THE FFY 2024 TIP AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY FOLLOWING A ROLL CALL VOTE.

5. Review, Discussion, and Recommendation to the MPO to Endorse the Draft FFY 2025 UPWP

Mr. Roux explained that in April 2024, the MPO released the draft 2025 UPWP for 21 days of public review and comment period. To date, the MPO has not received any comments but will continue to accept comments until the day before the MPO meeting in May 2024. Mr. Roux presented an overview of the tasks included in that draft document and the budget that was assigned. Mr. Roux asked the JTC to for a recommendation that the MPO endorse the FFY 2025 UPWP.

MOVED BY PAUL BURNS, SECONDED BY CONNOR KNIGHTLY, TO APPROVE THE MPO TO ENDORSE THE DRAFT FFY 2025 UPWP AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY FOLLOWING A ROLL CALL VOTE.

6. Review, Discussion, and Recommendations to the MPO to Endorse the Draft FFY 2025-2029 TIP

Mr. McCaul shared that the MPO released the document containing the budget for highway and transit projects in the region for the next five years. The MPO expects some feedback on the entire document and some specific projects. The budget includes other program funding that does not depend on the MPO's decision. It amounts to over \$800 million, primarily for bridge projects. The budget is higher in the first two years because of a significant award for the electrification of the PVTA system. The MPO invited the public to review the document and submit their feedback. Mr. McCaul ask the JTC for a recommendation to the MPO to endorse the FFY 2025 – 2029 TIP.

MOVED BY PAUL BURNS, SECONDED BY CARMEN ROSADO, TO APPROVE THE MPO TO ENDORSE THE DRAFT FFY 2025-2029 TIP AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY FOLLOWING A ROLL CALL VOTE.

7. Proposed Locations for Regional Traffic Count Trend

Mr. Kouzehkanani shared a list of locations for traffic volume counting and getting feedback from the Committee. The plan was to count 10 locations on a three-year rotational basis. The roadways in the list have a federal functional classification that indicates their traffic volume and connectivity. The list excluded local roads and focused on arterials and collectors. The classification also depends on whether the road is in an urban or rural area. One of the Committee members asked how the locations were distributed across the five MPO subregions. The answer was that the distribution was based on equity but not on subregion equity.

8. Green Infrastructure Stormwater Management Design Library

Ms. Gambarini introduced the Green Infrastructure stormwater BMP library: The library is a tool developed by the Connecticut River Stormwater Committee, a coalition of 19 municipalities and UMass Amherst, to help comply with the MS4 stormwater permit. The library contains five BMPs that are optimized for nutrient removal, size, and ease of maintenance. They are biofiltration, infiltration, and dry pond retrofit, and they can be used as retrofits in public projects. The library also provides pre-treatment recommendations, bioretention soil mixes, operation and maintenance guidance, and sizing and performance tables for each BMP.

Ms. Gambarini provided examples and features of the BMPs, including two BMPs for low to medium-density roadside land uses, such as the right-of-way bioswale and the right-of-way infiltration trench, and two BMPs for higher-density urban land uses, such as the urban bioswale tree planter and the urban Arlington infiltration trench. A gravel wetland retrofit for existing detention ponds that do not provide good water quality treatment was suggested. The tables showed the system dimensions, pollutant removal efficiency, and system costs for each BMP based on the drainage area, the impervious area, and the hydrologic soils group. The tables can help compare the trade-offs between different BMP sizes and costs and select the optimal BMP for the desired pollutant removal.

The library was developed with the input of a project advisory group consisting of municipal representatives and other stakeholders, as well as the expertise of Waterstone Engineering and Porter Graphic Design. MassDEP funded the project through an EPA allocation from the Clean Water Act and Section 604.

9. Bay State Bike Week

Mr. McCollough announced the 25th year of Bike Month and the 25 events across the region that celebrate it. The events cater to different levels and interests of bikers. He listed some examples of events, such as group rides, bike repair clinics, significant rides, bike yoga, and bike breakfasts. He encouraged communities that are not participating this year to check out an event and contact the planning commission or Massbike for help. Mr. McCollough mentioned the Mass Bike website and the PVPC website as sources of information.

10. Other Business

Ms. Johnson promoted the most extensive breakfast, the annual world's largest pancake breakfast, in downtown Springfield on Saturday, May 18, 2024. There will be free tickets for folks who come and ride a bicycle to the event, and then there will be free bike valet parking.

MassDOT has launched its online grant management tool. The last opportunity for training in response to this is May 9, 2024.

11. Adjourn

There being no further discussion, Mr. Dwyer called for a motion to adjourn today's meeting.

MOVED BY DAN BANISTER, SECONDED BY CARMEN ROSADO, TO ADJOURN THE MAY 8, 2024, COMMITTEE MEETING.
THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED WITHOUT OBJECTION AT 10:38 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,