

Minutes of the Pioneer Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Zoom Meeting
Tuesday, January 24, 2023

MPO Members Present:

Stephen Woelfel	Director of Strategic Planning, Office of Transportation Planning, Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) representing MPO Chair Gina Fiandaca, Massachusetts Secretary of Transportation and Chief Executive Officer
Roger Fuller	Town of Chesterfield
Joshua Garcia	Mayor, City of Holyoke
Mark Gold	Town of Longmeadow
Walter Gunn	Chair, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC)
Nicole LaChapelle	Mayor, City of Easthampton
William Reichelt	Mayor, Town of West Springfield
Paula Simmons	MassDOT, District Two, representing Jonathan Gulliver MassDOT Highway Division Administrator
Douglas Slaughter	Chair, Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA)
Rick Sullivan	President and CEO, Economic Development Council of Western Massachusetts

Guests and PVPC Staff Present:

Rana Al-Jammal	Senior Planner Specialist
Daryl Amaral	MassDOT District Two Office, Acting State Aid Engineer
Ben Breger	MassDOT
William Dwyer	Town of Hadley, Planning Board
Michelle Ho	MassDOT
Van Kacoyannakis	VHB
Timothy Keane	Town of Longmeadow
Christopher Klem	MassDOT Planning
Derek Krevat	MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning
Andrew McCaul	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Jeffrey McCollough	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Mark Moore	MassDOT Highway District 1
Jack Moran	MassDOT
Dawn Nims	City of Holyoke
Andrew Wang	MassDOT
Dana Roscoe	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Carl Rossi	City of Holyoke
Gary Roux	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Transportation Section
Steve Savaria	Fuss & O’Neill
Sandra Sheehan	Administrator, Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA)
Lynn Shell	Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) – Admin Support Staff

Note: Because this meeting was held via Zoom, not all those present are included as some participants were only identified by a phone number and no name was available.

1. Chairman’s Call to Order, Welcome and Opening Remarks

Stephen Woelfel, Director of Strategic Planning, MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning, representing MPO Chair Gina Fiandaca, Massachusetts Secretary of Transportation and CEO, called the January 24, 2023 meeting of the Pioneer Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to order at 10:01 a.m. Mr. Woelfel first reviewed the virtual meeting format, and he noted that the meeting is being recorded.

PVPC Principal Planner Dana Roscoe took roll call and the following MPO members responded that they were present: Steve Woelfel, representing MPO Chair Gina Fiandaca; Paula Simmons, representing Jonathan Gulliver MassDOT Highway Division Administrator; Walter Gunn, Chair PVPC; Douglas Slaughter, Chair PVTA Advisory Board;

William Reichelt, Mayor Town of West Springfield; Nicole LaChapelle, Mayor City of Easthampton; Rick Sullivan, Western Mass EDC; Mark Gold, Town of Longmeadow. Mr. Roscoe confirmed that this roll call constitutes a quorum.

2. MPO Approval of Minutes of the Previous Meeting of the Pioneer Valley MPO Held Remotely on December 20, 2022

Mr. Woelfel called for a motion to approve the December 20, 2022 meeting minutes of the Pioneer Valley MPO.

MOVED BY WALTER GUNN, SECONDED BY RICK SULLIVAN, TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 20, 2022 MEETING MINUTES OF THE PIONEER VALLEY MPO. THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED BY A ROLL CALL VOTE.

3. Review, Discussion and MPO Endorsement of the PVMPO Annual Title VI Report and Language Access Plan Currently out for the Required 21-Day Public Review and Comment Period

PVPC Senior Transportation Planner Jeffrey McCollough stated that the PVMPO Annual Title VI Report and Language Access Plan were out for public review and no written comments were received. He stated that the MPO is being asked to endorse the update to our Title VI program. He also noted that the PVMPO complies with all federal and Massachusetts civil rights and executive orders as defined by MassDOT in their guidance. Mr. McCollough stated that this information has been uploaded to the MPO's new website: <http://PVMPO.PVPC.org/civil-rights-title-vi/>

Mr. Woelfel called for a motion to endorse the update to the Title VI Report and Language Access Plan.

MOVED BY WALTER GUNN, SECONDED BY RICK SULLIVAN, TO ENDORSE THE UPDATE TO THE PVMPO ANNUAL TITLE VI REPORT AND LANGUAGE ACCESS PLAN.

Mr. Roscoe noted that Roger Fuller and Mayor Joshua Garcia had now joined the meeting. Mr. Roscoe then took roll call and each MPO member in attendance responded affirmatively.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED.

4. Review, Discussion and MPO Endorsement of the Proposed Amendment to the FFY 2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Currently Out for the Required 21-day Public Review and Comment Period

PVPC Senior Transportation Planner Andrew McCaul noted that the MPO released several TIP amendments for public review and comment, and he stated that as of today no comments have been received. He then reviewed the transit and highway amendments which he also shared on the screen. Mr. McCaul stated that the MPO is being asked to endorse the TIP amendments.

Mr. Woelfel called for a motion to endorse the proposed amendments to the FFY2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

MOVED BY WALTER GUNN, SECONDED BY MARK GOLD, TO ENDORSE THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE FFY 2023 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

Mr. Roscoe took roll call and each MPO member in attendance responded affirmatively.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED.

5. PVMPO FFY 2024-2028 Regional Performance Measures

PVPC Principal Planner Gary Roux shared the 2023 Safety Performance Measures and he noted they are adopted annually. He stated that the Pavement and Bridge Performance Measures will be brought before the MPO at their February meeting. Mr. Roux explained that we have a history of adopting the state's targets as the regional targets given that this puts less pressure on the region in terms of reporting. He then discussed the five annual safety targets that are required by state DOTs and MPOs. He reviewed the *Total Fatalities – 5 Year Averages* as well as the *Fatality and Fatality Rate Targets*. He also talked about the *Total Fatalities in the PVPC Region* which he noted increased in 2021 and 2022. Mr. Roux next reviewed a graph on the *Total Serious Injuries - 5 Year Averages* as well as a graph on *PVPC Serious Injury Crashes* which reflects an increase in 2021 and 2022. Mr. Roux talked about the

total number of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries in Massachusetts and in the PVPC region. Finally, Mr. Roux shared a slide summarizing the five state safety performance measures targets that the MPO is being asked to adopt. Mr. Roux noted that there will be presentations today on PM2 and PM3 but they will be voted on at the February MPO meeting. Mr. Gunn stated that he didn't see a 5-year trend for 2018 to 2022. Mr. Roux explained that the state sets their target ahead of ours, so we did not have complete data for that year.

Mr. Woelfel called for a motion to adopt the 2023 regional safety performance measures targets.

MOVED BY WALTER GUNN, SECONDED BY RICK SULLIVAN, TO ADOPT THE 2023 REGIONAL SAFETY PERFORMANCE MEASURES TARGETS

Mr. Gunn asked if these measures punish us or if they help us get assistance to solve problems when they are identified. Derek Krevat, MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning, noted there is a provision in the new Bipartisan Infrastructure Law that forbids states from setting targets that are higher than the trends showing. If a state sets targets that they do not meet, they are required to utilize all the HSIP funds. He stated that their Traffic Safety Section has released an updated Strategic Highway Safety Plan and he offered to put a link in the Zoom Chat.

Mr. Roscoe took roll call and each MPO member in attendance responded affirmatively.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED.

Update on the PM2 Pavement and Bridge Targets

Jack Moran, Highway Division, provided a presentation on the Bridge and Pavement Measures. He shared a slide entitled *Retrospective: First Performance Period* which provides a look at targets and actuals for the bridge and pavement measures. He noted that they had an issue with the uploading of pavement condition data for 2021 and they are working through that with Federal Highway. He did not think the balance of the data would have a pronounced effect on the results. Mr. Moran next discussed the *Regional Distribution of Interstates, Massachusetts Interstate Pavement – Distribution by Region*. He also talked about the *Regional Distribution of Non-Interstate NHS; Massachusetts Non-Interstate NHS Pavement – Distribution by Region and Owner*. He noted that Non-Interstate NHS roadways are 38% municipality owned and 62% state owned. On the bridge side, he pointed out that there is a much smaller number of NHS bridges owned by the municipalities. Mr. Moran then reviewed a slide entitled *Pioneer Valley NHS Pavement* and he talked about the *Pavement Targets – Interstate*. He also discussed several other slides including *Pavement Targets – Non Interstate NHS; Regional Distribution of NHS Bridges Massachusetts NHS Bridges – Distribution by Region and Owner*; and *Pioneer Valley NHS Bridges – conditions*. Finally, Mr. Moran talked about the NHS Bridge Targets.

Update on the PM3 System Performance Targets

Derek Krevat provided a presentation entitled *System Performance Measures – Congestion, Reliability, and Emissions*. He first talked about the required performance measures under PM3. He explained the *Level of Travel Time Reliability (LOTTR)* and he talked about how it is calculated. He provided a graph on the *Interstate Travel Time Reliability* which indicates targets for 2022, 2024 and 2026 and he noted that the goal is to improve reliability. Mr. Krevat then shared a graph on *Non-Interstate Travel Time Reliability* which also indicates targets for 2022, 2024 and 2026. He pointed out that data is showing that there will likely be some improvement in reliability statewide on the non-interstate system. He then talked about *Truck Travel Time Reliability*. He also provided a graph which indicates targets for 2022, 2024 and 2026. The next slide referred to Peak Hour Excessive Delay (PHED) which is one of the Congestion measures they are required to report on. Mr. Krevat also provided information on the PHED for Springfield Urbanized Area (UZA) as well as the targets for 2024 and 2026. He noted that this is the first time they are setting targets for the Springfield UZA. Mr. Krevat then talked about the Percentage of Non-Single Occupancy Vehicle (SOV) Travel, and he shared a percentage table for Springfield. He noted that the goal is to reduce single occupancy travel. Finally, Mr. Krevat talked about Emissions Reduction. In closing he shared a chart summarizing the measures and targets.

Mr. Woelfel stated that these measures will be taken up for a vote at next month's MPO meeting and if anyone has

any questions, they should reach out to Mr. Moran or Mr. Krevat.

6. FFY 2023 Transit Amendment (five 5310/Community Transit Grant Awards)

Mr. McCaul noted that this item was not on the original agenda that was sent out. He explained that another round of grant money has been recently awarded to several entities including PVTA, Springfield Partners for Community Action, the Town of Ware and Town of Palmer, and unfortunately there was no time to align this with the last amendment. Mr. McCaul stated that the MPO is being asked to release the proposed changes for public review and to make it known that we are looking to add these funding sources to the Transit TIP. He stated that hopefully in February based on the comments received, the MPO will endorse the TIP.

Mr. Woelfel called for a motion to release the proposed amendment to the Transit TIP for public review.

MOVED BY RICK SULLIVAN, SECONDED BY WALTER GUNN, TO RELEASE THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE FFY 2023 TRANSIT TIP FOR THE REQUIRED 21-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD.

Mr. Roscoe took roll call and each MPO member in attendance responded affirmatively.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED.

7. Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) – Development Update

Mr. Roux shared a slide which outlined the Current RTP Vision and the Proposed RTP Vision. He explained that during their focus group outreach, they heard that their vision for the RTP was slightly long therefore he is presenting a suggested update. They are also working on a dedicated RTP webpage, and they will send that link to the MPO. Mr. Roux then reviewed the schedule for the RTP. He expected to be able to release the draft RTP for review and comment in June and to have it endorsed in July.

8. PVMPO Federal Certification Review: Update

Mr. Roux reminded everyone that the certification of the MPO process will take place on February 1st. He noted that there will also be a public information session and comment period after the MPO meeting on February 28th. A public notice will be put out and sent to MPO membership that will detail ways to contact the federal team and there will be an agenda for the February 1st meeting.

9. PVMPO FFY 2024-2028 TIP Development

Mr. McCaul shared the 2024-2028 Draft Project Universe. He noted that the JTC was asked to review this list to make sure that no municipal projects are missing, and the state has been asked to look at it as well regarding the accuracy of state projects. He referred to the columns for Design, TEC Score, TEC Rank, and Cost Estimate and he stated that these are the areas they are looking to update in February. He reported that TEC forms were sent out to the appropriate entities along with a letter to Chief Elected Officials with copies to PVPC Commissioners and JTC representatives asking that this information be updated prior to the February JTC meeting. He noted that the Project Universe includes 49 projects totaling \$350 million. Based on the 2023-2027 TIP there are currently 26 projects programmed at a cost of just under \$218 million. Mr. McCaul then briefly reviewed the TIP Development Schedule.

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

Daryl Amaral, MassDOT District Two, provided the following updates:

- **Project 606895** – Granby improvements at 2 locations on Route 202, School Street and Five Corners; design is at 100%; review comments were completed October 3rd; PS&E is due May 17th; current ad date is September 9, 2023
- **Project 608073** – Westfield River Levee multi-use path construction; design is at 100%; PS&E review completed on January 18th; current ad date is September 9, 2023
- **Project 604209** - Holyoke, West Springfield rehab of Route 5 – design at 100%; 100% submission including water

main review completed on December 19th; PS&E is due April 17, 2023; current ad date is June 10, 2023

- **Project 609517** – Longmeadow Blueberry Hill Elementary School Improvement Project - advertised November 19th; bids opened January 4th and awarded on January 20th
- **Project 608163** – Wales reconstruction improvements on Monson Road from Monson town line to Reed Hill Road; design is at 75%; 100% is due March 17, 2023; current ad date March 2, 2024
- **Project 608717** – Springfield reconstruction of Sumner Avenue at Dickinson and Belmont. Design is at 75%; awaiting environmental permits; 100% design is due September 2, 2023; current ad date is January 6, 2024

Mark Moore, MassDOT District One, provided the following updates:

2023 project: The District has received comments on 75% design. They are working on response comments and they will have 100% PS&E submitted in March 2023. The current cost is \$4.89 million.

2024 Projects:

- **Project 609287** - Phase 2 Worthington Route 143 Reconstruction; CHA is working on the final design to be submitted in May 2023
- **Project 607675** - Replacement of 2 municipal bridges in Williamsburg over the Mill River; working with the town on some utility information and once that is complete, they will be advancing that project to design public hearing.

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

PVTA Administrator Sandra Sheehan reported that for the month of December 2022 ridership improved by 33% as compared to December of 2021. The system-wide recovery for the month is at 82% of the pre-pandemic levels. She noted that the Massachusetts RTA implemented the Try Transit program which was funded by Massachusetts legislation for the prepaid fare for the month of December and overall there was a very positive impact from this program. Ms. Sheehan stated that currently PVTA is installing onboard validators on the Northampton area bus system which is part of the pilot program to test the mobile ticketing system. Finally, she stated that PVTA has started the design process for the electrification of the fleet in the Springfield garage on Cottage Street and there will be a kick-off meeting for the expansion of the UMass Transit garage later this week.

12. Other Business

Mr. Woelfel noted that the next virtual MPO meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 28, 2023. He also announced that the MassDOT Transportation Innovation Conference will take place at the DCU Center on May 2 and 3, 2023 and registration should be open within the next week or two.

There being no other business to conduct, Mr. Woelfel called for a motion to adjourn.

MOVED BY RICK SULLIVAN, SECONDED BY WALTER GUNN, TO ADJOURN THE JANUARY 24, 2023 MEETING OF THE PIONEER VALLEY MPO. THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 11:16 A.M. WITHOUT OBJECTION.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Shell, Senior Administrative Assistant, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

List of Documents Distributed at the January 24, 2023 MPO Meeting

1. MPO Agenda: January 24, 2023
2. December 20, 2022 MPO Meeting Minutes