

PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION (PVPC)
Minutes of the Joint Transportation Committee Meeting
Wednesday, April 9, 2025, 10:00 A.M.

Committee Members Present:

Alexis Hosea-Abbott	MassBike
Andy Krar	City of Springfield
Betsy Johnson	Pedestrian Representative
Carmen Rosado	STAVROS
Carolyn Misch	City of Northampton
Chris Klem	MassDOT OTP
Chris Stratton	Northampton Resident
Connor Knightly	Town of West Springfield
Dan Banister	Town of Williamsburg
Dan McCormack	BETA Group
Dawn Nims	MassDOT Highway D2
Diane Rossini-Smith	City of Easthampton
John Broderick	Town of South Hadley
Kien Ho	BETA Group
Laura Hanson	MassDOT Highway D2
Linda Leduc	Town of Belchertown
Mark Berman	Town of East Longmeadow
Matt Smith	Town of Chesterfield
Michelle Chase	Town of Agawam
Nick Dines	Town of Williamsburg
Peter Frieri	MassDOT Highway D1
Sarah Cannamela	MassDOT Highway D2
Thomas Ruta	MassDOT Highway D2
Van Kacoyannakis	VHB
William Dwyer	Town of Hadley

PVPC Staff Present:

Andrew McCaul, Deputy Director of Transportation Planning
Gary Roux, Principal Planner/Traffic Manager
Carl Jackson, Principal Transit Planner
Rana Al-Jammal, Principal Transportation Planner

1. Call to Order

The April 9, 2025, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission Joint Transportation Committee meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by 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 March 12, 2025, Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) meeting.

MOVED BY DIANA ROSSINI-SMITH, SECONDED BY DAN BANISTER, TO APPROVE THE MARCH 12, 2025, JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY FOLLOWING A ROLL CALL VOTE.

3. Public Comment

Chris Stratton, a resident of Northampton, identified intersections as the primary safety concern for bicyclists and

expressed concern about Pioneer Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) emphasis on constructing separation barriers. Mr. Stratton recommended that the MPO examine North Franklin County's bikeway program as model, work to raise drivers' awareness of Massachusetts clearance law, and consider widening high-volume, higher-speed roadways to provide cyclists choice in positioning for optimal safety.

4. Draft FFY 2026 Unified Planning Work Program

Gary Roux reviewed the development schedule for the draft Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for the federal fiscal year 2026, with the goal of presenting the final document at the MPO's May 27, 2025, meeting. He then outlined three local project requests received to date, noting that the intention is to fund as many as feasible within the available resources.

Mr. Roux also reported that the MPO has received approval for MassDOT to redirect \$90,000 of previously unobligated PL funds to complete a Pioneer Valley Transit Authority economic impact assessment, and to upgrade the audiovisual equipment in the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission's large conference room. Staff anticipate confirmation of the federal funding obligation by the end of April, 2025, and in the interim, the draft assumes level funding.

Mr. Roux noted that the draft FFY 2026 UPWP's budget is approximately 1.5% higher than FFY 2025. Mr. Roux highlighted the UPWP's focus on studies which advance regional transportation plans, with at least 30% of the funds allocated to this area. The inclusion of the full Safer Streets and Roads for All grant amount has slightly inflated the program sum; however, staff are working to develop a more accurate estimate of spending against the grant for FFY 2026.

MOVED BY MATT SMITH, SECONDED BY ANDY KRAR, TO RECOMMEND TO THE PIONEER VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION TO RELEASE THE DRAFT FFY 2026 UPWP FOR 21-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY FOLLOWING A ROLL CALL VOTE.

5. FFY 2025 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment

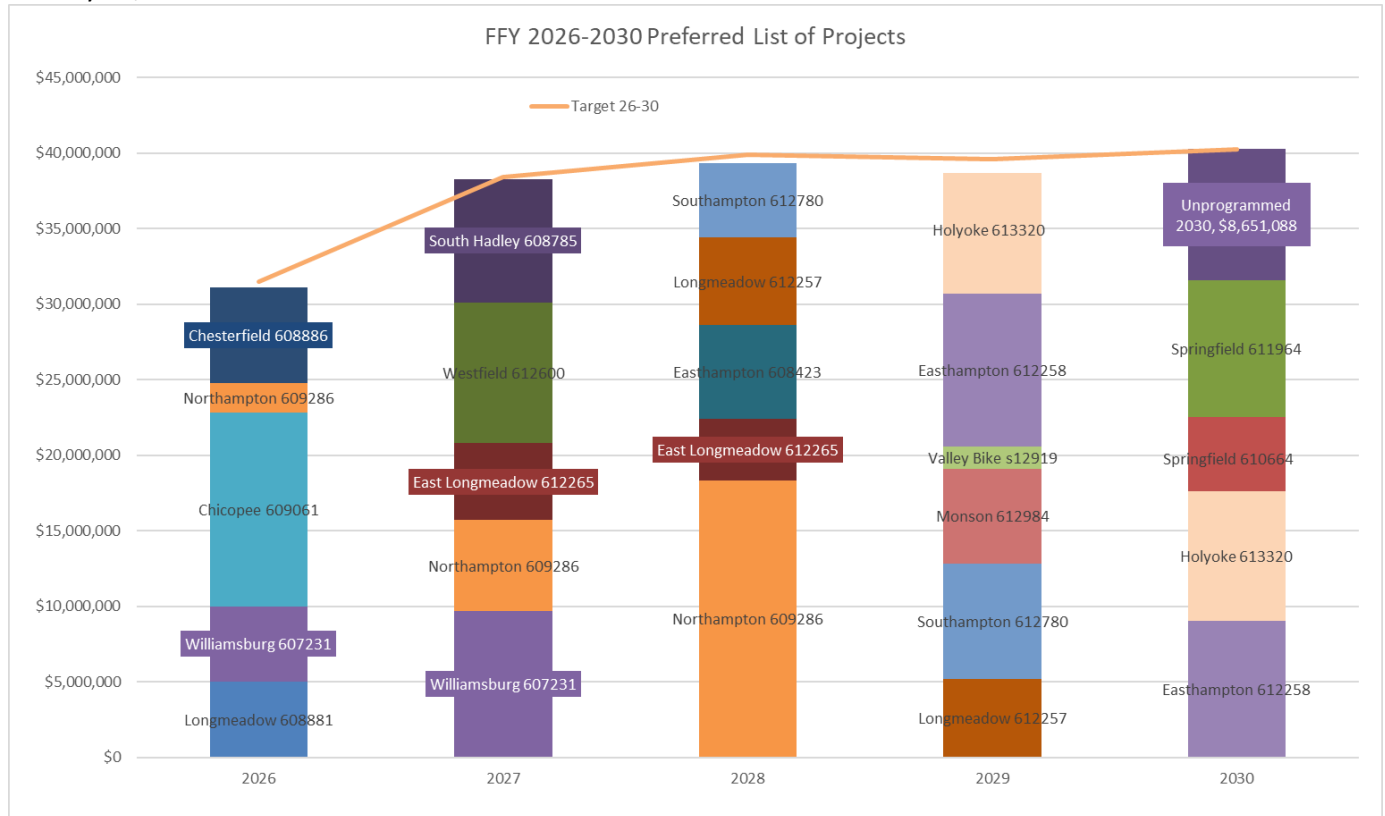
Andrew McCaul reviewed the proposed amendment No. 4 to the FFY 2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), explaining that the amendment addresses readiness and cost issues of six projects and reflects the MPO's and JTC's preference for option No. 2 as presented at the previous meeting.

- Remove Northampton (609286) Downtown Complete Street Project (route 9) \$16,473,207 from FFY 2025. Project is proposed to be funded in the FFY 2026-2030 TIP (A/C 2026, 2027, 2028)
- Add Chicopee / South Hadley Route 33 resurfacing and related work for \$10,310,790 (STBG). \$5,792,470 in statewide funding in FFY 2026 for a total cost of \$16,103,260.
- Add Chesterfield (608886) Reconstruction of North Road and Damon Pond Road. Move A/C fund from FFY 2027/2028 to FFY2025/2026. A/C \$5,000,000 (FFY 2025) and \$6,290,549 (FFY 2026)
- A/C Longmeadow (608881) Resurfacing and Intersection work on Longmeadow Street and Converse Street. \$7,774,555 (FFY 2025) and \$5,000,000 (FFY 2026)
- Increase cost of Holyoke (609065) – Resurfacing and related work on Cabot and Race Street from \$5,493,366 to \$9,225,500
- Increase cost of Northampton (608869) Bridge Replacement – Old Springfield Road over the Mill River from \$5,497,283 to \$8,771,523

MOVED BY MATT SMITH, SECONDED BY DAN BANISTER, TO RECOMMEND TO THE PIONEER VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION TO RELEASE THE DRAFT FFY 2025 TIP AMENDMENT NO. 4 FOR 21-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY FOLLOWING A ROLL CALL VOTE.

6. Draft FFY 2026 to 2030 Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. McCaul discussed the development schedule for the draft FFY 2026 to 2030 TIP, explaining that the draft in the meeting package was founded on the FFY 2025 TIP amendment No. 4 and the MPO and JTC's preference for the FFY 2026 to 2030 TIP option No. 2 as presented at the previous meeting. The public hearing on the draft TIP will be held on May 14, 2025.



Mr. McCaul noted that the documents will be available for public review starting on April 25, 2025 and ending on May 23, 2025.

MOVED BY BETSY JOHNSON, SECONDED BY MATT SMITH, TO RECOMMEND TO THE PIONEER VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION TO RELEASE THE DRAFT FFY 2026 TO 2030 TIP FOR 21-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY FOLLOWING A ROLL CALL VOTE.

7. Vulnerable Roadway User Safety (VRUS) Study Locations

Mr. Roux provided an update on the VRUS study, noting the goal of the study is to recommend short- and long-term safety improvement through data collection and a vulnerable road user audit of each site. Solicitation for the 2025 study locations was sought at the beginning of the year with a total of eight study location requests received; of these, six were reviewed using specific score criteria, and two were deemed outside the study's scope. For the six locations reviewed, Worthington, Westhampton, and Hadley had each suggested two locations, and all but one location scored within equal range. The PVPC staff then recommended each community identify one preferred location for a final total of three VRUS study locations. Data collection will start at these locations in either late April, 2025, or early May, 2025. It was noted that three location requests submitted from the initial solicitations were deemed ineligible for study, but would be reconsidered for a future year.

MOVED BY MATT SMITH, SECONDED BY WILLIAM DWYER, TO RECOMMEND THE VRUS STUDY PROCEED AT THE LOCATIONS IN HADLEY, WESTHAMPTON, AND WORTHINGTON AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY FOLLOWING A ROLL CALL VOTE.

8. 2025 Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan Update

Carl Jackson provided an update to the 2025 Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan (HTCP). He reviewed the purpose of the plan, which is mandated by federal law and is grounded in a regional characteristics assessment. The plan prioritizes the transportation needs of seniors, individuals with disabilities, low-income individuals, and the unemployed. Mr. Jackson identified the public transportation providers involved in the plan, including the Regional Transit Agencies, the Councils on Aging, and a private provider Quaboag Connector.

It was noted that the previously adopted plan from 2020 is available on the MPO website. Since 2020, approximately \$24 million from MassDOT funding programs has supported new intercity and local fixed route service, seniors' vans, and demand-response service.

As part of the 2025 update process, several community and regional listening sessions were held, with an upcoming Western Mass Transportation Forum scheduled for April 11, 2025, in Springfield. Mr. Jackson reviewed the findings to date from these sessions, which highlighted current unmet transportation needs and successful programs such as Franklin County's FRTA access program. This program provides a flexible alternative to fixed-option routes for rural, low-ridership areas and, as part of the plan, will be assessed for potential expansion into MPO communities.

Mr. Jackson shared the preliminary recommendations for the updated plan, including continued transit service coordination among regional transit authorities, expanded service alternatives for rural areas, regularizing service outside the region, completing projects from the current regional transportation plan, updating area-specific transportation plans, and developing an interactive regional transportation resources database.

9. Automated Traffic Recorder Count Locations

Mr. McCaul reminded Committee members that each municipality has access to two free automated traffic recorder count (ATRC) installations. He reviewed MassDOT's 2025 ATRC locations and the ATRC stations employed for the purposes of tracking growth rate. Any municipality interested in traffic counts should [download the form](#) from our website and send it to amir@pvpc.org.

10. Other Business

- Electric Vehicle Charging Discussion: Mr. McCaul referred to a link in the meeting package regarding funding opportunities for electric vehicle charger funding.

11. Adjournment

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

ON A MOTION DULY MADE TO ADJOURN THE APRIL 9, 2025, COMMITTEE MEETING, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED WITHOUT OBJECTION AT 10:58 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,