

PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION (PVPC)
Minutes of the Metropolitan Planning Organization Zoom Meeting
Tuesday, June 24, 2025, 10:00 A.M.

Organization Members Present

William Dwyer, Chair of PVPC
Roger Fuller, Chesterfield Selectboard, Sub-Region 5
Mark Moore, MassDOT Highway District 1
Gina-Louise Sciarra, Mayor of Northampton
Derek Shooster, MassDOT OTP
JM Sorrell, Chair of PVTA
John Vieau, Mayor of Chicopee

Guests

Carmen Rosado, Stavros ILC
Chris Klem, MassDOT
Aaron Vega, Holyoke
Jonathan Church, MassDOT OTP
Thomas Ruta, MassDOT Highway District 2
Peter Frieri, MassDOT Highway District 1
Laura Hanson, MassDOT Highway District 2
Lily Wallace, MassDOT OTP
Sarah Cannamela, MassDOT Highway District 2

PVPC Staff Present

Jeffrey McCollough, Principal Transportation Planner
Andrew McCaul, Deputy Director of Transportation Planner
Rana Al-Jammal, Principal Transportation Planner
Carl Jackson, Principal Transit Planner
Gary Roux, Director of Transportation Planning
Geoffrey Klafeta, Transportation Planner

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

The Metropolitan Planning Organization meeting on June 24, 2025, was called to order at 10:00 a.m. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was noted.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Metropolitan Planning Organization Meeting Held on May 27, 2025

MOVED BY WILLIAM DWYER, SECONDED BY GINA-LOUISE SCIARRA, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 27, 2025, METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION MEETING. 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 Coordinated Public Transit–Human Services Transportation Plan (CPT-HSTP) for the Required 45-Day Review and Comment Period

Carl Jackson outlined the completion of a draft update to the Coordinated Public Transit–Human Services Transportation Plan (CPT-HSTP), which aims to enhance transportation services for individuals with disabilities, older adults, and low-income populations. Feedback from public listening sessions has highlighted significant service gaps

in rural communities and the necessity for more adaptable transportation options. Feedback has revealed persistent service gaps in rural areas, unreliable medical transportation, and stringent eligibility criteria for paratransit services.

The plan advocates for improved coordination among transit services, the provision of flexible alternatives in rural areas, and the creation of an interactive database for transportation resources. Following the release of the draft plan, a 45-day public comment period will be initiated.

MOVED BY WILLIAM DWYER, SECONDED BY GINA-LOUISE SCIARRA, TO RELEASE THE COORDINATED PUBLIC TRANSIT–HUMAN SERVICES TRANSPORTATION PLAN (CPT-HSTP) FOR THE REQUIRED 45-DAY REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY FOLLOWING A ROLL CALL VOTE.

5. Review, Discussion, and MPO Approval of Several Adjustments to the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Andrew McCaul shared the adjustments to the FFY 2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and noted that these projects must be advertised by September 30, 2025, to ensure that the allocated funding is not lost. The funding for the two bridge projects is being reallocated from federal high-priority bridge funds to state fair-share funds due to limitations imposed by the state bond cap.

- Update funding source for (613185) Huntington- Bridge Preservation, H-27-006 (ODH), State Route 112/East Main Street over CSXT and Westfield River (\$12,017,500) from HIP_BR to Fair Share Funds (NFA).
- Update funding source for (613219) Chicopee - Holyoke- Northampton- Springfield- West Springfield - Bridge Preservation of 26 bridges along I-91 (\$11,500,000) from HIP-BR to Fair Share Funds (NFA).

MOVED BY GINA-LOUISE SCIARRA, SECONDED BY WILLIAM DWYER, TO ENDORSE THE ADJUSTMENTS TO THE FFY 2025 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY FOLLOWING A ROLL CALL VOTE.

6. Review and Discussion of the Status of the Regional Projects Included in the FFY 2025 and the FFY 2026–2030 TIP

A. McCaul provided a comprehensive update on the status of transportation improvement projects within the region, detailing the progress and scheduling of various initiatives as the federal fiscal year approaches its conclusion. The current status of projects is outlined, with nearly \$28 million worth of projects advertised for construction. These include bridge replacements and safety improvements, with notable projects such as the Rocky Hill Greenway trail and the replacement of clean heavy-duty vehicles.

A. McCaul also emphasized the importance of tracking upcoming projects slated for advertising starting October 1, 2025, with several projects already planned for 2026. The transit side was mentioned as tracking projects differently, focusing on bus replacements and facility maintenance.

7. Review and Discussion of the Ongoing Regional Safety and Planning Studies as Part of the FFY 2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Gary Roux provided an update on ongoing transportation safety planning tasks, including the top 100 high-crash intersections report, the vulnerable road user safety study program, and a recent grant for a regional safety action plan. The Top 100 report, updated every four years, focuses on crash data from 2019 to 2021, utilizing a weighted scoring system to prioritize locations with serious injuries or fatalities. The methodology for identifying crash clusters is being updated to align with MassDOT's approach, resulting in smaller identified clusters compared to previous data. Year two of this study involves community submissions for safety analysis, with data collection currently underway at selected intersections. After data collection, safety assessments will be conducted in collaboration with local

communities and organizations, with draft reports expected by September, 2025. A \$1.25 million Safer Streets for All (SS4A) grant has been awarded to develop a regional safety action plan and conduct a demonstration project on traffic signals. The plan will incorporate recommendations from five communities with existing safety plans, ensuring a comprehensive approach to safety across all 43 PVPC communities.

8. 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 One provided an update on its various transportation projects. These projects include the reconstruction of North Road and Damon Pond Road in Chesterfield, bridge preservation initiatives in Covington and Huntington, and the reconstruction of Mountain Street in Williamsburg. Key milestones for these projects involve awaiting permit approvals, conducting design reviews, and holding public hearings. The estimated costs for these projects range from \$4.8 million to over \$14 million.

District Two provided updates on five FFY 2025 projects. These projects included resurfacing and intersection improvements in Long Meadow, Holyoke's center city connector, Route 33 work, a safe-routes-to-school project in Springfield, and a bridge replacement in Northampton. Key milestones such as design status, environmental clearance, right-of-way certificates, and advertisement dates were highlighted for each project. Environmental is cleared, and the next milestone is awaiting the final right-of-way and advertising, which is August 16, 2025.

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

JM Sorrell provided an update on the recent meeting concerning the operations and ridership statistics of the PVTA. In May, 2025, the fixed-route ridership reached 794,489 boards, representing a 24% increase compared to May, 2024, and a 112% recovery relative to 2019. The House Committee on Transportation visited the operations and maintenance facilities of Northampton and Springfield on June 12, 2025, and June 13, 2025, respectively. The Advisory Board has approved the continuation of the free-fare program for the months of July, August, and September, 2025, contingent upon the FY 2026 legislative budget for further funding.

10. Other Business

Updates were provided regarding the transition of James Whalen to a member position and the search for a new alternate member for Sub-Area 4. Additionally, William Dwyer was appointed as the new Chair of PVPC, and JM Sorrell was appointed as the Chair of PVTA.

The next MPO meeting is scheduled for July 22, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

There being no further discussion, a motion was called to adjourn the meeting.

MOVED BY GINA-LOUISE SCIARRA, SECONDED BY WILLIAM DWYER, TO ADJOURN TODAY'S METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION MEETING. THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED WITHOUT OBJECTION AT 10:42 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

List of Documents and Other Items Distributed at the June 24, 2025, Meeting

1. Metropolitan Planning Organization June 24, 2025, Presentation