

PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION (PVPC)
Minutes of the Metropolitan Planning Organization Zoom Meeting
Tuesday, May 27, 2025, 10:00 A.M.

Organization Members Present

Roger Fuller, Chesterfield Selectboard, Sub-Region 5
Mark Gold, Longmeadow Selectboard
Walter Gunn, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
Michael McCabe, Mayor of Westfield
Mark Moore, MassDOT Highway District 1
Gina-Louise Sciarra, Mayor of Northampton
Sandra Sheehan, Pioneer Valley Transit Authority
Rick Sullivan, Western MA EDC
John Vieau, Mayor Chicopee
Stephen Woelfel, MassDOT OTP

Ex-Officio/Non-Voting Members

William Dwyer, Town of Hadley
Stephen Thor Johnson, Town of Southampton

Guests

Carmen Rosado, Stavros ILC
Chris Klem, MassDOT
Derek Krevat, MassDOT
Daryl Amaral, MassDOT Highway District 2
Derek Shooster, MassDOT OTP
Dianne Rossini-Smith, City of Easthampton
Jonathan Church, MassDOT-OTP
Kimberley H. Robinson, Executive Director
Laura Hanson, MassDOT Highway District 2
Lily Wallace, MassDOT Highway District 2
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

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

The Metropolitan Planning Organization meeting on May 27, 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 April 22, 2025

MOVED BY WALTER GUNN, SECONDED BY MARK GOLD, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 22, 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 of an Administrative Adjustment to the FFY 2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Andrew McCaul outlined the adjustment to the federal fiscal year 2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) necessitated by staff turnover, specifically the retirement of Dana Roscoe. The proposal seeks to reallocate \$7,500 from Task 1.4, which pertains to the development of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), to the direct cost account. This reallocation is intended for the acquisition of a radar traffic counter and the potential upgrade of staff computers. A. McCaul requested approval from the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for this budget adjustment.

MOVED BY WALTER GUNN, SECONDED BY RICK SULLIVAN, TO APPROVE THE ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUSTMENT TO THE FFY 2025 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP), MOVING \$7,500 FROM TASK 1.4 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM TO DIRECT COSTS. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY FOLLOWING A ROLL CALL VOTE.

5. Review, Discussion, and MPO Endorsement of Amendment 4 to the FFY 2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Currently Out for the Required 21-Day Public Review Period

A. McCaul presented Amendment 4 to the federal fiscal year 2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which encompasses various project adjustments. Notable changes included the postponement of the Northampton project timeline beyond the 2025 fiscal year, the inclusion of funding for Route 33, and the advancement of the Chesterfield and Long Meadow projects to align with their respective construction schedules. Amendment 4 is summarized below.

Section 1A / Regionally Prioritized Projects

- 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

Section 1B / Earmark or Discretionary Grant Funded Projects

- Increase cost of Northampton (608869) Bridge Replacement – Old Springfield Road over the Mill River from \$5,497,283 to \$8,771,523.

MOVED BY WALTER GUNN, SECONDED BY RICK SULLIVAN, TO ENDORSE AMENDMENT 4 TO THE FFY 2025 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) CURRENTLY OUT FOR THE REQUIRED 21-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY FOLLOWING A ROLL CALL VOTE.

6. Review, Discussion, and MPO Approval of an Administrative Adjustment to the FFY 2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to Include Six Community Transit Grant Program awards

A. McCaul outlined the modifications to the federal fiscal year 2025 TIP. Key points included the allocation of funds for various transit projects, with over \$2 million awarded for six initiatives. These initiatives encompass operating assistance, fleet upgrades, and vehicle replacements for the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTa) and local communities.

Type	Value Changed	Date of Change	Former Value	New Value	Variance
Operating					
PVTA012033 : Town of Ware Quaboag Connector (Community Transit Grant Program) - \$312,433					
Adjustment	2025: PVTA-OT-Operating-5310	3/26/2025	\$0	\$103,772	\$103,772
Adjustment	2025: PVTA-OT-Operating-OF	3/26/2025	\$0	\$12,000	\$12,000
Adjustment	2025: PVTA-OT-Operating-ETF	3/26/2025	\$0	\$148,228	\$148,228
Adjustment	2025: PVTA-OT-Operating-LF	3/26/2025	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000
Adjustment	2025: PVTA-OT-Operating-ONF	3/26/2025	\$0	\$38,433	\$38,433
PVTA012066 : PVTA - Intercity Bus Project - \$99,960					
Adjustment	2025: PVTA-OT-Operating-LF	4/10/2025	\$0	\$49,980	\$49,980
Adjustment	2025: PVTA-OT-Operating-5311	4/10/2025	\$0	\$49,980	\$49,980
Type	Value Changed	Date of Change	Former Value	New Value	Variance
RTA Fleet Upgrades					
PVTA012102 : PVTA - Purchase of 2 Type E Vehicles - Community Transit Grant Program - \$225,702					
Adjustment	2025: PVTA-OT-RTA Fleet Upgrades-GOBOND	4/18/2025	\$0	\$225,702	\$225,702
Type	Value Changed	Date of Change	Former Value	New Value	Variance
RTA Vehicle Replacement					
PVTA012101 : PVTA - Purchase of 9 Type E Vehicles - Community Transit Grant Program - \$1,015,660					
Adjustment	2025: PVTA-OT-RTA Vehicle Replacement-5310	4/18/2025	\$0	\$521,816	\$521,816
Adjustment	2025: PVTA-OT-RTA Vehicle Replacement-GOBOND	4/18/2025	\$0	\$493,844	\$493,844
PVTA012103 : Town of Ware - Purchase of 2 Type E Vehicles - Community Transit Grant Program - \$225,702					
Adjustment	2025: PVTA-OT-RTA Vehicle Replacement-LF	4/18/2025	\$0	\$33,855	\$33,855
Adjustment	2025: PVTA-OT-RTA Vehicle Replacement-GOBOND	4/18/2025	\$0	\$191,847	\$191,847
PVTA012104 : West Springfield Council on Aging - Purchase of one (1) Low Floor Vehicle - Community Transit Grant Program - \$198,720					
Adjustment	2025: PVTA-OT-RTA Vehicle Replacement-GOBOND	4/18/2025	\$0	\$168,912	\$168,912
Adjustment	2025: PVTA-OT-RTA Vehicle Replacement-LF	4/18/2025	\$0	\$29,808	\$29,808

MOVED BY WALTER GUNN, SECONDED BY RICK SULLIVAN, TO APPROVE THE ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUSTMENT TO THE FFY 2025 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) TO INCLUDE SIX COMMUNITY TRANSIT GRANT PROGRAM AWARDS TOTALING \$2,078,177. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY FOLLOWING A ROLL CALL VOTE.

7. Review, Discussion, and MPO Endorsement of the Draft FFY 2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Currently Out for the Required 21-Day Public Review Period

A. McCaul presented on the draft federal fiscal year 2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), providing a comprehensive overview of the funding, with an increase of approximately \$36,000 compared to fiscal year 2025. Various projects were discussed, including a safety corridor study and the Skyline Trail Scenic Byway project.

PL Funding Comparison
2025 PL - \$1,712,902
2026 PL - \$1,748,462

Transportation Funding	Value
FHWA PL (80%)	\$ 1,398,770.00
MassHighway PL (20% match)	\$ 349,692.00
PVTA Section 5307	\$ 310,000.00
Local Funds (includes in-kind contributions)	\$ 46,760.00
SS4A Grant	\$ 1,250,000.00
De-Obligated PL Funding	\$ 67,840.00
Total	\$ 3,423,062.00

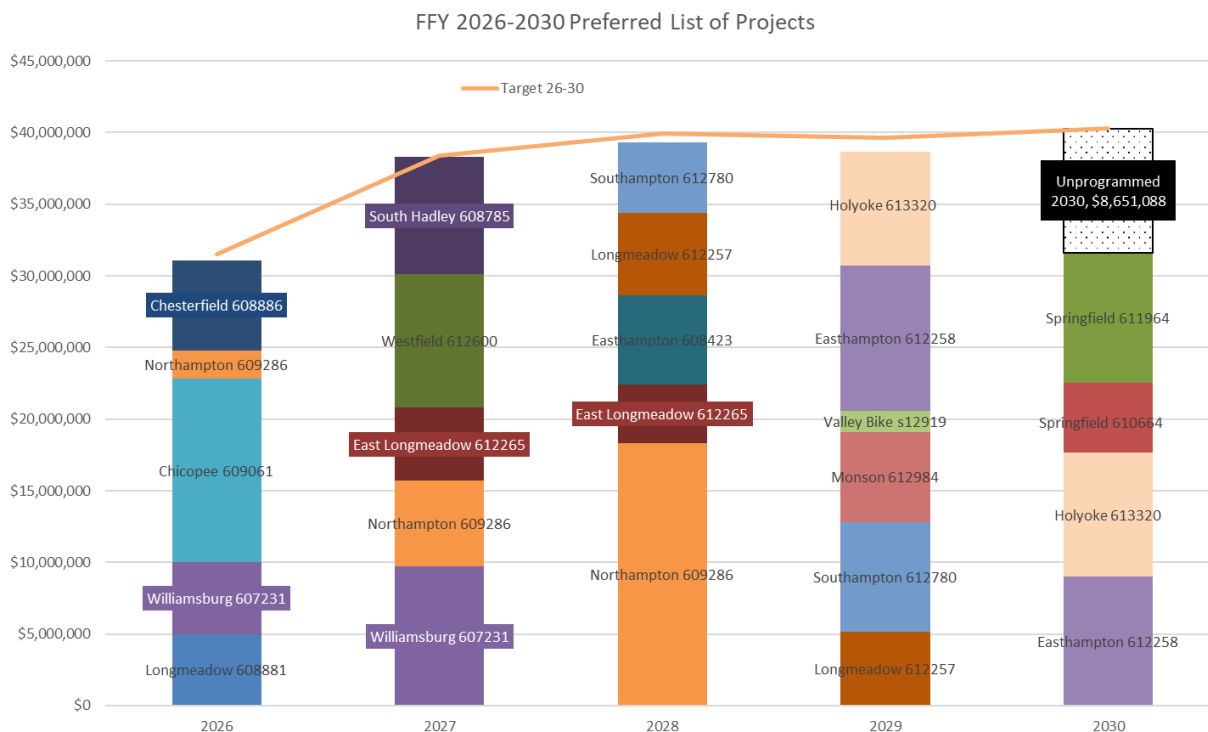
MOVED BY WALTER GUNN, SECONDED BY RICK SULLIVAN, TO ENDORSE THE DRAFT FFY 2026 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) CURRENTLY OUT FOR THE REQUIRED 21-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY FOLLOWING A ROLL CALL VOTE.

8. Review, Discussion, and MPO Endorsement of the Draft FFY 2026-2030 TIP Currently Out for the Required 21-Day Public Review Period

A. McCaul provided a comprehensive overview of a meeting focused on the draft federal fiscal year 2026 to 2030 TIP. The MPO plans to allocate just under \$33 million for the current fiscal year, with projections increasing to approximately \$40 million over the next five years. Several comments were received regarding specific projects, including strong support for the Southampton Greenway project and feedback on outdated transportation evaluation criteria. The MPO aims to incorporate these comments into the final document before it becomes effective on October 1, 2025.

Stephen Woelfel asked whether TIP certifications were being addressed during the meeting. A. McCaul clarified that certifications had been covered the previous month. Michael McCabe expressed support for the Southampton Rail Trail project, noting its potential positive impact on Westfield.

Rick Sullivan pointed out that there is a nearly \$9 million funding gap in 2030 and suggested that it would be better to plug in a project rather than leave the money unallocated. R. Sullivan emphasized the belief that all funds should be scheduled, even years in advance. A. McCaul noted that the gap exists because no suitable projects with sufficient information are available. A. McCaul advised that they could potentially insert the next highest priority project, even partially, into 2030, while leaving the rest in a later year.



M. McCabe mentioned having a project recently approved through PRC that could fit the \$8.6 million need and expressed interest in having it considered for 2030 programming. A. McCaul reiterated openness to filling the gap with a valid project.

S. Woelfel added that leaving the funds unallocated is not problematic for now, since adjustments could be made in the new federal fiscal year. He advised that adding a partially ready project might lead to unrealistic expectations, and encouraged careful timing to avoid false assumptions. Derek Shooster echoed the importance of project readiness,

mentioning that scheduling should align with project timelines, like permitting and design. He noted that a placeholder could be used to show full allocation but offered little practical value. Walter Gunn stressed that project selection should follow the TIP scoring system, emphasizing regional priorities over political considerations.

Participants discussed the idea of following the project over the next few months and considered adding another project after appropriate reviews. M. McCabe expressed willingness to follow the process and emphasized the importance of advocating for projects to ensure they are considered. Staff were encouraged to engage with communities regarding funding opportunities for 2030 projects.

Highway	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	GRAND TOTAL
All Other Programmed Funding	\$243,103,992	\$256,437,228	\$158,895,399	\$210,245,088	\$116,025,786	\$984,707,493
Total Target Funds	\$31,520,356	\$38,399,206	\$39,927,211	\$39,629,701	\$40,263,468	\$189,739,942
Total of Programmed	\$31,095,314	\$38,300,446	\$39,309,776	\$38,685,380	\$31,612,499	\$179,003,415
Programmed STBG	\$31,095,314	\$38,300,446	\$39,309,776	\$37,226,696	\$31,612,499	\$177,544,731
Programmed HSIP	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Programmed CMAQ	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,458,684	\$0	\$1,458,684
Programmed TAP	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Programmed VUS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Difference	\$425,042	\$98,760	\$617,435	\$944,321	\$8,650,969	\$10,736,527

Transit Capital Investment	\$20,893,980	\$32,886,118	\$30,418,340	\$50,191,604	\$42,614,733	\$177,004,775
5307	\$18,054,950	\$18,316,616	\$16,820,937	\$17,632,178	\$17,074,474	\$87,899,155
5307 CR	\$0	\$0	\$4,320,000	\$0	\$748,461	\$5,068,461
5339	\$691,462	\$705,292	\$0	\$733,785	\$0	\$2,130,539
5320	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
DOF	\$0	\$4,480,000	\$0	\$19,360,000	\$14,400,000	\$38,240,000
Other Federal	\$168,000	\$294,000	\$210,000	\$378,000	\$360,000	\$1,410,000
Other Non Federal	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
RTACAP Program	\$838,242	\$7,941,763	\$7,896,168	\$10,893,181	\$8,813,668	\$36,383,022
SCA Program	\$1,141,326	\$1,148,447	\$1,171,235	\$1,194,460	\$1,218,130	\$5,873,598

MOVED BY WALTER GUNN, SECONDED BY RICK SULLIVAN, TO ENDORSE THE DRAFT FFY 2026-2030 TIP CURRENTLY OUT FOR THE REQUIRED 21-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY FOLLOWING A ROLL CALL VOTE.

9. 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 comprehensive updates on various transportation projects, detailing their current status and progress. Several key projects were highlighted, including intersection improvements, resurfacing initiatives, and safe routes to school programs. The Long Meadow Intersection Improvement project is advancing well, with the design phase at PSE, the right-of-way certificate issued, and environmental clearance obtained. Documents for advertising are currently being prepared. The Chicopee Intersection Project design phase is at the revised stage, with review comments completed. The project is now awaiting final environmental permitting and clearance.

District One outlined the current and upcoming projects for fiscal year 2025, including the reconstruction of North Road and Damon Pond Road in Chesterfield, two bridge preservation projects in Cummington, and the reconstruction

of Mountain Street in Williamsburg for fiscal year 2026. It highlighted the status of permits and design stages for these projects, as well as public input meetings scheduled for community engagement.

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

Sandra Sheehan reported that at the recent advisory board meeting, the PVTA board approved the fiscal year 2026 budget, which was balanced with over \$2 million from federal funds. The board reported nearly a million passengers in April. The PVTA conducted public hearings in April as part of the Title 6 analysis to discuss possible route modifications and how those changes affect the region's population as well as our passengers.

Significant route modifications were discussed for Amherst, South Hadley, and Holyoke, contingent on additional funding. Ongoing construction projects at the University of Massachusetts and Springfield facilities remain on schedule.

11. Other Business

A. McCaul outlined the details of a public hearing on the capital investment plan, scheduled for June 9, 2025, which several organizations will co-host. Additionally, there is a correction regarding the date of the CIP meeting, which is confirmed to be on June 3, 2025.

The next MPO meeting is scheduled for June 24, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

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

MOVED BY MARK GOLD, SECONDED BY MICHAEL MCCABE, TO ADJOURN TODAY'S METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION MEETING. THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED WITHOUT OBJECTION AT 10:49 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Douglas Albertson, Secretary/Clerk

List of Documents and Other Items Distributed at the May 27, 2025, Meeting

1. Metropolitan Planning Organization May 27, 2025, Presentation