

PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION (PVPC)
Minutes of the Joint Transportation Committee Meeting
Wednesday, December 10, 2025, 10:00 a.m.

Committee Members Present:

Mark Berman, East Longmeadow
Paul Burns, PVTA
Michelle Chase, Town of Agawam
Nick Dines, Town of Williamsburg
Doug Ellis, City of Chicopee
Peter Frieri, MassDOT Highway District 1
Laura Hanson, MassDOT Highway District 2
Alexis Hosea-Abbott, MassBike
Betsy Johnson, Pedestrian Representative, Springfield
Van Kacoyannakis, VHB
Connor Knightly, West Springfield
Linda Leduc, Belchertown
Scott McCarthy, Town of Hadley

PVPC Staff Present:

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

1. Call to Order

The December 10, 2025, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission Joint Transportation Committee meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Gary Roux, and everyone in attendance was welcomed. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was present.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Mr. Roux asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2025, Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) meeting.

MOVED BY PAUL BURNS, SECONDED BY BETSY JOHNSON, TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 12, 2025, JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY FOLLOWING A ROLL CALL VOTE.

3. Public Comment

There was no comment.

4. JTC Recommendation to the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to Endorse the Proposed Changes to the Transportation Evaluation Criteria Currently Out for the 21-Day Public Review Period

Andrew McCaul noted that the proposed changes to the Transportation Evaluation Criteria (TEC) were presented to the MPO in November and are now open for public comment. These were interim updates to meet current requirements and address flagged issues, with a significant revision expected in about two years after new federal guidelines are finalized. Section 7 was updated to include the PVPC housing coordination plan, aligning transportation and housing in accordance with federal mandates. Section 8 changes were summarized, and a visual graph was added. The MPO will make a final decision on December 23, 2025, after considering public feedback.

MOVED BY PAUL BURNS, SECONDED BY CONNOR KNIGHTLY, TO ENDORSE THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE TRANSPORTATION EVALUATION CRITERIA CURRENTLY OUT FOR THE 21-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY FOLLOWING A ROLL CALL VOTE.

5. FFY 2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – Development Schedule

Mr. McCaul presented the draft schedule for developing the FFY 2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The 2027 to 2031 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) will be discussed with key committees and finalized after receiving guidance from MassDOT. The process begins in January with outreach and TEC forms, followed by financial guidance at the annual MARPA meeting and detailed project reviews in February. Municipalities are encouraged to propose new projects for consideration in February and March, 2026, resulting in a preferred list and draft documents in April, 2026. Public participation and comments will be solicited in May, 2026, with final endorsements expected at the end of that month. Funding levels are expected to remain stable due to a likely extension of the federal transportation bill, and further guidance on studies and project funding will be provided after the January meeting. Once finalized, the schedule and related resources will be shared via a new project page on the website.

6. Update on Ongoing Recruitment Activities: Fill Vacancies for MPO Sub-Area 3 and 4 and Increase Membership and Participation on the JTC

Mr. McCaul noted that the area is organized into sub-areas, with urban core cities rotating annually between voting and alternate-mayor roles. Other sub-areas have two-year terms determined by local elections. There is a current need for alternates in Sub-Area 3 (East Hampton, South Hadley, Northampton, Hadley, Amherst) and Sub-Area 4 (medium-sized eastern communities). Members are encouraged to help recruit through their chief elected officials. Despite outreach efforts, participation in the JTC meetings remains below 50%, with only 13 of 43 municipalities regularly attending. The Committee welcomed feedback and suggestions to improve the meeting format and engagement, including guest speakers and presentations on regional topics. Attendance typically increases during TIP development in January and February, but the goal is to maintain active participation throughout the year.

7. Other Business

- Grant Opportunities – These opportunities will be included in every JTC meeting moving forward. Members were informed about the state's grant central website for detailed information and encouraged to contact the office for assistance with applications. No approvals were needed, but MassDOT appreciates advance notice of potential applications.
- Adjustments and Amendments to Projects – The Committee discussed a series of project adjustments and two amendments, mainly resulting from repurposed earmarks. Specific projects mentioned include Chesterfield reconstruction, Long Meadow railroad grade crossing elimination, Route 33, Huntington Bridge, Williamsburg reconstruction, Chicopee intersection improvements, and the Northampton project. The discussion covered funding changes, scheduling updates, and the impact on regional target dollars. Members also reviewed the status of several other infrastructure projects and planned amendments for two projects.

The next JTC meeting is scheduled for January 14, 2026, at 10:00 a.m.

8. Adjournment

There being no further discussion, Mr. Roux adjourned the meeting at 10:36 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,