

**PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION (PVPC)**  
**Minutes of the Joint Transportation Committee Meeting**  
**Wednesday, May 13, 2026, 10:00 a.m.**

Committee Members and guests Present:

Daryl Amaral, MassDOT Highway District 2  
Mark Berman, East Longmeadow  
Jim Czach, VHB  
Nicholas Dines, Williamsburg  
Doug Ellis, Chicopee  
Peter Frieri, MassDOT Highway District 1  
Dena Grochmal, Town of Wilbraham  
Betsy Johnson, Pedestrian Representative, Springfield  
Joseph Kietner, Westfield  
Connor Knightly, West Springfield  
Scott McVarthy, Town of Hadley  
Carolyn Misch, Northampton  
Benjamin Murphy, Monson  
Parker O'Brien, City of Holyoke  
Diane Rossini-Smith, Easthampton  
Jason Skeels, Town of Amherst  
Matt Smith, Town of Chesterfield  
Chris Stratton, Northampton Ward 6 City Council

PVPC Staff Present:

Jaime Duran, IT  
Carl Jackson, Principal Transit Planner  
Geoffrey Klafeta, Transportation Planner  
Amir Kouzehkanani, Principal Transportation Planner/Manager  
Andrew McCaul, Deputy Director of Transportation Planning  
Gary Roux, Director of Transportation Planning

1. Call to Order

The May 13, 2026, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission Joint Transportation Committee meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Nicholas Dines, and everyone in attendance was welcomed. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was present.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Mr. Dines asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2026, Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) meeting.

MOVED BY DIANE ROSSINI-SMITH, SECONDED BY JOSEPH KIETNER, TO APPROVE THE APRIL 8, 2026, JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ONE ABSTENTION FOLLOWING A ROLL CALL VOTE.

3. Opportunity for the Public to Comment on Transportation Issues

Chris Stratton from Northampton provided a detailed comment raising concerns about bicycle safety design. He referenced a \$9 million settlement in Seattle involving a cyclist injury linked to poor bicycle lane design, arguing that similar conditions could occur in Northampton. He stated that many bicycle crashes are caused by turning conflicts and limited visibility rather than rear-end collisions. He warned that proposed designs that place cyclists behind parked

cars could increase the risk for both cyclists and pedestrians, particularly near driveways and intersections. He also expressed concern about the allocation of regional funding, suggesting that investing heavily in such a project could lead to delays, cost overruns, and financial complications if local funding is not secured.

4. Update on Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)

Gary Roux explained that the PVPC is hosting a public open house on May 13 for the Safe Streets and Roads for All Regional Safety Action Plan, with two formats available: a virtual presentation at 5:30 p.m. and an in-person open house from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the PVPC offices in Springfield. He encouraged Committee members and the public to attend, see the plan's progress, interact with staff and consultants, and provide feedback on elements to be incorporated into the plan.

Mr. Roux also highlighted additional outreach events, including one on May 19, 2026, at Grow Food Northampton and another on June 12, 2026, at Mount Holyoke College, which will be an all-day transportation forum. He encouraged participation in these events, noting that the June 12, 2026, forum is free and open to anyone interested. Mr. Roux reported that the Regional Safety Action Plan is progressing well and stated that a draft of the plan will be presented at the June, 2026, JTC meeting.

5. Review, Discussion, and Recommendation to the MPO to Endorse FFY 2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendment No. 1 Currently Out for the Required 21-Day Public Review Period

Mr. Roux presented Amendment No. 1, explaining that it was released for the required 21-day public review period and that no comments were received. He noted that the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) previously approved its release and that the next step was to recommend endorsement.

MOVED BY MATT SMITH, SECONDED BY BENJAMIN MURPHY, TO ENDORSE FFY 2026 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) AMENDMENT NO. 1 CURRENTLY OUT FOR THE REQUIRED 21-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY FOLLOWING A ROLL CALL VOTE.

6. Review, Discussion, and Recommendation to the MPO to Endorse the Draft FFY 2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Currently Out for the Required 21-Day Public Review Period

Mr. Roux presented the draft FFY 2027 UPWP, explaining that it outlines transportation planning work from October, 2026, through September, 2027, and includes approximately \$2.1 million in federal planning funds. He noted that the document is currently out for public review and that comments can be submitted through the MPO. He also highlighted that one funding item, involving approximately \$228,000 in de-obligated funds, is pending MassDOT approval. Mr. Roux reported that the initial feedback from MassDOT focused on formatting and minor clarifications rather than substantive changes.

MOVED BY BENJAMIN MURPHY, SECONDED BY MATT SMITH, TO ENDORSE THE DRAFT FFY 2027 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) CURRENTLY OUT FOR THE REQUIRED 21-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY FOLLOWING A ROLL CALL VOTE.

7. Regional Freight Planning Industrial Analysis – Discussion of Ongoing Activities and Review of up to 10 Potential Count Locations

Andrew McCaul introduced the agenda item and explained that it represents the first phase of a multi-step effort to analyze freight activity in the region.

Geoffrey Klafeta presented the technical overview of the regional freight planning industrial analysis, explaining that the PVPC is developing an interactive web-based map to show traffic count locations and freight activity. He described how the tool integrates multiple data sources, including MassDOT traffic data and MassGIS zoning and infrastructure data, and standardizes them for analysis. He explained that freight activity is measured using truck percentages, including three-axle trucks and delivery vehicles, and demonstrated how the tool's filters allow users to identify areas with significant freight traffic.

Mr. Klafeta also showed how industrial zoning data is used to identify likely freight activity areas, and explained that the tool helps identify locations where additional data collection is needed. He presented a list of approximately 10 proposed locations for future traffic counts.

Mr. McCaul added that the tool is not yet public due to data-sharing approvals, but will be shared once permissions are obtained. He emphasized that the Committee's feedback is important for refining the list of data collection sites. Comments can be sent via email to the MPO or directly to staff.

8. Review, Discussion, and Recommendation to the MPO to Endorse Amendment No. 4 to the FFY 2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Currently Out for the Required 21-Day Public Review Period

Mr. McCaul presented Amendment No. 4, explaining that delays in projects in Williamsburg and Northampton required shifting those projects to later years. He explained that to avoid losing available funding, the Committee reallocated funds to priority projects. He highlighted that funding was directed toward accelerating a pavement preservation project on Interstate 91 to prevent further deterioration and higher future costs. He also explained that additional funds were allocated to the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA) for bus replacements and facility upgrades. He noted that transit adjustments were made due to rising costs and procurement issues, including a shift to larger buses. He also informed the Committee that another amendment would soon be introduced for a statewide bridge program.

MOVED BY DIANE ROSSINI-SMITH, SECONDED BY MATT SMITH, TO ENDORSE AMENDMENT NO. 4 TO THE FFY 2026 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) CURRENTLY OUT FOR THE REQUIRED 21-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY FOLLOWING A ROLL CALL VOTE.

9. Review, Discussion, and Recommendation to the MPO to Endorse the Draft FFY 2027 to 2031 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Currently Out for the Required 21-Day Public Review Period

Mr. McCaul presented the draft TIP for 2027 to 2031, explaining that it includes major investments in highway and transit infrastructure, totaling hundreds of millions of dollars across multiple funding sources. He described the planning process, noting that it involved months of coordination, analysis, and public engagement. Mr. McCaul emphasized that the plan includes equity considerations to ensure that investments benefit minority and low-income communities. He also noted that public comments received earlier in the process largely focused on the Northampton project but did not lead to changes in funding allocations.

MOVED BY CAROLYN MISCH, SECONDED BY JOSEPH KIETNER, TO ENDORSE THE DRAFT FFY 2027 TO 2031 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) CURRENTLY OUT FOR THE REQUIRED 21-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY FOLLOWING A ROLL CALL VOTE.

#### 10. Other Business

- Electric Massachusetts Symposium and June EVICC Meeting – Mr. McCaul provided a link to the upcoming transportation symposium scheduled for June 10, 2026. He encouraged members to attend the event if it interests them. He noted that additional information about the symposium is available and that members can reach out for further details.
- Current Grant Opportunities – Mr. McCaul highlighted current grant opportunities, explaining that as new grants are announced, they are added to a list for Committee awareness. He invited members to contact PVPC staff for more information or guidance on grant applications.
- Recognition – Mr. McCaul recognized Peter Frieri for receiving the Stephen O'Donnell Memorial "Can Do" Award at the 2026 MassDOT Innovation Conference for completing a project in Buckland.

#### 11. Adjournment

There being no further discussion, Mr. Dines adjourned the meeting at 10:52 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,