

PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION (PVPC)
Minutes of the Joint Transportation Committee Meeting
Wednesday, August 12, 2026, 10:00 a.m.

Committee Members Present:

Daryl Amaral, MassDOT Highway District 2
Maxwell Ballou, Palmer
Mark Berman, East Longmeadow
Paul Burns, PVTA
Sarah Cannamela, MassDOT Highway District 2
Doug Ellis, Chicopee
Connie Englert, UMass Transit
Peter Frieri, MassDOT Highway District 1
Dena Grochmal, Wilbraham
Alexis Hosea-Abbott, MassBike
Betsy Johnson, Pedestrian Representative, Springfield
Tim Keane, Longmeadow
Joe Kietner, Westfield
Connor Knightly, West Springfield
Mike Kurker, BL Companies
Renee Mackay, Safe Routes to School
Allyson Manuel, Easthampton
Scott McCarthy, Hadley
Carolyn Misch, Northampton
Richard Parasiliti, Northampton
Thomas Ruta, MassDOT Highway District 2
Dan Shearer, Barnes Airport
Matt Sokop, Holyoke

PVPC Staff Present:

Rana Al-Jammal, Principal Transportation Planner
Carl Jackson, Principal Transit Planner
Geoffrey Klafeta, Transportation Planner
Amir Kouzehkanani, Principal Transportation Planner/Manager
Andrew McCaul, Deputy Director of Transportation Planning
Jeff McCollough, Chief Transportation Planner
Gary Roux, Director of Transportation Planning

1. Call to Order

The August 12, 2026, 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 June 10, 2026, Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) meeting.

MOVED BY BETSY JOHNSON, SECONDED BY JOE KIETNER, TO APPROVE THE JUNE 10, 2026, JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH SIX ABSTENTIONS FOLLOWING A ROLL CALL VOTE.

3. Opportunity for the Public to Comment on Transportation Issues

There were no public comments.

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

Mr. Roux reported that the public comment period for the Regional Safety Action Plan has concluded. The team received three comments, all of which were addressed. One comment requested the addition of transit-related safety projects for the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTa), and the team incorporated those projects into the plan. The consultant team has submitted a final draft, which the PVPC is reviewing before forwarding it to MassDOT, the Federal Highway Administration, and the Federal Transit Administration.

Mr. Roux also provided an update on the SS4A demonstration activity involving a regionwide traffic signal assessment. The project will evaluate traffic signals across all 43 municipalities in the Pioneer Valley, including communities that developed separate SS4A plans. The consultant team will identify signals that do not comply with current Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) standards, develop an updated GIS inventory and database, and recommend improvements where safety concerns are identified.

Regarding whether the review would include signal timing and traffic controller programming, Mr. Roux confirmed that the effort would primarily consist of a regional assessment and field review of selected locations rather than a detailed signal timing analysis. Mr. Roux confirmed that every signalized intersection in communities that received separate SS4A funding would be part of the assessment.

Mr. Roux stated that consultant VHB would provide a more detailed presentation on the project at the September JTC meeting.

5. Regional Freight Planning Industrial Analysis – Discussion of Ongoing Activities

Geoffrey Klafeta presented an update on the PVPC's Regional Freight Planning Industrial Analysis. Mr. Klafeta explained that the project is intended to identify freight travel patterns throughout the region and fill data gaps through targeted traffic counts. He reported that eight of the 11 planned count locations are complete, with one location in Monson currently underway.

Mr. Klafeta noted that the Westfield Industrial Park area remains the region's most significant freight activity center, particularly along Southampton Road, Lockhouse Road, and North Road. Additional areas showing notable freight activity include the Springfield Memorial Industrial Park, Agawam Industrial Park, and East Longmeadow Industrial Park.

Mr. Klafeta demonstrated how the map allows users to analyze freight vehicle volumes, differentiate truck classifications, and review completed and active count locations. Mr. Roux added that staff continues to pursue adding low-clearance bridge information to the freight mapping platform in response to a previous committee request.

6. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – Updates

Andrew McCaul reported that projects programmed in FFY 2026 remain on schedule and are expected to proceed to advertisement. He reviewed several ongoing projects, including the Holyoke-West Springfield Interstate 91 Pavement Preservation Project, SS4A-funded initiatives, and the Longmeadow Railroad Grade Crossing Elimination Project. Mr. McCaul stated that, provided projects continue progressing as anticipated, an August MPO meeting likely will not be necessary.

Mr. McCaul also reviewed major projects programmed in the FFY 2027 to 2031 TIP and noted that approximately \$9 million in funding remains available in FFY 2027 for future programming decisions. Mr. McCaul demonstrated resources available on the PVPC website, including meeting information, Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) documents, TIP documentation, and the interactive project mapping application.

7. Fall Update to the Pioneer Valley Public Participation Plan (PPP)

Jeff McCollough provided an overview of the upcoming update to the Pioneer Valley MPO Public Participation Plan. Mr. McCollough explained that the current plan was adopted in September, 2022, and that MassDOT issued updated guidance in December, 2025. The revision process will ensure compliance with current federal and state requirements while incorporating new public engagement tools and improvements to document accessibility.

Mr. McCollough reviewed the anticipated project schedule and stated that draft revisions will be presented to the JTC and MPO for review before release for public comment.

Mr. Roux emphasized that the update is not intended to be a major rewrite of the plan, but rather a modernization effort incorporating regulatory updates and accessibility enhancements.

8. Other Business

- MPO Approves FFY 2027 Documents – Mr. Roux informed the Committee that Chair Carmen Rosado is unable to continue fulfilling chair responsibilities. He stated that Vice Chair Nicholas Dines remains willing to continue serving as vice chair but is not interested in becoming chair. PVPC staff will solicit nominations for a new JTC chair and provide additional information to any members interested in serving.
- Current Grant Opportunities – Mr. McCaul reviewed recently available transportation-related grant opportunities. He noted that several funding programs recently closed, while others remain available on a rolling basis, including Local Early Stage and Actionable Planning grants and Municipal and Tribal Technical Assistance grants. Mr. McCaul encouraged communities and agencies to contact PVPC staff for assistance identifying appropriate grant opportunities.

9. Adjournment

There being no further discussion, Mr. Roux adjourned the meeting at 10:42 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,