

PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION (PVPC)
Minutes of the Metropolitan Planning Organization Zoom Meeting
Tuesday, June 23, 2026, 10:00 A.M.

Organization Members Present

William Dwyer, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission
Roger Fuller, Chesterfield Selectboard
Joshua A. Garcia, Mayor of Holyoke
Michael McCabe, Mayor of Westfield
Gina-Louise Sciarra, Mayor of Northampton
Derek Shooster, MassDOT
Paula Simmons, MassDOT Highway District 1
JM Sorrell, Chair of PVTA
Aaron Vega, Chair of WesternMass EDC

Alternates/Non-Voting/Ex-Officio Members

Kimberly Robinson, PVPC Executive Director
Sandra Sheehan, Administrator of PVTA

Guests

Daryl Amaral, MassDOT Highway District 2
Michael Daniels, Chicopee
Lily Kaufman, MassDOT
Timothy Keane, Longmeadow
Mark Moore, MassDOT Highway District 1

PVPC Staff Present

Rana Al-Jammal, Principal Transportation Planner
Carl Jackson, Principal Transit Planner
Katie James, PVPC Intern
Geoffrey Klafeta, Transportation Planner
Andrew McCaul, Deputy Director of Transportation Planning
Gary Roux, Director of Transportation Planning

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

The Metropolitan Planning Organization meeting on June 23, 2026, 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 26, 2026

MOVED BY JM SORRELL, SECONDED BY GINA-LOUISE SCIARRA, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 26, 2026, METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION MEETING AS AMENDED. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH ONE ABSTENTION FOLLOWING A ROLL CALL VOTE.

3. Public Comments

No public comments were made.

4. Review, Discussion, and MPO Approval to Release the Pioneer Valley Regional Safety Action Plan for the Required 21-Day Public Review Period

Andrew McCaul presented the draft Pioneer Valley Regional Safety Action Plan, which covers calendar years 2020 to

2024 and is intended to position eligible Pioneer Valley communities for future federal safety funding opportunities. He summarized public engagement efforts, including website visits, community outreach events, stakeholder coordination, and public comments received through an interactive mapping tool. A. McCaul highlighted regional crash trends, high injury networks, risk assessments for speeding and lane departures, pedestrian and bicycle safety analyses, Vision Zero goals, and the identification of regional and community priority safety projects. A. McCaul also reviewed the implementation strategy, safety countermeasure toolbox, future funding opportunities, and the next steps in the public review and adoption process.

A. McCaul reviewed the status of the five municipalities developing separate safety action plans. He reported that Springfield and Ware have completed plans, Chicopee and Westfield have draft plans, and Holyoke remains in development.

It was recommended to include links to completed municipal safety action plans within the regional plan to support future grant applications and regional coordination.

MOVED BY MAYOR GINA-LOUISE SCIARRA, SECONDED BY JM SORRELL, TO RELEASE THE PIONEER VALLEY REGIONAL SAFETY ACTION PLAN FOR THE REQUIRED 21-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD, WITH CONDITIONAL APPROVAL IF NO ADVERSE COMMENTS ARE RECEIVED. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY FOLLOWING A ROLL CALL VOTE.

MOVED BY MICHAEL MCCABE, SECONDED BY JM SORRELL, TO TAKE ITEM 8 (PVTA UPDATE) IN THE AGENDA OUT OF ORDER. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY FOLLOWING A ROLL CALL VOTE.

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

Sandra Sheehan reported that the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority (PVTA) exceeded one million passenger trips for the third time during the fiscal year and noted continued ridership growth, particularly on routes serving the Springfield area. She highlighted the strong early performance of the new B49 and G47 routes, which provide expanded regional service connections. She also reported on the delivery of electric paratransit vehicles, the installation of charging infrastructure, the receipt of new transit buses, including 60-foot vehicles for university service, ongoing facility construction projects, and a forthcoming economic impact study being conducted in partnership with the PVPC.

6. Review, Discussion, and MPO Endorsement of Amendment No. 5 to the FFY 2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Currently Out for the Required 21-Day Public Review

A. McCaul reviewed Amendment No. 5 to the FFY 2026 to 2030 Transportation Improvement Program. The amendment incorporates a statewide-funded vulnerable road user safety project involving signal improvements at multiple locations, including Chicopee. He noted that the amendment does not affect the region's discretionary target funding and that no comments were received during the public review period.

MOVED BY MAYOR MACCABE, SECONDED BY MAYOR GINA-LOUISE SCIARRA, TO ENDORSE AMENDMENT NO. 5 TO THE FFY 2026 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP), CURRENTLY OUT FOR THE REQUIRED 21-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY FOLLOWING A ROLL CALL VOTE.

7. Review and Discussion of the 2020 to 2024 Pioneer Valley Region Safety Compass

Geoffrey Klafeta demonstrated the updated Pioneer Valley Safety Compass, a web-based interactive dashboard that allows users to analyze crash data by community, year, crash type, severity, and other factors. He explained that the

dashboard complements the Regional Safety Action Plan by providing customizable data analysis tools and maps displaying crash locations and trends. The platform is undergoing final accessibility review with MassDOT before public release.

G. Klafeta explained that the current version does not include crash-specific pop-up details, but that additional functionality could be explored in future updates. It was noted that the dashboard is based on data contained within the MassDOT crash database.

8. Updates from MassDOT Highway District 1 and District 2 on Relevant Transportation Issues and Projects

MassDOT Highway District 1 provided status updates on bridge preservation, bridge replacement, roadway resurfacing, and reconstruction projects in Huntington, Williamsburg, and Russell. Updates included progress on design milestones, environmental reviews, permitting, right-of-way activities, and anticipated advertisement schedules.

MassDOT Highway District 2 reported on several projects, including I-91 pavement preservation, Chicopee intersection improvements, I-291 sign replacement, Springfield bridge replacements, the Northampton Downtown Complete Streets project, and Westfield intersection improvements. Updates included design, right-of-way acquisition, bid openings, project awards, and anticipated construction schedules.

Michael McCabe expressed concern regarding transportation improvements in Westfield, particularly along the Southampton Road/Routes 10 and 202 corridor. He discussed the importance of advancing transportation projects to support economic development, housing growth, and a proposed data center project. M. McCabe also voiced frustration with project timelines and delays in moving projects into the TIP.

It was noted that the FFY 2027 to 2031 TIP has already been endorsed and incorporated into the State Transportation Improvement Program and is undergoing federal review. As a result, amendments affecting future years cannot be considered until after October 1, the beginning of the new federal fiscal year. Future funding discussions could occur when the TIP is reopened for amendment consideration.

It was reported that the Appleton Street bridge project in Holyoke has completed several design review milestones and that the project team is awaiting additional updates from the project manager regarding the latest submission. The project is currently programmed in FY 2027 with a planned March advertisement date, subject to any future schedule changes.

9. Other Business

A. McCaul indicated that a July MPO meeting may not be necessary and that members will be notified of any schedule changes. It was also advised that future discussions may include potential modifications to MPO meeting formats, such as hybrid or fully in-person meetings. Funding opportunities relevant to MPO member communities will continue to be shared as they become available.

The next MPO meeting is scheduled for July 28, 2025, if needed, or August 25, 2026.

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

MOVED BY MICHAEL MCCABE, TO ADJOURN TODAY'S METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION MEETING. THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED WITHOUT OBJECTION AT 10:47 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

List of Documents and Other Items Distributed at the June 23, 2026, Meeting

1. Metropolitan Planning Organization, June 23, 2026, Presentation