**PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION (PVPC)**
**Tuesday, October 20, 2026, 10:00 A.M.**
**Minutes of the Metropolitan Planning Organization Meeting held at the**
**Pioneer Valley Planning Commission**
**60 Congress Street, Springfield, MA 01104-3419**

Organization Members Present
David Mohler, MassDOT OTP
Paula Simmons, MassDOT Highway District 2
JM Sorrell, Chair of PVTA
Joshua A. Garcia, Mayor of Holyoke
John Vieau, Mayor of Chicopee
Michael McCabe, Mayor of Westfield
Gina-Louise Sciarra, Mayor of Northampton
Aaron Vega, Chair of WesternMass EDC
James Whalen, Holland

Guests
Daryl Amaral, MassDOT Highway District 1
Gus Bickford, MassDOT Online
Briette Brightinan, MassDOT
Arnav Chatterjee, MassDOT
Michael Daniels, Chicopee
Peter Frieri, MassDOT Highway District 1
Marshall Hook, MassDOT
Samantha Silverberg, MassDOT Undersecretary of Transportation Policy
Sam Taylor, MassDOT OTP

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

1. Opening Remarks from MassDOT Undersecretary of Transportation Policy

Samantha Silverberg, MassDOT Undersecretary of Transportation Policy, thanked MPO members, municipal officials, and MassDOT staff for their partnership and service. S. Silverberg discussed her background in federal transportation policy and noted the Healey-Driscoll Administration's commitment to transportation investment across Massachusetts. She highlighted major projects and initiatives benefiting the Pioneer Valley, including West-East Rail, the north end bridge replacement, reconstruction of the Springfield "X," increased support for regional transit authorities, rural bridge and culvert funding, Complete Streets investments, and Safe Routes to School projects. S. Silverberg also announced the recent award of a $130 million Federal Railroad Administration grant for the Springfield track reconfiguration project and emphasized the importance of continued collaboration among local, state, and federal partners.

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

   The Metropolitan Planning Organization meeting on October 20, 2026, was called to order at 10:00 a.m. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was noted.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Metropolitan Planning Organization Meeting Held on September 22, 2026

   MOVED BY JM SORRELL, SECONDED BY MAYOR SCIARRA, T TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 22, 2026, METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION MEETING AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY FOLLOWING A ROLL CALL VOTE.

   Commented [JD1]: Please provide the names of the mover and seconder

4. Public Comments

   No public comments were made.

5. Review, Discussion, and MPO Approval to Release the Draft Update to the Pioneer Valley Public Participation Plan (PPP) for the Required 45-Day Public Review and Comment Period

   Jeff McCollough presented the draft update to the Pioneer Valley Public Participation Plan. J. McCollough explained that the document serves as the MPO's framework for public engagement and participation activities and incorporates comments received from MassDOT's Office of Diversity and Civil Rights. The revisions include expanded accessibility requirements for MPO documents and outreach materials. It was noted that transportation planning staff have received training to improve document accessibility and public engagement efforts.

   MOVED BY JAME WHALEN, SECONDED BY JM SORRELL, TO RELEASE THE DRAFT UPDATE TO THE PIONEER VALLEY PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN (PPP) FOR THE REQUIRED 45-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY FOLLOWING A ROLL CALL VOTE.

   Commented [JD2]: Please provide the names of the mover and seconder

6. Review, Discussion, and MPO Approval to Release the Proposed Amendment to the FFY 2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for the Required 21-Day Public Review and Comment Period

   Gary Roux presented a proposed amendment to the FFY 2027 Unified Planning Work Program. G. Roux explained that the amendment would transfer approximately $27,000 from the transportation safety task to the regional travel demand modeling task. The funding would be used to retain consultant services to update the regional travel demand model in preparation for development of the next Regional Transportation Plan and future scenario-planning efforts. The Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) recommended release of the amendment for public review.

   MOVED BY MAYOR MCCABE, SECONDED BY MAYORE VIEAU, TO RELEASE THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE FFY 2027 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) FOR THE REQUIRED 21-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY FOLLOWING A ROLL CALL VOTE.

   Commented [JD3]: Please provide the names of the mover and seconder

7. Review and Discussion of Current Recruitment Efforts for the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC), Including an Update on the Status of the JTC Chair Vacancy

   G. Roux reported that recruitment efforts for the JTC have successfully filled the vacant chair position. G. Roux announced that Joseph Kietner of Westfield has agreed to serve as the new JTC chair. He also noted that staff are exploring opportunities to recruit an additional vice chair or alternate chair to strengthen committee leadership and continuity.

8. Review and Discussion of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)-2027 to 2031 TIP Now Active

   A. McCaul provided an overview of the active FFY 2027 to 2031 Transportation Improvement Program. He reported that the region currently has approximately 35 projects in various stages of development totaling roughly $400 million. He explained that increasing project costs, design delays, and project readiness challenges continue to affect TIP programming. Approximately $9 million remains available in FFY 2027, and staff are working with municipalities and MassDOT to identify projects that can advance and utilize available funding. A. McCaul also discussed the importance of meeting federal advertisement deadlines and ensuring projects continue progressing through the design and permitting process.

9. Presentation of New PVPC Transportation Planning Tools and Applications – Leveraging Data Provided in Collaboration with MassDOT

   A. McCaul introduced several transportation data resources available through MassDOT, including GeoDOT, RITIS, Replica, Conveyal, ArcGIS Pro, and Power BI. He explained how these tools support transportation planning, congestion management, travel demand modeling, and performance reporting. He then demonstrated a new freight analysis dashboard that uses regional traffic count data to identify truck activity, critical freight corridors, and industrial transportation patterns throughout the Pioneer Valley. The dashboard also highlights new traffic count locations selected to improve freight data collection.

   G. Klafeta presented a new congestion and travel time reliability dashboard developed using RITIS data and Power BI. The tool provides information on roadway delay, travel time reliability, and truck mobility by roadway segment, municipality, and time period. Staff noted that both tools will support transportation project evaluation, freight planning efforts, congestion management activities, and future updates to the Regional Transportation Plan.

   MPO members discussed potential future enhancements to the dashboards, including more frequent data updates and integration of real-time incident and traffic information.

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

    MassDOT Highway District 1 provided updates on several TIP-funded projects within the district. Peter Frieri reported that the bid opening for the Huntington bridge preservation project has been delayed until November. He also noted that the Route 112 resurfacing project in Huntington and the Mountain Street reconstruction project in Williamsburg remain on schedule for advertisement. Additional updates were provided on bridge replacement projects in Huntington, Russell, and Williamsburg that are advancing through design, review, and public hearing stages.

    MassDOT Highway District 2 provided updates on several roadway and bridge projects throughout the region. These included interstate pavement preservation work in Westfield; intersection improvements in Chicopee and Westfield; the I-391 bridge replacement project in Chicopee; downtown corridor improvements in Northampton; reconstruction of Main Street in South Hadley; Route 10 improvements in Easthampton; and Route 5 resurfacing projects. Staff reviewed recent design milestones, bid activities, permitting efforts, and anticipated schedules for future project development.

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

    A report was presented on behalf of Sandra Sheehan. Staff noted that September ridership was about 2.2% lower than the previous year, largely due to a later start to the academic year. However, ridership increased within the Springfield service area. Year-to-date ridership remains approximately 3% above 2025 levels.

    Additional updates included the transition of ADA Paratransit and Dial-A-Ride services to a new scheduling and booking platform, development of the PVTA's five-year capital plan, completion of an economic impact report, substantial completion of the Springfield Operations and Maintenance Facility, continued stakeholder review of the UMass Transit Service Needs Assessment, and ongoing design work for the Northampton Operations and Maintenance Facility renovation project.

12. Other Business

    G. Roux informed members that the next MPO meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 24, 2026, but staff will seek member input regarding possible rescheduling because of the Thanksgiving holiday. G. Roux also reviewed upcoming grant opportunities, including Community Transit Grant Program funding opportunities for services and vehicle purchases.

    S. Silverberg provided an update on the federal surface transportation authorization process. S. Silverberg explained that federal transportation programs have been temporarily extended through December 11 and discussed the importance of congressional action to continue programs funded through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. She highlighted the significance of Division J funding programs, including bridge and passenger rail funding, and encouraged continued advocacy to ensure transportation investments remain available for Massachusetts communities.

    The next MPO meeting is scheduled for November 24, 2026.

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

    MOVED BY JM SORRELL, SECONDED BY JAMES WHALEN TO ADJOURN TODAY'S METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION MEETING. THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED WITHOUT OBJECTION AT 10:52 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

List of Documents and Other Items Distributed at the October 20, 2026, Meeting

1. Metropolitan Planning Organization, October 20, 2026, Presentation