

**MONTACHUSETT JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES OF WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2010**

D. Manugian called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

I. INTRODUCTION/ MEMBERS PRESENT

David Manugian, Groton; Craig Bardenheuer, Harvard; Pauline Hamel, Ayer; Noreen Piazza, Lancaster; Doug Walsh, Athol; Robert Saiia, Lunenburg; Lyn Gauthier, Hubbardston; Laila Michaud, Westminster

EX-OFFICO

Mohammed Khan, MART; Laurie Scarbrough, MassDOT

GUESTS

Frank Maxant, Ayer; Peter Johnston, Ayer,

STAFF

George Kahale, Brad Harris, Brian Doherty, George Snow, Sheri Bean, Stephanie Brow

II. APPROVAL OF JULY 21, 2010, AUGUST 18, 2010 AND SEPTEMBER 15, 2010 MINUTES

L. Scarbrough indicated that her name was miscategorized in the September 15th minutes, and should be moved to the Ex-Officio section. C. Bardenhauer made a motion to approve the minutes of July 21st, August 18th as distributed and to approve the September 15, 2010 minutes as amended. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously

III. DRAFT FFY2011-14 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENT – REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

B. Harris reviewed the requested changes to the Transit Element of the TIP. He indicated that MART reallocated some of the Federal 5307 Operating Funds, and also increased their Maintenance and Support Equipment from \$400,000 to \$450,000. In addition, MART purchased a piece of land on Nashua Street in North Leominster to expand the parking facility; added minor improvements to this building and the MART facility on North Main Street; and the purchase of eight vans. MART was also informed this past Monday that they have received two State of Good Repair grants as well.

B. Harris stated that the amendment to the TIP has been posted on the website, as well as legal ads placed in the local newspapers announcing the 30-day public comment period. Although no comments have been received thus far, this meeting is being used as public outreach. Mr. Harris asked the Committee if they had any comments regarding the TIP amendment.

No comments were brought forward at the MJTC meeting.

R. Saiia made a motion for the MJTC to recommend that the MPO endorse the current TIP Amendment, subject to any comments to be received before the end of the 30 day public comment period. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

IV. 2011 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN SURVEY – REVIEW AND SUMMARY OF RESPONSES TO DATE

B. Harris presented the preliminary results of the 2011 Regional Transportation Plan Survey. This survey is available online for anyone to take; staff is also making the survey available in printed versions if people would like to submit a hard copy.

On or about September 1st, staff put together a short; eleven question survey for the general public to complete. Email notices were sent to our large transportation matrix, news releases were sent to the newspapers, and notices were sent to community webmasters in the region. Mr. Harris summarized the responses to the survey questions. Questions on the survey ranged from communities of residence, to what community you work in, what form of transportation do you rely on to commute and their main concerns while commuting. The condition of roadways and bridges was a major concern in the responses to the survey, whereas Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) were not as large of a concern to respondents.

R. Saiia asked if staff had noticed any responses regarding the overgrowth of trees along roadways and the lack of visibility it causes.

B. Harris stated that no concerns of that nature have been found in the results so far.

D. Walsh asked if this survey was opened up to the manufacturers in the area, to get their take on roadway issues and conditions.

B. Harris indicated that no specific outreach was done for businesses; however there have been more responses since this presentation was put together.

C. Bardenhauer indicated that some businesses survey their employees in regards to individuals' home locations and their routes to work. He suggested that perhaps MRPC could tap into that data set.

As of October 5th when this presentation was created MRPC had received 117 responses, as of October 20th there has been 160 responses received.

V. CONTRACT STATUS REPORTS

a. FTA/RTA

M. Khan stated that MART held the Wachusett Station Groundbreaking on Monday October 18th. Federal Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood spoke at the event as well as many other elected officials. The event was well attended by almost 200 people.

G. Kahale stated that MART has met with the architect and engineer regarding the parking expansion at North Leominster Station and discussed the parking alternatives. The project will go out to bid by January 2011 and a contractor will be hired in February. This construction project will expand the parking lot to 400 spaces.

M. Khan stated that a garage is going to be built on top of the existing lot.

G. Kahale indicated that MART purchased adjacent property on Nashua Street to add to the project.

Mr. Kahale then stated that MART has met with the town officials in Ayer to discuss the parking garage project funding and respond to the financial constraint placed on the project.

Mr. Kahale presented the list of options that MART brought to the Board of Selectmen in Ayer; the town officials chose Option A which will include using the existing Rail Trail parking spaces, building on the perimeter of the parcel and consist of an all surface level lot to have a total of 190 parking spaces for a cost of \$4.2 million.

M. Khan stated that 60 additional parking spots would be added as a result of this project and steps would be taken to improve the upper parking lot. MART is working on this option in order to submit it to MassDOT for their approval.

b. MASSDOT 3C

On October 28th there will be a meeting of the Route 140 Safety Improvements Task Force. Staff hopes to present the communities with a draft report and technical appendix and wrap up work with the communities on this project.

Bay State Roads is holding a workshop on the municipal Right of Way process. MassDOT recommends that all communities educate themselves on the Right of Way process, there are several workshop dates remaining, the cost for communities to attend is \$50.

G. Snow stated that the Route 2 Innovative Heavy Lift bridge project in Phillipston is almost completed. Construction staff will be moving the superstructure of the bridge into place in the early morning hours of October 28th. There is a project website where photos of the project can be viewed <http://www.massdot.state.ma.us/highway/abp/Phillipston.aspx>

S. Bean stated that she attended a Moving Together 2010 regarding the new GreenDOT project. The workshop focused on the reduction of greenhouse gases, SmartGrowth and other more environmentally conscious transportation decisions.

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

M. Khan indicated that at the last meeting of the Transit Administrators, state officials informed them of the reorganization of the Transit Metro Area. With this reorganization Fitchburg, Leominster, Worcester, Nashua and Manchester will all be included in the Boston Metro Area. This will affect the use of some federal funding by the MART.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, D. Manugian adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.