

MONTACHUSETT JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES OF WEDNESDAY JUNE 17, 2009

N. Piazza called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

I. INTRODUCTION/ MEMBERS PRESENT

Doug Walsh, Athol DPW; Noreen Piazza, Lancaster; Andrew West, Royalston; Lyn Gauthier, Hubbardston DPW; Margaret Whitney, Ashburnham; Robert Saiia, Lunenburg; Chantell Wead, Templeton Planning; John Oelfke, Shirley; Pauline Hamel, Ayer

EX-OFFICIO

Joanne Weinstock, EOT; Mohammed Khan, MART; Laurie Scarborough, MassHighway District 2

ORGANIZATION

GUESTS

Peter Johnston, Ayer Planning Board; Frank Maxant, Ayer

STAFF

George Snow, Brian Doherty, Brad Harris, Stephanie Brow, Sheri Bean, George Kahale, Glenn Eaton, Shelly Hatch

II. APPROVAL OF MAY 20, 2009 MINUTES

D. Walsh made a motion to approve the minutes of May 24, 2009 as written. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

III. REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

J. Oelfke indicated that the nominations for MJTC Officers were as follows: Paula Caron, Chair; John Oelfke, Vice Chair and Robert Saiia for Secretary.

N. Piazza then asked for any nominations from the floor. There being none, R. Saiia made a motion to approve the nominations. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. An election of officers will take place at the July 15th meeting.

IV. PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE FY2009 ELEMENT OF THE FY2007-2010 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

B. Harris explained the amendment to the FY2009 element of the FY2007-2010 TIP. The state would like to move a Federal Aid Bridge Project on Mill Street, Gardner out of FY2009 to the pending portion, a project for the Oxbow National Wildlife Refuge which

was covered by a congressional earmark through Congressman Tsongas' office. Several other projects were slightly altered in the Appendix portion as well.

An MPO meeting is scheduled for next Wednesday at 1:00 p.m. to open this amendment up to public comment.

V. FFY2010-2013 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – UPDATE AND DEVELOPMENT

B. Harris discussed the options for the FFY2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). There are several options for funding available to the area. Each year has different categories of target figures which include Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funds, Highway Safety Improvement Project (HSIP) funds which are the groups that projects are sorted into to determine their funding source.

B. Harris indicated that projects are ranked according to their Transportation Evaluation Criteria (TEC) score. Originally this was how projects were prioritized on the TIP; however project design status is also a factor in the order in which projects are placed on the TIP.

B. Harris stated that organizing the projects on the TIP has been difficult due to the fact that not each one can be placed under CMAQ, which makes acquiring even target figures difficult.

Mr. Harris asked for a preferred listing from the MJTC to present at the MPO meeting the following week.

A. West indicated that the TIP is getting increasingly more difficult to deal with because it is beginning to look like a singular project per year situation, which makes it difficult to prioritize options.

N. Piazza spoke on behalf of the MJTC and stated that they would like to have several more options presented to them due to the fact that they felt that currently the TIP did not sufficiently cover as many project needs as necessary and that the MJTC chose not to endorse any particular option because they did not feel as though the allocation of the target figures were the best possible options available.

VI. CONTRACT STATUS REPORT

a. FTA/RTA

M. Khan indicated that MART is working on the North Main Street Building Expansion which will cost approximately \$3 million.

The North Leominster Parking Garage site has been chosen and MART is working with Congressman Olver to acquire the funding for this project.

M. Khan discussed the status of the Ayer Parking Facility project with the Ayer representatives.

b. MASSHIGHWAY DEPARTMENT 3C

B. Harris stated that the Route 140 Task Force met on May 28th in Princeton, various issues were discussed and maps were brought to point out specific problematic area. The next meeting is set for mid September in Sterling.

MRPC staff met with MassHighway District 2 to discuss a bridge project at Exit 18 on Route 2. Potential options and improvements for traffic were discussed, options that would limit the disruption to the Route 2 traffic.

Sarah Bradbury is no longer with MassHighway District 3, and she is now working with the North Middlesex Council of Governments (NMCOG), so she will no longer be attending the MJTC meetings.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business for discussion.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

a. Group Procurement Program

S. Hatch discussed the Group Procurement Program through District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) that MRPC is offering to its communities. Ms. Hatch stated that the MRPC went out to bid for a large amount of Road Sand and Road Salt to see what type of deal could be made for the purchase of a large amount of road sand/salt.

S. Hatch sent a letter to the DPW Directors in the region in order to obtain specs and estimates from their previous bids for road salt and sand in order to compare them with the bids received by the MRPC.

MRPC is planning on putting out another bid for road sand/salt, utilizing the advice they've received from various communities and companies providing road salt/sand.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for discussion, N. Piazza adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.