

# **MONTACHUSETT METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MMPO)**

## **MINUTES OF MARCH 13, 2013**

Clinton Bench called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

Clinton Bench, MassDOT; Noreen Piazza, Subregion 4, Lancaster; Victor Koivumaki, MRPC, Lancaster; Laurie Scarbrough, MassDOT District 2; Bonnie Mahoney, MART; Paula Bertram, Lunenburg, Subregion 3; Doug Walsh, Athol; Arthur Frost, MassDOT District 3; Phil Duffy, Clinton; Heather Hannon, MassDOT; Sarah Bradbury, MassDOT

#### **STAFF PRESENT**

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

### **II. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 13, 2013 MINUTES**

P. Bertram made a motion to approve the minute of March 13<sup>th</sup>; the motion was seconded and passed with V. Koivumaki abstaining.

### **III. Montachusett FFY2014-2017 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

B. Harris presented information related to the development of the FFY2014-2017 Montachusett TIP. Mr. Harris reviewed a Master List of TIP Projects that was derived from various sources, including the FFY2013-2016 TIP, the MassDOT Project Info Website, Districts 2 and 3 and project acceptance letters to local municipalities.

Mr. Harris then discussed the recently revised Transportation Evaluation Criteria (TEC) and the scoring of those projects determined to be target eligible projects. Discussion followed related to the TEC scoring and the priority ranking.

The MPO asked that staff review the revised TEC scoring and try to determine what might contribute to the ranking changes from the original TEC.

Mr. Harris then reviewed the draft TIP target figures recently sent out by MassDOT. A comparison of target figures for this TIP versus the FFY2013-2016 TIP was discussed.

Finally Mr. Harris indicated that a memo, in both English and Spanish, has been distributed and posted on our website announcing the development of the TIP, encouraging individuals to participate and upcoming meeting dates where the TIP will be discussed.

C. Bench indicated that the TIP also covers transit projects and asked MART to provide a list to the MPO at the next meeting for review.

B. Mahoney indicated that the information will be available at the April MPO meeting.

### **IV. Regional Trail Coalition Update**

S. Bean gave an update on the Regional Trail Coalition.

MRPC staff completed a series of meetings to update trail inventory data as part of the development of a regional trail guide. The data collected will be used to create an electronic and hard copy trail and visitor guide for the Region. Meetings were held in Athol, Ayer and Lancaster. Two meetings are still to be held in Gardner and Fitchburg. The Fitchburg meeting was rescheduled due to weather conditions. The remaining meetings are as follows:

Ashburnham, Gardner, Hubbardston, Templeton, Westminster & Winchendon  
March 27th 4:30-6:30pm -Levi Heywood Memorial Library (Greenwood Meeting Room),  
55 West Lynde Street, Gardner

**V. Updates**

- **MassDOT Highway Division**

A. Frost indicated that Lancaster/Five Corners is on schedule to be advertised this month

L. Scarbough indicated that Winchendon Route 140 resurfacing will be advertised March 16<sup>th</sup>; the Royalston Accelerated Bridge in a back pack project will have their 25% design public hearing this evening.

- **Transit**

M. Khan discussed Governor Patrick's newly presented budget plan. He indicated that if this was to go into effect, changes would need to be made to transit routes and planning due to cuts in funding.

G. Kahale indicated that the Wachusett Station and Layover Facility is currently in preconstruction, this phase is estimated to be completed in March 2013, with actual construction beginning in April.

Mr. Kahale also indicated that the steel erection has been completed at the North Leominster Parking Garage. MART anticipates completion of this project by August 2013.

Representatives from Ayer discussed the funding of public transportation between Devens and the Ayer Station. The group discussed the need and the potential for funding such a project.

- **MJTC**

B. Harris indicated that there would be a small subcommittee meeting before the next MJTC meeting to review possible edits to the bylaws. Also at that meeting there will be a presentation given by MassRIDES.

B. Harris indicated that two new applications have been added to MRMapper for public use. The applications include High Crash Locations and Top Lane Departure Crash Locations.

- **MRPC**

V. Koivumaki indicated that MRPC staff is still working toward the possibility of moving into the MART facility on North Main Street.

MRPC staff is working on a collaborative EDA grant with North Middlesex Council of Governments (NMCOG) for the siting of renewable energy facilities.

**VI. Administrative Matters**

The next MPO meeting will be held on Wednesday April 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.

**VII. Adjournment**

There being no further business, C. Bench adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

**DOCUMENT/EXHIBITS PRESENTED AT MEETING**

March 13, 2013 MPO Agenda

February 13, 2013 MPO Minutes

MPO Endorsed FFY 2013 2016 TIP & Amendment No 1 SUMMARY

MPO Project Listing Master 3 13 13

DRAFT 2014 2017 Targets 3 13 13

Public Input Memo FFY 2014 17 TIP 3 1 13

Summary TEC Ver 3 Scoring FFY 2014 2017