

MONTACHUSETT JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (MJTC) MEETING

MINUTES OF WEDNESDAY JUNE 19, 2013

D. Manugian called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

I. INTRODUCTION/ MEMBERS PRESENT

David Manugian, Groton; Doug Walsh, Athol; Pauline Hamel, Ayer; Peter Johnston, Ayer; Jon Wyman, Westminster; Noreen Piazza, Lancaster; Frank Maxant, Ayer; Sarah Bradbury, MassDOT D-3; Ayn Yeagle, MOC, Inc; Matthew Allison, Lunenburg

EX-OFFICIO

GUESTS

Monica Snow, Wentworth Institute of Technology

STAFF

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

II. APPROVAL OF APRIL 17, 2013 MINUTES

N. Piazza made a motion to approve the minutes of May 15, 2013. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

III. REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

D. Walsh presented the recommendations for the Slate of Officers.

David Manugian – Chair

Paula Caron – Vice Chair

Jon Wyman – Secretary

D. Manugian asked for any nominations from the floor. There being none, Mr. Manugian indicated that election will take place at the next meeting.

IV. DISCUSSION REGARDING ALTERNATIVE CONNECTIONS FOR COMMUTER RAIL DURING MBTA CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

F. Maxant voiced his concerns on behalf of the riders of the Commuter Rail, regarding the stop in service that will take place during the MBTA construction project. Mr. Maxant indicated that stopping the weekend service will prevent a lot of people from getting to work on Saturdays and Sundays. Mr. Maxant also suggested if budgetary concerns are an issue that perhaps MassDOT could consider saving money by hiring a limousine service.

B. Harris indicated that the MassRIDES program may be able to address these concerns and supplement the train service on the weekends in order to insure those who depend on it will be able to travel to work on the weekends while service is suspended.

B. Harris asked the Ayer representatives if there was a way to collect data based on what commuters are going to work and where they are working. Mr. Harris indicated that he will gather any weekend ridership information from MART in order to get a breakdown of which ones are work related versus recreational.

The group continued discussing potential options for alternate modes of transportation during the time period when the service is suspended.

Issues and concerns raised included: what did the MBTA do to publicize the service suspension; are there other options besides possible bus routes; and what are the destinations of that riders.

B. Harris indicated that in order to provide the MJTC with for more information, staff can contact MassRIDES in order to find out what other services are available from them as well as information on limo services and taxis. Another step staff can take is to contact the other MPO's and other RPA's to see what they are hearing regarding this stoppage in service.

It was decided that the MJTC should continue this discussion at a subsequent meeting.

V. CHAPTER 90 FUNDING IN THE REGION

B. Doherty indicated that this coming year, due to budgetary concerns that only half of the annual Chapter 90 funding has been released. Communities received notice that the other portion of the statewide funds may or may not be released depending on decisions made by the state government.

The group discussed the funding and individual communities need for its Chapter 90 funding.

B. Harris indicated that anything communities can do in support of releasing the remaining Chapter 90 funds would be helpful.

VI. DRAFT 2013-2014 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

B. Harris reviewed the Draft Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Mr. Harris discussed the tasks for the upcoming program year that will be completed by the staff for its communities. Tasks include regional trail map development, community traffic analysis studies, MAP-21 performance measures, climate change in storm water runoff, road connections to commuter rail, and update of the transit development program.

B. Harris indicated that the MPO voted to release this document for 30 day public comment at the meeting on June 12. The full UPWP is available on the MRPC website as well.

One comment has been received from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) regarding the wording in the Environmental Justice/Title VI program; the other comments are related to the Pavement Safety Task, indicating that this task is good opportunity for staff to gather information about MAP-21 and also to make the dates on the tasks more specific.

VII. MPO ENDORSED FFY2014-2017 MONTACHUSETT TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

B. Harris indicated that the MPO met on June 12 and reviewed all the comments received and changes made to date, and voted to endorse the FFY2014-2017 TIP. This included following the MJTC's recommendation to add a project to FFY2016 in Clinton.

VIII. CONTRACT STATUS REPORTS

- FTA/RTA

There are no updates at this time.

- MASSDOT 3C

B. Harris indicated that staff met with Lancaster regarding the Route 117 Corridor Profile. The draft will be completed around September and brought to the MJTC at a later date.

There will be a Wachusett Station Smart Growth Meeting tomorrow at noon in this office. This meeting is open to the public.

IX. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The next MJTC meeting will be held on July 17, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, D. Manugian adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

LIST OF DOCUMENTS PRESENTED AT LAST MEETING:

COMMENTS ON DRAFT 2013 AMENDMENT
COMPLETE STREETS/RIGHT OF WAY/TITLE VI
DRAFT FFY2014 2017 TIP PROJECT LIST
DRAFT TIP AMENDMENT SUMMARY LIST
INTERESTED PARTIES 2014 2017 TIP MEMO