

MONTACHUSETT JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (MJTC) MEETING

MINUTES OF MAY 9, 2018

Meeting Held at

LANCASTER TOWN HALL

701 MAIN STREET, LANCASTER, MA 01523

N. Piazza called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.

I. Introduction

Members

Noreen Piazza, Lancaster; Tracy Murphy, Winchendon; Derek Krevat, MassDOT OTP

Non-Members

Staff

Brad Harris, Brian Doherty, David Fee

II. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

III. Approval of April 11, 2018 Minutes

Due to a lack of a quorum, the minutes for April 11, 2018 MJTC were tabled until the next meeting.

IV. Montachusett FFY 2018-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- *Review/Response to Comments of Draft FFY 2018-2022 TIP Amendment #5*
- *MJTC Action on Draft FFY 2018-2022 TIP Amendment #5*

B. Doherty reviewed the FFY 2018-2022 TIP Amendment #5. Amendment #5 is out for a 21-day public comment period from April 24th to the close of business on May 14th. No comments have been received to date. The need for the Amendment is to bring the FFY 2018-2022 TIP into alignment with the proposed FFY 2019-2023 TIP and to reflect recent cost changes to some bridge projects. The Amendment moves Project #607127 - the Evergreen Road over Mason Brook bridge in Hubbardston from FFY 2018 to FFY 2019 under Section 2A Bridge Program Off-System. The Amendment reflects cost changes to two projects under Section 2A Bridge Program On-System. These projects are in Townsend project #608529 - West Meadow Road over Locke Brook which has a cost reduction from \$2,062,000 to \$992,000 and in Athol project #608260 - Washington Avenue over Athol Pond Outlet with a cost increase from \$2,266,000 to \$2,485,000. The amendment affects two projects in FFY 2020. In Shirley project #608635 - Longley Road over Mulpus Brook under Section 2A Bridge Program Off-System is being moved in from FFY 2021. In Westminster project #608639 - Whitmanville Road over Whitman River under Section 2A Bridge Program On-System has a cost increase from \$2,492,000 to \$2,791,000.

The MJTC members present recommended that Amendment #5 as presented be endorsed by the MPO.

V. Montachusett FFY 2019-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- *Review/Response to Comments of Draft FFY 2019-2023 TIP*
- *MJTC Action on Draft FFY 2019-2023 TIP*

B. Doherty stated that the 21-day public comment period for the Draft FFY 2019-2023 TIP will also close on Monday May 14, 2018. The draft TIP follows recommendations made by this group at the last MJTC meeting. B. Doherty then reviewed the target projects in each of the fiscal years of the draft TIP.

N. Piazza asked about the status of a project to address exit ramps in Lancaster and Harvard on Route 2. They do not appear to be part of this TIP. B. Harris indicated that he believes that this may no longer be a stand-alone project but has been included in another project on Route 2. He indicated that he would check on the project with District 3.

To date the MRPC has received one comment on the Draft TIP. A comment letter was received today from MassDOT OTP. The MRPC is in the process of reviewing the various points described in the letter and will be developing responses to address them.

The MJTC members present recommended that the draft FFY 2019-2023 TIP as presented be endorsed by the MPO.

VI. Lancaster Transportation Planning Efforts

- *Discussion of Current Projects & Issues Related to Transportation*

N. Piazza presented information on current transportation related projects and issues in the town of Lancaster. The first area of discussion focused on the two Route 70 and Route 117 intersections which are currently on the FFY 2020 Element of the new TIP. Background information on the development of the project, the public meetings held with the town, alternatives investigated and the 25% design public hearing coming up on May 23rd.

N. Piazza then discussed the town's Complete Street Prioritization Plan and the implementation of various aspects of the plan. The town received some Complete Streets funding and is implementing improvements on Main Street (Route 70). The long-range plan will have improved sidewalks and bike lanes along Main Street from Route 117 south to the Clinton Town Line. The first section currently under way is around the town hall area. The town expects to apply for additional Complete Streets funding each year until the eight prioritized projects are completed.

D. Krevat mentioned that some MPOs have developed some small projects to purchase bike racks through their TIPs in order to utilize leftover target funds. He indicated that he would provide some more information to the MRPC.

N. Piazza asked if some of the unspent target funds in an MPO could be used to fund a Complete Streets project. It is unclear if this is a possibility but MassDOT and the MRPC will look into the issue.

T. Murphy then discussed some of the Complete Streets and road projects under development or planned in the town of Winchendon.

VII. Montachusett FFY 2019 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

- *Review/Response to Comments of Draft FFY 2019 UPWP*
- *MJTC Action on Draft FFY 2019 UPWP*

B. Doherty indicated that the draft UPWP is out for public comment at this time and will close on May 14th. B. Doherty then reviewed several of the tasks in the UPWP and the budget planned for each. These tasks include a Freight Corridor Analysis, Climate Change Program, Lunenburg Walkability and Parking Study, Pavement Management System and a Fatal Crash/Corridor Safety Analysis study. A major work effort will focus on the development of a new Regional Transportation Plan. As with the TIP, we have received a comment letter from MassDOT OTP. Staff will be reviewing these comments and addressing them accordingly.

Members discussed the development of ADA Transition Plans and the importance placed on it in the upcoming grant review processes. They indicated that any assistance that can be provided would be beneficial.

The MJTC members present recommended that the draft FFY 2019 UPWP as presented be endorsed by the MPO.

VIII. Contract Status Reports

a. Federal Transit Administration (FTA)

B. Harris indicated that there is no new information except that the Ayer commuter rail parking plans are being reviewed and that the hope is that it can go out to bid in the next month or so and that construction could start this summer.

b. Regional Transit Authority (RTA)

B. Harris indicated that there is no new information available.

c. MassDOT 3C

B. Harris mentioned that he received an email from S. Bradbury of MassDOT District 3. She indicated that the PS&E for the HSIP safety project for three intersections in Gardner/Leominster/Sterling was received today on May 9th and it should be advertised by September; the Gardner North Central Pathway design scope was approved by FHWA and they are now awaiting approval of the contract by the MassDOT Board; and the Pleasant Street Bridge in Gardner is at 100% design and should be advertised by September.

B. Harris indicated that the traffic count program will be run differently this year and there may be a change in how many counts will be undertaken this year.

Last month, MRPC staff attended a Route 2 Safety Improvement Task Force meeting at the Erving Senior Center. This is the second meeting of the newly revived group and the intent is to help move any remaining projects to completion.

A handout is available announcing a series of public meetings to be put on by MassDOT on the draft Capital Investment Plan (CIP). The closest meeting to our region will be held on May 31st in Fitchburg at the Fire Station on 33 North Street.

B. Harris indicated that agenda for tonight did not include the selection of a nominating committee as part of the election of MJTC officers process. Adjustments will be made to the process so that we can move forward over the next few months with the election.

Nomination forms have been sent out to CEOs and Planning Boards for community appointments to the MJTC, so please be on the lookout for these and have them filled out and sent back to the MRPC.

Finally, the MRPC received notice from the Ayer Town Administrator, Robert Pontbriand, that long time MJTC representative from Ayer, Pauline Hamel, passed away in the beginning of May at the age of 83.

IX. Administrative Matters

- Next MJTC Meeting Location

The next meeting of the MJTC will be on June 13, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. T. Murphy volunteered to host the meeting in Winchendon.

X. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

DOCUMENTS/EXHIBITS AVAILABLE AT MEETING:

5/9/18 Agenda
4/11/18 Minutes
Int Parties Draft TIP UPWP Amend #5 Memo 4 20 2018
FFY 2018 Amendment #5 Summary 4 18 2018
DRAFT FFY 2019 2023 TIP 4 18 2018 NO MAPS
SUMMARY DRAFT FFY 2019 2023 TIP 5 9 2018
DRAFT FFY 2019 UPWP NO MAPS 4 18 2018
UPWP Draft Tasks MPO 3_28_18
Lancaster MJTC Map
19.23.CIP.Public.Meetings.Flyer
Lancaster Main Street (Route 70/Route 117) Project
Route 70 at Route 117 Transportation Improvements pdf
Main Street (Route 70 & 117) Figures 1 and 2
Lancaster Complete Streets Improvement Project
Lancaster Complete Streets Long Range Plan