

MONTACHUSETT JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (MJTC) MEETING

MINUTES OF JANUARY 9, 2019

Meeting Held at

MRPC OFFICES

464 ABBOTT AVENUE, LEOMINSTER, MA 01453

J. Wyman called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

I. Introduction

Members

Jon Wyman, Westminster; Sarah Bradbury, MassDOT District 3; Derek Krevat, MassDOT OTP; Tracy Murphy, Winchendon; Mark Wetzel, Ayer

Non-Members

Andrea Freeman, Twin Cities Rail Trail Association; Steven Tyler, Howard Stein Hudson; Nicolas Bosonetto, VHB

Staff

Brad Harris, George Snow, Brian Doherty, George Kahale

II. Public Comments

A. Freeman inquired about progress being made on the Twin Cities Rail Trail. She mentioned the group is hoping for a 25% design to be done this spring.

S. Bradbury mentioned that Stantec is doing the design and working with MassDOT. Currently it is on the TIP for 2019. She said she would be able to get her an update. Discussion was had on the process of submitting and approving the 25% design. Since there is a lot of bridges and environmental obstacles within the project limits the design is complicated.

G. Kahale mentioned that he would also try to find an update and get back to the Rail Trail Association.

Ms. Freeman mentioned that the project has been the culmination of efforts by many entities and the Cities of Fitchburg and Leominster over many years and that the group is worried about losing funding and a status update would be appreciated.

B. Harris mentioned that the state has made the project a priority by using statewide funds and as long as the state is willing to back the project there should be no threat of it losing funds.

III. Approval of December 12, 2018 Minutes

J. Wyman pointed out a typo within the 2019 – 2023 TIP section of the minutes which was then noted. A funding change to project #608612 was listed as \$4,500,00 and should have said \$4,500,000.

IV. Montachusett FFY 2020 - 2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- *Draft TIP Development Schedule*
- *List of Potential Federal Aid Target Projects*
- *Transportation Evaluation Criteria (TEC) Revision*

B. Harris referred to a handout which listed the schedule that would be followed for TIP development. Work will continue in February with the presentation of the new TEC scoring of all projects to the MJTC and continue on with funding scenarios and draft TIP discussions through the spring. The goal is to have a draft TIP put out for 21-day public comment period in April and Endorsed in May.

M. Wetzel asked whether “TIP day”, a project status discussion between MRPC and MassDOT, is open to the public.

S. Bradbury mentioned that it is a staff level meeting where each project is discussed.

B. Harris reviewed the listing of projects which will be in play to program in the Target Project Section of the 2020 – 2024 TIP. This list will be reviewed and statuses and costs will be updated before funding scenarios are developed. The revised TEC will be used to evaluate all projects on the list. He advised the group that if they are aware of any project status change or wanted to provide additional information on a project to please do so.

S. Bradbury mentioned that if communities have multiple projects that they let MassDOT know which projects are priorities for the community.

B. Harris presented the final version of the revised TEC which incorporated comments from discussion with the JTC in the past few months. He mentioned that this version would be used to score all target projects on the TIP.

V. Montachusett Regional Transportation Plan

- *Review of RTP Website and Maps*
- *Revised Goals, Objectives and Strategies*

B. Harris presented the RTP website to the group. The website was developed to allow people to provide public comment and access information on the 2020 RTP which is currently being updated by staff. A demonstration was done on how to navigate the website and submit comments. The website will be monitored and updated periodically as the RTP is being developed. The website and its comment feature are open to anyone.

S. Tyler asked about the data on the website and where it comes from. Also, whether data and comments are shared with MassDOT.

Mr. Harris mentioned data sources being in-house along with a good amount of data coming from MassDOT and various state databases. All feedback from the website will be shared with MassDOT.

D. Krevat mentioned that MassDOT will be providing data in a similar format as part of the States Capitol Investment Plan (CIP).

B. Harris went over the Goals, Objectives and Strategies handout which was created with input from discussions with the MJTC and the MPO in recent months. These are still being refined and are available on the RTP website.

VI. Regional Pavement Condition Historical Review

- *Examination of Pavement Condition from Past Years to Date*

B. Doherty presented on the MRPC's Pavement Management Program and the general condition on the federal aid eligible network of roads in the region. Pavement conditions will be featured in the infrastructure chapter of the 2020 RTP. He discussed how MRPC uses Pavement Management. Current pavement conditions in the region were presented and compared to conditions reported in the 2016 RTP. He discussed the trend of these roadways deteriorating in condition in recent years. A number of factors were discussed which contribute to this trend including lack of funding and prioritization of funds for other infrastructure. The merits of incorporating a pavement management system into decision making was discussed.

VII. Contract Status Reports

a. Federal Transit Administration (FTA) & Regional Transit Authority (RTA)

G. Kahale mentioned that the Ayer parking facility project has been re-advertised. The original project proposal bids came in over budget. The project has been scaled back and MART is confident that the new bids will come within budget. MART is hopeful to start the project in February.

b. MassDOT 3C

B. Harris mentioned the next MPO meeting is Wednesday January 16th at 1:00 PM. He mentioned a Baystate Roads training on the updating process of the states Road Inventory File. He also mentioned that staff attended a meeting with officials from the town of Athol and MassDOT District 2 about safety issues surrounding Exit 18 on Route 2. G. Snow detailed the safety problems in the area and the recommended improvements.

VIII. Administrative Matters

- Next MJTC Meeting Location

The next meeting of the MJTC will be on February 13, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. here at the MRPC Offices.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

DOCUMENTS/EXHIBITS AVAILABLE AT MEETING:

- 1 9 18 Agenda
- 12 12 18 MJTC Minutes
- Draft TIP Development Schedule
- List of Potential Federal Aid Target Projects
- Montachusett Regional Transportation Plan – Draft Goals and Objectives
- Transportation Evaluation Criteria (TEC)
- Pavement Management PowerPoint Presentation
- 2019 Calendar of MRPC Meetings