

MONTACHUSETT METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MMPO)

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 13, 2013

Clinton Bench called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.

I. INTRODUCTION

Clinton Bench, MassDOT; Noreen Piazza, Subregion 4, Lancaster; Vyto Andrelinas, 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; Lisa Marrone, Leominster

STAFF PRESENT

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

II. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 9, 2013 MINUTES

A. Frost made a motion to approve the minutes of January 9, 2013. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

III. MONTACHUSETT LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY (LEP) ACCESS PLAN

- REVIEW OF COMMENTS

S. Bean presented the comments received during the public comment period for the Limited English Proficiency (LEP). There were three comments received, all from the Montachusett Opportunity Council, Inc (MOC).

The group discussed the LEP plan and the comments contained.

L. Marrone indicated that she works in the city of Leominster, in conjunction with manufacturing business owners. Ms. Marrone asked if the plan would be helpful to the business owners in the area who have employees with limited English speaking and whether or not the plan would be able to help business owners acquire training and translators for their employee's individual languages.

C. Bench indicated that this plan is geared toward the transportation related issues in the area and finding out where general populations live and how to reach out to them based on their needs.

Discussion continued regarding the MRPC and MART LEP plans

- MPO ADOPTION

P. Bertram made a motion to adopt the Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

IV. GREENDOT AND MODE SHIFT - MASSDOT PRESENTATION

Trey Wadsworth gave a presentation on the GreenDOT mode shift.

The GreenDOT Implementation Plan was designed for performance, with the entire plan centered around a performance management system that can be activated immediately. There are sustainability themes, goals, tasks and indicators.

The seven themes are Air, Energy, Land, Materials, Planning, policy and design where the mode shift goal is, Waste and Water. For each theme there are two to three goals. For each goal, there are tasks and each task has indicators that include time horizons for implementation. There are three horizons, 2013, 2015, and 2020.

Mr. Wadsworth stated that for Mode Shift, there are four tasks: Connect land use planning and transportation planning investments, Stabilize travel demand growth on roadways from single occupancy

vehicles, collect data regarding factors influencing mode choices & better utilize planning tools, and lastly increase training opportunities on GreenDOT and Mode Shift among MassDOT partners.

Mr. Wadsworth indicated that for Planning, Policy and Design, the MPOs could assist in delivering Complete Streets projects, increase bicycle parking, improve the connectivity of bicycle and pedestrian networks, keep linking land use and transportation investments like MAPC's MetroFutures long range plan, and advocate for GreenDOT when working with local communities.

Implementation can occur in the work that done every day at the MPO, through the UPWP activities, in the TIP, the RTP when updated in a couple of years, and through technical assistance provided to member communities.

V. TRANSPORTATION EVALUATION CRITERIA REVISION UPDATE

B. Doherty reviewed the revisions to the Transportation Evaluation Criteria. The TEC scoring will be based on a scale of 1-100, with weighting in different categories based on their importance to the projects.

The group discussed the different categories and the rating scale; also the group discussed the TEC scoring in relation to this year's TIP process and timeline.

It was the consensus of the MPO to approve the use of the new TEC to score the upcoming TIP projects.

VI. UPDATES

- MASSDOT HIGHWAY DIVISION

A. Frost indicated that the Lancaster Five Corners project is working on the Right of Way and targeting a May 2013 advertisement for that project.

Athol/Petersham Route 32 construction has been awarded. Notice to proceed will be given to the town this spring.

Winchendon Route 140 advertising will be on February 23rd.

- TRANSIT

MART is working in the solar installation for the Gardner Storage facility. All MART existing projects are moving forward on schedule.

G. Kahale indicated that the preconstruction work on the Wachusett Commuter Rail Station in Fitchburg and on the MBTA's Commuter Rail Layover Facility at the Westminster Business Park is underway. The preconstruction phase is expected to be completed by end of March, 2013 with construction planned to begin in April, 2013 and completed by December, 2014.

North Leominster Station steel erection will be completed within the week. This project is projected to be completed in August 2013.

- MJTC

S. Bean indicated that the January MJTC meeting was cancelled due to the weather. The next meeting will be held on February 20th.

- MRPC

G. Eaton indicated that staff is working to do Market Assessment for towns in the region. Staff is working on a 319 Water Quality Grant with Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

DLTA funding is available and notice has been sent to the MRPC communities.

MRPC is redesigning its website in the next several weeks. Also transportation staff is working on Mio-Vision trial with new video traffic counting equipment.

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

The next MPO meeting will be held on March 13th at 1:00 p.m.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

DOCUMENT/EXHIBITS PRESENTED AT MEETING

February 13, 2013 MPO Agenda

January 9, 2013 MPO Minutes

Draft LEP Plan

Title VI Assurances FTA

TEC Scoring Handout