

MONTACHUSETT JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (MJTC) MEETING

MINUTES OF JULY 11, 2018

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

Doug Walsh, Athol; Mark Archambault, Ayer; Paula Bertram, Lunenburg; Kenneth Chenis, Lunenburg; Bonnie Lawrence, Shirley; Jon Wyman, Westminster; Tracy Murphy, Winchendon; Sarah Bradbury, MassDOT District 3; Derek Krevat, MassDOT OTP

Non-Members

Staff

Brad Harris, George Snow

II. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

III. Approval of April 11, 2018 and May 5, 2018 Minutes

Due to a lack of a quorum at the May 5, 2018 meeting, the minutes for April 11, 2018 MJTC were tabled until this meeting.

It was the consensus of the MJTC to approve both the April 11, 2018 and the May 5, 2018 MJTC minutes as printed

IV. Nomination of Officers

– Discussion and Adjustment of Election Schedule

B. Harris informed the MJTC members that due to an error on his part and a lack of a quorum at the May 5th MJTC meeting, the process to conduct the Election of Officers has been thrown off schedule. Typically, the election occurs as the first agenda item of the July meeting but since a Nominating Committee was not convened in May and the June meeting was cancelled, a revision or work around is needed so the process is not delayed any further. B. Harris then reviewed two proposed election processes for this year only with the members present.

After discussion, a slate of Officers was selected by the MJTC members consisting of Jon Wyman for Chair, Paula Bertram for Vice Chair and Doug Walsh for Secretary.

A motion was made to present this slate at the August meeting, to also solicit any additional nominations at the August meeting and to then conduct the election.

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

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

- *Review/Response to Comments of Draft FFY 2018-2022 TIP Amendment #6*
- *MJTC Action on Draft FFY 2018-2022 TIP Amendment #6*

B. Harris reviewed the FFY 2018-2022 TIP Amendment #6 for the 2018 Transit Element. Amendment #6 is out for a 21-day public comment period from June 25th to the close of business on July 16th. The only comment received to date was an email from the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority (MART) on July 10th that provided some revised project costs and additions. B. Harris reviewed the original Amendment Summary put out at the start of the comment period with a revision based on the MART email. During the discussion, members had questions related to the cost changes, i.e. if the cost increased or decreased, as well as the additional projects and their funding sources.

It was indicated that Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funds have different requirements and flexibility that is not seen with Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funds or projects. This flexibility allows the transit authority to shift funds as needed as well as to revise projects if funds become available.

After continued discussion, it was the recommendation of the MJTC that the MPO seek further clarification on these proposed changes and their funding. The MPO should also consider the possibility of re-advertising this Amendment due to the differences between the original summary and the revision reflected in the MART email of July 10th.

The MJTC members present recommended that Amendment #6 be further reviewed by the MPO, that clarification be made regarding the projects and that consideration be given to re-advertising the public comment period.

S. Bradbury suggested that it might prove beneficial to the MJTC to have a presentation on transit funding programs, how they operate and what the transit authority can do with these funds. The MJTC concurred and asked that this be done at a future meeting.

D. Krevat pointed out that MART may have some scheduling issues that require that this Amendment be approved this month and that this should also be discussed by the MPO.

VI. Montachusett 2016 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

- *Discussion of Amendment to 2016 RTP*

B. Harris informed the MJTC that because of a recent court decision, the state of Massachusetts will be looking to amend the 2016 Regional Transportation Plans endorsed in July of 2015 for all of the MPO's in the Commonwealth. This amendment will be an Air Quality Conformity Determination of the RTP. A U.S. District Court recent decision struck down past decisions related to ozone attainment areas and classification. Because of this Massachusetts is no longer considered in attainment but instead has reverted back to a non-attainment status. When the RTP's were developed, the state had been considered in attainment therefore no air quality determination was conducted for the documents. If this Amendment is not done soon, it

jeopardizes the recently endorsed FFY 2019-2023 TIP being approved on the federal level and therefore would impact federal highway and transit projects from being implemented.

B. Harris reviewed the handouts related to this proposed amendment that described the court decision, its impact and the full chapter that will be amended into the RTP. He also informed the members that this is informational right now but the MPO is expected to release this amendment at their July 18, 2018 meeting so that it can be reviewed and endorsed in August.

Discussion followed regarding the emissions budget, target figures and what constitutes the Air Quality Determination.

VII. Roadway Safety Improvement Project Development Report

- Presentation & Discussion

G. Snow presented information from the Roadway Safety Improvement Project Development Report that summarized crash data throughout the Montachusett Region. The study identified high crash locations for motor vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians within member communities. Data derived from MassDOT was examined and compiled to help locate areas of concern that should be the focus of future planning efforts. Through mapping and analysis, locations were ranked based upon the community and the region as a whole.

Members asked if the report identified locations where any new highway projects had been implemented or are planned in the TIP. G. Snow indicated that the previous iteration of this report did include that analysis however, it was not included in this report. It will likely be included as the tables are refined for the upcoming RTP.

VIII. Contract Status Reports

a. Federal Transit Administration (FTA)

B. Harris indicated that there is no new information at this time.

b. Regional Transit Authority (RTA)

B. Harris indicated that the design for the parking facility in Ayer is proceeding and the Transit Authority is hoping to go out to bid for construction this summer. Also, a shuttle service has been established between the Littleton Commuter Rail Station and Westford.

c. MassDOT 3C

B. Harris indicated that an MPO meeting will be held next week on July 18th at 1:00 PM in the MRPC Offices. A new Fitchburg Trail Guide has been printed. The MRPC worked with the City as well as other groups to help compile this new guide. A handout is available on a call for projects by FHWA under the Eastern Federal Lands Access Program. The application period opens on July 16th and runs until October 15th. The MRPC is available to help any community that might want to apply. B. Harris mentioned that since the last meeting, the MRPC has had to lay off three full time staff members due to budget issues. One of these layoffs was David Fee in the Transportation Department.

IX. Administrative Matters

- Next MJTC Meeting Location

The next meeting of the MJTC will be on August 8, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. here at the MRPC Offices.

B. Harris referred to a handout on appointments from communities to the MJTC. As a reminder, each community has two representative slots on the MJTC and the appointment forms for this year went out a month ago. There are still some communities that have not gotten back to us with information on their appointees, so if members can help to get the towns to respond that would be appreciated.

X. Adjournment

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

DOCUMENTS/EXHIBITS AVAILABLE AT MEETING:

7 11 18 Agenda
4 11 18 MJTC Minutes
5 9 18 MJTC Minutes
Revised Election Process for 2018
Int Parties Draft TIP Amendment #6
FFY 2018 Transit Amendment #6 Draft Summary
Amendment #1 Background 7 11 2018
Roadway Safety Improvement Presentation
2018 MJTC Member Listing as of 7 10 2018
CFP Alert text FY 20-22 MASSACHUSETTS