

MONTACHUSETT JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (MJTC) MEETING

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 12, 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

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

Non-Members

Staff

George Snow, Sheri Bean, George Kahale

II. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

III. Approval of November 14, 2018 Minutes

It was the consensus of the MJTC to approve the November, 2018 MJTC minutes as printed.

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

– Review and Discussion on TIP Amendment #1

S. Bean referenced a handout that included the amendment memo as well as the information table. This amendment reflects a cost change to bridge project #608612 listed in the FFY 2019 Highway Element of the TIP. The total funds for the project went from \$7,860,160 to \$4,500,000. At a meeting held on November 28, 2018, the Montachusett MPO reviewed the proposed Amendment and voted that it be released for public review and comment. This comment period ends on December 19, 2018. So far the only comment that has been received is from MassDOT with another cost adjustment.

D. Walsh had a question about why the cost changed so drastically. S. Bradbury indicated that she spoke to District 2 regarding the cost change and they mentioned that the original funding total was a rough estimate that was calculated prior to the design being started. After the 25% design plans came in the total cost was less than expected.

– MJTC Recommendation regarding TIP Amendment #1

The MJTC recommended that the MPO approve the TIP Amendment with the latest cost changes that were given by MassDOT.

V. Montachusett Regional Transportation Plan

– *Review of Updated Goals and Objectives for 2020 RTP*

S. Bean referenced a handout that included the DRAFT Goals, Objectives and Strategies for the upcoming RTP. This draft included changes based on comments received from the previous MJTC meetings. It was asked that everyone review the updated document and submit any additional changes to MRPC staff. The final draft will be presented at the MPO meeting on December 19, 2018. Comments will be accepted throughout the development of the RTP.

J. Wyman suggested that when the next meeting agenda is emailed out that there is a reminder to review the drafted Goals and Objectives document in the email text. This will help people remember to review the information prior to the next meeting.

G.Snow mentioned that at the previous MJTC meeting we spent significant time discussing Goal 5 – Improve Economic Vitality. Changes were made to that goal to address the comments that were given.

VI. Transportation Enhancement Criteria (TEC)

– *Discussion of TEC Revisions*

S. Bean referenced two handouts - a purple TEC scoring sheet and a white TEC scoring sheet. The purple handout shows the TEC scoring that we had used previously and the white is the draft update. The purple document had been reviewed at previous MJTC meetings and comments and changes had been incorporated into the updated version. The scoring range changed from a total max score of 100 points to 66 points. The scoring was changed to help make things simple and easy to understand while the scores are conducted. G. Snow indicated that other RPA's do not limit their scoring method to a total of 100 points.

MRPC staff scored a sample of projects with the new proposed scoring method and it seems that there wasn't much change in the scores from the old system to the new. M. Wetzel asked about the categories being weighted. The point percentages for each category is as follows – Condition (21.21%), Mobility (15.15%), Safety (19.70%), Community Effects (19.70%), Land Use and Economic Development (16.67%), Environmental Effects (7.58%). He felt that safety should be the highest percent.

The updated TEC scoring sheet will be going before the MPO for their review at their next meeting on December 19, 2018.

VII. Regional Pavement Condition Historical Review

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

This agenda item was tabled until the next meeting. M. Wetzel mentioned that the town of Ayer recently updated their Pavement Management plan. He will send a copy to MRPC.

VIII. Contract Status Reports

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

G. Kahale mentioned several projects. 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. M. Wetzel mentioned that the town had to take out a piece of the project that involved utility work because the town couldn't wait to have it done. That portion is currently under construction now.

MART is also working on evaluating the bus routes. A new route for Athol recently came out. So far it appears to be successful and has the same number of riders for one shuttle that it had previously for two shuttles. It was also mentioned that the Athol Council on Aging van now costs 50 cents.

MART also has the Littleton regional shuttle. They are working with IBM and several other businesses in the area to provide shuttle service for employees. Littleton at IBM provided a park & ride facility for 12 parking spaces as did Juniper in Westford.

MART is also working on improvements to the bus system in Fitchburg and Leominster for the fixed bus routes and is working with Heywood Hospital in Gardner to provide a bus shelter on Green Street.

b. MassDOT 3C

S. Bradbury mentioned that there are two TIP projects already advertised – Westminster Intersection Improvement project at Rt. 140 & Rt. 2A was advertised on December 1st and the Littleton/Harvard/Lancaster resurfacing and related work on Route 2 was advertised on December 8th. J.Wyman asked about the progress of the Summer Street project. Sarah will provide an update at the next meeting.

G. Snow stated that notices have gone out to all the towns and their Boards of Selectmen regarding the selection process for the MPO Subregion Representative and Alternate. Interested BOS members will have until December 14th to let us know of their willingness to volunteer. A selection meeting will then be scheduled after the first of the year to reach a consensus in each subregion on the Representative and Alternate. Terms will begin in September 2019 and run for three years. So far, we have heard from Subregion 3 with two individuals volunteering for Representative and Alternate (Jamie Toale, Lunenburg and Kara McGuire Minar, Harvard).

The next MPO meeting is Wednesday December 19th at 1:00 PM

An online application for the RTP update should be available in the near future. The website will have maps and information on the RTP and will allow for individuals to comment directly on the site.

A handout was provided for the Safe Routes to School application process. MRPC is available to answer questions and assist where possible. A second handout included the 2019 calendar of upcoming meeting dates for the MJTC, MPO and MRPC meetings. It was noted that there was a discrepancy with the calendar dates. The calendar will be corrected and redistributed at the next MJTC meeting.

IX. Administrative Matters

- *Next MJTC Meeting Location*

The next meeting of the MJTC will be on January 9, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. here at the MRPC Offices.

X. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

DOCUMENTS/EXHIBITS AVAILABLE AT MEETING:

12 12 18 Agenda

11 14 18 MJTC Minutes

Montachusett FFY 2019-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #1

Montachusett Regional Transportation Plan – Draft Goals and Objectives

Transportation Enhancement Criteria (TEC) draft

Safe Routes to School application information

2019 Calendar of MRPC Meetings