

# **MONTACHUSETT JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (MJTC) MEETING**

**MINUTES OF JANUARY 8, 2020**

**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; Nicolas Bosonetto, Fitchburg; Richard Maki, Sterling; Beth Faxon, Townsend; Christopher McDermott, North Central MA Chamber of Commerce

### Ex-Officio

Sarah Bradbury, MassDOT District 3; Derek Krevat, MassDOT

### Non-Members

Stephen Nims, Ashburnham; Alicia Muck, Hubbardston; Mark Wetzel, Ayer;

### Staff

Brad Harris, Brian Doherty, Sheri Bean, George Kahale

## **II. Public Comments**

No public comments were made.

## **III. Approval of November 13, 2019 Minutes**

A motion was made to approve the November 13, 2019 MJTC Meeting Minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

## **IV. Montachusett FFY 2021-2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

- *Review of Project Listing for FFY 2021-2025*
- *Development Schedule*

B. Doherty discussed the upcoming development of the next TIP for FFY 2021-2025. He presented and reviewed a schedule that would lead to the development of a draft document by April and a final MPO endorsed TIP by May of 2020. In addition, he discussed a public memo regarding the development of the TIP and the solicitation of input by any interested persons or parties to the planning process. Finally, B. Doherty reviewed the current target eligible project list. The projects were compiled from the current FFY 2020-2024 TIP and the MassDOT ProjectInfo website. Highlighted were the current FFY 2020 TIP projects that should be advertised by September 30<sup>th</sup> and the projects for FFY 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 as currently listed. This is the starting point for the new TIP. As can be seen, there are no projects listed for 2025. This will be filled out after we get our target estimates for 2025 as well as updated targets for 2021 to 2024. Also, as a notice to the towns, MassDOT will be sending out a listing of older projects that may be deactivated. Communities will have a chance to respond to this listing before action is taken.

Discussion followed on the project listing and the possible deactivation process.

## **V. Montachusett FFY 2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

### **– Review & Discussion of Potential Task Requests**

S. Bean reviewed with the members the memo sent out to member communities regarding the development of the FFY 2021 UPWP. Staff has asked the municipalities if they had any suggestions for tasks that could be incorporated into the next UPWP. The FFY 2021 UPWP is scheduled to be endorsed by the MPO by May 2020. Each year, we try to include a few tasks that assist towns with certain transportation issues by allocating funds and time in the UPWP. From the memo release, we have received responses to date from two communities; Hubbardston and Sterling. We expect to hear from Townsend and Fitchburg also. Each community has identified multiple issues that they would like examined. As part of the request, we have asked them to prioritize these issues so that we can properly address as many concerns as possible.

S. Bean then reviewed the requested tasks received with the members. The next steps in this process will be to review all of the requests, assess other required UPWP needs, confirm our anticipated funding allocation or budget, review an equity analysis of past funding and then identify what local tasks can then be addressed this coming year. As mentioned, it is our goal to have a draft UPWP by April and an MPO endorsed UPWP by May.

## **VI. Lunenburg Walkability Study**

### **– Presentation of Study**

S. Bean presented to the members, a review of a Walkability and Parking Study for Lunenburg that was recently completed and submitted to the town. The study examined the walkability and parking issues in two study areas in the town; one being the town center with the other one in Whalom District. The study involved numerous site visits, public input meetings where participants walked the study areas noting issues and problems, analysis of traffic and crash data and the development of improvements and recommendations.

Discussion followed regarding the study process, the results and the what the next steps might be.

## **VII. Montachusett FFY 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

### **– Review of Possible TIP Amendment**

B. Harris reviewed with the members a potential TIP Amendment from the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority (MART) for the FFY 2020 Transit Element. The state recently announced Community Transit Grant Program award winners across the Commonwealth. In the Montachusett Region, three awards were made to Ashburnham, GAAMHA, Inc, and MART for the purchase of new vehicles for their programs. Because these awards involve federal funds, they need to be incorporated into the TIP. We anticipate that at the next MPO meeting, and Amendment to the TIP will be addressed and subsequently put out for a 21-day public review and comment period. This is basically a heads up about this TIP Amendment. Once released, we will bring it back before the MJTC for a recommendation.

Staff also discussed two Community Transit Grant Program awards to the MRPC and what we anticipated will be addressed through those grants.

## **VIII. Contract Status Reports**

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

G. Kahale discussed with the members the Grand Opening of the Ayer Commuter Rail Parking Facility. On January 20<sup>th</sup>, the facility will be opened to the public. Free parking will be in effect until February 3<sup>rd</sup>. At that time, it will be \$4.00 per day. An opening ceremony was held on December 9<sup>th</sup>. Work will soon begin on improvements at the Depot Square area.

MART has been awarded \$165,000 by the state to create a centralized dispatch center for several community Councils on Aging.

**b. MassDOT 3C**

B. Harris stated that the next MPO will be held in two weeks on Wednesday January 22<sup>nd</sup> here at the MRPC Offices.

B. Harris then discussed a handout on the planned Exit Number Conversion Project to take place across the Commonwealth. In our Region, Route 2 and I-190 will be impacted. MassDOT will convert all exit numbers to a milepost-based numbering system based on FHWA requirements. Currently, we use a sequential exit numbering system. He referred members to two handouts that show the new numbers for Route 2 and I-190. The old exit numbers will remain posted for at least two years so that motorists can become accustomed to the change. All the changes are listed on an interactive map on the MassDOT website: [www.newmassexits.com](http://www.newmassexits.com).

Lastly, an online survey has been developed related to the start time of the MJTC meetings. To date we have had 21 responses. At the next meeting, full results of the survey will be presented.

**IX. Administrative Matters**

*- Next MJTC Meeting*

The next meeting of the MJTC is currently scheduled for February 12, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. at the MRPC Offices.

**X. Adjournment**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

**DOCUMENTS/EXHIBITS AVAILABLE AT MEETING:**

1 8 2020 Agenda  
11 19 2019 MJTC Minutes  
Draft TIP Schedule 1 2020  
TIP Development Memo 11 25 2019  
TIP Project List  
UPWP Project solicitation memo  
UPWP requests to date  
Walkability presentation  
FFY 2020 Transit Amendment #2  
Grant Awards Article 12 2019  
MassDOT EXIT NUMBER CONVERSION PROJECT  
i-190\_old\_new\_exit\_numbers  
route\_2\_old\_new\_exit\_numbers  
Time Survey 2020  
2020 Meeting Calendar