

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

**MINUTES OF MARCH 11, 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; Doug Walsh, Athol; Richard Maki, Sterling; Peter Latchis, Leominster; Christopher McDermott, North Central MA Chamber of Commerce; Veronica Kell, Townsend

### Ex-Officio

### Non-Members

Bob Szocik, Templeton

### Staff

Brad Harris; Brian Doherty; Sheri Bean; George Kahale

## **II. Public Comments**

No public comments were made.

## **III. Approval of February 12, 2020 Minutes**

A motion was made to approve the February 12, 2020 MJTC Meeting Minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

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

- *FFY Target Funding Scenarios*
- *MJTC Recommendation on Preferred Funding Scenario*
- *Review of TIP Target Allocations*

B. Doherty discussed the ongoing development of the TIP for FFY 2021-2025. He presented to the members the updated Transportation Evaluation Criteria (TEC) scoring as well as their current design status and costs. He then referred members to two separate funding scenarios as developed by the staff as well as a listing of projects from the current FFY 2020-2024 TIP for comparison. The current project list was reviewed and the changes needed due to updated information. This included projects with cost changes and the potential to Advance Construct (AC) certain projects.

Staff then reviewed the two scenarios developed for review and the differences between the two. One thing that was apparent was that the project listings for FFY 2021 is the same between the two scenarios. B. Doherty then reviewed each FFY individually within each scenario with the members.

Discussion followed regarding the various projects, their listing within each scenario and alternative options. Several questions were asked about project status and where and how they fit into a scenario.

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

- *Review of Draft Tasks and Budgets*
- *MJTC Recommendation on Tasks and Budgets*

S. Bean reviewed with the members the budget information developed for the various tasks within the UPWP. In addition, those tasks that were proposed by member communities through the outreach process that was conducted were updated and incorporated into the draft.

S. Bean then reviewed several of the tasks and their objectives with the members. In addition, G. Kahale reviewed and discussed the FTA funded task entitled Bus Stop ADA Accessibility Evaluation, its goals and the overall purpose of the study.

Further discussion followed.

## **VI. MJTC Meeting Start Time Survey & Discussion**

- *MJTC Decision of Adjustment of Meeting Start Time*

B. Harris presented to the members the final results of the survey conducted of MJTC members regarding the start time of the meetings. From the responses, it is clear that a large majority would prefer to see the meeting start sometime during regular business hours and in particular sometime between 12:00 pm and 4:00 pm.

Members then discussed the results, possible start times and then recommended that a trial be conducted over the next two meetings with a start time of 2:30 pm. B. Harris indicated that he would schedule the April 8<sup>th</sup> and May 13<sup>th</sup> meetings for 2:30 pm and send out appropriate notices to all.

## **VII. Contract Status Reports**

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

G. Kahale informed the members that at the Ayer Commuter Rail Parking Facility is operating at approximately 75% to 80% of its capacity. The project has now moved into Phase 2 which involves the development of a pedestrian plaza at Depot Square. The project will include a Transit Vehicle turn around, a Pedestrian Plaza, Restroom Facilities, Pedestrian Access to the Station and a Commuter Shelter. This project will hopefully be completed by the end of the year.

A question was asked if there had been any progress in getting a relationship between MART and the Worcester Regional Transit Authority that could help the town of Sterling because it is between the two agencies. G. Kahale indicated that there are some services that may be available to the town. Members indicated that the major concern is the cost within the town and out of town and its impact on users. G. Kahale indicated that the fare issue can be discussed with MART. It was decided that G. Kahale and the town would discuss this offline.

### **b. MassDOT 3C**

B. Harris referred members to a handout related to a likely TIP Amendment that will be reviewed by the MPO next week.

Staff also mentioned that public meetings were held for the ADA PROW Transition Plans for the three communities of Lancaster, Lunenburg and Winchendon. Stantec has completed their work and the contract has been closed out.

B. Harris then discussed the status of several public meetings that were listed in a series of handouts.

Staff is also looking to update the Public Participation Plan (PPP) over the next few months and we will be reaching out to communities.

#### **VIII. Administrative Matters**

##### *- Next MJTC Meeting*

The next meeting of the MJTC is currently scheduled for April 8, 2020 at 2:30 p.m. at the MRPC Offices.

#### **IX. Adjournment**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

#### **DOCUMENTS/EXHIBITS AVAILABLE AT MEETING:**

3 11 20 Agenda  
2 12 2020 MJTC minutes  
FFY 2021 2025 TEC Scores  
Montachusett Federal Target Comparison  
TIP Scenarios 3\_11\_20  
UPWP budget handout  
Time Survey Analysis 1 28 20  
Culvert Replacement Grants Flyer 2020  
CIP 2021-2025 Public Meeting Flyer  
March2050RoadmapMeetingsNotification2-18-2020A  
NorthCentral\_3.13.2020-LB