

**MONTACHUSETT JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (MJTC) MEETING**  
**MINUTES OF JULY 8, 2020**  
**Meeting Held Online through GoToMeeting.com - Hosted by the MRPC**

J. Wyman called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

**I. Introduction**

**Members**

Jon Wyman, Westminster; Nicolas Bosonetto, Fitchburg; Richard Maki, Sterling; Veronica Kell, Townsend

**Ex-Officio**

Laura Hanson, MassDOT District 2; Mike Bolduc, MassDOT District 2; Sarah Bradbury, MassDOT District 3; Derek Krevat, MassDOT OTP

**Non-Members**

Brian Doheny, Ashburnham; Guy Corbosiero, Winchendon

**Staff**

Brad Harris; George Snow; Sheri Bean; Brian Doherty; George Kahale

**II. Public Comments**

No public comments were made.

B. Harris provided members with a quick overview of how to access all of the handouts for the meeting.

**III. Approval of June 10, 2020 Minutes**

A motion was made to approve the June 10, 2020 MJTC Meeting Minutes as presented. Consensus was given to accept the minutes as presented.

**IV. Election of Officers**

B. Harris provided the members with the slate of officers as brought forward by the Nominating Committee at the June MJTC meeting. The slate presented was as follows:

Chair – Jon Wyman of Westminster;  
Vice Chair – Nicolas Bosonetto of Fitchburg;  
Secretary – Tracy Murphy of Winchendon

J. Wyman asked for any floor nominations. There were none.

A motion was made for the Secretary to cast one ballot in favor of the slate as presented on behalf of the members present. Approval was given by members and the officers for the upcoming year are: Chair – Jon Wyman; Vice Chair – Nicolas Bosonetto; and Secretary – Tracy Murphy.

**V. ADA Public Right of Way (PROW) Transition Plan Presentation**

– *PROW Plans for Lancaster, Lunenburg and Winchendon*

G. Snow presented to the members an overview of the work conducted for the towns of Lancaster, Lunenburg and Winchendon by the MRPC and their consultant, Stantec, on the development of Public Right of Way (PROW) ADA Transition Plans. He discussed the origin of the ADA Act, the need for communities to have a Transition Plan in place and the process through which these three plans were compiled. The PROW Transition Plans for a community helps to determine the compliance status of curb ramps, sidewalks and crosswalks with the town. Various data needs and locations were identified in the towns and field visits were conducted to collect information on location, condition and compliance. From this data, a compliance status listing, a priority ranking methodology and an implementation schedule for non-compliant curb ramps and sidewalks were developed. Through out the process, regular meetings were held with the towns and the general public in order to solicit feedback and to establish priorities. Mr. Snow walked members through the ADA PROW plan for the town of Lancaster as an illustration of the work conducted for each community.

A question was asked as to what is a high pedestrian parcel? G. Snow indicated that it is a place of employment where you have a lot of people going to work and using the pedestrian facilities.

A question was asked about how other communities can be involved in something like this? G. Snow responded that the MRPC can discuss possible options with the community to see what we may be able to do or what assistance that we can provide. It really would come down to funding availability.

MassDOT District 2 asked if we had talked with anyone at MassDOT as the information developed could be useful in the development of the statewide pedestrian plan. Peter Sutton would be someone to start with regarding the this. B. Harris indicated that we would reach out to him and others at MassDOT.

#### **VI. Montachusett FFY 2020 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

- *Review of Comments to UPWP Task Budget Amendment*
- *MJTC Recommendation on UPWP Amendment*

S. Bean reviewed with the MJTC an Amendment to the FFY 2020 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) to change the task budgets of several tasks in the UPWP. The Montachusett MPO voted in June to release this Amendment for a 21-day public review and comment period that started on June 24<sup>th</sup> and will close on July 14<sup>th</sup>. The changes are in response to the restrictions implemented by the state due to the COVID-19 pandemic that have adversely affected the data collection efforts for these tasks. S. Bean then reviewed the various actions that make up this amendment. The budgets for *Task 2.31 - Data Collection and Analysis Program* and *Task 4.41 - Bus Routes Performance Evaluation* are being reduced while two tasks *Task 1.11 Support of 3C Process* for a and *Task 2.21 GIS Mapping and Analysis* will be increased.

To date we have not received any comments regarding this Amendment. We would like the MJTC to provide a recommendation on the Amendment to the MPO for their meeting next week. The recommendation could be to endorse as presented, change the amendment or to not endorse.

The MJTC reached consensus to recommend the MPO endorse the budget amendment as presented.

#### **VII. Contract Status Reports**

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

G. Kahale informed the members that the work on the Ayer Rail Facility is ongoing. They are currently working on the pedestrian plaza with an expect completion by the end of September. MART has decided that the project will not be opened until the whole project has been completed.

The MBTA has developed a new schedule to begin on June 22<sup>nd</sup> where all express trains have been removed and the number of trains on the Fitchburg Line will be reduced from 17 each way per day to 16 each way per day. All locations are seeing little or no riders due to the pandemic and the current restrictions.

MART ridership has started to improve from the low numbers seen during at the start of the pandemic. Fares are still free on the MART systems mainly due to trying to limit interaction between the riders and the drivers.

MART has been required by the state to hire a consultant to complete a comprehensive regional transportation plan update for 2020. The completion date has been extended to the end of this year. A survey has been developed for public input. It is available on the MART website as well as the MRPC website.

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

B. Harris stated that MassDOT has launched a new funding program entitled “Shared Streets and Spaces”. As the handout states, its purpose is to provide technical and funding assistance to help municipalities conceive, design and execute shared streets and spaces projects while engaging their residents and businesses in the process. This program is a quick-launch/quick-build grant program that will provide grants as small as \$5,000 and as large as \$300,000 for cities and towns to quickly implement or expand improvements to sidewalks, curbs, streets, on-street parking spaces and off-street parking lots in support of public health, safe mobility, and renewed commerce in their communities. Also available is a copy of the Program Guide. Information and the guide can also be found through the MRPC web page under Announcements.

A question was asked if this program could be used to address some of the issues identified in an ADA PROW Transition Plan. B. Harris stated that if a community did have a plan in place with identified priorities related to sidewalks, curb ramps and crosswalks, it would appear that this program could be a way to begin to implement a town’s recommendations.

Also, there is a Notice of a Public Hearing Webinar that MassDOT will post on July 17<sup>th</sup> regarding project #608850 a bridge replacement project on Glen Valley Road over the East Branch of the Swift River in Petersham. The flyer indicates how to view the webinar and also how to submit comments.

### **VIII. Administrative Matters**

#### **- Next MJTC Meeting**

B. Harris stated that in the past the MJTC has normally not met in August unless there was a pressing matter. At this time there does not appear to be anything critical that would necessitate a meeting.

The members reached consensus to cancel the August MJTC meeting and to meet next in September. Therefore, the next meeting of the MJTC is scheduled for September 9, 2020 at 2:30 p.m.

### **IX. Adjournment**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

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

7 8 20 Agenda  
6 10 2020 MJTC minutes  
Ballot 7 8 2020  
Int Parties UPWP Budget Amend Memo 6 22 2020  
MART Survey Flyer  
MJTC ADA Accessibility Presentation 2

MJTC MPO Task Adjustment Summary 6 10 2020  
PF# 608850 Petersham PH Flyer  
PROWADA\_Summary\_Lancaster  
PROWADA\_Summary\_Lunenburg  
PROWADA\_Summary\_Winchendon  
Shared Streets & Spaces  
Shared Streets and Spaces Program