

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

**MINUTES OF May 12, 2021**

**Meeting Held Online through GoToMeeting.com - Hosted by the MRPC**

N. Bosonetto called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

## **I. Introduction**

### **Members**

Roger Hoyt, Ashburnham; Dick Kilhart, Athol; Nicolas Bosonetto, Fitchburg; Tim Kilhart, Harvard; Alice Livdahl, Hubbardston; Matthew Brenner, Lunenburg; Richard Maki, Sterling; Beth Faxon, Townsend; Guy Corbosiero, Winchendon.

### **Ex-Officio and Organizations**

Richard Liberatore, Fitchburg Airport Commission; Kristen Lamoureux, The Arc of Opportunity; Derek Krevat, MassDOT OTP; Paula Simmons, MassDOT District 2; Laura Hanson, MassDOT District 2; Sarah Bradbury, MassDOT District 3.

### **Non-Members**

Veronica Kell, Townsend; Randy Williams, Ashburnham; Brian Doheny, Ashburnham.

### **Staff**

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

## **II. Public Comments**

No public comments were made.

## **III. Approval of April 14, 2021 Minutes**

A motion was made to accept the April 14, 2021 MJTC Meeting Minutes. Consensus was given to accept the minutes as presented.

## **IV. Selection of Nominating Committee**

G. Snow indicated to the members that it is the time to begin the selection process for the officers for the MJTC. The process entails the Chairman selecting a convenor for the Nominating Committee, who then picks up to three additional members. N. Bosonetto asked for volunteers for the Nominating Committee. R. Maki of Sterling volunteered for the position. R. Liberatore and G. Corbosiero also volunteered for the Committee. The Nominating Committee will meet before the June MJTC to draw up a slate for presentation. The election will then be held in July.

B. Harris indicated that he would set up an online meeting time for the committee so that they can meet and develop a slate.

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

- *Review and Discussion of Comments Received on Draft TIP Amendment #3*
- *MJTC Recommendation for MPO*

G. Snow presented to the MJTC members that at the last MPO meeting, they voted to release for a 21-day public review and comment period, draft TIP Amendment #3 to the FFY 2021-2025 TIP. This amendment impacts only

the FFY 2021 Transit Element. The Amendment adds one new project, and six projects have cost changes and adjustments. As of this meeting, no comments have been received on the amendment.

It was the consensus of the MJTC to recommend to the MPO that the FFY 2021 TIP Amendment #3 be endorsed.

#### **VI. Montachusett FFY 2022-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

- *Review and Discussion of Comments Received on Draft FFY 2022-2026 TIP*
- *MJTC Recommendation for MPO*

B. Doherty indicated that at the last MPO meeting held on April 21<sup>st</sup>, the members voted to release a draft document based upon funding Option #3, which was also discussed at the last MJTC meeting. The 21-day comment period began on April 26<sup>th</sup> and will close on May 17<sup>th</sup>. A notice went out to all on our outreach list and information was also posted to our website. To date we have received comments from MassDOT and FHWA. All comments will be addressed, and the individual responses will be included in an Appendix to the final FFY 2022-2026 TIP. B. Doherty then reviewed the comments received and our responses to them with the MJTC members.

It was the consensus of the MJTC to recommend to the MPO that the draft FFY 2022-2026 TIP with the included comments and responses be endorsed by the MPO.

#### **VII. Montachusett FFY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

- *Review and Discussion of Comments Received on Draft FFY 2022 UPWP*
- *MJTC Recommendation for MPO*

S. Bean presented to the members the draft FFY 2022 UPWP that is currently out for public comment. At the last MPO meeting in April, the MPO voted to release the draft UPWP for a 21-day public review and comment period. That comment coincides with the draft TIP comment period. As of this meeting, we have received comments from MassDOT. S. Bean then reviewed the various comments received as well as our responses to them and how we will update the final FFY 2022 UPWP.

It was the consensus of the MJTC to recommend to the MPO that the draft FFY 2022 UPWP be endorsed by the MPO.

#### **VIII. Contract Status Reports**

- Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
- Regional Transit Authority (RTA)

B. Harris stated that G. Kahale was out on vacation. As such, he has a short update that was sent to him by the Transit Authority, MART.

- Wachusett Shuttle is back to full day services to coincide with the MBTA's new hourly schedule into Wachusett Station which began on 5/3/21.
- Littleton-Westford and Route 11 remain suspended due to COVID restrictions at Great Wolf and Littleton employers. These services should resume in the late summer.
- Promotional pass for the Clinton-Worcester Commuter Shuttle expires at the end of summer. Pilot program runs to the end of the calendar year. Need more riders to avoid termination.
- Beginning in June MART will have new automatic passenger counters and automatic voice annunciators with LED signs for scheduled stops. This will include enhanced passenger alerts and bus tracking on our website.
- MassDOT 3C

B. Harris stated staff made a presentation to the town of Athol on May 5<sup>th</sup> on the ADA PROW Data Collection app. The use of the app as well as the data needs were discussed with local officials so that they can begin to develop their PROW plan. Staff has also been contacted by the town of Ayer to provide the same presentation with a date to be determined. Regarding the MRPC, staff is back in the office on a limited basis. Individual attendance is up to the staff member currently. It is hoped that the situation continues to improve and that all staff will be back in the office sometime in the summer. MassDOT has announced this year's round of Capital Investment Plan (CIP) Virtual Public Meetings. MassDOT is currently developing a one-year maintenance effort for the CIP that guides how they prioritize and fund local and statewide transportation projects. The CIP determines funding for new buses and trains, rail expansion, transit, paratransit, accessibility upgrades, roadway improvements, municipal projects, the MBTA and regional airports and transit authorities. Community input can inform project design and helps MassDOT understand the level of community support for proposed projects, ensuring that MassDOT's investments align with the needs and priorities of all Massachusetts residents. Comments on the CIP must be received by June 7th, 2021. This year's CIP meeting for the Central Mass/Montachusett region is set for May 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. There is a handout with information on connecting to the meeting. In addition, a News Announcement is on our website with this same information. Finally, MassDOT has announced a new round of funding through the Shared Streets and Spaces program. There is a handout available with information. In addition, it can be found on our website.

D. Krevat stated as a reminder to the members there is a May 27<sup>th</sup> deadline on the new round of Shared Streets funding with a focus on safety improvements and ADA transition plans.

#### **IX. Administrative Matters**

- *Next MJTC Meeting*

The next meeting will be on Wednesday June 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:30pm.

#### **X. Adjournment**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

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

5 12 21 Agenda  
4 14 2021 MJTC minutes  
5 Draft Transit FY21-25 TIP Amend #3 Revised 4 13 2021  
5 Int Parties Draft TIP Amendment #3  
6 22-26 TIP Comments 5 12 2021  
6 DRAFT FFY 2022 2026 TIP 4 13 2021  
6 DRAFT Proj Summary FFY 2022 2026 TIP 4 23 2021  
6 Int Parties Draft TIP UPWP Memo 4 23 2021 ENGLISH  
7 DRAFT FFY 2022 UPWP Reduced File 4 13 2021  
7 UPWP Comments 5 12 2021  
FINAL FY22 CIP Flyer MBTA edits 20210428 FINAL3  
New Shared Streets Program Announcement 4 23 2021  
US DOT TOD Announcement 4 21 2021