

MONTACHUSETT METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MMPO)

Minutes of April 20, 2016

S. Woelfel representing MassDOT Secretary Stephanie Pollack called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

I. Introduction

SIGNATORIES PRESENT

S. Woelfel, MassDOT; Arthur Frost, MassDOT District 3; Mohammed Khan, MART; Victor Koivumaki, MRPC; Gordon Robertson, Leominster; Paula Bertram, Subregion 3; Ryan McNutt, Subregion 4; A J Tourigny, Fitchburg.

MEMBERS AND GUESTS PRESENTS

Jeff Hoynoski, MassDOT District 2; Nikki Tishler, MassDOT; Sarah Bradbury, MassDOT District 3, John Columbus, Templeton; Jack Rodriquez, Lunenburg; Kerry LaFleur, Lunenburg; Phil Duffy, Clinton; Tim Kilhart, Hubbardston DPW; Thatcher Kezer, Devens, Heather Fuller VHB and Trish Domigan, VHB.

STAFF PRESENT

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

II. Approval of March 9, 2016 MPO Minutes

A motion was made to approve the March 9, 2016 MPO minutes as printed. The motion was seconded and passed with one abstention.

III. Montachusett FFY2017-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- Fiscal Year Scenarios

B. Harris presented a number of handouts including the TEC Revised Scoring. The TEC Scoring list has been updated based on input from communities regarding their projects. He distributed and explained a spreadsheet regarding projects identified and discussed on TIP Day. The spreadsheet also included Project Recommendations based on the discussion on TIP Day. He explained the recommendations in detail. He also presented and explained three programming scenarios for the TIP, Scenario 1 TIP Day Results, Scenario 2 and Current TIP Project Distribution vs. FFY2017-2021 Targets. He explained a handout entitled TEC Ver 3.0 Scoring Listings which has the TEC Projects and where they stand based on the three scenarios.

Discussion followed regarding the Summer Street, Lunenburg project. P. Bertram indicated that the project cost is higher than \$6.9 million at approximately \$13 million. We may be able to do an Advanced Construction Project funding over multiple years.

S. Woelfel reminded those present that Advanced Construction is not a cash flow approach. AC is meant for projects that are complex and have to be done over multiple years.

T. Domigan explained the cost increases. The project itself has a full drainage system which had to be addressed.

A. Frost added that the construction work will take two and a half to three years.

S. Woelfel added that in the future staff should include an agenda item for Public Comment after the "Approval of the Minutes" section.

Discussion followed on project costs and possible schedules.

It was the consensus of the MPO to develop a scenario where the Summer Street Project remains as a 2017 project at an increased with a possible AC component and to include the Route 13 Project in Leominster as a 2018 project. MassDOT will review information on the Summer Street project to determine a final estimate.

IV. 2016-2017 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Development

- Task Update

B. Harris indicated that we received additional guidance from FHWA/FTA on the UPWP including Planning Factors, Bike and Pedestrian Networks; Performance Management; Sustainability; Regional Models of Cooperation; Ladders of Opportunity and Geographic Distribution of UPWP funded studies and Target TIP Projects. We will look at incorporating these activities into the UPWP tasks. The draft UPWP will be available at the next MPO Meeting. Communities should contact him regarding tasks they would like to see incorporated into the UPWP.

P. Duffy indicated that regarding the regional modes of cooperation factor, Clinton is part of the Worcester Regional Transit Authority. Clinton is working with CMRPC to assess transit needs in Clinton. He suggested that MRPC and MART undertake a regional transit needs studying in cooperation with CMRPC to re-assess and evaluate where the needs are regionally.

B. Harris responded that he would speak with MART and CMRPC to look at coordinating this type of study.

V. Public Participation Plan – Draft

- Update and Public Comment

-

B. Harris indicated that the PPP is out for public comment and provided a copy of the notice to those present. Comment period will end May 2, 2016. At the next MPO we will hopefully endorse the PPP. The Plan is available on our website at mrpc.org.

VI. Capital Investment Plan (CIP) Discussion

S. Woelfel reported that the CIP was recently released. This Plan is structured differently from past CIPs as it includes the MBTA and focuses on three priorities: Reliability, Modernization and Expansion. Programs were developed from those priorities. The first CIP meeting is at the Fitchburg Public Library on April 25 at 6:00 p.m. B. Harris distributed a flyer with the Public Meeting Schedule regarding presentation and discussion of the draft five year plan.

VII. MPO Subregion Representative Process

B. Harris indicated that two meetings were held at which the sub regions met and selected individuals to serve as Subregion representatives and alternates. Results were as follows.

Subregion 1 Representative - John Columbus, Templeton ; Alternate – Barbara Anderson,
Winchendon

Subregion 2 Representative - Kyle Johnson, Ashburnham; Alternate – Heather Billings, Westminster
Subregion 3 Representative - Paula Bertram, Lunenburg; Alternate – Gary Luca, Ayer;
Subregion 4 Representative- Stanley Starr, Jr. Lancaster; Alternate – James LeBlanc, Clinton

The term will begin for these representatives in September or October and they will serve for a three year period.

VIII. Updates

- MassDOT Highway Division

A. Frost stated that the Sterling Intersection Improvements at Route 12 and Chocksett Road will need additional funding. 75% Design was just received. We are hoping for June or July Advertisement date. A TIP amendment may be needed at the next meeting. The Water Street Project in Clinton is under construction.

J. Hoynoski indicated that the Stockwell and Lawrence Roads Bridge Project in Royalston 25% design is under review. A Public Hearing for the North Royalston Road Bridge in Winchendon will be held at the end of May.

- Transit

M. Khan stated that fixed route bus services have been extended in the Fitchburg Leominster and Gardner areas. A fixed route shuttle service has been instituted in the Athol /Orange area.

- MJTC

B. Harris indicated that the next MJTC Meeting is tonight at 7:00 p.m. A presentation on Complete Streets will be made by Trish Domigan from VHB. The MJTC will be entering the election process for officers over the next few months.

- MRPC

V. Koivumaki indicating that the MRPC is advertising for new planners.

IX. Administrative Matters

B. Harris indicated the next two MPO meetings are rescheduled to May 25, 2016 and June 29, 2016.

X. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

DOCUMENT/EXHIBITS PRESENTED AT MEETING

April 20, 2016 MJTC Agenda
MJTC Minutes of March 9, 2016
TIP Day for 2017-2021STIP
Capital Investment Plan Public Meeting Schedule
Interested Parties Memo Draft Montachusett MPO Public Participation Plan
Scenario 1 TIP Day Results
Scenario 2
Current TIP Project Distribution vs FFY2017-2021 Targets

