

MONTACHUSETT METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MMPO)

Minutes of May 25, 2016

A moment of silence was held for Vic Koivumaki.

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

I. Introduction

SIGNATORIES PRESENT

Steve Woelfel, MassDOT; Arthur Frost, MassDOT District 3; Mohammed Khan, MART; Paula Bertram, Subregion 3; Ryan McNutt, Subregion 4; Tim Kilhart, Subregion 1; Marc Piermarini, Leominster.

MEMBERS AND GUESTS PRESENTS

Jeff Hoynoski, MassDOT District 2; Nikki Tishler, MassDOT; Sarah Bradbury, MassDOT District 3;; Thatcher Kezer, Devens, Bonnie Mahoney, MART; Tim Hatch, Shirley; Trish Domigan, VHB.

STAFF PRESENT

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

II. Public Comments

T. Hatch indicated he sent two emails to MRPC regarding public posting of MPO meetings in Shirley and the selection of the MPO representative and alternative from Subregion 3. Discussion took place clarifying the Selection Process.

B. Harris indicated that MPO meetings are posted on MRPC's website and the agendas are also sent to the City and Town Clerks.

G. Eaton added that in accordance with the MA Open Meeting Law regional or district public bodies may as an alternative method of posting, post meeting notices on the regional public body website in lieu of filing notices in each community within its region. This was adopted by the MRPC in 2014.

T. Hatch also mentioned that it seems as though the Shirley Board of Selectmen was not interested in serving on the MPO and at the caucus approved an alternate representative for Subregion 3 who is an official at Devens MassDevelopment. The MPO MOU states that Devens officials do not have voting authority with MMPO.

B. Harris responded that Devens is a non-voting Ex-officio member of the MPO. Regarding the representative from Devens being identified as an official designee he would have to review if that supersedes Devens Ex-officio status.

S. Woelfel commented that MRPC should review this matter and come up with a response at the next meeting.

III. Approval of April 20, 2016 Minutes

A motion was made to approve the April 20, 2016 MPO Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

- IV. Montachusett Public Participation Plan
 - *Comments and Responses*
 - *MPO Endorsement of Public Participation Plan*

B. Harris indicated that a Draft Public Participation Plan was out for public comment for 45 days. Comment period ended at the beginning of May. One comment was received from the Fitchburg Cleghorn Center. In general, the comment addressed more outreach regarding transit services and for MRPC to work with MART on transit planning to address issues that riders are having. He distributed a print out of the comments. He also distributed a printout of the response to Fitchburg Cleghorn Center.

A motion was made to approve the Public Participation Plan. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

V. Montachusett FFY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- *Discussion FFY 2016 Transit Amendment No. 2*
- *MPO Release for Public Comment*

B. Harris distributed a handout entitled Amendment #2 TIP FY2016 Project List which depicts transit projects changes.

B. Mahoney explained some of the changes reflect funding as projects came in under budget. The total funding numbers have not changed but funding has been adjusted. Due to the adjustment two new projects were added including acquiring and renovating equipment. She explained the changes in detail.

A motion was made to approve the TIP FY2016 changes as an adjustment and not an amendment. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

VI. Montachusett FFY 2017-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- *Draft Development Update*

B. Harris distributed a TEC Project Scoring List which depicts what year the Projects fall in. He also distributed and explained in detail a Fiscal Constraint Analysis. Summer Street's project cost was revised to \$10,039,131 so that was used to develop different funding scenarios. The District feels that the Summer Street project may be a better candidate for 2018 instead of 2017. The project is eligible for advanced construction funding. He explained several funding scenarios. He will put together the final scenario for discussion at the next MPO Meeting based upon additional information to be provided.

A. Frost asked if the design money was in place for the Summer Street Construction Project.

T. Domigan responded it is not.

A. Frost indicated his concerns regarding the project with design money not being in place possibly making this a high risk project next year on the TIP.

Discussion followed regarding the readiness of the Summer Street Project and TIP funding scenarios.

P. Bertram indicated that Lunenburg has appropriated the funds for the design and Lunenburg is committed to moving this project forward.

VII. 2016-2017 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Development
- *Draft Development Update*

B. Harris distributed and explained a handout regarding the UPWP tasks and budget. S. Bean and G. Snow provided detail on the UPWP tasks that would be undertaken.

Discussion followed on a stormwater app task.

VIII. Updates
- *MassDOT Highway Division*

A. Frost indicated that Sterling Route 12 Chocksett Road Project is at 75% design and will be advertised in August.

J. Hoynoski stated that Royalston Bridge on Stockwell Road over Lawrence Brook is at 25% design. In Winchendon, the bridge at Royalston Road over Tarbell Brook is at 25% design and a design public hearing will be held tomorrow night.

An updated was requested on the Route 2 Jackson Road Project. A. Frost responded he would look into that matter.

- *Transit*

B. Mahoney indicated MART just received two new buses. Bike racks will be installed on all buses and some vans by the end of June.

G. Kahale stated that the Town of Ayer voted to approve an article to take the access to the commuter train station by eminent domain. An appraiser has been hired as well as a 21E firm. A new commuter rail schedule was implemented last week.

M. Khan indicated that MART is working with Devens for transit service from this area to Devens.

- *MJTC*

B. Harris indicated election of officers for MJTC will take place in July. Traffic count program is underway.

IX. Administrative Matters
- *Next MPO Meeting - June 29, 2016*

X. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

DOCUMENT/EXHIBITS PRESENTED AT MEETING

May 25, 2016 MPO Agenda
MPO Minutes of April 20, 2016
Montachusett MPO Meeting Dates and Public Comment Period Calendar
PPP Comments and Comment Response

Draft PPP
FFY2016 Transit Amendment
Scenario Comparison
TIP Scenario Summary