

MONTACHUSETT METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MMPO) MEETING

Held at
Montachusett Regional Planning Commission
464 Abbott Avenue, Leominster, MA 01453

Minutes of May 16, 2018

S. Woelfel representing MassDOT Secretary Stephanie Pollack called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

I. Introduction

SIGNATORIES PRESENT

Steve Woelfel, MassDOT OTP; Sarah Bradbury, MassDOT District 3; John Telepciak, MRPC; Albert Gallant, Subregion 1; Paula Bertram, Subregion 3; Mohammed Khan, MART;

MEMBERS AND GUESTS PRESENT

Derek Krevat, MassDOT OTP; Jeff Hoynoski, MassDOT District 2; Mary Jo Bohart, Fitchburg; Stephen Nims, Ashburnham; Eric Pollitt, Templeton; Bonnie Mahoney, MART

STAFF PRESENT

George Snow; Sheri Bean; Brian Doherty; David Fee; George Kahale

II. Public Comments

No public comments were made.

III. Approval of April 18, 2018 Minutes

A motion was made to approve the April 18, 2018 MPO Meeting Minutes as presented. Changes to attendance needed: Ann Sullivan did not attend the last meeting. Paula Bertram attended the meeting. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

IV. Montachusett FFY 2018-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- *Review/Response of Comments to Draft TIP Amendment #5*
- *MPO Endorsement of FFY 2018-2022 TIP Amendment #5*

G. Snow referred members to a handout on Amendment #5. Amendment #5 went out for a 21-day public comment period on April 24th which closed on May 14th. No comments were received. The need for the Amendment is to bring the FFY 2018-2022 into alignment with the proposed FFY 2019-2023 TIP and to reflect recent cost changes in bridge projects. The Amendment moves Project #607127 - the Evergreen Road over Mason Brook bridge in Hubbardston from FFY 2018 to FFY 2019 under Section 2A Bridge Program Off-System. The Amendment reflects cost changes to two projects under Section 2A Bridge Program On-System: in Townsend project #608529 - West Meadow Road over Locke Brook saw a cost reduction from \$2,062,000 to \$992,000; in Athol project #608260 - Washington Avenue over Athol Pond Outlet saw a cost increase from \$2,266,000 to \$2,485,000. Additionally, the amendment affects two projects in FFY 2020. In Shirley project #608635 - Longley Road over Mulpus Brook under Section 2A Bridge Program Off-System is being moved from FFY 2021. In Westminster project #608639 - Whitmanville Road over Whitman River under Section 2A Bridge Program On-System saw a cost increase from \$2,492,000 to \$2,791,000.

A motion was made to endorse TIP Amendment #5 as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

V. Montachusett FFY 2019-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- *Review/Response of Comments to Draft FFY 2019-2023 TIP*
- *MPO Endorsement of FFY 2019-2023 TIP*
- *MPO Endorsement of Self Certification Statement*
- *MPO Endorsement of Global Warming Solutions Act Requirements*

B. Doherty stated that the 21-day public comment period for the Draft FFY 2019-2023 TIP closed on Monday May 14, 2018. The MRPC received two comments. One comment letter was provided by MassDOT OTP and one email was provided by the Town of Ashburnham. The first MassDOT comment pertained to the narrative at the beginning of the report as additional narrative was needed. Clarifying tables and figures as well as updating sources were also needed. The MRPC response noted the comments and changes and updates were made throughout the narrative portion of the TIP. The second MassDOT comment pertained to the Federal Highway Projects Listing. There were several changes to project cost needed and projects needed to be added. The MRPC response noted that the corrections and additions were made. The third MassDOT comment pertained to the Greenhouse Gas Analysis. Several projects were identified as a qualitative decrease and one project needed a quantitative analysis. The MRPC response noted that the corrections were made and the quantitative analysis was completed. The Town of Ashburnham comment was in support of project 601957 located on Route 101. The Town indicated that the design has progressed and request the project be moved from the 2023 TIP to an earlier year if possible. The MRPC response noted the comment and that monitoring the progress of the project will be ongoing and reconsidered during the development of future TIPS.

A motion was made to endorse the FFY 2019-2023 TIP as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

B. Doherty stated that there are two other endorsements that need to be completed. The first is the Self Certification Statement which certifies that the comprehensive, continuing, and cooperative transportation planning process for fiscal years 2018 and 2019 in the Montachusett MPO is addressing issues facing the region and is being conducted in accordance with all applicable requirements.

A motion was made to endorse the Self Certification Statement as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

B. Doherty stated that the second document is the Global Warming Solutions Act Requirements. This document will certify that the Federal fiscal year 2019 – 2023 TIP for the Montachusett MPO is in compliance with all applicable requirements in the Global Warming Solutions Act requirements for the transportation sector and Massachusetts Department of Transportation.

A motion was made to endorse the Global Warming Solutions Act Requirements as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

VI. Montachusett FFY 2019 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

- *Review/Response of Comments to Draft FFY 2019 UPWP*
- *MPO Endorsement of FFY 2019 UPWP*

S. Bean stated that the 21-day public comment period for the Draft FFY 2019-2023 TIP closed on Monday May 14, 2018. The MRPC received one comment letter from MassDOT OTP.

The first comment called for updating links to WeMove Massachusetts and GreenDOT which the MRPC completed.

The second comment called for ensuring consistency with pluralization of “products” for each subsection of each task which was completed.

The third comment called for a procedure for establishing a bikeability or quality of service metric and explain how work will be done identifying gaps in the regional bicycle network. The MRPC will be reviewing metrics used by other regions to see what process would make the most sense for our region and will implement that metric for our bikeability/walkability work. The MRPC will continue to work with the MRTD to further identify and prioritize the bike & pedestrian gaps based on this metric.

The fourth comment addressed Task 1.44 (Development of Transportation Improvement Program) and called for providing more detail as to what the “economic measures” used in the TIP entail. The MRPC will examine this further but we will find ways to incorporate this into the TEC scoring process for TIP projects and work with MassDOT & other MRPC partners to find other ways to incorporate this further. MassDOT mentioned that they hired a consultant regarding this, Derrick is working with them on this project, it’s almost done and will be available soon.

The fifth comment addressed Task 2.14 (Regional Demographics and Model) and called for a description of how this task will tie into the ongoing Socioeconomic Projects Committee work with the Donahue Institute and MAPC. The MRPC is currently active participants in this committee, we have been working with them and reviewing their data and will continue to do so. We will then use their projections into our model moving forward.

The sixth comment addressed Task. 2.64 (Freight Corridor Analysis) and called for a description of how this task will tie into the MassDOT Freight Plan. The MRPC will use this data as a guide to identify critical corridors. We have already been involved in the review process and will review the document further to see how it can be incorporated.

The seventh comment addressed Task 3.24 (Performance Measures) and called for a more thorough outline of the federally required performance measures, and should include a timeframe for performance measure adoption, a description of the format of the PM Dashboard and what info it will contain. The MRPC included additional PMs identified by MassDOT – PM2 (bridge & pavement measures) & PM3 (NHS/CMAQ/Freight measures). We will present this data to the MPO for adoption in the near future.

The eighth comment addressed Task 4.34 (Technical Assistance to MART) and called for updating the year to FFY2019 which was completed.

The ninth comment called for the ensurance that all relevant task are performed with input from MassDOT Dist. 2 and 3, as appropriate which was completed.

The final comment called for the document to be checked for overall consistency in punctuation, capitalization, font size, grammar and typos which was completed. The MRPC response stated that the requested updates and references made to the final UPWP document reflect and address the comments.

A motion was made to endorse the FFY 2019 UPWP as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

VII. Updates

- *MassDOT Highway Division*

J. Hoynoski stated that the bridge project #608179 North Fitzwilliam Road over Lawrence Brook in Royalston is at 100% design and the PS&E is due in a few weeks.

S. Bradbury stated that the PS&E for the Gardner/Leominster/Sterling Safety Improvements at Three Locations project has just been received and is under review. The anticipated advertisement date is in this fiscal year. In Fitchburg Route 31 over Phillips Brook bridge project is at 100% and under review. In Gardner Pleasant Street over B&M Railroad bridge project is at 100% and PS&E is due next week. In Lunenburg Route 2A over the Mulpus Brook bridge project is at 25% design. In Fitchburg/Leominster/Lunenburg, the Summer Street project received a notice-to-proceed and construction should begin soon.

- *Transit*

M. Khan stated that the budget for the state will be putting some constraints on MART and there may need to be some service cuts. The Legislature is working to restore the funding. MART has been in discussion with Littleton to add services.

G. Kahale stated that the DRC parcel in Ayer has been transferred to the Town for the Ayer Commuter Rail Facility project. The MART consultant has completed the final design. It will be ready by the end of this week and sent to MART and the Town for final review. The project may go out for bidding on June 1, 2018 with construction to start in the summer and completion next year. MART will be leasing land for temporary parking for commuters during construction.

G. Kahale stated that MART will begin new services from the Littleton Commuter Rail Station to industries in Westford and Littleton. The bus route was approved and the service will start in June. The service will be for reverse commute to such companies as Red Hat, IBM and Juniper Network.

- *Montachusett Joint Transportation Committee (MJTC)*

D. Fee stated that, at the MJTC meeting on May 9th, Noreen Piazza mentioned that Lancaster is moving forward with Route 70/117 project and the complete streets program is underway. There will be a 25% public design meeting for the Route 70/117 project on May 23rd in Lancaster in the Prescott Building. The next MJTC meeting will be held in Winchendon on June 13th. The CIP public meeting schedule was discussed.

B. Doherty mentioned that the annual pavement survey for local DPW officials will be sent out soon so communities should be on the lookout for it. This year we will make use of Survey Monkey so it can be conducted online.

- *Montachusett Regional Planning Commission (MRPC)*

B. Doherty stated the next MRPC meeting is scheduled for June 7th.

VIII. Administrative Matters

- *Upcoming Actions Related to Revised Boston UZA Memorandum of Understanding*

D. Krevat stated that the UZA MOU was triggered by FHWA's most recent certification review of the other MPO's which requires the MPO to be party to a new agreement as a result of the population growth of the Boston UA. The designation of the Boston UA has expanded west, north and south. The

UZA MOU sets forward procedures for coordination between all MPOs for a variety of different plans that involve performance measures and targets that are by UA and not by State. The MOU lays out data sharing issues. David Mohler is going to sign the MOU on behalf of all the MPOs included in the MOU. Input is requested from all parties listed in the MOU. There is not a hard deadline at this time for the MOU to be signed but it is an ongoing discussion with FHWA.

- *Next MPO Meeting*

B. Doherty indicated that the next MPO meeting is scheduled for June 20, 2018 at 1:00 PM here in the MRPC offices.

D. Fee provided additional updates: Eric Pollitt (Templeton) was recognized as the new Subregion 1 designee for the Alternate member, Julie Richard; Baystate Roads announced a Design of ADA Curb Ramps and Pedestrian Access Routes workshop; the MRPC ADA Survey has been distributed to communities and will conclude on June 1st; MassDOT has posted the STIP for public comment which will conclude on June 4th; and the dates for the Governor's Commission on the Future of Transportation Listening Sessions is available.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 1:34 p.m.

DOCUMENT/EXHIBITS PRESENTED AT MEETING

MPO 5 16 2018 Agenda
4 18 18 MPO Minutes
Interested Parties Letter 4 20 18
FFY 2018 Amendment #5 Summary 5 14 2018
FFY 2019-2023 TIP Comments
FFY 2019 UPWP Comments
Urbanized Area MOU
MassDOT CIP Public Meeting Schedule
Design of ADA Curb Ramps and Pedestrian Access Routes workshop
MassDOT STIP Announcement
Governor's Commission on the Future of Transportation Listening Sessions
FFY 2019 UPWP