

MONTACHUSETT METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MMPO) MEETING

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

Minutes of June 20, 2018

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

I. Introduction

SIGNATORIES PRESENT

Bryan Pounds, MassDOT OTP; Sarah Bradbury, MassDOT District 3; Albert Gallant, Subregion 1; Bonnie Mahoney, MART; Gordon Robertson, Leominster; Phil Duffy, Subregion 3

MEMBERS AND GUESTS PRESENT

Cassie Chase, FHWA; Jeff Hoynoski, MassDOT District 2; Brian Murphy, QRYDE; Mital Parikh, QRYDE/MART;

STAFF PRESENT

Sheri Bean; Brian Doherty; George Kahale; George Snow

II. Public Comments

No public comments were made.

III. Approval of May 16, 2018 Minutes

A motion was made to approve the May 16, 2018 MPO Meeting Minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

IV. Cassandra Chase, FHWA Community Planner

-Open Discussion on FHWA and the MPO

C. Chase wanted to take this opportunity to introduce herself as the new MPO liaison for FHWA. She also discussed the Metropolitan Planning Agreement status. In May 2016 the final planning rule came out that amended the Federal Highway regulations 23 CFR 450. This amendment requires written provisions to be developed between each MPO, the state and transit providers for the purpose of documenting the performance-based planning and programing responsibilities.

B. Pounds mentioned MassDOT has been working on their portion of these agreements and are now working with New Hampshire and Rhode Island to finalize them. MassDOT is also working on a template MOU for all MPOs to consider adopting so that they could create one planning agreement between the state and the MPOs and transit providers. Each MPO does have the option to sign on to the template version or create their own.

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

- Review and Discussion on potential TIP Amendment or Adjustment

B. Mahoney presented the proposed TIP changes in regards to the transit element. She explained that some of the changes were just funding adjustments, as opposed to new projects being added. Adjusted

projects were for project number RTD0005941 - bus route signing which had a \$300,000 cost reduction due to a delay and project RTD0005948 - buying replacement vans, which now shows the final dollar amounts where previously it was an estimate. The third project, RTD0006254 was split into two separate projects due to a higher than expected bid for the paving portion of the project. The rehab portion of the project has been completed. And finally, project RTD0002759 is being increased from \$43,000 to \$120,000. The cost increase is due to an excess of funds and the need for engine and transmission replacements for the buses.

A motion was made to release the FFY 2018-2022 TIP amendment for a 21-day public comment period. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

VI. Ride to Wellness Program

- *Presentation by Mital Parikh*

M. Parikh presented a short video on the Ride to Wellness program that recently launched. This program allows users to search for a ride using the Rides to Wellness app and the software searches for low cost transit options for you. The goal is to make the MART transit system more efficient by showing where the buses and vans are and how people can connect to the already existing routes. They are currently looking for other partners and communities

VII. Fitchburg Trail Guide Project

- *Update and Review of Final Trail Map Guide*

S.Bean presented the final version of the Fitchburg Trail guide that was developed through the Community Trail Brochure task in the 2016-2017 UPWP. The City of Fitchburg is currently in the process of developing a Trail Vision document and the trail guide was developed as part of this process. The guide is currently at the printer and will be available within the next few days. Distribution will occur throughout the city as well as local hotels, restaurants and popular visitor destinations. A Spanish version will also be available soon.

It was also mentioned that individual trail maps were also created as part of this project and these will be made available on the City of Fitchburg's website.

VIII. Updates

- *MassDOT Highway Division*

S. Bradbury mentioned the Pleasant St Bridge over the B&M Railroad in Gardner is at 100% design and the project should go out to bid in September. The other project that was mentioned is the Gardner, Leominster, Sterling Safety Improvement project(s) that are at PS&E.

J. Hoynoski mentioned one project, Royalston bridge replacement on North Fitzwilliam Road over Lawrence Brook is at PS&E and the current advertise date is in July.

- *Transit*

B. Mahoney mentioned that MART is currently wrapping up the end of the fiscal year. The Water Street conference room and kitchen areas underwent a renovation that is just about complete.

G. Kahale discussed the Ayer parking facility status. After 20 years of planning, the Ayer parking facility is moving forward. He also mentioned that the newly established Littleton/Westford shuttle has been very successful. This shuttle transports people from the Littleton commuter rail station to the major employers in Littleton & Westford.

- *Montachusett Joint Transportation Committee (MJTC)*

B. Doherty mentioned that the June meeting was canceled and the next meeting is scheduled for July 11th at 6:30pm at MRPC.

- *Montachusett Regional Planning Commission (MRPC)*

B. Doherty stated that the MRPC typically meets on the first Thursday of the month, which would be on July 5th this year. Due to the close proximity to the 4th of July holiday, the meeting was moved to June 28th.

IX. Administrative Matters

- *Next MPO Meeting*

B. Pounds mentioned that due to an amendment being done on the long-range transportation plan, a July meeting must be scheduled. B. Doherty indicated that the next MPO meeting is scheduled for July 18, 2018 at 1:00 PM here in the MRPC offices.

X. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

DOCUMENT/EXHIBITS PRESENTED AT MEETING

MPO 6 20 2018 Agenda

5 16 18 MPO Minutes

FFY 2018-2022 TIP Amendment #6 to the FFY 2018 Transit Element
Amendment/Adjustment Procedures

MART Rides 2 Wellness flyer

Eastern Federal Lands Access Program Call for Projects Alert – MASSACHUSETTS (6/11/18)