

# **MONTACHUSETT METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MMPO) MEETING**

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

**Minutes of July 18, 2018**

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

## **I. Introduction**

### **SIGNATORIES PRESENT**

Steve Woeffle, MassDOT OTP; Arthur Frost, MassDOT District 3; Albert Gallant, Subregion 1; Bonnie Mahoney, MART; Gordon Robertson, Leominster; Noreen Piazza, Subregion 4; Trevor Beauregard, Gardner; John Telepciak, MRPC Chairman, Stephen DiNatale, Mayor of Fitchburg

### **MEMBERS AND GUESTS PRESENT**

Cassie Chase, FHWA; Sarah Bradbury, MassDOT District 3; Mike Bolduc, MassDOT District 2; Derek Krevat, MassDOT OTP; Travis Brown, Hubbardston DPW; Sam Squailia, Fitchburg City Council; Tim Kilhart, Harvard DPW; Phyllis Luck, Lunenburg

### **STAFF PRESENT**

Brad Harris; George Kahale; George Snow; Brian Doherty

## **II. Public Comments**

No public comments were made.

## **III. Approval of June 20, 2018 Minutes**

A motion was made to approve the June 20, 2018 MPO Meeting Minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

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

- *Review and Discussion of Comments to Draft TIP Amendment #6*
- *MPO Endorsement of FFY 2018-2022 TIP Amendment #6*

B. Harris discussed Amendment #6 to the 2018-2022 TIP, which was put out for a 21-day public comment period from 6/22 to 7/13/18. He indicated that on 7/10 there were some changes which had been made to the amendment. These changes were presented at the 7/11 MJTC and due to some confusion between the original and revised amendment, the MJTC requested the MPO to consider restarting the 21-day public comment process. Mr. Harris presented the differences between the original and revised versions of the amendment for clarification purposes. No other comments were received on Amendment #6.

B. Mahony indicated changes were made by MassDOT in the system which tracks transit projects listed in the TIP. The revised amendment was due to shifting of funds and confusion within this system which has since been rectified. Due to a pending grant dependent on this amendment, Ms. Mahony indicated that MART would prefer not to restart the public comment process.

Discussion on projects involved in the amendment continued.

S. Woeffle commented on the importance of communication between agencies to avoid confusion in the amendment process. Mr. Woeffle also indicated that he believes the MPO can support the amendment without another comment period.

S. Bradbury proposed a future presentation on transit funding would benefit members of both the MPO and MJTC.

A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to endorse Amendment #6 to the 2018-2022 TIP.

## **V. Montachusett 2016 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)**

*-Review & Discussion on Need for Amendment to the 2016 RTP*

*-MPO Action to Release 2016 RTP Draft Amendment for Public Comment*

B. Harris presented the need for an amendment to the 2016 RTP due to a recent decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit in the case of *South Coast Air Quality Management District vs. EPA*, which struck down portions of the *2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) State Implementation Plan (SIP) Requirements Rule*. Mr. Harris summarized the decision and need for the amendment in order to include Air Quality Conformity Determinations for Regionally Significant Projects. Amendment #1 to the 2016 RTP will include air quality analysis on these projects in order to determine that they meet air quality standards.

A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to release Amendment #1 to the 2016 RTP for a 21-day public comment period beginning Monday 7/23/18 and ending Monday 8/14/18.

## **VI. Updates**

*- MassDOT Highway Division*

A. Frost mentioned the Gardner/Leominster/Sterling intersection improvements at three locations should be advertised by the end of August or beginning of September.

Also, in District 3 the Fitchburg/Leominster/Lunenburg Summer Street project is now under construction.

M. Bolduc indicated District 2 has received three new projects which are under review. Those projects are the Washington St. Bridge in Athol, Route 68 in Templeton and Route 202 in Winchendon.

Also, in District 2 the North Fitzwilliam Road over Lawrence Brook bridge in Royalston is advertised with a bid opening anticipated in September.

*- Transit*

G. Kahale discussed the Ayer parking facility status. Bid opening will be 8/1 at 2PM. 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. Currently there are over 20 riders a day.

B. Mahoney mentioned that MART is reissuing an RFP for their operating company and bids are due 9/28.

- *Montachusett Joint Transportation Committee (MJTC)*

B. Harris indicated that the MJTC will be holding elections for Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary at the next meeting on August 8th. He also mentioned the July and August meetings will be held at MRPC offices after holding them in Gardner, Sterling, Westminster and Lancaster in recent months. He made reference to a newly printed Fitchburg Trail Map available for distribution. Also available is a handout on the *Eastern Federal Lands Access Program Call for Projects*, funding opportunity from FHWA.

G. Snow spoke on a survey pertaining to the ADA Transition Plan. 17 of 22 (77%) MRPC member communities completed the survey. Seven communities DO NOT HAVE a Plan in place. All seven are interested in developing, receiving assistance to develop, and receiving training to develop a Plan. Seven communities HAVE a Plan in place. But of these communities, six need to update, are interested in updating, and may be interested in receiving assistance to update the Plan. Two Community Officials completed the survey for each of the three remaining communities that completed the survey. Of those Communities, one community has a Plan in place and does not need to be updated, two Communities have a Plan in place that either needs to be updated or to be developed and both are interested receiving assistance to develop or update the Plan. Final numbers for the communities that completed the survey: eight communities need Plan development, seven communities need an updated Plan, two communities do not need a Plan or an updated Plan.

S. Woeffle suggested sharing the results of the survey with Baystate Roads.

- *Montachusett Regional Planning Commission (MRPC)*

J. Telepciak indicated that the MRPC will meet on 8/2 at 7PM at MRPC.

## **VII. Administrative Matters**

B. Harris made reference to vacancies of representatives to the MPO and a solicitation process for new Subregion Representatives which will begin in August.

- *Next MPO Meeting*

B. Harris indicated that the next MPO meeting is scheduled for August 15, at 1:00 PM here in the MRPC offices.

## **VIII. Adjournment**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 1:38 p.m.

### **DOCUMENT/EXHIBITS PRESENTED AT MEETING**

MPO 7 18 2018 Agenda

6 20 18 MPO Minutes

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

Revised FFY 2018-2022 TIP Amendment #6 to the FFY 2018 Transit Element

TIP Amendment #6 Letter to Interested Parties

Amendment #1 to the 2016 RTP- Air Quality Conformity Determination

Summary of Proposed Amendment #1 to the 2016 RTP  
FHWA Memorandum – Interim Guidance of Conformity Requirements for the 1997 Ozone NAAQS  
Eastern Federal Lands Access Program Call for Projects Alert – MASSACHUSETTS (6/11/18)  
Montachusett MPO Subregion Representative Selection Process