

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

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

**Minutes of August 15, 2018**

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

## **I. Introduction**

### **SIGNATORIES PRESENT**

Bryan Pounds, MassDOT OTP; Arthur Frost, MassDOT Highway Division; Albert Gallant, Subregion 1; Bonnie Mahoney, MART; Gordon Robertson, Leominster; Noreen Piazza, Subregion 4; Trevor Beauregard, Gardner; John Telepciak, MRPC Chairman, Mary Jo Bohart, Fitchburg

### **MEMBERS AND GUESTS PRESENT**

Cassie Chase, FHWA; Jennifer Brown, FHWA; Sarah Bradbury, MassDOT District 3; Mike Bolduc, MassDOT District 2; Derek Krevat, MassDOT OTP; Travis Brown, Hubbardston DPW; Tim Kilhart, Harvard DPW; Jamie Toale, Lunenburg

### **STAFF PRESENT**

Brian Doherty; George Kahale

## **II. Public Comments**

No public comments were made.

## **III. Approval of July 18, 2018 Minutes**

A motion was made to approve the July 18, 2018 MPO Meeting Minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

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

*-Review/Response of Comments to Amendment to the 2016 RTP*

*-MPO Endorsement of 2016 RTP Amendment*

B. Doherty presented the proposed amendment to the 2016 RTP. He summarized the need for an amendment 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. Doherty 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. There were no comments received during the 21-day public comment period from 7/23/18 to 8/14/18.

A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to endorse Amendment #1 to the 2016 RTP.

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

- *Review of Potential TIP Adjustments/Amendments*
- *MPO Action Related to Potential TIP Adjustment/Amendment*

B. Doherty discussed proposed adjustment #3 to the 2018-2022 TIP. He indicated the adjustment was needed because of a decrease in cost to Project # 608864 Gardner – Bridge Replacement, G-01-008, Pleasant Street over B&M Railroad. This project is currently listed in 2018 under Section 2A Bridge Program/On-System at \$4,404,240. The proposed adjustment will decrease its cost by 18% to \$3,606,296. He indicated that although adjustments are normally reserved for project funding changes of less than 10% of the total cost, this adjustment would be acceptable because it does not affect the total target for the region and fiscal constraint will not be affected.

A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to endorse Adjustment #3 to the 2018-2022 TIP.

## **VI. Montachusett Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Plan (CPT-HSP) Update**

- Presentation and Review of Draft CPT-HSP Update
- MPO Action to Release Draft CPT-HSP for Public Comment

G. Kahale presented the Draft Update of the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Plan (CPT-HSP). He indicated that the purpose of this plan is to identify the transportation needs of individuals with disabilities, older adults, and people with low incomes, provide strategies for meeting these needs, and prioritize transportation services for funding and implementation. The plan is updated every 4 years. Mr. Kahale presented the results of a number of surveys and analysis showing demographic and socio-economic conditions in MART's service area.

B. Doherty indicated that the CPT-HSP would be released for a 21-day public comment period from Tuesday, August 28 to Monday, September 17. This will give a chance for the MJTC to review the update and review any comments.

A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to release the Draft CPT-HSP for Public Comment.

## **VII. Updates**

- *MassDOT Highway Division*

M. Bolduc indicated that in District 2, Athol Crescent St. bridge crossing Millers River is at 75% design and on track to be advertised in 2019. He also indicated the North Fitzwilliam Road over Lawrence Brook bridge in Royalston is advertised with a bid opening anticipated in September.

A. Frost mentioned the Gardner/Leominster/Sterling intersection improvements at three locations should be advertised September 1. He also mentioned that both the Fitchburg Route 31 bridge over Phillips Brook and Gardner Pleasant Street bridge will be advertised September 15.

- *Transit*

B. Mahoney mentioned that MART is considering cutbacks to service in Athol/Orange due to funding no longer being available. Public hearings will be held on these potential cuts at the end of September. She also mentioned "Transit Day" will be on 9/12 during which free rides to the public will be offered in honor of MART's 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

G. Kahale discussed the Ayer parking facility status. Bid opening was on 8/1. Two bids were received and both were rejected due to being too high. Feedback from other contractors who did not bid was sought by MART. Many of these contractors indicated that they were too busy to bid on this project. MART plans to review plans and re-advertise the project in October.

- *Montachusett Joint Transportation Committee (MJTC)*

B. Doherty indicated that at the August meeting MJTC had their annual election of officers. Jon Wyman, Westminster, was elected Chair; Paula Bertram, Lunenburg, was elected Vice Chair; Doug Walsh, Athol, was elected Secretary. He mentioned that the next meeting is scheduled for 9/12, 6:30PM at MRPC offices and will include a discussion on transit funding.

- *Montachusett Regional Planning Commission (MRPC)*

J. Telepciak indicated that the MRPC will meet on 9/6 at 7PM at MRPC.

## **VIII. Administrative Matters**

B. Doherty referred to vacancies of representatives to the MPO in Subregion 3. Communities were consulted on possible replacements. Lunenburg presented Jamie Toale as a Representative and Harvard presented Kara Minar as an Alternate. MRPC has developed a poll for other communities in the subregion to provide feedback which will be available through the end of August. Staff anticipates the new Representative and Alternate, along with their Designees will be seated by the September meeting.

- *Next MPO Meeting*

B. Doherty indicated that the next MPO meeting is scheduled for September 18, at 1:00 PM here in the MRPC offices.

## **IX. Adjournment**

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

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

MPO 8 15 18 Agenda

7 18 18 MPO Minutes

FFY 2018-2022 TIP Adjustment #3 to the FFY 2018 Highway Element

2016 RTP Amendment #1 Letter to Interested Parties

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

Summary of Proposed Amendment #1 to the 2016 RTP

CPTHST Plan Update FINAL DRAFT