

MONTACHUSETT METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MMPO) MEETING

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

Minutes of November 28, 2018

D. Mohler representing MassDOT Secretary Stephanie Pollack called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

I. Introduction

SIGNATORIES PRESENT

David Mohler, MassDOT OTP; Sarah Bradbury, MassDOT Highway Division; Tim Kilhart, Subregion 3; Gordon Robertson, Leominster; John Telepciak, MRPC; Bonnie Mahoney, MART

MEMBERS AND GUESTS PRESENT

Derek Krevat, MassDOT OTP; Travis Brown, Hubbardston; Mark Wetzel, Ayer; Robert Pontebriand, Ayer; Heather Lemieux, Lunenburg; Dick O'Brien, Montachusett Regional Trail Coalition/Twin City Rail Assoc.

STAFF PRESENT

Brad Harris; Brian Doherty; George Kahale

II. Public Comments

No public comments were made.

III. Approval of October 17, 2018 Minutes

A motion was made to approve the October 17, 2018 MPO Meeting Minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

IV. Montachusett FFY 2019 – 2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- *Review and Discussion on Potential TIP Amendment*
- *MPO Action to Release TIP Amendment for Public Review and Comment*

B. Harris referenced a handout summarizing proposed Amendment #1 to the 2019 – 2023 TIP. The proposed amendment would adjust project cost to project #608612 Athol-Bridge Replacement, Crescent Street over Millers River. The current cost of \$7,860,160 would be amended to \$4,500,000, a decrease of \$3,360,160. If released for public comment the comment period would begin November 29th and close on December 19th. The project does not affect fiscal constraint due to it being listed in the Bridge Program.

M. Wetzel asked what happens to the funding left over from the reduced cost. D. Mohler indicated that the money would stay in this fiscal year and within the bridge program.

A motion was made and seconded to release Amendment #1 to the 2019 – 2023 TIP for a 21-day public comment period. The motion was passed unanimously.

V. Boston Urbanized Area Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

- *Review and Discussion on MOU*
- *MPO Action to Endorse MOU*

B. Harris referenced the Boston Urbanized Area Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Due to the Boston UZA expanding into the Montachusett region it was necessary for the Montachusett MPO to be included in the MOU. The UZA MOU sets forward procedures for coordination between all MPOs and the states of New Hampshire and Rhode Island for a variety of different plans that involve data and information sharing and cooperation in general. The state has been working with all parties involved to establish this MOU.

A motion was made and seconded to endorse the MOU as presented. The motion was passed unanimously.

VI. Transportation Evaluation Criteria (TEC)

- *Discussion of Proposed Changes to Project TEC Scoring for TIP*

B. Harris reviewed the process staff has been undertaking to revise the TEC. The TEC is used to score and prioritize all Target Eligible projects in the TIP and was last revised in 2013. Discussions with the MJTC have taken place in the last two months in which the group has reviewed the current TEC and discussed possible changes the staff has suggested. He spoke on the merits of making changes and the overall goal of making the criteria clear and more quantitative in general. The MJTC has contributed comments on possible changes and provided other suggestions as well. A number of possible changes were described. Now that the group has reviewed the whole TEC, staff will draft a final draft TEC for the group to go over as a whole.

M. Wetzel asked how the weighting of each category was determined. B. Harris indicated that the weighting of the categories has not been the focus as of yet but would be determined later in the process.

VII. Updates

- *MassDOT Highway Division*

S. Bradbury indicated that in District 2 Winchendon Route 202 bridge was advertised on October 20th and bids will be opened in February. In Athol, Washington Street over Washington Pond is at 100% design. The Athol Crescent Street Bridge over Millers River will be at 100% design in December.

District 3 updates include Clinton, Route 110 High Street P,S&E is due in December. The Twin Cities Rail Trail revised 25% design is expected soon. In Hubbardston, Route 68 resurfacing will have a design public hearing on December 18th. In Townsend, West Meadow Road over Locke Brooke is at 75% design.

- *Transit*

B. Mahoney mentioned new MART bus service changes will be going into effect on December 3rd. Planned fare increases will not go into effect until January. Monthly passes will have a cost increase of five to ten dollars.

G. Kahale elaborated on some of the changes, which were made because of decreased funding and demand. Also, the Ayer parking facility will be put out for re-bid by December 12th with a possible bid opening in January.

- *Montachusett Joint Transportation Committee (MJTC)*

B. Harris mentioned that notices have been sent out to communities to solicit volunteers for MPO Representatives and Alternates. Those wishing to volunteer have been asked to submit their name by December 14th. Selection meetings will be held in the new year for the terms which will begin in September of 2019.

He also mentioned the MJTC's review of the Goals, Objectives and Strategies for the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), which is following a similar process as the TEC review. Additionally, the RTP website should be up in December.

A handout of the Safe Routes to School Program infrastructure applications was summarized. Also, a handout of all MRPC meetings has been provided.

The next meeting of the MJTC will be held on December 12th at 6:30 PM in MRPC offices, during which the group will continue its review of the TEC and RTP Goals, Objectives and Strategies.

- *Montachusett Regional Planning Commission (MRPC)*

J. Telepciak spoke of the Commissions plan to work with Federal, State and local officials to address improvements to Route 2 in anticipation of new developments along the corridor within the next 20 years.

VIII. Administrative Matters

- *Next MPO Meeting*

B. Harris indicated that the next MPO meeting is scheduled for December 19th at 1:00 PM in MRPC offices.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 2:38 p.m.

DOCUMENT/EXHIBITS PRESENTED AT MEETING

MPO 11 28 2018 Agenda

MPO 10 17 2018 Minutes

Proposed Amendment #1 to 2019 – 2023 TIP

UZA Boston MA-NH-RI UZA Memorandum of Understanding

Boston Urbanized Area -2010 Census Map

Draft Revised TEC version 3.0

Existing TEC

2019 Calendar of MRPC Meetings

Safe Routes to School Infrastructure Applications Announcement