

MONTACHUSETT METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MMPO) MEETING

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

Minutes of February 20, 2019

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

I. Introduction

SIGNATORIES PRESENT

David Mohler, MassDOT; Sarah Bradbury, MassDOT Dist. 3; John Telepciak, MRPC; Bruno Fisher, MART; Gordon Robertson, Leominster; Mary Jo Bohart, Fitchburg; Albert Gallant, Subregion 1; Stephanie Lahtinen, Subregion 2; Tim Kilhart, Subregion 3

MEMBERS AND GUESTS PRESENT

Derek Krevat, MassDOT OTP; Jeff Hoynoski, MassDOT District 2; Steve Nims, Ashburnham DPW; Mark Wetzell, Ayer DPW; Jeffrey Williams, Hubbardston; Ryan McLane, Hubbardston; Travis Brown, Hubbardston DPW; Alicia Muck, Hubbardston; Mike Antonellis, Lancaster; Adam Lamontagne, Templeton; Bob Szocik, Templeton DPW; Nicolas Bosonetto, VHB; Nick Lapointe, Fuss & O'Neill; Paul Milewski, Green International; Bill Scully, Green International; Jonathan Rockwell, TEC, Inc.; Matt Macey, CTR Maguire;

STAFF PRESENT

Brad Harris; Brian Doherty; Sheri Bean; George Snow; George Kahale

II. Public Comments

No public comments were made.

III. Approval of January 16, 2019 Minutes

A motion was made to approve the January 16, 2019 MPO Meeting Minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

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

- *Review of Comments of TIP Amendment #2*
- *MPO Endorsement of TIP Amendment #2*
- *Review of Possible TIP Amendment #3 & MPO Action Related to Amendment #3*

B. Harris referenced a handout summarizing proposed Amendment #2 to the 2019 – 2023 Highway TIP. The proposed amendment would adjust project cost to project #608620 Athol-Bridge Replacement, Washington Ave over Athol Pond Outlet. The current cost of \$2,485,419 would be amended to \$2,158,529, a decrease of \$326,890. The comment period began on January 25th and closed on February 14th. In addition to the Highway Element, on the FFY 2019 Transit Element four projects were added, three projects had cost changes and three projects were removed. During the comment period, only one comment was received. That comment was from MassDOT OTP. It added to the project description to the Athol bridge project #608620 the wording “and A-15-004, Morgan Ave over Athol Pond Outlet.” This comment was noted and the description changed as indicated.

A motion was made and seconded to endorse Amendment #2 to the 2019 – 2023 TIP with the additional language as indicated in the comment from MassDOT. The motion was passed unanimously.

There was no discussion regarding a possible TIP Amendment #3. The item was added to the agenda based upon a possible request by MassDOT but at this time there is nothing forthcoming and therefore there is no Amendment #3 to be acted upon.

V. MassDOT Safety Performance Measures – CY 2019

- *MPO Adoption of State Safety Performance Measures for CY 2019*

G. Snow referenced a handout on the statewide CY 2019 Safety Performance Targets. The five annual safety performance targets of *Total Fatalities*, *Fatality Rate*, *Total Incapacitating Injuries*, *Incapacitating Injuries Rate*, and *Total Number of Non-Motorized Fatalities and Incapacitating Injuries* were discussed at the January MPO meeting. At that time, MassDOT reviewed the proposed target numbers for the state for calendar year 2019. MassDOT is setting the Target to flatline through 2019 as a way to reflect setting the goal to reduce the upward trend through adopting the Vision Zero mentality of getting the numbers to zero. The MPOs are asked to either adopt the statewide targets or to develop and report their own target numbers. Last year, the Montachusett MPO voted to adopt the state target figures. Adopting the Targets does not commit the MRPC region to achieving the numbers set in the Targets but says that the MRPC agrees with the MassDOT process.

A motion was made to adopt the safety performance measures developed by the state. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

VI. Performance Based Planning Agreement

- *Information and Feedback*

B. Harris referred members to a handout entitled *Performance Based Planning and Program Agreement*. This is a draft of an agreement compiled by MassDOT to address and define the roles, responsibilities, development, monitoring, and reporting of performance measures between MPOs, RTAs and state agencies. The agreement outlines how performance measures are developed, adopted and reported on the state level as well as the MPO level. It covers the sharing of data as well as dispute resolution. This item is informational right now and is being presented so that MPO members can review the draft and make any comments they deem appropriate. A final agreement will be presented at a future MPO meeting for formal endorsement.

VII. Montachusett FFY 2020 – 2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- *Project Presentations*
- *Transportation Evaluation Criteria (TEC) Scoring*

B. Harris gave a brief introduction on the development of the 2020-2024 TIP, the projects under review and the target figures received from MassDOT that will establish the different federal fiscal years. He then introduced the project presentations given by the project proponent and/or their consultant. Each presentation included an update on the design status, the issues and problems to be addressed, anticipated time schedules and costs. Presentations were provided by:

- Green International – LEOMINSTER #604499 - Reconstruction/ Rehabilitation on Route 12 (Central Street), Including Rehabilitation of L-08-022
- CDR Maguire – GARDNER #608888 - Reclamation and Related Work on Pearson Boulevard

- TEC, Inc. – HUBBARDSTON #608793 - Highway Reconstruction of Route 68 (Main Street), from 1,000 Ft North of Williamsville Road to Elm Street
- Fuss & O'Neill – TEMPLETON #608424 - Reconstruction of Route 68, From King Phillip Trail (Route 202) North to The Phillipston Town Line (2.65 Miles)

During the presentations, discussion and questions were asked regarding the projects and their scopes.

Upon completion of the presentations, B. Doherty discussed the project priority rankings based upon the new Transportation Evaluation Criteria (TEC version 4) as well as a comparison conducted of the priority rankings from the prior TEC scoring method (TEC version 3) versus the TEC version 4. Based upon this review, staff felt that the rankings were comparable and that the major point differences occurred due to the new questions being less ambiguous and based more upon an identifiable quantitative analysis.

VIII. Montachusett 2020 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

- Upcoming Workshops and Presentations

S. Bean referred members to a handout announcing the RTP Public Outreach Workshops scheduled to be held over the next few weeks. The workshops will have a general topic for discussion but will also provide background on the RTP, its development process and how and where comments can be sent.

B. Harris indicated that since the MRPC RTP comment apps have been up, we have received about a dozen comments.

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

- *Budget Adjustment Request and Review*
- *MPO Action on Requested Adjustment*

B. Harris indicated that the MRPC is seeking to adjust the budgets for several tasks in the current FFY 2019 UPWP. This request, if approved, will allow us to seek an outside consultant to assist us in the development of ADA Public Right of Way (PROW) plans for a couple of communities. The overall PL budget remains the same but we would like to \$35,000 from five different tasks into task 3.54 Local ADA Transition Plan. This would then give us \$45,000 that we can put towards the consultant. G. Snow has developed a RFQ to be put out once the budget adjustment is approved.

G. Snow reviewed the RFQ as well as what the consultant will be responsible for once onboard with the MPO members.

B. Harris indicated that if approved by the MPO today, we would submit a request form to MassDOT for their approval to complete the adjustment.

A motion was made to approve the requested UPWP budget adjustment. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

X. Updates

- MassDOT Highway Division

J. Hoynoski indicated that the Winchendon Rt. 202 project was advertised and the bid opening was on February 26th. The Athol bridge project at Washington Ave is at PS&E with an ad date of March 23rd, and the Athol Crescent Street bridge is also at PS&E with an ad date of February 23rd.

S. Bradbury indicated that the Clinton Route 110 (High St) project is anticipated to be ready for advertisement in April; Hubbardston Route 68 resurfacing project is at PS&E with advertisement in June; is due later this month and is expected to be advertised in June; bridge projects in Townsend and Hubbardston are on track to be advertised in August and September and Lancaster, Littleton, Harvard Route 2 resurfacing has been advertised. The Twin Cities Rail Trail project is going to be phased because of the complexity of the project. A design public hearing will be held on March 13th in Leominster.

A question was asked regarding the North Central Bike Path and the Route 140 bridge. S. Bradbury indicated that she was unsure and will check on where it stands.

- *Transit*

G. Kahale stated that MART has opened the general contractor bids for the Ayer Parking Garage. The low bidder was over the budget but the MART Advisory Board voted to get a \$1 million credit line to cover the difference. Construction will hopefully begin in March.

- *Montachusett Joint Transportation Committee (MJTC)*

B. Harris referred to two handouts, the first on a Safe Routes to School Webinar to be held March 5th; and the second on the Design Public Hearing for the Twin Cities Rail Trail Project to be held on March 13th in Leominster. Also, there is a flyer on the MassDOT sponsored Transportation Innovation Conference to be held at the DCU Center in Worcester on April 9th and 10th. There was no MJTC meeting in February due to the weather so the next meeting will be on March 13th at 6:30 pm at these offices.

- *Montachusett Regional Planning Commission (MRPC)*

J. Telepciak mentioned that the MRPC is soliciting for the DLTA funding. We have set two due dates for applications from member communities.

XI. Administrative Matters

- *Next MPO Meeting*

B. Harris indicated that the next MPO meeting is scheduled March 20th at 1:00 PM in MRPC offices.

XII. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

DOCUMENT/EXHIBITS PRESENTED AT MEETING

MPO 2 20 2019 Agenda

MPO 1 16 2019 Minutes

Int Parties Draft TIP Amendment #2 ENGLISH

FFY 2019 Amendment #2 High & Transit Summary 2 20 2019

Safety Performance Measures CY19 -MPO Handout

DRAFT - V2 - Performance-Based Planning and Programming Agreement

MPO Status Target Presentation Info 2 20 2019

FFY 2020 2024 TEC Scores & Comparison 2 20 2019

Project Presentations

RTP Workshop flyer

Proposed UPWP Budget Adj for ADA 2 5 2019

srts_webinar_3_5_2019

MassDOT Transportation Innovation Conference Postcard MassDOT