

MONTACHUSETT METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MMPO) MEETING

**Held Remotely via GoToMeeting.com
Hosted by the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission
464 Abbott Avenue, Leominster, MA 01453**

Minutes September 16, 2020

S. Woelfel representing MassDOT Secretary Stephanie Pollack called the remote meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

I. Introduction

SIGNATORIES PRESENT

Steve Woelfel, MassDOT OTP; Arthur Frost, MassDOT Dist. 3; Mary Jo Bohart, Fitchburg; Bonnie Mahoney, MART; John Telepciak, MRPC; Rosemarie Meissner, Subregion 2

MEMBERS AND GUESTS PRESENT

Bryan Pounds, MassDOT OTP; Derek Krevat, MassDOT OTP; Paula Simmons, MassDOT Dist. 2; Sarah Bradbury, MassDOT Dist. 3; Bruno Fisher, MART; Nicolas Bossonetto, Fitchburg DPW;

STAFF PRESENT

Brad Harris; George Snow; George Kahale

II. Public Comments

No public comments were made. B. Harris reminded the members present how to access all of the handouts for the meeting through the MRPC website.

III. Approval of July 15, 2020 Minutes

A motion was made to approve the July 15, 2020 MPO Meeting Minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and passed with John Telepciak abstaining.

IV. Performance Measure 3 Report and Update

- *Presentation by MassDOT Status of Targets for PM3*
- *MPO Action*

D. Krevat from MassDOT presented to the MPO members a review of the federally require Performance Measures, their targets, changes to the targets and the next required reporting period. Performance Measure 1 covers Safety, PM 2 covers Bridge & Pavement Conditions and PM 3 covers System Performance such as Non-Single Occupant Vehicles (SOV) and Emissions. For the next reporting period, MassDOT is only recommending changes to two targets under PM 3 those being Non-SOV Travel and Emissions reduction. D. Krevat then reviewed several slides related to these new target proposals. As part of the process, since the Montachusett MPO, is part of the Boston Urbanized Area, these targets need to be presented to and adopted by the MPO.

For the Non-SOV travel, new data from 2017 and 2018 indicates that the non-SOV travel percentages in the Boston UZA originally projected for these years were exceeded. Based on this new data, it is proposed that a new trend line be used to revise the four-year target from 35.1% to 35.8%.

On Emissions Reduction, CO2 emissions are being tracked for all projects but this PM only applies to CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation Air Quality) projects. This measure is calculated by summing 2-and 4-year totals of emissions reductions in kilograms per day for all CMAQ-funded projects located in municipalities classified as air quality maintenance areas (Waltham, Lowell, Worcester, and Springfield) or non-attainment areas (Oak Bluffs). Only CMAQ-funded projects in these air quality maintenance or nonattainment areas programmed between 2018 and 2021 were used to calculate the four-year targets. These are then the numbers that will be reported to Federal Highway.

B. Harris asked if there needs to be an MPO action on these changes today or in the near future. D. Krevat indicated that action would need to be taken within 180 days.

B. Pounds also answered that action cannot be taken today by the MPO because these changes have not been formally set yet. They will be set on October 1st.

S. Woelfel stated that therefore, this will be on the October MPO agenda for action.

A question was asked if Worcester was part of the Boston UZA. D. Krevat answered no they are a separate UZA and would have their own targets.

V. MART PTASP Plan & Safety Metrics

- *Presentation of Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) by MART*

B. Mahoney gave a presentation on the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) for the Montachusett Regional Transit Authority (MART) that details the safety processes and procedures for the MART. This plan utilizes existing agency safety practices and best practices to be implemented in order to meet the new regulation set in 49 CFR Part 673 of the federal guidelines. The PTASP includes formal documentation to guide the agency in proactive safety management policy, safety risk management, safety assurance, and safety promotion. The goal is to provide management and labor a comprehensive, collaborative approach to managing safety. The plan includes the process and schedule for an annual review of safety performance measures and to update processes that may be needed to advance the organization's safety practices.

B. Mahoney then walked members through a slide presentation that covered the plan development and approval process, the safety performance targets, the safety management policy, the safety risk management process, safety assurances and safety promotion and training.

A question was asked if there was a role for the general public to report to MART if they see something or is that really not the purpose of this plan. B. Mahoney replied that that is not part of this plan but MART has always had a way for the general public to provide feedback on our services.

VI. Updates

- *MassDOT Highway Division*
- *Transit*
- *Montachusett Joint Transportation Committee (MJTC)*
- *Montachusett Regional Planning Commission (MRPC)*

A. Frost gave a quick rundown on FFY 2020 projects: project 602587 in Ayer Route 2A Reclamation was advertised on April 11th; project 608657 Hubbardston Route 62 Bridge Replacement was advertised in 2019 and is under construction; project 607680 Leominster Route 13 was advertised on July 18th; project 609411 Shirley Longley Road Bridge Replacement was advertised on May 9th; project 609397

Westminster Whitmanville Road was advertised on July 25th; lastly, project 607902 Westminster Route 12 (Ashburnham Road) Bridge Replacement was advertised November 2nd 2019.

P. Simmons mentioned for District 2 that the FFY 2020 project 609397 Athol/Phillipston was advertised earlier this year and the Notice to Proceed went out to Warner Brothers for construction on July 9th. In FFY 2021, 608548 Winchendon Central Street the 100% submittal was received on August 14th and is under review. The cost estimates are slightly different from the current TIP amount. The 100% estimate is at \$4,982,013 while the TIP amount is \$4,508,785 a difference of plus \$473,228. So a change to the Tip will be likely moved in the near future. In FFY 2022, 608850 Petersham Bridge replacement Glen Valley Road had a virtual design public hearing on July 17th with the 75% design expected on October 15th. In FFY 2023, project 608784 Templeton Roundabout will be scheduled for a design public hearing. In FFY 2024, project 609107 Phillipston/Templeton Route 2 Pavement Preservation has had the 25% and 75% designs submitted and are under review.

B. Mahoney stated that MART received a FFY 2020 discretionary award of \$4.5 million for bus replacement and an additional \$1 million for fare box replacement. This will require an Amendment to the TIP which we will bring up in October. Since July, there have been changes to the services including the reinstitution of fares on September 8th, and shuttle changes to Wachusett Station and to Mount Wachusett. MART also received two Workforce Grants and services will be starting up in October. Also, MART will be hiring a Mobility Manager to work with the COA's. The job ad is on the MART website.

G. Kahale mentioned that for the Ayer project, Phase I and II have been completed. Phase III work has begun and it will hopefully be completed by Thanksgiving.

B. Harris mentioned that the MJTC met on September 9th and received presentations on the Travel to Tourism study, the development of Master Plans for communities, in particular the Transportation Element, and how the MRPC can assist the municipality. MassDOT District 3 presented an update on the Shared Streets & Spaces program and some of the projects funded in the Region.

The MJTC has also decided to cancel their October 14th meeting and because the November meeting would fall on Wednesday November 11th which is Veterans Day, they have rescheduled that meeting to the day before, Tuesday November 10th at 2:30 pm.

B. Harris also referenced a few handouts. The first was a news article on the planned reconstruction of the Water Street bridge in Fitchburg. It is scheduled for FFY 2023 for approximately \$28 million. The second notice is a news release from the Fitchburg DPW regarding a Safe Routes to School project on Franklin Street. The project was along Franklin Road from the Reingold School to the Oak Hill Road intersection. The project was a collaborative effort by the Fitchburg School Department, the Police Department, MassDOT and the MRPC. Pictures are on the handout.

B. Harris presented for J. Telepciak who had an issue with his microphone. He reviewed a multi-page summary handout that discussed MRPC work efforts. This included: Assistance to communities to obtain and administer State Green Communities Grants; \$400,000 in a Federal Grant for Economic Development; the administration of the Small Business Assistance Grant (SBAG) Program from the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office; and assistance to the Town of Shirley for a State Grant for Economic Development and Food Bank Assistance

VII. Administrative Matters

- Next MPO Meeting

B. Harris stated that the next scheduled MPO meeting is on October 21st.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 1:58 p.m.

DOCUMENT/EXHIBITS PRESENTED AT MEETING

MPO 9 16 2020 Agenda

3 MPO 7 15 2020 Minutes

4 Non-SOV and Emissions Targets - PM3

5 MART Final_PTASP

6 Fitchburg DPW Release 7 22 2020

6 Fitchburg Sentinel Bridge Article 9 8 2020

6 MEMORANDUM MPO Monthly Report 9-16-2020