

**MONTACHUSETT JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (MJTC) MEETING
and
Regional Transportation Plan Update - Highway Systems Outreach Meeting**

MINUTES OF JANUARY 21, 2015

D. Manugian called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

I. INTRODUCTION

MEMBERS

Ken Chenis, Lunenburg; Mike Pineo, Sterling; David Manugian, Groton.

EX-OFFICIO

Jeff Hoynoski, MassDOT District 2, Sarah Bradbury, MassDOT District 3,

STAFF

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

II. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 19, 2014 MINUTES

The minutes of November 19, 2014 as printed were approved by consensus.

III. COORDINATED PUBLIC TRANSIT - HUMAN SERVICES TRANSPORTATION PLAN

G. Kahale presented a handout entitled the Montachusett Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Plan Update which was endorsed by the MPO on January 14, 2015. This plan was updated to reflect the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st century (MAP-21) requirements. He briefed the MJTC on the new requirements. The Plan was updated with the 2010 census demographics related to the disabled, low income and elderly population in the 27 MRPC and MART communities. MRPC also updated the senior, medical and daycare facilities as well as industrial parks and major employers in the communities. Existing transit services were also evaluated by looking at the gaps and needs.

The plan was put out for 30 day public comment period. We received several comments and they were generally supportive of the plan and its recommendations. He summarized the comments received.

B. Harris indicated that the MPO met on January 14, 2015 and reviewed all comments and endorsed the Plan. Transportation Providers can now apply for funding under the applicable grant programs.

IV. REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN (RTP) OUTREACH – HIGHWAY SYSTEMS

B. Doherty explained that MRPC is updating its 2012 Regional Transportation Plan. As part of the plan MRPC is holding a number of outreach sessions. Bicycle and Pedestrian Outreach meetings have already been held. Outreach meetings will be held on Highway Systems, Transit and Environmental sections of the plan.

B. Doherty presented the following items through a PowerPoint.

- About the MRPC
- Who's involved in transportation planning
- What the Plan Does

- Why the Plan Matters
- Green Dot Initiatives
- Health Transportation Policy Directive
- Complete Streets Program
- RTP Draft Vision Statement
- RTP Draft Goals
- RTP Objective and Performance Measures

G. Snow explained the changes to High Crash locations within MRPC communities for the timeframe of 2006 to 2008 and 2010 to 2012.

B. Harris explained that we have received 140 responses to our online RTP Survey. He also distributed paper copies to those present at the meeting. At two other outreach meetings MRPC asked attendees what they believed were the needs or goals for the region and also if there were particular projects that communities want to undertake, whether it is a short or long range project. The goals of these meetings is for feedback regarding safety, performance measures and other general comments.

Much discussion followed regarding funding for road preservation projects versus waiting until roads are completed deteriorated to fund repairs as well as re-visiting the requirement that all locally funded projects must meet the Complete Streets Program's design elements which states that projects must make accommodations for users of all transportation modes such as walking, cycling, public transportation, automobiles and freight wherever possible.

B. Harris summarized the points from the discussion.

- 1) More Chapter 90 funding is needed at the state level so communities can fund preservation projects in lieu of reconstruction projects.
- 2) There needs to be a better way to define where Complete Streets Projects make sense in a community versus making every road project follow Complete Streets program design elements.
- 3) Recommend to MassDOT to consider establishing a road preservation program instead of all road projects having to meet the criteria of the Complete Streets Program.

V. CONTRACT STATUS REPORTS

a. FTA/RTA

G. Kahale stated the Wachusett Commuter Rail and Layover Facility. Construction is underway. The project completion date has been delayed to September 2016 due to Pan Am's workload schedule. The North Leominster Parking Garage Project is complete. Regarding the Ayer Parking Facility the property owner in December submitted a different plan to the planning board than was agreed to. They are continuing discussion to reach an agreement. Littleton Train Station is completed and full every day. Lunenburg Selectmen are working with MART to facilitate a new bus route.

b. MASSDOT 3C

S. Bean distributed the recently completed Montachusett Region Trail Guide to the MJTC.

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

B. Harris stated that the next MJTC Meeting will be held on February 18, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Great Wolf Lodge and will be combined with the RTP Transit Outreach Meeting.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

DOCUMENTS/EXHIBITS AVAILABLE AT MEETING:

MJTC Agenda - January 21, 2015

MJTC Minutes – November 19, 2014

Montachusett Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Plan Update- MPO Endorsed

RTP Online Survey

Connecting Communities Along our Trails 2015 in Ashburnham

2015 Meeting Calendar

Trail Guide

RTP GreenDot Goals

2016 RTP Update Highway Systems PowerPoint

Regional Transportation Plan Outreach Memo