

**MONTACHUSETT JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (MJTC) MEETING  
MINUTES OF January 20, 2016**

D. Manugian called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m.

**I. Introduction**

Members

Tracy Murphy, Winchendon; David Manugian, Groton;; Sarah Bradbury, MassDOT District 3, Jeff Hoynoski, MassDOT District 2, Doug Walsh, Athol; Jon Wyman, Westminster; Jessica Caouette, Ashburnham; John Kilcoyne, Sterling

Guests

Albert Gallant, Winchendon DPW

Staff

Brad Harris, Brian Doherty, George Snow, G. Kahale

**II. Approval of November 18, 2015 Minutes**

It was the consensus of the MJTC to approve the November 18, 2015 MJTC minutes as written with one abstention.

**III. Complete Streets Funding Program – Overview from Nicole Tishler, MassDOT**

D. Manugian indicated that Ms. Tishler is unable to attend the meeting so Brad Harris will provide an update.

B. Harris distributed a handout from MassDOT's website regarding the Complete Streets Program. He also distributed two flyers regarding Complete Streets Workshops that will be held. Three workshops will be held in our region; in Fitchburg, Gardner and Devens. If anyone is interested they can register on line at the Bay State Roads website.

He explained that it is a requirement of any community that is interested in participating in the Complete Streets Program that they attend a workshop. A follow-up workshop will also be held. MRPC staff will also be attending the workshops in our region.

**IV. Proposed FFY2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment**

B. Doherty distributed handouts regarding a TIP Amendment out for public comment. He explained that the Route 101/Williams Road/Corey Hill Road Project in Ashburnham scheduled for 2016 has been removed from the TIP. MassDOT received a letter from Ashburnham requesting the removal. Ashburnham had concerns with with some aspects of the design of the Project. Stormwater retrofits have been removed from the Sterling and Lancaster Interstate 190 Project, slightly reducing the cost for 2017. Gardner Bridge Replacement Pleasant Street over the B&M Railroad has been added in 2018. The project identification number for the Athol Bridge Replacement Washington Avenue over South Athol Pond Outlet in 2019 has changed.

Regarding the Transit Section there have been changes in cost to a number of projects in 2016. He detailed those projects. The amendment is out for public comment until February 17, 2016.

B. Harris explained that the transit changes reflect MART changing project scopes, reducing the funding and then using those available funds for a number of projects.

B. Harris stated regarding the highway section, changes are based upon statewide category projects. They do not impact our target amounts or fiscal constraints for the region.

Discussion followed regarding the Project at Route 101/Williams Road/Corey Hill Road in Ashburnham and the requirements of the Complete Streets Program.

It was the consensus of the MJTC that based on comments received to date, the MJTC recommend endorsement of the FFY2016-2019 Transportation (TIP) Amendment by the MRPC and MPO. It was also the consensus of the MJTC to provide comment to MassDOT regarding the requirements of the Complete Streets Program and federal road requirements. These programs need to be more context sensitive and less restrictive to the needs of the communities especially rural communities.

#### **V. Montachusett MPO Public Participation Plan (PPP) – Pre-Draft**

G. Snow distributed the Montachusett MPO Public Participation Plan (PPP) – Pre-Draft. B. Harris indicated the pre-draft was submitted MassDOT at the end of December. It is a pre-draft because it has not been out for public comment yet.

G. Snow explained the purpose of the plan to the MJTC. The PPP outlines the outreach process that the MPO uses. He briefly explained the PPP's values, principles and goals, as well as the outreach and public engagement processes.

B. Harris indicated that if anyone had comments on the plan to contact him.

#### **VI. Contract Status Reports**

- a. FTA**
- b. RTA**

G. Kahale distributed handouts regarding the new commuter rail schedule which is out for public comment until February 12, 2016. There will be a public meeting on January 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall in Concord. He explained the new Fitchburg Line schedule which will include more trains to Fitchburg. The schedule also includes two new express trains. The schedule becomes effective May 23, 2016.

G. Kahale stated there is no new information regarding the Ayer Train station. The improvements to the Fitchburg Commuter Rail Line have been completed. The South Acton Commuter Rail Station grand opening will be on January 31, 2016. MART has initiated its fixed route bus service in the Town of Athol.

#### **c. MassDOT 3C**

B. Harris informed the MJTC the next MPO meeting will be held on February 17, 2016.

We are in the process of beginning the new MPO Subregion selection process. Next week we will be sending out material to the Planning Boards and Selectboards regarding the roles and responsibilities of members and the process. We will ask for volunteers from those

boards. Once that has been completed, we will hold a dinner meeting to select Subregion representatives.

MRPC is in the process of developing the new TIP and we will start discussions regarding that at the next meeting of the MJTC in February. It would be helpful to receive updates on projects from communities. This is also the time for communities to inform us if they have any new projects that they would like included on the TIP. MRPC is more than willing to help communities through the process.

MRPC will also begin the UPWP process. We will identify new tasks. If communities have any studies they would like done, now is the time to let MRPC know.

The traffic count season will begin in early May. In March we will send out requests to local communities. Each community can request up to five locations.

## **VI. Administrative Matters**

Discussion followed regarding then evaluation criteria for TIP projects.

## **VIII. Adjournment**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

### **DOCUMENTS/EXHIBITS AVAILABLE AT MEETING:**

January 20, 2016 Agenda  
November 18, 2015 MJTC Minutes  
Public Participation Plan Pre-Draft  
Draft TIP Amendment #1  
Complete Street Workshop Flyers  
Complete Streets Program from MassDOT website  
Frequently Asked Questions – MBTA New Commuter Rail Schedule  
Fitchburg Line Public Schedule 12/28/2015  
Fitchburg Line Station Comparison