

**MONTACHUSETT JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (MJTC) MEETING
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 15, 2017**

D. Walsh called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. P. Caron replaced D. Walsh at 7:05 p.m.

I. Introduction

Members

Sarah Bradbury, MassDOT District 3; Jeff Hoynoski, MassDOT District 2; Doug Walsh, Athol; John Kilcoyne, Sterling; Patrick Lawlor, North Central MA Chamber of Commerce; Sue Kennedy, Ayer; Ken Chenis, Lunenburg; Paula Caron, Fitchburg; Nikki Tishler, MassDOT

Staff

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

II. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

III. Approval of November 16, 2016 Minutes

It was the consensus of the MJTC to approve the November 16, 2016 MJTC minutes as printed.

IV. FFY 2017-2021 Montachusett TIP

- Amendment #3 Highway Element Review & Discussion

G. Snow reviewed Amendment #3 Highway Element to the FFY 2017-2021 TIP. The amendment is out for a 30-day public comment period that runs from January 30th to February 28, 2017. The reason for the amendment was to address the removal of two projects from the 2017 TIP due to a re-distribution of federal funds. The removed projects were:

Project # 607321 on Route 68 in Templeton at a cost of \$1.8M

Project # 608542 on Route 140 in Winchendon at a cost of \$.9M

For a total of \$2.7M

The added projects to the 2017 TIP were:

Project # 607770 on Route 13 from the 2019 TIP at a cost of \$1.63M

The advanced construction cost of Project # 606124 in Fitchburg / Leominster / Lunenburg on Summer and North St was adjusted to \$1.05M

For a total of \$2.7M

B. Harris indicated that two comments have been received as of this date. The Town of Lunenburg and their DPW wrote support letters for Project # 606124 to be included in the 2017 TIP.

The MJTC reached consensus to recommend to the MPO and the MRPC that they endorse Amendment #3.

- Amendment #3 Transit Element Review & Discussion

G. Snow reviewed Amendment #3 Transit Element to the FFY 2017-2021 TIP. The amendment was out for a 15-day public comment period that ran from January 30th to February 13, 2017. The reason for the amendment was to add 2 projects under Section 5310 to cover the acquisition cost of software and hardware for a total cost of \$250,000.

No comments were received.

B. Harris stated that the MPO endorsed this amendment at the MPO meeting this afternoon.

V. Montachusett Public Participation Plan (PPP)

- Amendment #1 Review & Discussion

G. Snow reviewed Amendment #1 to the PPP. The amendment is out for a 45-day public comment period that runs from January 30th to March 15, 2017. The reason for the amendment is to change the public comment periods in the PPP for the TIP, UPWP and RTP from 30 to 21 days. A draft copy with the comment period changes was presented.

No comments have been received as of this date.

B. Harris answered several questions related to the changes.

The MJTC reached consensus to recommend to the MPO and the MRPC that they endorse Amendment #1.

VI. FFY 2018-2022 Montachusett TIP

- Review of Potential Federal Aid Target Projects

G. Snow and B. Harris reviewed the TIP development process, the FFY 2018-2022 TIP Projects handout and other handouts. B. Harris stated that the projects will be reviewed on TIP day which is on February 16, 2017 and that Federal target figures have been received.

B. Harris recommended that communities send any updated project information such as design status to the MRPC.

S. Bradbury recommended that communities address projects that have been on the FFY 2018-2022 TIP Projects handout for many years. Communities need to decide whether they want to move forward with these projects.

S. Bean questioned the decrease in TAP funding in the new target figures. N. Tishler stated she will seek clarification of this issue.

VII. Meeting Schedule for MJTC

- Review of Survey Results

B. Harris reviewed the proposal to move the MJTC meeting to provide more timely recommendations to the MPO due to the new MPO meeting date schedule that moved MPO meetings to the third Wednesday of the month. The MJTC decided to conduct a survey on whether to move future meetings to the second Wednesday of the month. In addition, a question was asked on the start time of the meeting.

After discussion, the MJTC voted to move the MJTC meeting date to the second Wednesday of the month and start time to 6:30 p.m. This new schedule will go into effect with the March meeting.

VIII. Contract Status Reports

a. FTA/RTA

G. Kahale stated that Wachusett Station and MBTA layover facility has been substantially completed and the MBTA started limited service on 9/30/16 with two inbound and two abound trains. Full service to the station started on 11/21/16 with 17 trains arriving and leaving the station daily. MART will be operating buses and shuttles to the station to meet nine of the trains from Gardner to the Wachusett Station.

For the Ayer parking project, MART has hired Weston and Sampson to design the facility. Concept designs for 200 spaces should be available for MART in the next month.

G. Kahale also mentioned that the MRPC is working with MART on bus route schedules in Fitchburg and Leominster to develop shuttle route connections with Devens for the workforce.

b. MassDOT 3C

G. Snow stated the next MPO meeting is scheduled for March 15, 2017 at 1:00 p.m.

G. Snow stated the MRPC will be hiring a new regional planner.

G. Snow stated the MRPC has put out an RFP for new office space. The deadline is March 10, 2017.

B. Harris stated the MRPC has received our UPWP PL allocation for 2018. The MRPC is requesting communities to submit request for studies to be completed. A community should submit a letter of request from a chief elected official for a study.

N. Tishler mentioned that MassDOT is developing a new Capital Investment Plan (CIP). A draft document will be available by May of this year. Comments are welcome.

IX. Administrative Matters

The next meeting of the MJTC will be on March 8, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. at the MRPC Offices.

X. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

DOCUMENTS/EXHIBITS AVAILABLE AT MEETING:

2/15/17 Agenda
11/16/16 Minutes
FFY 2017 Highway Amendment
FFY 2017 Transit Amendment
FFY 2018-2022 Project List 1/6/2017
Interested Parties Draft TIP & PPP Amendment 1/25/2017
MPO TIP Schedule REVISED 1/18/17
PPP Summary Comment Period Amendment 2017
MJTC Survey Summary 2/15/2017
MJTC Survey Summary (graphs) 2/15/2017
Target List and TEC Sort 2/15/2017
TIP Target Comparison 2017 2018
Draft TIP Schedule 11 2016
2017 Revised Meeting Calendar