

MONTACHUSETT JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (MJTC) MEETING

MINUTES OF MARCH 18, 2015

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

I. INTRODUCTION

MEMBERS

Doug Walsh, Athol; Pauline Hamel, Ayer; Frank Maxant, Ayer; Ken Chenis, Lunenburg; David Manugian, Groton, Noreen Piazza, Lancaster, John Kilcoyne, Sterling.

EX-OFFICIO

Sarah Bradbury, MassDOT

STAFF

Brad Harris, Brian Doherty, George Snow, George Kahale

II. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 18, 2015 MINUTES

The minutes of February 18, 2015 were tabled until the next MJTC Meeting.

III. FFY 2015-2018 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AMENDMENT (TIP)

B. Harris distributed a handout which summarized the amendment. The amendment involves full bridge replacement on Jackson Road over Route 2 in Lancaster. The project was included in our 2015 – 2018 TIP as an advanced construction project over two years. MassDOT informed us that the project was advertised and the contract was obligated. The project was able to be funded over one year instead of two. The TIP draft needs to be amended to remove the project from the 2015-2018 TIP. The MPO recommended that the amended TIP be released for a 30 day public comment period. The comment period started on March 16 and will close on April 14, 2015. Action by the MPO will take place at the May Meeting.

A question was asked if the region was able to fund another project with the unused funds.

S. Bradbury responded no. The money comes from statewide federal bridge program and may be used for another project in another region.

IV. FFY 2016-2019 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

B. Harris stated we are working on development of a new TIP for FFY2016-2019. The document should be endorsed by June 2015. At the next MPO and MJTC meetings we will discuss scenarios for the TIP. There will be project presentations at the April 8, 2015 MPO Meeting. Four projects have been selected for review. Project Listings have been sent to all communities. He distributed a schedule for the TIP development to the MJTC.

B. Harris distributed a listing of projects to the MJTC. We will be discussing the projects with MassDOT districts to gather status and updates on the projects. He provided a status on the projects in the 2016 year of the TIP. He also provided information on the projects in the TIP appendix, as well as bridge, non-target and non-federal projects.

B. Harris distributed a handout and reviewed the estimated targets for the new TIP.

Discussion followed on the targets and funding for the TIP.

V. 2015-2016 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) DEVELOPMENT

B. Harris stated that we are also starting work on the development of the 2015-2016 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) that outlines planning activities. This will be the first year of a new MassDOT four year contract. We received our Planning Allocation for the upcoming fiscal year which we base our UPWP budget on. He distributed a handout that summarized the allocation. The allocation is for \$536,779 an actual reduction from last year of approximately \$8,000. MRPC's UPWP will be based on that amount. That amount will also be the basis for the estimate for our four year MassDOT contract. He explained the tasks of the UPWP. To date we have received an inquiry from Gardner to possibly undertake a parking and traffic flow study in downtown and a formal request from Shirley regarding a safety study at Groton Road/Townsend Road intersection. If other communities have projects they would like us to undertake they should contact MRPC to discuss the potential. A draft needs to be out for public review in May for endorsement in June.

Discussion followed on types of projects that could be included in the UPWP as well as discussion on a proposed development in Lunenburg and traffic issues at an intersection in Lunenburg at Northfield Road and Route 13.

VI. REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN (RTP) UPDATE

B. Harris informed the MJTC seven public outreach meetings were held. He distributed a handout summarizing the comments received at the meetings. Many comments focused on safety especially at the bicycle pedestrian and highway meetings. At the transit meetings, comments focused on service availability. We will review these comments to determine goals and objectives for the RTP.

B. Harris presented the results of the RTP survey. We received 147 responses. Vast majority of the comments were from the general public. He gave an overview of the responses to the questions.

B. Harris stated we are in the process of putting draft chapters together that will be posted to the website. We are hoping to have the RTP endorsed by June, but that may be delayed.

VII. CONTRACT STATUS REPORTS

a. FTA/RTA

G. Kahale stated Wachusett Commuter Rail Station and Layover Facility construction should be completed by Fall 2016. The Fitchburg Commuter Rail Line improvements are on schedule. The double track and signals have been completed and Littleton Station is complete. South Acton Train Station will be completed by the end of the year. North Leominster Parking Garage is complete. Ayer Train Parking is still under negotiation between MBTA and the landowner for pedestrian access. MRPC is assisting MART with the design of a bus route in Lunenburg. Our Legislators met to discuss the MBTA's service during the winter storms. The MART Advisory Board will meet on March 31, 2015 at 10:30 a.m.

Discussion followed regarding the Ayer Parking Facility.

b. MASSDOT 3C

B. Harris stated that our traffic count program will begin shortly. Work will begin on UPWP tasks, one in Lancaster and one in Shirley. We are initiating a new Pavement Management Program. We recently purchased new software. Training will occur in the next month. Our new software will be in use this Summer.

VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

B. Harris stated that the next MJTC Meeting is April 15th and MPO is April 8th at 1:00 p.m.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

DOCUMENTS/EXHIBITS AVAILABLE AT MEETING:

March 18, 2015 Agenda
February 18, 2015 Minutes
TIP Project List 3 5 2015
2016 RTP Survey Results 3 11 2015
Draft Amendment #1 Summary 3 11 2015
Draft TIP Amendment #1 Summary 3 13 2015
Draft Vision Goals 12 31 2014
RTP Outreach Comment Summary 3 11 2015
TIP & UPWP Schedule 2015