

MONTACHUSETT JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (MJTC) MEETING
MINUTES OF March 8, 2017

J. Wyman called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

I. Introduction

Members

Jon Wyman, Westminster; Paula Caron, Fitchburg; John Kilcoyne, Sterling; Sarah Bradbury, MassDOT District 3; Jeff Hoynoski, MassDOT District 2; Patrick Lawlor, North Central MA Chamber of Commerce; Nikki Tishler, MassDOT

Staff

Brad Harris, Brian Doherty, Kaitlyn Olbrich, George Kahale

Guest

Mital Parikh, QRyde Corp.

II. Public Comments

M. Parikh from QRyde Corporation indicated that he works for a company that provides a platform for communities and transportation providers to come together and get service. They have recently worked with MART on a program called Move It which provides a platform for veterans and their families to seek affordable transportation options. They have also been working with various Councils-On-Aging in the area and they just want to reach out to anyone who might like to discuss their options.

B. Harris indicated that QRyde is willing to come out to a future MJTC to give a presentation.

III. Approval of February 15, 2017 Minutes

It was the consensus of the MJTC to approve the February 15, 2017 MJTC minutes as printed.

IV. FFY 2018-2022 Montachusett Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- **Review of Revised Transportation Evaluation Criteria (TEC) Scores**
- **Review of Potential Funding Scenarios**

B. Harris indicated that we are in the middle of the TIP development process for the FFY 2018-2022 TIP. Last month we discussed the Federal target estimates we received for the development of the TIP. In addition, at the last MPO in February, four projects were presented in order to give the members a better idea of the project and its scope. Additionally, we participated in the TIP Readiness Day on February 16th at MassDOT District 3 Offices where several projects were discussed. As a result, we reviewed the prior Transportation Evaluation Criteria (TEC) to see what might be changed based on any new information. He then referred members to a handout of the TEC scoring for the target eligible projects. This TEC Prioritized List is subsequently utilized to develop funding scenarios for the TIP. He then discussed some of the projects and their scoring and ranking.

Discussion then focused on what and how the project presentations were made.

B. Harris then reviewed three possible funding scenarios for the TIP based upon the TEC Listing and the Federal Aid Targets. Each fiscal year in each of the three scenarios was reviewed and discussed with the members. In some cases, fiscal constraint was difficult to obtain. Individual project cost changes were also discussed.

Options to address some of the unspent target funds in a particular year were discussed, such as a possible Bike Rack purchase program with CMAQ funding, with the members.

Members then discussed the scenarios and particular projects, their costs and possible options to reduce cost.

V. FFY 2017-2021 Montachusett TIP

- Amendment #3 Highway Element Review & Recommendation

B. Harris reviewed Amendment #3 to the Highway Element to the FFY 2017-2021 TIP. We discussed these at the last meeting but that was before the comment periods had completely ended. B. Harris wanted to review these amendments again now that the comment periods are closed and the MPO will be meeting next week to possibly endorse these amendments. 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 and Project # 608542 on Route 140 in Winchendon. Together they equal approximately \$2.7 million. To offset this, one project was added to 2017; Project # 607770 on Route 13 from FFY 2019 at a cost of \$1.63 million and the advanced construction cost of Project # 606124 in Fitchburg / Leominster / Lunenburg on Summer and North St was adjusted with an additional \$1.05 million.

B. Harris indicated that two comments have been received from the Town of Lunenburg and their DPW indicating their support for the Summer Street and Route 13 projects.

B. Harris stated that the MPO will meet next week to consider endorsement.

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

VI. Montachusett Public Participation Plan (PPP)

- Amendment #1 Review & Recommendation

B. Harris reviewed Amendment #1 to the PPP. As with the prior discussion, this item was discussed last month with the MJTC but since the comment period is now close to ending, it was felt that it should be reviewed again by the committee. The amendment is out for a 45-day public comment period that will close on 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. As was the case last month, no comments have been received.

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

VII. Montachusett Traffic Count Program

- Review and Discussion of Upcoming Local Counts

K. Olbrich presented information to the committee regarding the upcoming traffic count program. In addition to the locations that we plan to do as part of our regular program, those locations defined by MassDOT will be indicated on the memos to our communities. As part of our program, we provide communities with the opportunity to request up to three (3) additional locations for counts at no added cost to the town. With the announcement memo, a count request form will also be included so towns will be able to get back to us with their request. We ask that all communities get back to us by April 30th. These notices will be going out in the near future.

VIII. Contract Status Reports

a. FTA/RTA

G. Kahale stated that Wachusett Station and MBTA layover facility has been substantially completed and the contractor is working on the punch list. The MBTA started full service to the station 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, Weston and Sampson has completed a schematic design of the facility and it was presented to the public last week. Revisions are being worked on now and hopefully on March 28th it can be presented to the Board of Selectmen.

G. Kahale mentioned that we are working with MART on bus routes and schedules to bring workers to and from Leominster and Fitchburg to Devens to help augment the available workforce.

J. Wyman asked if members had heard of the last mile/first mile program.

G. Kahale discussed the concept and the various options such as bicycling, Complete Streets and transit. MART is willing to discuss options provided funding can be arranged.

b. MassDOT 3C

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

B. Harris stated the MRPC will be working on the next Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). We recently received our UPWP PL allocation for 2018 so we can begin developing a new budget. We are asking any interested community to submit possible study/task requests for us to review and discuss. A community should submit a letter of request from a chief elected official for a possible study.

B. Harris indicated that a series of workshops entitled MassMoves will be held around the state. A central Mass workshop is scheduled for April 14th in Worcester. Information is available on their website massmoves.org.

IX. Administrative Matters

The next meeting of the MJTC will be on April 12, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. at the MART Administrative Offices at 840 North Main Street in Leominster, i.e. directly across the street from the MART Maintenance Facility.

G. Kahale mentioned that staff attended today a MassDOT Tech Conference that discussed emerging technologies in transportation. A lot of new innovations are in development that will likely impact our future travel patterns.

X. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

DOCUMENTS/EXHIBITS AVAILABLE AT MEETING:

3/8/17 Agenda

2/15/17 Minutes

FFY 2018 2022 TIP TEC Project FINAL List 3 8 2017

FFY 2018 2022 TIP Fund Scenarios Summary 3 8 2017

FFY 2017 Highway Amendment Fiscal Analysis & Comments 3 15 2017

Interested Parties Draft TIP & PPP Amendment 1/25/2017

2017 PPP Amendment Summary & Comments 3 8 2017