

MONTACHUSETT JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (MJTC) MEETING

MINUTES OF April 12, 2017

J. Wyman called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

I. Introduction

Members

Jon Wyman, Westminster; Sarah Bradbury, MassDOT District 3; Jeff Hoynoski, MassDOT District 2; Nikki Tishler, MassDOT; Doug Walsh, Athol; Alan Mayo, Templeton; Phil Duffy, Clinton; Ken Chenis, Lunenburg; Tracy Murphy, Winchendon; Noreen Piazza, Lancaster

Staff

George Snow, Brian Doherty, Kaitlyn Olbrich, George Kahale

Guest

Nick Lapointe, Fuss & O'Neill Inc.

II. Public Comments

There were no public comments

III. Approval of March 8, 2017 Minutes

It was the consensus of the MJTC to approve the March 8, 2017 MJTC minutes as printed.

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

- Review/Discussion of Draft TIP

B. Doherty updated the group on the current status of the draft 2018 -2022 TIP, which the staff would like to bring before the MPO to release for 21-day public comment at its 4/19 meeting. Due to the number of changes in status and price of projects, and the requirement that the document be fiscally constrained, many scenarios are still being considered. He also mentioned the desire to spend out as much of the regions target funds as possible. He reviewed the most recent version of the draft TIP discussed at the March MJTC and MPO meetings with updated information. Due to not being fiscally constrained there is a need to explore other options. A number of different options were presented to the group for consideration and discussion.

N. Tishler mentioned the importance of keeping any projects which would use both statewide and target funds in the year currently programed and not assume those funds would be available in other years. This directly relates to the Gardner, Leominster, Sterling intersection project (Project # 608188) currently listed in 2018. Moving this project to a later year in the TIP would likely result in the loss of the benefit of the State covering \$500,000 through statewide HSIP funds and leaving the region to fully fund the project under its target funds.

Discussion continued on individual project statuses and scenarios. After much discussion, the group agreed by consensus to have the staff concentrate on maintaining Project # 608188 in 2018 to take advantage of the statewide HSIP funds allocated to that project. The group also suggested the importance of maintaining, in the draft 2018 – 2022 TIP, projects which are advancing steadily or currently listed in the existing TIP. These recommendations will be forwarded to the MPO.

V. FFY 2018 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

- Discussion of Budget and Tasks

B. Doherty indicated that the staff is currently working on a Draft 2018 UPWP. The region will see an increase in funding from \$621,347 in FFY 2017 to \$647,248 in FFY 2018 (\$25,901). He mentioned that any community interested in a study or that realizes a need for a project for MRPC to consider for inclusion into the UPWP please contact the staff and indicate so. More information about the 2018 UPWP and its status will be presented at the May MJTC and considered at the May MPO for release for 21-day public comment.

VI. Freight Corridor Designations

- Notice of Proposals and Discussion

B. Doherty discussed the State Freight Plan currently being updated by MassDOT. MassDOT has reached out to MPO's to allow them to propose roadways for designation as Critical Freight Corridors. These Freight Corridors are public roads which provide access and connection with ports, public transportation facilities or other intermodal transportation facilities. National Highway Freight Program funds may be used for projects that contribute to the efficient movement of freight on these corridors. The MRPC region has been given a target of 14.75 miles of *Critical Rural Freight Corridor* and 3.84 miles of *Critical Urban Freight Corridor* to designate in the region. MRPC's proposed corridors were presented to the group and again will be presented to the MPO on 4/19 and considered for release for a 21-day public comment.

VII. 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. The anticipated project completion is in June.

For the Ayer parking project, Weston and Sampson has completed schematic designs of the facility and presented them to the public. The town opted to build a parking deck with about 200 spaces. Final design will begin soon. Estimated cost is around \$4,000,000.

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. Service will start on 4/24.

b. MassDOT 3C

B. Doherty mentioned the need for an adjustment in the 2017 – 2021 TIP under Sterling, Lancaster, Leominster Interstate Maintenance and Related Work on I -190 (Project #606575). This change is a description change for the project, not a price change. The adjustment will also be presented to the MPO on 4/19.

B. Doherty referenced the handout Montachusett Bike Rack Program. He mentioned the program that MRPC is trying to prepare which will allow communities to purchase bike racks for public facilities and be reimbursed through CMAQ funds. It is anticipated that MRPC's program will be ready in time for the 2019 - 2023 TIP cycle. Information on the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission (MAPC) program was presented which is available to MRPC member communities. The MAPC program allows communities who wish to acquire such equipment discounted pricing.

G. Snow mentioned training available to those interested in ADA Transition Plans. The training is being offered through Baystate Roads. He also mentioned that ADA Transition Plans help to defend against ADA related legal actions.

VIII. Administrative Matters

The next meeting of the MJTC will be on May 10, 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.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

DOCUMENTS/EXHIBITS AVAILABLE AT MEETING:

4/12/17 Agenda

3/8/17 Minutes

FFY 2018 2022 TIP Funding Options 1, 1A, 2, 3, 4, 5

FFY 2018 2022 TIP Funding Scenarios Summary

FFY 2017 2021 TIP Highway Adjustment

UPWP 2018 Allocation

State Freight Plan Designations

Montachusett Bike Rack Program

ADA Transition Plan Workshop