

MONTACHUSETT JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (MJTC) MEETING

MINUTES OF May 18, 2016

B. Harris called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

I. Introduction

Members

Dough Walsh, Athol; Ken Chenis, Lunenburg; Sarah Bradbury, MassDOT District 3; Tracy Murphy, Winchendon; Frank Maxant, Ayer; Jeff Hoynoski, MassDOT District 2; Austin Cyganewicz, Winchendon; Phil Duffy, Clinton .

Guests

Albert Gallant, Winchendon DPW; Josiah Richards, UNF; Eric Rodriguez, Cleghorn Center; Fuaria Quinteros, Fitchburg; Kenisha Coy, Fitchburg, Kimatra Maxwell, Fitchburg; Evina Paulino, Fitchburg; Jessica Morgan, Lunenburg.

Staff

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

II. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

III. Approval of April 20, 2016 Minutes

It was the consensus of the MJTC to approve the April 20, 2016 MJTC minutes as printed.

IV. Selection of Nominating Committee

Doug Walsh, Phil Duffy and Tracy Murphy volunteered to serve on the Nominating Committee.

V. FFY 2017-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

a. Draft Review & Discussion

B. Harris stated MassDOT indicated information regarding transit and statewide projects will not be ready so funding scenarios for the Transportation Improvement Program were not updated for the MJTC's review to recommend to MPO at next week's meeting. Recommendations will occur at the June MJTC Meeting to present to the MPO at their June Meeting. Final scenarios will be based on information received from MassDOT regarding project costs.

He added MRPC recently received information from MassDOT District 3 indicating that the Summer Street Reconstruction Project in Fitchburg, Leominster and Lunenburg will cost \$10 million instead of \$13 million which will be reflected when funding scenarios are revised. That savings of \$3 million will give more flexibility in the funding scenarios. We will review the updated funding scenarios at the next MJTC meeting on June 15, 2016.

Discussion followed regarding the transit investments and what residents need in the region in terms transportation. Comments and questions included the following:

- There is lack of investment in the transit system.
- Transit system is very limited and often late and can't be depended on.
- Reliability and efficiency are a constant concern especially for those who depend on the system to get to work or an appointment.
- What is being done to improve and expand the system?
- Can an alternate transit system be looked at?
- Transit Authority is not addressing issues.
- The MART Advisory Board Agenda does not include a Public Comments section.
- MART Advisory Board Meetings are held in the morning, a time which is not convenient for those who work and wish to attend.
- Bus Schedule is difficult to understand.
- More public outreach is needed for updated bus routes. Better posting needed for example at major stops, ie, grocery stores, MART stations and newspapers.
- Lack of on-time performance should be monitored and result of the monitoring should be available to public.
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Brad Harris responded while he can't speak for the Transit Authority he would pass on all comments and questions. He explained the role of the MRPC, MJTC and MPO in the planning process.

VI. 2016-2017 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

a. Draft Review & Discussion

B. Harris indicated that we intended to have a draft available for discussion. Similarly, as with the TIP it has been put on hold and the draft will be presented at the June MJTC meeting. He explained in detail the purpose of the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) UPWP.

B. Doherty explained a task MRPC is undertaking is the development of an app for communities to assist in complying with new EPA stormwater regulations. We are looking for input from communities regarding information that the communities feel would be helpful in development of the app.

S. Bean explained we are also looking at creating updated community trail brochures that might assist in tourism and economic development.

B. Harris indicated we will also complete a study for a new interchange on Route 2 and South Athol road in Athol.

P. Duffy reiterated the need for an examination of regional public transit needs. Clinton, although, in the middle of three transit authorities, is not served. B. Harris indicated that he would speak further with P. Duffy on this study and the possibility of a two phase study over the next to program years.

VII. Contract Status Reports

- FTA/RTA

G. Kahale indicated that an engineer is working on the design of a bike and pedestrian trail that will connect downtown Leominster to downtown Fitchburg along the railroad tracks that run parallel to Route 12. MBTA's new train schedule becomes effective May 23. Wachusett Station will be completed by September 30, 2016. At the Ayer Town Meeting voters approved purchase by eminent domain of access to the commuter rail station.

- MassDOT 3C

B. Harris distributed a flyer regarding Community Health Leadership Planning Day at MWCC. Traffic interns will start work next to begin MRPC's traffic count program. Twenty-six resumes were received for our Transportation Planner position. Interviews have begun. MRPC's Chairman, Victor Koivumaki and long-time member passed away recently. He volunteered on the Commission for the past 16 years. He served as the Chairman of MRPC for 11 years and was also a very active and involved member of the MPO. He will be missed.

- Administrative Matters

The next MJTC Meeting will be June 15, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

VIII. Adjournment

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

DOCUMENTS/EXHIBITS AVAILABLE AT MEETING:

May 18, 2016 Agenda
April 20, 2016 MJTC Minutes
Capital Investment Plan Public Meeting Schedule
MJTC Public Comments
North Central MA Community Health Leadership Planning Day
TIP Scenario
Side by Side Comparison TIP Scenario
TIP Project Listing