

**MONTACHUSETT JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (MJTC) MEETING
MINUTES OF MAY 20, 2015**

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

I. Introduction

MEMBERS

Pauline Hamel, Ayer; Frank Maxant, Ayer; Ken Chenis, Lunenburg; David Manugian, Groton; Noreen Piazza, Lancaster; Paula Caron, Fitchburg.

Ex-Officio

Sarah Bradbury, MassDOT District 3; Jeff Hoynoski, MassDOT District 2; Nikki Tissler, MassDOT Planning

Staff

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

II. Approval of April 15, 2015 Minutes

It was the consensus of the MJTC to approve the April 15, 2015 MJTC minutes as printed with Noreen Piazza abstaining.

III. Appointment of Nominating Committee

It was the consensus of the MJTC to appoint Paula Caron, Doug Walsh, Ken Chenis and Noreen Piazza to the Nominating Committee with Doug Walsh the Chair.

IV. FFY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

B. Harris distributed and explained the TIP Scenario Comparison Summary for FFY2016-2019. Scenario 2 is preferred by the MPO. If MJTC has any comments on the scenarios feel free to share them with staff. The next MPO meeting is June 17, 2015 and we will have a draft available which they will hopefully recommend for a 30 day comment period.

N. Piazza questioned the project on Chocksett Road Route 12 and its listing under the scenarios.

S. Bradbury responded we recommended that project be moved forward to 2016.

B. Harris indicated it is included in Scenario #1 and Scenario #2.

K. Chenis asked for explanation of how the scores contribute to the project particularly the Route 2A and 13 projects.

B. Harris responded we receive target funding numbers and basically it comes down to a project priority rating, its cost, and design status. It becomes like a puzzle as to what projects we can squeeze in to meet the target numbers.

D. Manugian indicated that it looks like there may be \$340,000 in funds available in FY2016. He asked what type of projects can those monies fund.

B. Harris replied those monies could fund any type of project including air quality improvements, traffic signal improvements and low cost safety improvement programs.

S. Bradbury added there could be fluctuations in other project so it may be better to leave those monies un-programmed.

V. 2015-2016 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

B. Harris explained the UPWP Work Schedule. Our allocation for the UPWP is \$585,871, \$49,000 more than we were originally allocated. He provided a handout and explained to the MJTC the tasks that would be undertaken this year.

A question was asked why there was no budget numbers for the transit tasks.

B. Harris responded those tasks are paid for with Federal Transit Administration Funds and George Kahale is reviewing those budget costs.

VI. Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Update

B. Harris explained the draft RTP should be out for public comment after the June 17th MJTC Meeting and hopefully endorsed in July. A number of chapters are being reviewed internally and should be posted to the website by the end of the month. He distributed and explained the Draft RTP Goals, Objectives and Performance Measures. This information was presented to the MPO last week and they had one comment.

F. Maxant commented that with respect to Goal 4 on Page 5, regarding management of pavement costs. We should evaluate the pavement program in terms of dollar per pavement mile per year. We have discussed this a couple of times in the past. That will determine how efficiently money is spent.

B. Doherty stated we have looked at a small sampling of expenses over the last 15 years to see which direction it is trending in. We do have costs for every mile in our new Road Manager Program.

More discussion followed on this issue.

VII. Contract Status Reports

a. FTA/RTA

G. Kahale indicated the construction work on the Wachusett Commuter Rail Station in Fitchburg and the MBTA's Commuter Rail Layover Facility at the Westminster Business Park is ongoing. There will be a delay for the substantial project completion to Mid-2016 due to Pan Am's schedule. Pan Am will not be able to complete work on the tracks and signalization until 2016, with full completion scheduled for September 2016. The Development Road Extension is approximately 98% complete. Staff is working with the City of Fitchburg and Westminster to transfer the ownership of the property. Staff continues to work with Pan Am Railways and the City of Fitchburg to transfer 5th Mass Turnpike property to MART. Staff is also assisting MART and the Consultant in obtaining a temporary construction easement from the adjacent properties owners to construct the sidewalk on Authority Drive and continues to attend and assist at the monthly project coordination meeting with FTA, MBTA and the Engineers.

G. Kahale indicated that FTA officials indicated that MART has to resolve the pedestrian access issues at the Ayer Parking station before the project can move forward. MBTA and the property owner reached an agreement to resolve the pedestrian access issues. After months of negotiations and meetings, both parties came to common ground. The property owner will transfer a parcel to MART and then it will permanently be transferred to the Town of Ayer. The property transfer will enable access to the train station with a pedestrian walkway and a proposed driveway with a vehicular drop-off and turnaround. Mr. Kahale

continues to assist MART, FTA, MBTA and the Town of Ayer to move forward with the construction of the proposed project of Ayer commuter rail surface parking lot for 200 parking spaces at the Ayer Rail Trail parking lot location at Park Street. As soon as the property transfer for the pedestrian access takes place the process of the appraisal will start.

More discussion followed on the Ayer Parking Station.

G. Kahale stated the Fitchburg Commuter Rail Improvement Project is currently funded at \$169 million with State and Federal Funds for the Small Starts Project and replacement of the Route 62 Bridge in Concord. In addition, MBTA allocated another \$42 million in ARRA Stimulus and EOHED Funding to accomplish the double tracking and the improvements to Littleton Station, as well as another \$10 million for replacing CPF 43 interlocking in Lunenburg (*CPF is Control Point for Freight that enable trains to move from one track to another*). Work on the project is continuing along the Fitchburg Line corridor and South Acton Station. The construction of Littleton Station was completed ahead of schedule; and the MBTA's commuter parking of 200 parking spaces is full to capacity daily. MAPC is conducting a parking needs assessment for the Littleton commuter rail station to determine its future parking needs. Also the double tracking work along the corridor has been completed.

G. Kahale reported that Staff is assisting MART on a proposed Bus Route to serve Lunenburg residents and seniors; to connect to Lunenburg Crossing/Shopping Center, the Commuter Rail Station and Lunenburg Town Center. Staff is assisting MART on a proposed Bus Route to serve Westminster residents; to connect to Mount Wachusett Community College (MWCC), the Commuter Rail Station and Gardner City Center.

G. Kahale mentioned that beginning Saturday, April 25, through Sunday, November 22, 2015 weekend Fitchburg Line service will be suspended along the entire line due to the Fitchburg Commuter Rail Line Improvement Project to allow work to be performed between North Station and Fitchburg. Busing will not be provided during weekend service interruptions. Customers are advised to seek alternate modes of transportation. Weekday service is not affected by the ongoing improvement work. Regular weekend service will be provided on Memorial Day weekend (May 23-24), Fourth of July weekend (July 4-5), Labor Day weekend (September 5-6), and Thanksgiving weekend (November 28-29).

b. MassDOT 3C

B. Harris stated the MJTC appointment forms for the upcoming year will be sent out shortly. We are in the process of hiring traffic interns. He indicated he met with Harvard regarding a UPWP task for the town center. We plan to meet with Lancaster within one month. B. Harris distributed a handout regarding a culvert survey. S. Bean distributed a handout regarding Connecting Communities.

VIII. Administrative Matters

B. Harris indicated the next MJTC meeting is June 17, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. and the next MPO meeting is June 17, 2015 at 1:00 p.m.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

DOCUMENTS/EXHIBITS AVAILABLE AT MEETING:

April 15, 2015 MJTC Minutes
May 20, 2015 MJTC Agenda
Culvert Survey 2015
Draft RTP Goals, Objectives and Performance Measures
Draft Transit TIP List
Revised Budget Tasks
TIP & UPWP Work Schedule 2015 Updated
TIP Scenario Comparison FFY2016 - 2019