

**MONTACHUSETT JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (MJTC) MEETING
MINUTES OF JUNE 17, 2015**

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

I. Introduction

MEMBERS

Pauline Hamel, Ayer; Ken Chenis, Lunenburg; David Manugian, Groton; Noreen Piazza, Lancaster; Doug Walsh, Athol, Jon Wyman, Westminster .

Ex-Officio

Jeff Hoynoski, MassDOT District 2; Nikki Tissler, MassDOT Planning

Staff

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

II. Approval of May 20, 2015 Minutes

It was the consensus of the MJTC to approve the May 20, 2015 MJTC minutes as printed with one abstention.

III. Report of Nominating Committee

D. Walsh presented the Nominating Committee's recommendation for the officers of the MJTC; Chairman, David Manugian; Vice Chairman, Paula Caron and Jon Wyman, Secretary.

D. Manugian welcomed floor nominations. There weren't any. The election will take place at the July MJTC Meeting.

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

B. Harris presented a handout entitled the 2016 Montachusett MPO Transportation Program Project List. He explained the document was distributed at the MPO Meeting earlier in the day and there were comments and changes.

For 2016 we are \$573,000 over the target. At the MPO Meeting they recommended that Gardner's Resurfacing and Related Work on Matthews Street be reduced to \$800,000 and that the Gardner project be moved out of 2016 and put into the appendix of the TIP. By placing it in the appendix it remains active in the TIP, if something changes.

For 2017 we are under programmed by \$476,000. At the MPO Meeting they recommended that the cost of the Gardner Leominster, Sterling Safety improvement projects should be higher to account for inflation. The Fitchburg, Lunenburg, Leominster Summer Street project amount should be reduced to \$8,300,595. The Gardner Bike path Construction Project listed at \$1 million is an earmark. It is 100% federally funded.

For 2018 we are under programmed by \$ 8,521. The Route 13 Project was reduced to \$3,741,000. Westminster's intersection improvement project at Routes 2A and 140 was slightly increased to \$2,203,200.

For 2019 we are over programmed. Two projects were moved to the appendix; The Sterling/West Boylston Project at Routes 140 and I-190 and the Templeton resurfacing on Route 68.

The MPO recommended that with the above changes, the document be released for a 30 day public comment period. Final comments are due July 22, 2015.

Discussion followed regarding the Gardner Bike path Project and the Fitchburg, Leominster, Lunenburg Summer Street Project.

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

B. Harris presented a simplified version of the Draft Unified Planning Work Program, budgeted for this program at \$664,656. The new tasks include a Trail Connections Study, Shirley intersection Safety Study, a Non-Vehicular Crash Analysis, Stormwater Data Development Program, and identification of fixed route bus stop locations.

The MPO recommended that the document be put out for a 30 day public comment period. Final comments are due July 22, 2015.

VI. Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Update - Draft Review

B. Harris indicated a number of pre-draft chapters have been completed and forward to MPO members for their review. Once changes have been made they will be posted on MRPC's website. He explained changes that will be made to the Chapters.

The MPO recommended that the document be put out for a 30 day public comment period. Final comments are due July 22, 2015.

Discussion followed regarding road maintenance and adding to the financial section a disclaimer that we need to invest in our existing infrastructure.

VII. Contract Status Reports

a. FTA/RTA

G. Kahale stated that the construction work on the Wachusett Commuter Rail Station in Fitchburg and on the MBTA's Commuter Rail Layover Facility at the Westminster Business Park is ongoing. Pan Am will not be able to complete work on the tracks and signalization until 2016, with full completion scheduled for Early 2017.

G. Kahale indicated that MBTA is still working with the property owner on the Ayer commuter station parking lot.

G. Kahale reported the Fitchburg Commuter Rail Improvements project is underway and the double tracking and improvements to Littleton Station are completed.

G. Kahale indicated the Fitchburg Commuter Rail Line Suspension of Weekend Train Service began Saturday, April 25 and will continue through Sunday, November 22, 2015

G. Kahale indicated 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.

G. Kahale reported that the 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.

b. MassDOT 3C

B. Harris indicated that staff will meet with the Town of Harvard on the Town Center Operation Study and the Towns of Erving and Athol regarding the possibility of a Route 2 interchange this week. MRPC is working on its Title VI report due at the end of July.

VIII. Administrative Matters

B. Harris indicated the next meeting of the MJTC is July 15, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. and the MPO is July 22, 2015 at 1:00 p.m.

IX. Adjournment

It was the consensus of the MJTC to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

DOCUMENTS/EXHIBITS AVAILABLE AT MEETING:

May 20, 2015 MJTC Minutes
June 17, 2015 MJTC Agenda
Chapter 15 Challenges and Recommendations
Draft 2016 – 2019 TIP Project List
Draft UPWP 2015-2016 Fund Only
Final Summary MPO Draft 2015-2016 UPWP
Financial Chapter