

**MONTACHUSETT JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (MJTC) MEETING  
MINUTES OF JULY 12, 2017**

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

**I. Introduction**

**Members**

Sarah Bradbury, MassDOT District 3; Jeff Hoynoski, MassDOT District 2; John Telepciak, MRPC Chair; Jon Wyman, Westminster; Noreen Piazza, Lancaster; Albert Gallant, Winchendon; Roland Hamel, Royalston; Richard Maki, Sterling; Ken Chenis, Lunenburg

**Staff**

Brad Harris, George Snow, Sheri Bean

**II. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**III. Approval of June 14, 2017 Minutes**

It was the consensus of the MJTC to approve the June 14, 2017 MJTC minutes as printed.

**IV. Election of Officers**

At the previous meeting, the nominating committee indicated that they would like to propose Jon Wyman as the Chair, Noreen Piazza as Vice Chair and Doug Walsh as Secretary. J. Wyman opened it up for other nominations. After hearing none, the group voted to cast one ballot for the slate presented.

**V. FFY 2018 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

B. Harris indicated that the MPO voted to release the Draft FFY 2018 UPWP for a 21-day public review and comment period starting on June 26, 2017 and ending on July 17, 2017. MRPC released a memo regarding the UPWP draft indicating the public comment dates as well as this MJTC meeting date where public comments would also be accepted. B. Harris reviewed the UPWP process and tasks and highlighted some of the new tasks which include the following: Freight Corridor Identification and Screening, Regional Development Initiative, Local ADA Transition Plan Development, Regional Transportation Needs Assessment, Regional Trail Map Development (5-year update), and the Coordinated Transit Plan Update. B. Harris also discussed the UPWP Budget.

At this time, there has been one comment submitted by MassDOT. Those comments will be reviewed and reflected in the final UPWP.

The MJTC then recommended that the MPO endorse the current Draft UPWP at their next meeting scheduled for July 19, 2017 at 1:00pm.

**VI. Montachusett FFY 2017-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

B. Harris stated that we were informed at the last MPO meeting that we needed to do an amendment (amendment #5) to the current FFY 2017-2021 TIP. This amendment is to adjust the funding for one project under Section 1B Federal Aid Bridge Projects – Off System. The change occurs for MassDOT project 608250 – Royalston- Bridge Replacement, R-12-001 (B35), Stockwell Road over Lawrence Brook. The current funding amount is set for \$862,500 Total Program Funds, \$690,000 Federal Funds and \$172,500 Non-Federal Funds. The new adjustment would increase the funding to \$1,544,693 Total Program Funds, \$1,235,754 Federal Funds and \$308,939 Non-Federal Funds. The cost increase is due to the layout changes that were made as a result of environmental concerns.

This amendment change was put out for a 21-day public comment period that started on June 26, 2017 and will end on July 17, 2017. No comments have been received at this time.

The MJTC recommended that the MPO endorse the current Draft amendment #5 for the FFY 2017-2021 TIP.

## **VII. Route 2 Before and After Safety Performance Analysis**

B. Harris stated that during the development of the last RTP, the town of Athol raised concerns regarding safety on Route 2 and the effectiveness of the implemented measures. As a result, a task was developed to conduct a before and after review of crash data to assess the performance of the improvements and to identify possible other measures that might be needed to address additional or new safety problems.

G. Snow presented information related to a before and after safety performance analysis for Route 2 in the Phillipston-Athol area. He indicated that a number of improvements were made to Route 2 in between 2005-2007 to address safety problems. This included site distance improvements, pavement widening to increase shoulders and travel lanes, installation of kwik curbing as a median, climbing lanes and a truck weigh station.

G. Snow then reviewed various information on crash data collected for three analysis periods in order to assess performance. He also mentioned that a road safety audit would be a logical next step in order to do a full, in depth, analysis on this stretch of roadway.

## **VIII. Municipal ADA Improvement Grant Program**

B. Harris provided information regarding the Massachusetts Office of Disability (MOD) "Municipal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Improvement Grant Program". Eligible applicants include all Massachusetts Cities and Towns, special purpose districts, and/or regional government agencies, such as the MRPC. There are two eligibility categories for funding up to \$250,000-

1. Planning Grant Phase – Applicants who do not have Self-Evaluations and Transition Plans. This category requires a funding match of equal or greater value from the applicant.

2. Program Grant Phase – Applicants who have Self-Evaluation and Transition Plans and are looking for capital improvements.

Currently no information is available on the MOD website. However, they recommend checking back after August 1, 2017. We assume that the upcoming round process will be similar to the first round.

N. Piazza had follow up questions about funding matches and technical assistance.

## **IX. Contract Status Reports**

### **a. FTA/RTA**

B. Harris stated that no new developments have occurred.

### **b. MassDOT 3C**

B. Harris referred to an email that was sent out to the communities in Subregion 1 (Athol, Hubbardston, Petersham, Phillipston, Royalston, Templeton and Winchendon) indicating that the representative of that Subregion, John Columbus, is no longer on the Board of Selectmen and therefore a new representative is needed to serve on the MPO.

B. Harris mentioned that MJTC appointment forms were sent out to all community Select Board & Planning Board offices last month seeking updates. A handout, "Appointment Form Status", was provided showing the names of each member who is currently appointed at this time.

A question was asked regarding the MPO Subregion 1 representative and have we had any response? B. Harris indicated that we had not received any response and that we have sent out a reminder.

**X. Administrative Matters**

The next meeting of the MJTC will be on September 13, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. at MRPC. No meeting will be held in August.

**XI. Adjournment**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

**DOCUMENTS/EXHIBITS AVAILABLE AT MEETING:**

7/12/17 Agenda  
6/14/17 Minutes  
FFY 2018 Draft UPWP  
Draft UPWP Interested Parties Memo  
UPWP Comments  
FFY 2017 TIP Highway Amendment #5  
Rt. 2 Before & After Analysis information  
MA ADA Grant Program Information  
MPO Subregion 1 memo  
MJTC Member listing