

MONTACHUSETT JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (MJTC) MEETING

MINUTES OF WEDNESDAY JULY 16, 2014

Jon Wyman called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

I. INTRODUCTION/ MEMBERS PRESENT

Jon Wyman, Westminster; Ayn Yeagle, MOC, Inc; Doug Walsh, Athol; Noreen Piazza, Lancaster; Phil Duffy, Clinton; Frank Maxant, Ayer; Pauline Hamel, Ayer; Peter Johnston, Ayer; Tim Chenis, Lunenburg

EX-OFFICIO

Sarah Bradbury, MassDOT-D3; Jeff Hoynoski, MassDOT-D2

GUESTS

Jeremy Callahan, Ayer

STAFF

Brad Harris, Brian Doherty, George Snow, Sheri Bean, Stephanie Brow

II. APPROVAL OF JUNE 18, 2014 MINUTES

The minutes of June 18, 2014 were approved with edits to the Members Present section.

III. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Following is the Slate of Officers nominated by the Nominating Committee.

David Manugian – Chair

Paula Caron – Vice Chair

Jon Wyman – Secretary

J. Wyman made a motion to elect the slate of officers as presented by the Nominating Committee. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously and one ballot was cast.

IV. FINAL WACHUSETT CORRIDOR SMART GROWTH PLAN – TRANSPORTATION ELEMENT

G. Snow presented the Final Transportation Element of the Wachusett Corridor Smart Growth Plan.

Mr. Snow indicated that the study began in 2012 and has been treated like a Master Plan for the area surrounding the Wachusett Station Project.

The goals of the Transportation Element of this plan are to achieve the creation of a smart growth multimodal transportation system that:

- Will improve livability for residents;
- Will improve access and safety for visitors and enhance their experience;
- Will contribute to the MassDOT GreenDOT goal of tripling by 2030 the distance traveled by users through transit, bicycling and walking;
- Will improve the movement of goods to facilitate the improvement of the economy within the Corridor.

Mr. Snow then discussed the following objectives of the plan, which intend to provide multimodal and low cost transportation solutions to access and regress Wachusett Station; Job opportunities; Residences; as well as sustainable concepts that will improve the existing transportation network and also meet the future needs.

- Encourage all parties with various interests in the Corridor to work together towards improving the movement of goods by identifying specific recommendations that will comply with the Goals.
- To ensure that the proposed transportation system will meet the goals, objectives, and strategies of this section, coordinate project development efforts with:
 - MassDOT
 - Montachusett Metropolitan Planning Organization (MMPO);
 - MART

Mr. Snow indicated that the Final Draft Plan is now complete and was presented to public officials and stakeholders in June; the Draft Plan has been submitted to the Federal Partnership for Sustainable Communities. This grant allows MRPC to work with participating communities to provide assistance to implement the Plan.

The first steps of implementation of the plan is to establish a partnership or steering committee to oversee, facilitate, and coordinate implementation activities; initiate process with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among the participating communities; invite participation of other stakeholders; and consider working through existing entity such as the CEDS Committee.

V. MJTC BYLAW UPDATE - REVIEW AND ADOPTION

B. Harris indicated that the MJTC created a bylaw committee earlier this year to take the existing document and simplify it and make it easier to understand as well as stay in line with our purpose as a committee.

B. Harris reviewed some of the changes that were recommended by the bylaw committee. Mr. Harris indicated that the committee simply tried to combine, and condense in order to streamline the document.

The group discussed the Member/Alternate description for the appointment to the MJTC. The group indicated that the members appointed by the Town Manager/Board of Selectmen should be the primary member and the persons appointed by the Planning Boards should be in the alternate position, due to the fact that the responsibility of the Planning Board is not as involved with the process as a Public Works or Highway department.

G. Eaton indicated that the Planning Commission is also organized this way due to the varying responsibilities of the Planning Boards. Mr. Eaton indicated that the process for the MJTC is based on the decision by the Committee.

B. Harris stated that the wording can be changed in the bylaws to indicate that there are two delegates from each town, and not specific to who is a member and who is an alternate.

It was the wish of the MJTC to be presented with the three options available for the wording of the bylaws in regards to the appointment process to MJTC. B. Harris indicated this will be presented at the next meeting, at which time the MJTC Bylaws will be voted on.

VI. CONTRACT STATUS REPORTS

a. FTA/RTA

B. Harris indicated that there were no updates to the FTA or RTA portion this evening. Mr., Harris stated that the memo related to the Fitchburg Commuter Rail line service stoppage that was distributed to all communities has been placed on the MRPC website.

F. Maxant and P. Hamel requested that staff members working on the Ayer Parking Facility project contact the town in order to discuss the progress of the project.

b. MassDOT 3C

B. Harris indicated that the next MPO meeting is scheduled for August 13th. At the last MPO meeting the board formally endorsed the UPWP, the FFY2015-18 TIP, TIP Amendments #3 and #4 and additionally endorsed the Title VI document that staff compiled. All of these full documents are available for review on our website.

Over the next three months, staff will be completing several studies for the end of the program year. Staff is working on completing the traffic count program at the end of the summer as well.

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

a. Reappointment Forms of Members

B. Harris indicated that MJTC appointment forms have been distributed to the Planning Boards and Boards of Selectmen of our member communities.

b. Future Meeting Schedule

B. Harris requested that the MJTC move to an every other month schedule through the fall with meetings in September and November unless there is a need for any additional meetings.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.