

MONTACHUSETT JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (MJTC) MEETING
MINUTES OF JANUARY 10, 2018
Meeting Held at
GARDNER CITY HALL - MANCA ANNEX
115 PLEASANT STREET, GARDNER, MA 01453

N. Piazza called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

I. Introduction

Members

Sarah Bradbury, MassDOT District 3; Doug Walsh, Athol; Mark Wetzel, Ayer; Noreen Piazza, Lancaster; Richard Maki, Sterling; Jeff Legros, Gardner; Rick Tenney, Phillipston; Ken Chenis, Lunenburg

Staff

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

II. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

III. Approval of November 8, 2017 Minutes

It was the consensus of the MJTC to approve the November 8, 2017 MJTC minutes as printed.

IV. Montachusett Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- *Review & Discussion of FFY 2018-2022 TIP Amendment #2*
- *FFY 2019-2023 TIP Project Listing*

B. Harris reviewed the FFY 2018-2022 TIP Amendment #2. The reason for the Amendment was to add Project Number RTD0007341 under Section 5339 to Rehab/Renovate the MART Admin/Maintenance Facility at a Total Cost of \$450,000 and to remove Project Number RT0006254 under Section 5339 to Acquire – ADP Software at a Total Cost of \$450,000. The MPO voted to release the Amendment for public review and comment at the December 20, 2017 MPO meeting. The Amendment went out for the twenty-one-day public review and comment period on December 26, 2017 and will close on January 16, 2017. The Amendment will be considered for endorsement to become part of the TIP at the January 16, 2018 MPO meeting. To date there have been no comments received.

It was the consensus of the MJTC to recommend to the MPO that the Amendment be endorsed by the MPO subject to any additional comments that may be received.

B. Harris reviewed the FFY 2019-2023 TIP Project Listing for the development of the new FFY 2019-2023 TIP. This first step in the TIP development process establishes the world of projects in the Montachusett Region that need to be incorporated in the new TIP. Communities were strongly advised to check the status of the projects in their community.

V. Gardner Transportation Planning Efforts

- *Discussion of Current Projects & Issues Related to Transportation*

J. Legros discussed current complete street projects and other projects in Gardner. Gardner created a complete streets policy in 2016, a prioritization plan was approved in 2017, and currently a request for funding is out for several Tier III projects. A map with about twenty projects was presented. J. Legros discussed the Route 2 and Route 68 Rotary that will connect to the Main Street downtown area with bike lanes and separate bike path and the rear Main Street redevelopment which will include a multipurpose pathway and connect to the North Central Pathway; a pedestrian crossing at Heywood Hospital; and pedestrian and bicycle facility improvements on Elm Street, Matthews Street, and near Crystal Lake. The North Central Pathway Bridge over Route 140 was also discussed.

VI. Montachusett Performance Measures (PM)

- *State Safety PM Metrics*
- *Regional Safety PM Metrics*

G. Snow discussed the State Safety PM Metrics. There is a minimum of five FHWA required Safety PM metrics that States and MPOs must adopt: Total number of fatalities; Rate of fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled (VMT); Total number of serious Injuries; Rate of serious injuries per 100 million VMT; and Total number of combined serious injuries and fatalities for non-motorized modes. MassDOT adopted the five FHWA required Safety PM metrics. The Montachusett MPO must now either set their own Safety PM metrics or adopt the five FHWA / MassDOT Safety PM metrics. The state PM metrics were then reviewed and discussed.

It was the consensus of the MJTC to recommend to the MPO that the MPO adopt the five FHWA / MassDOT Safety PM metrics.

B. Harris discussed the Regional Safety PM Metrics which were developed during the development of the 2016 Montachusett Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). There are seven Safety PM metrics: 1) Reduce the Regional EPDO (Equivalent Property Damage Only) and percentage of fatal and injury crashes among vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians by 10% over a 10-year period; 2) Reduce the fatality rate by 10% and the serious injury rate by 10% from current levels in 10 years; 3) Identify and/or implement 4 to 5 corrective projects at identified top 10 high incident locations over a 10-year period; 4) Conduct 1 to 2 Road Safety Audits at identified high crash locations every 2 years; 5) Increase the number of communities involved in the Safe Routes to School program; 6) Maintain involvement with the Central MA Regional Homeland Security Council and evacuation planning efforts; and 7) Maintain the average number of preventable fixed route crashes under 2+ per month and demand responsive crashes under 5+ per month. B. Harris discussed the status of each Regional Safety PM Metric and the suggested recommendations to improve them for the next RTP.

VII. Regional Population Projections for the Next Regional Transportation Plan

- *Community Projections*

B. Harris discussed the Regional Population Projections for the Next RTP. The Population Projections are provided for years 2020, 2030, and 2040 by Regional and Community totals and their source is the UMass Donahue Institute and MassDOT. Three options were discussed that were used by staff to distribute population figures to the 22 MRPC communities for the forecast years. Based upon the results, it was felt that the best method for the allocation of population numbers to the communities was through the weighted average method. A memo has been prepared explaining the methodology used to distribute population numbers for each year and community that will be sent out to the municipalities in the region for their review and comment.

VIII. Contract Status Reports

a. FTA/RTA

G. Kahale and M. Wetzel discussed the Ayer Commuter Rail Parking project. The expansion of the Nashua River Rail Trail parking lot for additional commuter rail parking was discussed. Construction will begin in April of 2018 to be completed by the end of the year.

b. MassDOT 3C

B. Harris discussed the upcoming State Rail Plan meeting to be held on January 29, 2018 and the 2018 MPRC Calendar of meetings.

B. Harris discussed ongoing projects: The Regional Trail Guide is being updated and two public meetings will be held in January and February to compile the updates; MPO Subregion meetings will be scheduled based on responses to an online survey ending January 11, 2018; the TIP and UPWP must be endorsed at the same time so staff will be soliciting ideas from communities for possible work task.

IX. Administrative Matters

The next meeting of the MJTC will be on February 14, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in Sterling at the Town Hall.

X. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

DOCUMENTS/EXHIBITS AVAILABLE AT MEETING:

1/10/18 Agenda

11/8/17 Minutes

Interested Parties letter for Draft Amendment #2

Draft Amendment #2 to the FFY 2018 Transit Element

Montachusett FFY 2019-2023 TIP Project List

HSIP & Safety Performance Management Measures Final Rules Overview

MassDOT and Montachusett MPO Safety Performance Measures

Montachusett Performance Measures

Population Projections by RPA

State Rail Plan Notice

MRPC 2018 Calendar of Events