

# MONTACHUSETT METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MMPO) MEETING

Minutes of June 21, 2017

D. Mohler representing MassDOT Secretary Stephanie Pollack called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

## I. Introduction

### SIGNATORIES PRESENT

David Mohler, MassDOT; Sarah Bradbury, MassDOT Highway; John Telepciak, MRPC; Bonnie Mahoney, MART; Albert Gallant, Subregion 1; Noreen Piazza, Subregion 4;

### MEMBERS AND GUESTS PRESENT

Jeff Hoynoski, MassDOT District 2; Nikki Tishler, MassDOT OTP; Stephen Powers, MassDOT OTP; Charlie Mills, MassDOT OTP; David Chandler, FHWA; Tim Kihart, Harvard DPW; John Marc-Aurele, Devens Engineering

### STAFF PRESENT

Brad Harris; George Snow; Sheri Bean; Brian Doherty; Kaitlyn Olbrich

## II. Public Comments

There were no public comments to be made.

## III. Approval of May 17, 2017 Minutes

A motion was made to approve the May 17, 2017 MPO Meeting Minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

## IV. Montachusett Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

- *Review and Discussion of Draft UPWP*
- *MPO Release of Draft UPWP for Public Review and Comment*

B. Harris presented a draft of the 2017-2018 Unified Planning Work Program to the MPO members. He indicated that at last month's meeting, staff reviewed several of the planned tasks to be included in the UPWP. At this meeting, he reviewed the opening section of the document that outlines the process and procedures for the UPWP as well as the inclusion of a table that provided a status update on those tasks currently underway in the current 2016-2017 UPWP. This was added based upon a comment from MPO members to have additional information on task results. Staff also finalized and refined the budgets and scope of the tasks. Additionally, the Performance Measures task was expanded to include work on an update to the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). It was felt that since the performance measures are tied closely to the goals contained within the current RTP that this would be a logical place to address changes to the RTP in the coming year. Additional tasks and the budget for the 2017-2018 UPWP were presented and discussed with the MPO members.

B. Harris also indicated that if the MPO votes to release the draft UPWP for public comment, the 21-day comment period would begin on Monday June 26<sup>th</sup> and end on Monday July 17<sup>th</sup> just before the next MPO meeting on July 19<sup>th</sup>.

A motion was made and seconded to release the Draft UPWP for a 21-day public review and comment period. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

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

- *Review of Draft Amendment #5 to FFY 2017 Highway Element*
- *MPO Release of Draft TIP Amendment #5 for Public Review and Comment*

B. Harris reviewed a requested Amendment #5 to the FFY 2017 Highway Element related to the cost change to a bridge project. He stated that we were notified by MassDOT of a cost increase to project #608250 Royalston Bridge Replacement on Stockwell Road over Lawrence Brook. The cost has increased from \$862,500 to \$1,544,693. Since this is a significant increase, i.e. an almost doubling of the estimated cost, an Amendment to the FFY 2017 Highway Element would be required. This project is listed in the TIP under Section 1B – Federal Aid Bridge Projects Off System. Therefore, this would not impact any fiscal constraint issues related to our FFY 2017 Target Funds.

B. Harris also indicated that if the MPO votes to release the draft TIP Amendment #5 for public comment, the same 21-day comment period as outlined for the UPWP would be used, i.e. it would begin on Monday June 26<sup>th</sup> and end on Monday July 17<sup>th</sup> before the July 19<sup>th</sup> MPO meeting.

A question was asked as to why the cost had increased so much. J. Hoynoski indicated that there was an alignment change and additional approach work in order to limit the environmental and conservation impacts. MA Fish and Games has property in the area so the change was developed to limit any impacts.

A motion was made and seconded to release the Draft TIP Amendment #5 for a 21-day public review and comment period. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

**VI. Route 2 Before and After Safety Performance Analysis**

- *Project Status Presentation*

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 the 1990's to 2000's to address safety problems. This included brush cutting, pavement widening to increase shoulders and travel lanes, installation of kwik curbing as a median, climbing lanes and a truck weigh station.

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 then reviewed various information on crash data collected for three analysis periods in order to assess performance.

**VII. Updates**

- *MassDOT Highway Division*

J. Hoynoski indicated that the Winchendon North Royalston Road bridge over Tarbell Brook was advertised with an opening on September 26<sup>th</sup>; the Royalston bridge project on Stockwell Road over Lawrence Brook that was just discussed has submitted 100% design; and Winchendon Route 12 resurfacing project was also advertised and the bid opening is August 8th.

S. Bradbury indicated that Gardner Matthews Street bids were opened May 16<sup>th</sup> and PJ Albert Inc. is the contractor; Hubbardston Route 68 was advertised April 22<sup>nd</sup> and bids are to be opened in October; Lunenburg Chase Road (Route 13) is at PS&E and should be advertised in July; and the Fitchburg/Leominster/Lunenburg Summer Street project is also at PS&E awaiting a sign off from the MBTA and should be advertised in August or sooner.

- *Transit*

B. Mahoney mentioned that they are undergoing a lot of construction around this facility. Re-paving will be happening in the front and several underground tanks are being replaced in the back of the building. MART also met with Devens on June 14<sup>th</sup> about the shuttle service that recently started and it appears that we will have private partnership funding to continue the shuttle into the next fiscal year.

- *MJTC*

B. Harris indicated that at the next MJTC meeting in July, we will have elections for MJTC officers. Also the next MJTC meeting will be held at our new office location in Leominster.

- *MRPC*

J. Telepciak indicated that the MRPC is not meeting in July due to the closeness of the holiday. The budgets have been wrapped up and the office move is the major item happening right now.

B. Harris also mentioned that Kaitlyn Olbrich will be leaving the MRPC on June 24<sup>th</sup> and moving over to MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning. The MRPC will be advertising for her position in the near future.

#### **VIII. Administrative Matters**

- *Next MPO Meeting*

B. Harris indicated that the next MPO meeting will be on Wednesday July 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM at our new offices at 464 Abbott Avenue in Leominster.

#### **IX. Adjournment**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

#### **DOCUMENT/EXHIBITS PRESENTED AT MEETING**

MPO 6 21 2017 Agenda  
5 17 17 MPO Minutes  
DRAFT UPWP 2017 2018 No Maps 6 2 2017  
Summary DRAFT UPWP 6 14 2017  
FFY 2017 Highway Amendment 5 Summary  
Handout Draft Rt 2 Before & After Analysis  
Relocation Announcement June 2017