

## MEETING MINUTES

### Merrimack Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MVMPO)

### Merrimack Valley Planning Commission (MVPC) Haverhill, MA

Monday, August 1, 2016 – 12:00 p.m.

#### **Attending:**

#### **Voting Members:**

Steve Woelfel, MassDOT, representing MassDOT Secretary Pollack  
Frank Suszynski, representing Highway Administrator Thomas Tinlin  
John Pettis, representing City of Haverhill  
Theresa Park, representing City of Lawrence  
Heidi Murphy, Georgetown, representing MVMPO Subregion #3

#### **Others Present:**

Mary Kay Beninati, MVPC	Bill Scott, City of Amesbury
Betsy Goodrich, MVPC	Nikki Tishler, MassDOT OTP
Jerry Klima, Town of Salisbury	Joseph Tofalo, for Sen. Bruce Tarr
Anthony Komornick, MVPC	Geordie Vining, City of Newburyport
Connie Raphael, MassDOT District 4	

#### **Agenda Item No. 1: Call to Order**

Mr. Woelfel called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. and asked all attendees to introduce themselves.

#### **Agenda Item No. 2 Opportunity for Public Comment**

Mr. Woelfel asked if there were any members of the public present who wished to speak to the MVMPO. No one came forward to do so.

#### **Agenda Item No. 3: Adoption of Minutes of the June 20, 2016 MVMPO Meeting**

There was a motion to approve the June 20, 2016 MVMPO meeting minutes. *The motion was seconded and approved.*

#### **Agenda Item No. 4 FFYs 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

##### **a. Status of TIP Roadway and Bridge Projects**

Ms. Raphael updated the MVMPO on the status of the following FFYs 2016-2019 TIP projects:

FFY 2016:

- Andover-Lawrence-North Andover, I-495 Resurfacing & Related Work: A preconstruction conference was held on July 12, 2016. Project completion is expected in November 2018;
- Haverhill, Route 125 HSIP Intersection Reconstruction Project: Project is at 100% design. Projected advertising date scheduled for September 17, 2016. ROW will be critical;
- Lawrence, Bruce School Safe Routes to School: Project is proposed to be reprogrammed in FFY 2017;
- Lawrence, Common St. & Lowell St. ADA Improvements: Public Hearing was held on July 13, 2016 and was well attended. Project advertising date scheduled for September 10, 2016. ROW is critical, and
- Methuen: MA-213 Resurfacing and Bridge Repairs: Project is at the Final Design stage with an expected advertising date of August 6 2016;

FFY 2017:

- Amesbury, Powow Riverwalk Phase I: Project is at 75% design. Project has a September 30, 2017 scheduled advertising date;
- Haverhill, Route 97 between Silver Birch Lane and Research Drive: Project is at 75% design stage.

#### **Agenda Item No. 5: Discussion and Action for FFYs 2016-2019 TIP proposed Amendment #1**

Ms. Beninati reported on suggested changes to proposed Amendment #1 to the FFYs 2016-2019 TIP based on comments received during the public review and comment period and at the Public Hearing held on July 13<sup>th</sup>.

##### Route 213 Resurfacing & Related Bridge Work

- MassDOT comment to move Section 1D NHS funding to Section 1C;
- Increase the project cost to \$11,987,868 from \$9,937,161;
  - Reduce Statewide Bridge Maintenance funding amounts from

- \$2,400,000 to \$2,134,670;
- Increase other federal aid costs from \$6,937,161 to \$9,206,368, and
- Increase Stormwater cost from \$600,000 to \$646,830

***Vote:*** *There was a motion to approve the proposed changes noted for Amendment #1. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.*

### **Agenda Item No. 6: Discussion and Action for FFYs 2016-2019 TIP Proposed Amendments #2**

Ms. Beninati reported on suggested changes contained in proposed Amendment #2 to the FFYs 2016-2019 TIP based on comments made during the public review and comment period and at the Public Hearing held on July 13.

#### Lawrence Traffic Signal and ADA Improvements on Common & Lowell Streets

The proposed amendment would:

- Increase
  - HSIP funds to \$810,500 from \$442,956;
  - TAP funds from \$610,846 to \$736,220;
  - Total Project Cost to \$2,880,512 from \$2,056,878 by adding \$823,634 of Statewide Infrastructure Funding
- Reduce
  - STP funds from \$1,003,076 to \$510,158

#### Lawrence Safe Routes to Schools Program

The proposed amendment would:

- Move the Lawrence Safe Routes to School (Bruce Elementary) project from FFY 2016 to FFY 2017 and increase Total Project Cost from \$812,500 to \$2,016,148.

***Vote:*** *There was a motion to approve the proposed changes noted for Amendment #2. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.*

**Agenda Item No. 7: Discussion and Action for FFYs 2016-2019 TIP Amendment #3**

Ms. Beninati reported on suggested changes to proposed Amendment #3 to the FFYs 2016-2019 TIP based on comments made at the Public Hearing held on July 13.

Transit Projects

- Replace Parking Facilities Revenue Collection Equipment for a total cost of \$300,000;
- Purchase a Bus/Van mobile location system for a total cost of \$300,000;
- Acquire one support vehicle to replace an existing vehicle that has reached the end of its useful life for a total of \$46,350;
- Refurbish/Replace Engines on Eight Model Year 2011 Transit Buses for a total cost of \$280,000, and
- Mobility/Assistance Program (MAP) Northeast Independent Living Bus for \$52,000.

***Vote:*** *There was a motion to approve the proposed changes noted for Amendment #3. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.*

**Agenda Item No. 8: Discussion and Action on Draft FFYs 2017-2021 TIP**

Ms. Beninati reported on proposed changes to the FFYs 2017-2021 TIP based on comments received from MassDOT and MVRTA.

- Replace 7 Model Year 2004 buses with new for a total of \$2,989,000. She noted that Joe Costanzo needs to let the manufacturer know by the end of today if the project is to go forward.

***Vote:*** *There was a motion to approve the FFYs 2017-2021 TIP. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.*

**Agenda Item No. 9: Discussion and Action on Draft FFY 2017 Unified Planning Work Program**

Mr. Komornick reported on comments received from MassDOT and MVRTA and included in the Final Draft FFY 2017 Unified Planning Work Program.

- Page 6

- Updated Membership as appropriate, including ex officio members.
- Page 35
  - Deleted duplicate reference to Dept. of Conservation and Recreation.
- Pages 53-54
  - Included Task 1.5 activity within Task 1.2.
- Page 75 – Task 1.5
  - Included a sub-task to participate in MassDOT’s freight plan update.
- Page 77 – Task 2.6
  - Included reference to the Massachusetts Household Travel Survey.
- Page 79 – Task 2.7
  - Included a sentence to ensure project recommendations anticipate requirements of the Healthy Transportation Directive
  - Will create a sub-task to use CMAQ funds for the support and administration of a bicycle parking program.
- Page 125 – Task 4.2
  - Changed the description to specifically point out that MVPC staff is available to assist communities advancing projects from planning studies into the MassDOT Project Development Process including the preparation of Project Need Forms and Project Initiation Forms.
- Page 133
  - Mr. Komornick referenced a handout reflecting how funding is broken down by Task. The total percentage of spending for Planning Studies is 34%.
- Removed the reference to MVRTA’s Route 54D as the Demand Response service is no longer being operated.
- Included reference under Transportation Tourism Task to reflect that the Tourism facilities be identified in the MVRTA Route Map.

***Vote:*** *There was a motion to approve the above mentioned FFY 2017 UPWP. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.*

### **Agenda Item No. 10: Discussion and Action on MVRTA/MVMPO Memorandum of Understanding**

Mr. Komornick reported that in Joe Costanzo’s absence it is requested that this item be tabled to the next meeting.

***Vote:*** *There was a motion to table the Discussion and Action on MVRTA/MVMPO Memorandum of Understanding to the next meeting. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.*

**Agenda Item No. 11: Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for MPO**

Mr. Komornick referenced the proposed rule released by USDOT back in July that would modify the definition of what is a Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) and how transportation planning would be conducted in such areas. The proposed rule presented two options for doing this. The first would be to create a single MPO for the MPA. Alternatively, if the situation is determined to warrant that there should be multiple MPO's within an MPA, there would have to be joint development of a single TIP, single RTP and one set of performance measures that would be used among all the MPO's in the MPA area. MVPC drafted a letter to USDOT requesting an additional 60-day Review and Comment period to address this notice of proposed rulemaking. If adopted, this new rule would create a significant and a very complex transportation planning process for many MPO's. He noted that the current process seems to work well.

Mr. Woelfel noted that MassDOT's position will be to receive all the MPO's Review and Comment letters and address the proposal with MassDOT's response.

**Agenda Item No. 12: Other**

No items were brought forward for discussion.

**Agenda Item No. 13: Adjourn**

***Vote:*** *There was a motion to adjourn at 1:00 p.m. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.*