

## MEETING MINUTES

### Merrimack Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MVMPO) Merrimack Valley Planning Commission (MVPC) Offices

Haverhill, MA

Wednesday, February 22, 2017 – 12:00p.m.

#### **Attending:**

#### **Voting Members:**

David Mohler, MassDOT, representing MassDOT Secretary Pollack  
Frank Suszynski, representing Highway Administrator Thomas Tinlin  
Theresa Park, representing City of Lawrence  
Karen Conard, representing Merrimack Valley Planning Commission  
Joe Costanzo, representing Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority  
Neil Harrington, Salisbury, representing MPO Subregion#1  
Mayor James Fiorentini, representing City of Haverhill

#### **Others Present:**

James Barnes, Boxford	Anthony Komornick, MVPC
Mary Kay Beninati, MVPC	Rafael Mares, CLF
David Chandler, FHWA	John Pettis, Haverhill
Michael Davis, Groveland	Connie Raphael, MassDOT District 4
Robert Desmarais, Amesbury	Jim Terlizzi, MVPC
Betsy Goodrich, MVPC	Nikki Tishler, MassDOT OTP
Jerry Klima, Salisbury	

#### **Agenda ItemNo.1: Call to Order**

Mr. Mohler called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm and asked all attendees to introduce themselves.

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

Mr. Mohler 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 January 26, 2017 MVMPO Meeting**

There was a motion to approve the January 26, 2017 MVMPO meeting minutes.

Mr. Komornick noted a change to the January 26, 2017 minutes. The Amesbury - Elm Street Project was discussed as a FFY 2019 project and not a FFY 2018 project as shown in the original draft minutes. There was a motion to approve the change to the January 26, 2017 MVMPO meeting minutes. The motion was seconded and approved.

### **Agenda Item No.4: FFYs 2017-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

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

Ms. Raphael updated the MVMPO on the status of the following FFYs 2017-2021 TIP projects:

- Amesbury - Powow Riverwalk Construction: There was a Public Design Hearing on February 16. The project requires a Chapter 91 license that could take up to 6-9 months to obtain, which could be critical to the project's advertising schedule and needs to be watched very carefully.
- Haverhill - Reconstruction on Route 97 (Broadway), from Silver Birch Lane to Research Drive: Project is at 100% design for review. Projected advertising date is March 2017.
- Lawrence - Marston Street/Commonwealth Ave project is added to the project list. 25% Design submission is expected by the end of February.
- Haverhill - Bradford Rail Trail, Haverhill has hired a consultant to do the design work.

#### **b. Status of Transit Projects**

MVRTA's Joe Costanzo updated the MVMPO on the following transit projects:

- CMAQ funds are now available for the purchase of three diesel/electric hybrid buses. He said he is awaiting transfer of funds from FTA. The order has been placed.

## **Agenda Item No.5: Development of MVMPO's Draft FFYs 2018-2022 TIP**

### **a. MPO Funding Targets**

Mr. Komornick reported on the Draft FFYs 2018-2022 TIP noting the available CMAQ, HSIP, STP and TAP funding for the upcoming five-year period. Additional funding will become available in FFYs 2018-2022 compared to FFYs 2017-2021. Some years will include as little as \$50,000 in additional funding while in other years it is as much as \$600,000 more. He added there will be no reduction of funding in any of these years.

Mr. Komornick referred the group to the 'Merrimack Valley MPO-Project Status for 2018-2022 TIP' handout, which reflects information compiled by MassDOT at the TIP Readiness Day held last Friday. He highlighted the last four columns of the worksheet that shows Right of Way (ROW) section, Environmental section and Director comments and the last column, *Readiness Day Recommendations*.

Mr. Komornick noted that the Salisbury-Multiuse Trail Extension is recommended to be moved back to FFY 2019 for several reasons as indicated specific to historic and park impacts. Jerry Klima of Salisbury addressed the group and noted that the report is incorrect in that Salisbury's rail trail has no ROW of issues, no historic or park impacts. He said all that is needed is a Notice of Intent from the Salisbury Conservation Commission. The 25% design hearing has taken place and ready to move forward but Salisbury has not heard back on what the design funding issues are. No design work has been done since May 2016. Mr. Klima feels the reasons shown on this sheet are outside the scope of this project. He added that MassDOT has changed its policy in determining when a bridge, culvert etc. is needed. Mr. Klima requested that MassDOT expedite a meeting with the communities involved to inform them on where the design funding stands and what needs to be done to move the project forward. Mr. Klima said that this project was first presented to the MVMPO in 2011.

Frank Suszynski explained how the original project was divided between four communities to receive funding. At this time, there is insufficient design funding available to complete the project. He said there will be a meeting within the next two weeks to discuss Mr. Klima's concerns and the status of the project(s). Mr. Mohler agreed that the matter needs to be resolved including where the project(s) will be scheduled in the TIP. Based on its current design status, it could possibly end up in FFY 2019.

Mr. Komornick reviewed the remaining projects for the FFY2018-2022 TIP with some discussion on the following.

- Bradford Rail Trail - Haverhill's Mayor Fiorentini guaranteed his office will provide the necessary information by February 29th.
- Amesbury - Elm Street Reconstruction – MassDOT's Frank Suszynski expressed concerns on the delays with this project. There was discussion on reducing the scope of the project and Mr. Suszynski noted that MassDOT is not supportive of this option. Mr. Komornick requested confirmation on the increase of the project to \$11,600,000. May is the target date for the 75%/100% design submission.

Mayor Fiorentini asked if the refurbishing of the I-495 bridges over the Merrimack River in Bradford would be disruptive to traffic. Mr. Suszynski said that if they were refurbished rather than replaced, the new bridge decks would be installed over a weekend, limiting traffic concerns. An update will be available at the next MVMPO meeting.

#### **b. Report on Tip Readiness Day Discussions**

Mr. Komornick referred the group to the 'Regional Target Projects Preliminary List Based on TIP Readiness Day' handout. The list includes MPO Target highway projects tentatively programmed based on assumed Target funding amounts and the advertising dates recommended by MassDOT at TIP Readiness day. He reviewed the analysis for FFY 2018-2022 and noted the impact on the available funding if highlighted projects were moved from where they are programmed in the current TIP.

#### **c. Review on MVRTA Draft Capital Program**

Mr. Costanzo reviewed the MVRTA Capital Program noting the common elements are Preventative Maintenance on equipment, ADA Assistance, and support of planning funds with MVPC. He noted that asset replacement is key to maintaining the condition of transit equipment.

#### **2018**

- Replace 1 model year 2013 supervisory vehicle;
- Add three 35' transit buses with a delivery in 2019;
- State of Good Repair - Bus Maintenance Facility;
- State of Good Repair - Lawrence Gateway Parking - Phase I;
- Refurbish Engine/Transmissions on 8 Model Year 2012 Transit Buses.

**2019**

- Replace three Model year 2007 Transit Buses (delivery in 2020);
- Replace one Model Year 2013 Supervisory Vehicle;
- State of Good Repair - Lawrence Gateway Parking - Phase II.

**2020**

- Replace nine Model Year 2009 transit buses (delivery 2021);
- State of Good Repair - Lawrence Gateway Parking - Phase III.

**2021**

- Replace 16 Model Year 2015 paratransit vehicles (delivery 2021).

**2022**

- Replace six Model Year 2011 transit buses (delivery 2023).

Mr. Costanzo added that several commuter buses will need to be replaced sometime between 2026-2027 depending on the level of capital funding over the next few years.

**Agenda Item No. 6: Development of MVMPO's Draft FFY 2018 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

**a. PL Contract Funding Guidance**

Mr. Komornick reported that the PL portion of the FFY 2018 UPWP will see an increase in funding of \$30,000 from the state compared to FFY 2017. MVPC is working on developing tasks and studies that are to be covered in the upcoming UPWP. Communities have been notified to respond to MVPC by the 1st week in March with any traffic studies they wish to be considered for inclusion in the document.

**b. MassDOT 2012-2014 Crash Clusters**

Mr. Komornick presented the group with a list of MassDOT 2012-2014 Highway Crash Clusters in the MVPC Region ranked by Equivalent Property Damage Only (EPDO) score. He highly recommended the MVMPO and member communities consider these high-crash locations as priority candidates for road safety studies to be included in the upcoming UPWP. Mr. Komornick then explained the EPDO scoring methodology.

He highlighted the EPDO score of 166 for the Route 110 @ Moulton Way/ Washington Ave/Comeau Bridge area in Haverhill. A previous MVPC study of the area showed that it was not as congested as originally thought. However, it is a high crash location resulting in the high EPDO score.

Mr. Komornick then referred to the additional studies done on Pedestrian and

Bicycle Crash Clusters in the MVPC Region by community. Mayor Fiorentini requested a breakdown of the bicycle and pedestrian crashes in the Moulton Way/ Washington Ave/Comeau Bridge area in Haverhill.

**Agenda Item No.7: Update on MassDOT's 2018-2022 Capital Investment Plan**

MassDOT's Niki Tishler reported that MassDOT and MBTA are working on the 2018-2022 Capital Investment plan. Information on the Draft CIP including upcoming meetings can be found at [www.mass.gov/massdot/CIP](http://www.mass.gov/massdot/CIP). She said that there would be meetings held statewide on the CIP in May. Mr. Komornick confirmed that all projects in the TIP should be on the CIP Approved List. Mr. Mohler noted that all TIP projects should show up in the CIP, which reflects anticipated cash flow. If they do not, contact MassDOT and the matter will be corrected.

**Agenda Item No. 8: Other**

None

**Agenda Item No. 9: Adjourn**

Next MVMPO meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 22, 2017 at the MVPC offices at noon. Lunch will be available.

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