

MEETING MINUTES
Merrimack Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization
(MVMPO)
Merrimack Valley Planning Commission (MVPC)
Haverhill, MA
Monday, June 20, 2016 – 12:00 p.m.

Attending:

Voting Members:

Trey Wadsworth, MassDOT, representing MassDOT Secretary Pollack
Frank Suszynski, Representing Highway Administrator Thomas Tinlin
Dennis DiZoglio, MVPC Executive Director
Joe Costanzo, representing MVRTA Advisory Board
John Pettis, representing City of Haverhill
Theresa Park, representing City of Lawrence
Neil Harrington, Town of Salisbury Town Manager - MVMPO Subregion #1
Chris Roop, - Georgetown representing MVMPO Subregion #3

Others Present:

Bob Arakelian, Town of Groveland	Heidi Murphy, Town of Georgetown
Mary Kay Beninati, MVPC	Connie Raphael, MassDOT District 4
Alex Johnson, Town of Groveland	Bill Scott, City of Amesbury
Jerry Klima, Town of Salisbury	Nikki Tishler, MassDOT OTP
Anthony Komornick, MVPC	Geordie Vining, City of Newburyport
Kathryn Laverriere, Rep. Campbell	

Agenda Item No. 1: Call to Order

Mr. Wadsworth 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. Wadsworth 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 March 30, 2016 MVMPO Meeting

There was a motion to approve the March 30, 2016 MVMPO meeting minutes. *The motion was seconded and approved, with Mr. Wadsworth abstaining.*

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: Project was advertised for construction bids on 1/30/16 and a Notice to Proceed (NTP) was issued on 6/13/16. A preconstruction conference is to be scheduled. Project completion is expected 11/18;
- Haverhill, MA-125 HSIP Intersection Reconstruction Project: Project is at 75% design. Section 4(f) review not needed as it was determined that there was no adverse effect;
- Lawrence, Bruce School Safe Routes to School: Project is proposed to be reprogrammed in FFY 2017 and is now at 75% design;
- Lawrence, Common St. & Lowell St. ADA Improvements: 25% Design Public Hearing scheduled for 7/13/16. Project advertising date scheduled for 9/10/16, and
- Methuen: MA-213 Resurfacing and Bridge Repairs: Project is a Final Design stage with an expected advertising date of 8/13/16;

FFY 2017:

- Amesbury, Powow Riverwalk Phase I: MassDOT still awaiting 25% design plan resubmission. Project has 9/17/17 scheduled advertising date;
- Andover, Billerica, Bedford, & Tewksbury, Stormwater Improvements on I-93 at Various Locations: Project is scheduled to be advertised in November 2016.
- Resurfacing of I-93 in Andover and Methuen: This project is still at the pre-25% design stage and is slated to be advertised in August 2017;
- Haverhill, MA-97 between Silver Birch Lane and Research Drive: Project is at 25% design stage. Haverhill City Engineer John Pettis

noted that 75% design plans for the project will be submitted to MassDOT on 7/1/16. Project is scheduled to be advertised for construction in 12/16.

- North Andover, Massachusetts Avenue / MA-125 Intersection Reconstruction Project: Project at 25% design stage with a scheduled advertising date 1/7/17;

FFY 2018:

- Amesbury, Elm Street Reconstruction Project: MassDOT still awaiting resubmission of the 25% design plans. Advertising date scheduled for 8/18;
- Amesbury/Salisbury, Powow Riverwalk/Ghost Trail Connector: Project at 25% design stage. Project is scheduled to be advertised for construction 10/17;
- Georgetown/Boxford, Border to Boston Southern Segment: Project at 25% design stage and has an 11/17 advertising date;
- Haverhill, I-495 Bridge over the Merrimack River Superstructure Replacement: Project at 25% design stage with an anticipated advertising date of 8/18;
- Salisbury, Border to Boston Trail segment: Project is at 25% design stage with an anticipated advertising date of 8/18;

FFY 2019

- I-95 Topsfield-Rowley-Danvers-Boxford. The project is scheduled for advertising in August 2021.
- Georgetown-Newbury, Border to Boston Northern Segment: At 25% design stage. The project is scheduled for construction advertising in August 2019.
- Amesbury/Haverhill/Merrimac, I-495 Sign Update: At 25% design stage and may be advertised in September 2019.

b. Status of Transit Projects

Mr. Costanzo briefed attendees on four FFY 2016 TIP projects:

- five of a total of 10 MVRTA replacement buses are already in service;
- two supervisory vehicles will be delivered in two weeks completing the 2016 program.

Agenda Item No. 5: Development and Potential Release for Public Review of FFYs 2016-2019 TIP Amendment #1

Mr. Komornick directed the attendees to a handout showing the proposed highlighted Amendment #1 to the FFYs 2016-2019 TIP.

Route 213 Resurfacing & Related Bridge Work

He noted that while the estimated cost for the portion of the project shown under the **Statewide Bridge Maintenance Program** for replacement of the decks of the Route 213 bridges over the Spicket River and the substructure repairs for the Route 495 Bridge over Route 213 had decreased, the overall estimated cost of the project had increased from the \$9,937,161 amount shown in the previous TIP amendment to a new total of \$11,987,868. The magnitude of this increase in the estimated cost of the project was large enough to require that the TIP be amended again.

Vote: *There was a motion to release the above mentioned Amendment #1 for public review and comment. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.*

Agenda Item No. 6: Development and Potential Release for Public Review of FFYs 2016-2019 TIP Amendments #2:

Mr. Komornick directed the attendees to a handout showing the proposed highlighted Amendment #2 to the FFYs 2016-2019 TIP.

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.

A question was raised about the magnitude of this cost increase and it was pointed out that virtually all of that increase could be attributed to an expansion of the scope of the project.

Vote: *There was a motion to release the above mentioned Amendment #2 for public review and comment. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.*

Agenda Item No. 7: Development and Potential Release for Public Review of FFYs 2016-2019 TIP Amendment #3

Mr. Costanzo directed the attendees to a handout showing the proposed

highlighted Amendment #3 to the FFYs 2016-2019 TIP. He noted that these projects are currently shown in the FFY 2017 element of the upcoming TIP. However, moving them into FFY 2016 would speed up the project procurement process.

Transit Projects

- Haverhill/Lawrence - Replace Parking Facilities Revenue Collection Equipment for a total cost of \$300,000 (Federal Funds \$240,000; state match source (RTACAP) of \$60,000). He noted that the revenue collection equipment at both facilities had reached the end of their useful life and, in the case of Haverhill, the company that built the equipment was getting out of the business.
- Purchase a Bus/Van mobile location system for a total cost of \$300,000. (Federal Funds of \$240,000 and state match source (RTACAP) of \$60,000). Mr. Costanzo noted that this new system would allow users with a smart device to view the real time location of transit vehicles.
- Acquire one support vehicle to replace an existing vehicle that has reached the end of its useful life for a total of \$46,350. (Federal Funds of \$37,080 and state match source (RTACAP) of \$60,000). Move project from FFY 2017 to FFY 2016.
- Refurbish/Replace Engines on Eight Model Year 2011 Transit Buses for a total cost of \$280,000. (Federal Funds of \$224,000 and state match source (RTACAP) of \$56,000). This project would ensure that these buses reach the end of their 12-year useful life. This amendment would also increase the cost of the project now shown in FFY 2017 for \$232,000 to \$280,000 in FFY 2016.

Mr. Wadsworth inquired whether these proposed amendments include the project awarded through the Community Transit Grant. Ms. Beninati responded that it didn't include this \$50,000 award to the Northeast Independent Living Program for a new van under the Section 5310 program.

Vote: *There was a motion to release the above mentioned Amendment #3 along with the Section 5310 project for the Northeast Independent Living Program for public review and comment. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.*

Agenda Item No. 8: Development and Potential Release of FFYs 2017-2021 TIP

Ms. Beninati directed the attendees to the 'MVMPO Regional Target Funding Scenarios' for the FFYs 2017-2021 TIP. She then noted that:

- Route 97 (Broadway) in Haverhill is programmed in FFY 2017 in all scenarios because it is the only large project expected to be ready to be advertised in FFY 2017;
- Elm Street in Amesbury can only be Advance Constructed starting in 2019 as its cost, were it to start in 2017 or 2018, would not be greater than the overall MPO funding target in those years. She reminded members that anytime a project changes years, its cost changes because of inflation considerations.
- FFY 2017 is the same in Scenarios 'C','D','E','F' and 'G';
- FFY 2021 is the same in Scenarios 'C','D', and 'E';
- Scenarios 'F' and 'G' were developed based on the assumption that Lawrence's Common Street and Lowell Street Project is not ready to be advertised in FFY 2016. Scenario 'F' programs Lawrence Common Street and Lowell Street in FFY 2018 and Scenario 'G' programs it in FFY 2019 with statewide CMAQ funding.
- FFY 2019 has more upgrades for buses (Flex to FTA for MVRTA a new bus upgrade to cleaner fuel buses and Haverhill's Bradford Rail Trail extension from Route 125 to Railroad Street

Ms. Beninati then directed the attendees to Scenario 'H' ('MVMPO Preliminary Draft 2017-2021 Highway Projects') that includes all of the projects shown in Scenario 'E' and reflects the fact that MassDOT has recently agreed to provide \$500,000 in Statewide CMAQ funding for the Salisbury Rail Trail Project in FFY 2018. This action eliminates the deficit that is shown in Scenario 'E'. She noted that Scenario 'E' is the scenario that programs the largest amount of available target funding over the five-year period.

Ms. Beninati noted that FFY 2021 starts the Route 114 Corridor improvements that would extend from Andover Street to the Stop and Shop Driveway (\$18,000,000), which is a multi-year project.

Ms. Beninati then identified the MPO Target projects contained in Scenario 'H' for each Federal Fiscal Year of the TIP.

Nikki Tishler inquired asked whether the Amesbury Powwow Riverwalk project would be ready to be advertised in FFY 2017 and Bill Scott of Amesbury indicated that it would. He said that the City's consultant for the

project was working with Brian Chapman of MassDOT to move the design forward.

Ms. Beninati then directed the attendees to the 'Preliminary Draft MVMPO FFY 2017 to 2021 Transit Projects' based on the project list shown in BlackCat Grants on June 16, 2016. She said this list follows the MVRTA's Five Year Capital Plan that was endorsed on June 5th, but with some differences that reflect the fact that the bus purchases show up earlier in the MVRTA Capital Plan than in Black Cat. Mr. Costanzo noted that MassDOT lists such projects in the year that state funds are to be spent, which is the year that the buses are delivered. The MVRTA lists them in the year they are programmed in the Capital Plan.

Mr. Costanzo then noted that there is \$5 million in Non Federal Aid funding to assist in the construction of the Newburyport Intermodal Facility; \$2.5 million in FFY 2017 and \$2.5 million in FFY 2018. FTA funding for the project will come later and will likely require an amendment to the TIP.

Vote: *There was a motion to release the projects as shown in Scenario 'H' and in the transit packet for public review and comment. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.*

Agenda Item No. 9: Development and Potential Release of FFY 2017 Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Komornick directed attendees to the handout of the Draft FFY 2017 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Referring to the 'Draft FFY Unified Planning Work Program Task Funding Summary', noting that many of the tasks identified, such as the preparation of the TIP, UPWP, and Management and Support, appear in every UPWP.

For the most part the amounts shown in the Draft FFY 2017 UPWP are in line with what was spent in the FFY 2016 UPWP. Mr. Komornick then referred to the attached 'Key Changes Contained in MVMPO's Draft FFY 2017 Unified Planning Work Program'. He noted that there are two changes that need to be made to the version of the Draft UPWP that was distributed earlier. Heidi Murphy just recently left MVPC and her name has been removed from the document. He also noted that staff needs to add a subtask to Task 3.1 to have MVPC out and assist the MVRTA in collecting National Transportation Database passenger boarding and alighting information to meet federal standards.

Mr. Komornick added that the Draft describes the procedures that need to be followed in making changes to the UPWP. If a project is to be added or removed from the UPWP, a full MPO Amendment is required with a public review and comment period. If there is a minor modification to the UPWP, i.e. minor change in task funding or definition, it can be implemented through an administrative process within the MPO.

Mr. Komornick then noted that the Draft FFY 2017 UPWP will not be released to the public immediately and asked attendees to review the report and get back to him with any suggested edits so that they can be included in the document before it is printed.

Vote: *There was a motion to release the above mentioned UPWP for advertising for public review and comment. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.*

Agenda Item No. 10: Update on MassDOT Draft FFY 2017-2021 Capital Improvement Plan

Mr. Wadsworth reported that the Board of Directors is reviewing hopefully taking action on the Draft FFY 2017-2021 Capital Improvement Plan. Ms. Tishler noted that 400 comments on the document have been received and responded to. Mr. Wadsworth noted that the Common Street/Lowell Street Project was accidentally omitted from the Draft and has been placed back in the CIP.

Agenda Item No. 11: MVRTA/MVMPO Memorandum of Understanding

Mr. Komornick reported that the MVRTA/MVMPO Memorandum of Understanding final document is not available and that changes still need to be addressed. It will be available at the next MPO meeting.

Mr. Costanzo reported that the Federal Transit requires that the Transit Operator must have a seat at the table with a separate MOU. In addition, items such as the Transit Asset Management and Transit Safety rules need to be reflected in the new MOU.

Agenda Item No. 12: Other

MVPC's executive Director invited the attendees to the upcoming MVPC Regional Planning Day - "State of the Region" at Northern Community College's Haverhill Campus on Thursday, June 23 at the Technology Center

beginning at 8:30am.

Agenda Item No. 13: Adjourn

The next MPO meeting is scheduled for August 1 @ noon.

Vote: *There was a motion to adjourn at 1:05p.m. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.*