

MVMPO – September 27, 2023

Members Present

Derek Krevat, representing Acting Secretary Monica Tibbits-Nutt
Brian Fallon, representing Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver
Jerrard Whitten, MVPC Executive Director
Noah Berger, MeVa Administrator
John Pettis, representing Mayor of Haverhill
Neil Harington, representing Subregion 1
Robert Snow, representing Subregion 2
Paul Materazzo, representing Subregion 4
Dan McCarthy, representing Mayor of Lawrence

Others Present

Patrick Reed, MVPC
Andrew Wang, MassDOT Planning
Bonnie Mahoney, MeVa
Derek Shooster, MassDOT
Elizabeth Maldari, MVPC
Jenifer Dunlap, MVPC
Jerry Klima
Josh Levin, MassDOT District 4
Niorka Mendez, MeVa
Timothy Paris, MassDOT
Lisa Schwarz, Town of Andover

Item 1. Call to Order

Mr. Krevat called the meeting to order at 12:02pm, on August 23, 2023. Mr. Williams called the roll and quorum was attained.

Item 2. Opportunity for Public Comment

Mr. Krevat called for public comments. There being comments, Mr. Krevat moved to item 3.

Item 3. Minutes

Mr. Krevat called for solicited approval for the August 23 meeting minutes. Mr. Williams noted a comment from the City of Haverhill, clarifying alternates and designees. Mr. Pettis made the motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Whitten seconded. The meetings passed with all voting in favor except Mr. Fallon (abstained as he was not present) and Mr. Snow and Mr. McCarthy, who joined after item 3.

Item 4. Draft Metropolitan Transportation Plan

Mr. Krevat opened the next item, an overview of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan. Mr. William reminded attendees that the Metropolitan Transportation Plan is a long-range plan that establishes the vision, goals, and objectives of the MVMPO, as well as develops a universe of project candidates for federal aid. Mr. Williams discussed a list of changes made to the draft, which had been released for comment at the previous MVMPO meeting in August. The list included:

- updating the table of contents
- updating the list of MVMPO members
- updating the signatory sheet
- updating the plan's acronym list
- providing project scores in the FFY24-28 time band
- noting Bipartisan Infrastructure Legislation funding sources
- adding narrative about the relationship between performance measures and projects and strategies
- adding the required greenhouse gas emission analysis
- adding references to the FFY24-28 TIP for the equity analysis
- providing a cost estimation narrative
- providing project IDs
- providing additional narrative for the universe of projects list, and amended various projects as appropriate per coordination with municipal staffs
- adding transit-specific projects and strategies

Following a review of updates, Mr. Berger made a motion to approve and adopt the plan, which was seconded by Mr. Snow. The motion passed unanimously, excluding Mr. McCarthy, who did not join the meeting until after item 4.

Item 5 – Draft Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan

Mr. Krevat moved to the next item, item number five, calling Mr. Williams to present. Mr. Williams provided an overview of the draft Coordinated Public Transportation Human Services Transit Plan (Coordinated Plan), which details strategies and improvements to improve transit and mobility for protected classes and the elderly. Mr. Williams described several strategies included in the plan. He followed by noting a comment by the Amesbury Council on Aging Director, which discussed more flexibility for medical appointment timing and concurred with strategies listed in the plan. Mr. Berger provided two small comments. Mr. Berger noted that candidate recipients of Section 5310 funding could be derived from the plan, but that they did not necessarily need to be *included* in the plan itself. Mr. Berger also clarified that Merrimack Valley Transit went Fare Free in March 2022 (not July), which staff agreed to update. Mr. Berger moved to approve the plan. Mr. Materazzo seconded. The plan passed unanimously.

Item 6. Safe Streets and Roads for All Update

Mr. Krevat opened item 6, an update on the region's Safe Streets and Roads for All planning process, describing the award, the coordinated partnership with the Northern Middlesex Council of Governments, and planning grant deliverables. Ms. Maldari contrasted the Vision Zero approach to planning and design from a traditional approach. The Vision Zero approach assumes traffic deaths are preventable, designs to reduce impact for invariable human error, focuses on severe and fatal crashes, focuses on a systems approach rather

than individual responsibility, and asserts that saving lives is not expensive when factoring in the totality of costs. Ms. Maldari provided the example of Hoboken, New Jersey, which has successfully implemented Vision Zero. Ms. Maldari then next explained what Safe Systems, and discussed elements and definitions of safer speeds, safer road, safer vehicles, safer people, and post-crash care. Ms. Maldari showed a snapshot of the region's initial High Injury Network, and walked through the project timeline. Finally, Ms. Maldari discussed elements of public participation, including partnerships, specific events, and locations for installation-type engagement.

Item 7. Status of Ongoing TIP Projects

Mr. Krevat asked Mr. Berger to provide and update on ongoing TIP-related transit projects. Mr. Berger indicated that MeVa has received 12 of 15 Gillig buses (four 29' Shaddies and regular 35' buses). Mr. Berger noted that MeVa is advancing an RFP for improvements on the ground floor of the McGovern Center, and envisions changes around this time August of next year. Mr. Berger noted that MeVa has extended service on six of the region's higher ridership routes, and that MeVa would like to run the #1 bus on Saturdays (30 mins all day 7am-7pm), and Sunday service on six routes that make sense for Sunday service: #1, #24, #7, #8, #10, and #13. Mr. Berger recognized Gisenia Fernandez, MeVa's Safety and Training Officer, who will be recognized by the state legislature for her service during Hispanic Heritage month. Mr. Berger noted that he would be participating in session highlighting transit ridership success at MassDOT's Moving Together Conference. Mr. Krevat passed updates to Mr. Paris, who ran through the spreadsheet of Merrimack Valley relevant District Four projects:

- #609466 – Haverhill Bridge Replacement over Merrimack River – This project's design status was changed to 25 percent, and the project was zeroed out in the tracking sheet for book-keeping reasons.
- #610924 – Lawrence Reconstruction on Amesbury Street – This project's cost was increased.
- #610658 – Methuen Intersection Improvements at Riverside Drive and Burnham Road – This project's total contract cost was zeroed out for book-keeping reasons.
- #602202 – Salisbury Reconstruction of Route 1 – This project's cost was increased, and the total contract cost was also increased.

There being no questions, Mr. Krevat moved to the last item.

Item 8. Other Business

Mr. Krevat solicited other business. Mr. Reed noted that the meeting dates for November and December are not ideal. Mr. Williams suggested an alternative date for the November meeting: November 29. Mr. Williams noted that the Acting Secretary of Transportation may be present, and asked for feedback regarding an in-person meeting. Mr. Materazzo noted that he was comfortable with the 29, and that in-person would be ideal. Mr. Whitten asked if a hybrid option would be available. Mr. Krevat noted that as standard, if there is an in-person meeting with hybrid participation, a quorum would need to be present. Mr. Whitten stated that we would encourage all MVMPO Board members to attend in-person. Mr. Harrington confirmed he could be present on November 29. Mr. Reed requested MVMPO Board members notify staff of scheduling concerns, as necessary. Mr. Williams mentioned that an alternate meeting date would be solicited in December with additional comment from Mr. Reed.

Mr. Reed noted that the region has worked to apply for a Reconnecting Communities federal aid grant award in partnership with the City of Lawrence, the Town of Andover, and the Town of North Andover.

Mr. Reed provided comments recognizing the promotion of Danny Ovalle to Field Services Coordinator. He also provided additional comments complimenting new staff on their efforts for MVMPO-related work.

Item 9. Adjournment

Mr. Krevat solicited a motion to adjourn. Mr. Whitten made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Whitten. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.