

MERRIMACK VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION

Monthly Meeting June 18, 2020

Virtual Go To Meeting

Time: 11:00 am

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AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of May Meeting Minutes
4. Warrant for May
5. Chairman's Comments
6. Director's Report
7. Contracts
8. Transportation Update – Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
9. Local and Regional Issues
10. Other
11. Adjourn

MERRIMACK VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION

ROLLCALL FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE 18, 2020

TAKEN BY: Kathleen Bradley Colwell, Secretary *Kathleen B Colwell*

COMMISSION COMMITTEE MEETING

AMESBURY

Robert Laplante C[✓]
Vacant A[]

ANDOVER

Lisa Schwarz C[✓]
TBD A[]

BOXFORD

Jim Barnes, Treasurer C[✓]
Joe Hill A[]

GEORGETOWN

John Cashell C[✓]
Vacant A[]

GROVELAND

Rebecca Oldham C[]
Robert Arakelian A[]

HAVERHILL

April Der Boghosian C[]
William Pillsbury A[]

LAWRENCE

Pedro Soto C[✓]
Abel Vargas A[]

MERRIMAC

John Thomas C[]
Vacant A[]

METHUEN

Kathleen Bradley Colwell, Secretary C[✓]
William Buckley A[]

NEWBURY

Martha Taylor C[✓]
Peter Paicos A[]

NEWBURYPORT

Rick Taintor C[✓]
Bonnie Sontag A[]

NORTH ANDOVER

Rick Byers C[✓]
Vacant A[]

ROWLEY

Robert Snow, Chairman C[✓]
Joe Perry A[]

SALISBURY

Lou Masiello C[]
Jerry Klima A[]

WEST NEWBURY

Brian Murphey C[]
Vacant A[]

REPRESENTATIVE-AT- LARGE

Brad Buschur C[]
Heather McMann A[]

MINUTES

Thursday – May 21, 2020

Virtual Commission Meeting (GoToMeeting)

Recorded from MVPC, 160 Main Street, Haverhill, MA

Consistent with the Governor’s orders suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law and banning gatherings of more than 10 people, this meeting will be conducted by remote participation to the greatest extent possible. The public may not physically attend this meeting, but every effort will be made to allow the public to view and listen to the meeting in real time. Persons who wish to do so are invited to watch the meeting on the MVPC web site or join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone by using the link: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/748821525> or you can also dial in using your phone by calling +1 (571) 317-3112 and using access code 748-821-525. In the event that live transmission proves infeasible, an audio or video recording, transcript or other comprehensive record of the meeting will be made available on the MVPC website as soon as possible.

1. **Call to Order** – Chairman Snow called the meeting to order at 11:00 am
2. **Roll Call** – Secretary Colwell called the roll and declared a quorum of 12 commissioners present at the time of roll call. North Andover Commissioner Byers and Rep-At-Large Brad Buschur joined the meeting at 11:15 am. There were 14 commissioners in attendance. The following Commissioners and Staff were in attendance:

Commissioners

Amesbury	Robert Laplante
Andover	Lisa Schwarz
Boxford	Jim Barnes, Treasurer
Groveland	Rebecca Oldham
Georgetown	John Cashell
Lawrence	Pedro Soto
Methuen	Kathleen Bradley Colwell, Secretary
Newbury	Martha Taylor
Newburyport	Rick Taintor
North Andover	Rick Byers
Rowley	Robert Snow, Chairman
Salisbury	Lou Masiello
West Newbury	Brian Murphey
Rep-At-Large	Brad Buschur

Staff

Theresa Park, Executive Director
Tony Komornick, Transportation Program Manager
Jerrard Whitten, GIS-IT Program Manager
Jennifer Hughes, Environmental Program Manager
Nate Robertson, Community & Economic Development Planner
Jenifer Dunlap, Finance Administrator
Betsy Goodrich, Senior Transportation Planner
Jim Terlizzi, Transportation Engineer
Mikayla Minor, GIS Analyst

3. Adoption of April 16, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Chairman Snow reviewed the April 16 minutes and recommended the Commission's authorization for adoption.

Vote: There was a motion by Commissioner Soto and seconded by Commissioner Masiello to approve the April 16 meeting minutes. The April 16 minutes were approved with one abstention from West Newbury according to Secretary Colwell's roll call vote of 12 attending commissioners.

4. Warrant for April

Warrant for April

Treasurer Barnes reported on the April Warrant and recommended the Commission's authorization for adoption.

Vote: There was a motion by Commissioner Byers and seconded by Commissioner Schwarz to approve the April Warrant. The April warrant was unanimously approved by Secretary Colwell's roll call vote of 14 attending commissioners.

5. Chairman's Comments

Chairman Snow reported that MVPC has entered Phase I of the Governor's reopening plan, which can be found at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/reopening-massachusetts>. He encouraged all to review the information to see how their community will be affected.

Mr. Snow added that the June meeting will be conducted virtually at the same time of 11:00 am before the commission goes to recess for the summer.

Mr. Snow reported that MARPA has hired Tremont Strategies to help respond to H.48 legislation dealing with the RPA's contribution to the pension system. They have worked with the regional planning agencies and sent a letter to the Chairman of House Ways and Means Committee, Rep. Michlewitz.

Mr. Snow announced that the Nominating Committee will be presenting a slate of officers for the commission's vote. He extended a very warm welcome to Georgetown's Commissioner John Cashell who has fully recovered after a brief illness.

6. Executive Director's Report

MVPC's Executive Director, Theresa Park, referred the commission to her report since the April meeting highlighting the following. MARPA has hired Tremont Strategies to help respond to H.48 (state retirement) at the state level to stop this bill. They have sent a letter to the Chairman of House Ways and Means Committee, Rep. Michlewitz. This bill will be a financial hardship to RPAs and would have great implications to services our organizations provides to communities. Ms. Park asked the commissioners for their support by contacting their local legislatures to stop this bill.

Ms. Park noted that MVPC is participating in the tri-state Seacoast Managers and RPAs (ME, NH, and MA) effort to coordinate beach access/openings. Three communities in our region included in this effort are Salisbury, Newbury and Newburyport.

Ms. Park responded to an inquiry by Representative Lenny Mirra regarding the Housing Production Plan and 40B. She contacted Department of Housing and Community Development to coordinate an information session for communities to better understand the Plan and how to manage the 40B projects.

Transportation Program

MVPC Program Manager, Tony Komornick, highlighted the following MPO Transportation projects. The MPO is getting ready to take action on the FY2021 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and he reviewed studies selected to be part of the program. MVPC will perform a road safety audit for two crash cluster locations

identified by MassDOT, one at East Street and Prospect Street in Methuen, and the other at Daisy Street and Broadway in Lawrence. The City of Newburyport requested MVPC look into Pedestrian/Bicycle issues at the Three Roads intersection. MVPC is looking into doing a Complete Streets analysis on Merrimack Street in Methuen between Pleasant Street and the I-495 ramps, and on Route 133 in the area near IRS and Raytheon.

He then noted that the MPO has discussed pushing out two projects in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), one for North Ave in Haverhill and the other for Route 114 in North Andover. Mr. Komornick reported that his group came up with a plan that will be presented at the next MPO meeting in June allowing these two projects to move forward and be included in the FFYs 2021-2025 TIP.

GIS Program

MVPC GIS Program Manager, Jerrard Whitten, reported that Pictometry flights were completed in April. He added that all the region's imagery is available through the Connect Explorer online application. Rollout of the imagery to MVPC resources/MIMAP is expected in a couple of months (July/August timeframe). The GIS group completed FY21 parcel updates for Amesbury, Rowley and Georgetown.

Mr. Whitten noted that the interactive map is now available through the MVPC website. Updates are being made to the MIMAP application to improve workflows and asked the commission to send him suggestions on what they would like to see improved in the application.

Environmental Program

MVPC Environmental Program Manager, Jennifer Hughes, reported Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) meetings took place with Merrimac, Rowley and North Andover.

MVPC is working with Brown and Caldwell, consultants on the Merrimack River District Commission project, to identify priority actions for the Merrimack River working within a framework across municipalities and state lines for a cleaner river. The consultants are also working on a bacteria early alert system. The funding for this system is primarily for Newburyport. The tool will use time of travel data to determine when a CSO release may reach Newburyport. The launch for the bacteria alert system is this summer. Ms. Hughes added that although this system is for Newburyport the tool will be able to be modified to work in other Merrimack River communities.

Community and Economic Development

MVPC Community and Economic Development Planner, Nate Robertson, reported that Community and Economic activities have been extremely busy due to the COVID-19 community related implications in our region. MVPC established an economic development web portal, a precursor to the data portal, to help communities with their business openings and economic development initiatives. This includes all information MVPC has in-house. The data portal has been expedited and is ahead of schedule and will be available shortly.

Mr. Robertson reported that Merrimack Valley Cultural Asset Mapping Project is underway. He is working with the Essex County Community Foundation to engage and catalyze the arts and culture community. The project is now live at PlaceAndMeaning.MVPC.org. He will be reaching out to the arts/culture communities and our municipal partners to solicit input from the public.

7. Contracts

The following contracts were presented for authorization by the Commission.

Grant/Local Community

- **Newburyport** - \$8,000 (No match required) – GPS Fleet Monitoring for Department of Public Service (DPS) vehicles FY2021
- **Salisbury** - \$17,500 (No match required) – Reorganization and hosting of Water System data for Department of Public Works (DPW) and Operation of Mobile Applications for FY 2021 MVPC to receive funding from Newburyport and Salisbury to provide the above GIS products and updates.

Vote: There was a motion by Commissioner Byers to authorize the above-mentioned contracts and seconded by Commissioner Taylor. The contract was unanimously approved by Secretary Colwell's roll call vote of 14 attending commissioners.

8. Nominating Committee – Election of Officers

2020 Report of the Nominating Committee

Committee Members:

Robert Snow of Rowley
Robert Laplante of Amesbury

The Nominating Committee reviewed the roster of MVPC Commissioners and recommends for election the following:

Chairman: Robert Snow of Rowley
Vice Chairman: Kathleen B Colwell of Methuen
Secretary: Robert Laplante of Amesbury
Treasurer: James Barnes of Boxford

Vote: There was a motion by Commissioner Taylor to authorize the slate of officers as recommended by the Nominating Committee and seconded by Commissioner Schwarz. The election of officers was unanimously approved by Secretary Colwell's roll call vote of 14 attending commissioners.

9. Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action Policy Statement and Plan Update – 2020

MVPC's Finance Administrator Jen Dunlap presented the annual update of the 2020 Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action Policy Statement. State and federal compliance regulations require the tables of the plan be updated annually to reflect the results of the annual Voluntary Self-Identification survey distributed to MVPC staff and with the personnel activities for the past twelve months. Every five years the plan is reviewed in full. The next full implementation of the plan will be in 2021. Ms. Dunlap requested the Commission's authorization to adopt the updated 2020 Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action Policy Statement as presented.

Vote: There was a motion by Commissioner Schwarz and second by Commissioner Taylor to authorize the 2020 Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action Policy Statement as presented. The motion was unanimously approved by Secretary Colwell's roll call vote of 14 attending commissioners.

10. Local and Regional Issues

Methuen Commissioner Colwell commended MVPC Nate Robertson and Karen Ristuben of the Essex County Community Foundation for appearing on the Mayor's weekly TV show to promote the Merrimack Valley Place and Meaning project.


11. Other - None

12. Adjourn

There was a motion by Commissioner Cashell and second by Commissioner Taylor to adjourn the meeting at 11:50 am. The motion was unanimously approved by Secretary Colwell's roll call of 13 attending commissioners.

It was noted that Rep-At-Large, Brad Buschur left the meeting at 11:45 am.

I hereby certify that these minutes are an accurate account of the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission meeting held on May 21, 2020.


Kathleen Bradley Colwell
Secretary



MERRIMACK VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION
MAY 2020
MONTHLY WARRANT # 11
 June 18, 2020

Check #	Amount	Vendor	Description
16827	\$ 8,068.78	BANK OF AMERICA PAYMENTS	CREDIT CARD CHARGES-INCLUDING PPE-MAY'20
16828	\$ 196.60	BANK OF AMERICA-BANK FEES	BANK SERVICE CHARGES-MAY'20
16829	\$ 4,400.00	CARTEGRAPH SYSTEMS INC.	DIRECT(MADOT)-ASSET MGT.SOFTWARE/MAINT.UPGRADE-MAY'20
16830	\$ 527.74	COMCAST	PHONE/INTERNET SVC.-MAY'20
16831	\$ 45,377.44	COMMONWEALTH OF MASS./GIC	EMPLOYER INSURANCE PREMIUMS-Q2-20
16832	\$ 242.00	COSTAR REALTY INFO. INC.	DIRECT(DHCD)-REAL ESTATE DATA CHRGMAY'20
16833	\$ 9.99	CRYSTAL ROCK LLC	WATER/COOLER RENTAL-MAY'20
16834	\$ 673.20	CTS LANGUAGE LINK	DIRECT(MADOT)-TRANSLATION SERVICES
16835	\$ 285.75	ESSEX MARINA	DIRECT(NWF)-BOAT&TRAILER MAINTENANCE
16836	\$ 56.73	FEDERAL EXPRESS	EXPRESS POSTAGE
16837	\$ 250.00	GRANTS MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS	ACCTG.SOFTWARE LIC./MAINTENANCE-MAY'20
16838	\$ 250.00	KIA MOTORS FINANCE	MVPC VEHICLE LEASE PMT-MAY'20
16839	\$ 460.00	ELLEN KUHL	CLEANING SERVICES-MAY'20
16840	\$ 20,085.47	MAINTSTAR, INC.	DIRECT(CMMS)-ANNUAL MAINT.-4 COMMUNITIES
16841	\$ 300.00	MASS. MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION	DIRECT(ECCF/TEDS)-EMPLOYMENT LISTING TEDS SPECIALIST
16842	\$ 199.32	NATIONAL GRID (GAS CHARGES)	GAS CHARGES - MAY'20
16843	\$ 328.46	NATIONAL GRID	ELECTRICITY - MAY'20
16844	\$ 1,206.70	NORTH OF BOSTON MEDIA GROUP	DIRECT(MADOT)-LEGAL NOTICES (TIP)
16845	\$ 196.65	PETER PHIPPEN	DIRECT EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT-MAY'20
16846	\$ 34,229.25	PICTOMETRY INTL.CORP	DIRECT AERIAL IMAGERY/LIC. FOR REGION-BAL.FIRST YEAR
16847	\$ 446.41	STAPLES CREDIT PLAN	OFFICE SUPPLIES-MAY'20
16848	\$ 5,195.54	UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE	DIRECT(DMF)-GREAT MARSH CONSULTANT
16849	\$ 199.95	VERIZON WIRELESS	IPAD DATA CHARGES (5)-MAY'20
16850	\$ 544.60	VERIZON CONNECT NWF,INC.	ADMIN./DIRECT(NBPT)-FLEET MONITORING SVCS.-MAY'20
16851	\$ 4,000.00	GEOFFREY WALKER	DIRECT(DMF)-MICRO PLASTICS COLLECTION & TESTING IN GM RIVERS, 2020 SEASON
16852	\$ 77.50	WESTON & SAMPSON ENG.INC.	DIRECT(EPA)-BROWNFIELDS CONSULTANT (MAY'19)
	\$ 127,808.08		

Warrant Paid Items:

NONE

TOTAL		
WARRANT	\$ 127,808.08	**TOTAL PASS THRU TO DIRECT PROJECTS = \$ 60K
		***TOTAL PASS THRU NWF/DMF GREAT MARSH RESTORATION = \$ 9K
		**** ADMINISTRATIVE ITEM OF NOTE

APPROVED BY:

ROBERT SNOW, CHAIRMAN

Date

Monthly Commission Meeting

Chairman's Report

June 18, 2020

- The Executive Committee met last week to wordsmith and approve an equity statement in response to recent events and to stress the importance of equity in the work that we do. A copy of the statement is included in your meeting packet.
- In response to 40B activities in the region and per request from State Representative Lenny Mirra, a presentation by the MA Department of Housing and Community Development was successfully held last week with close to 40 participants. If there are pressing concerns in your community or topics of interest, please direct them to the Executive Director.
- Great progress has been made on a wide range of projects including completing the Pictometry fly over, progressing Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness planning in North Andover and Rowley, formative work on the Merrimack River District Commission and the Newburyport Early Notification System, and the updating of the Transportation Improvement Program. Details are of these and other projects are provided in the Executive Director's report.
- I'd like to congratulate Theresa for being unanimously approved to become a Board member of the Greater Haverhill Chamber of Commerce. She will use this opportunity to continue building partnerships to support and strengthen economic development efforts in the region.
- A reminder that after today's meeting the Commission will enter summer recesses. When we resume in September, we'll have a new Executive Committee as voted in at the May meeting: Kathleen Colwell as Vice-Chair, Jim Barnes as Treasurer, Robert Laplante as Secretary, and I will continue to service the Commission as Chair.

**Merrimack Valley Planning Commission
Executive Committee meeting – June 10, 2020**

Committee members in attendance:

Chairman Bob Snow
Vice Chairman Kathleen Colwell
Treasurer James Barnes
Secretary Robert Laplante

Staff in attendance:

Executive Director Theresa
Transportation Program Manager Tony Komornick
Finance Administrator Jen Dunlap

The June 10, 2020 Merrimack Valley Planning Commission Executive Committee meeting was called to order at 11:16am.

In a motion by James Barnes, seconded by Robert Laplante, it was voted unanimously by roll call vote to accept the final wording of the equity statement below for immediate release by the MVPC Social media group.

Meeting adjourned at 11:47am.

Merrimack Valley Planning Commission

Equity Statement

As a planning agency, we are in the profession of building communities in a positive, healthy and equitable manner, in which each individual is valued and whose voice is heard. The events of past days, months and years highlight the systemic and harmful ways people of color are mistreated, marginalized and discriminated against. This is antithetical to who we are as individuals, an organization and a profession. We abhor violence that suppresses freedom of speech and promotes inequitable treatment of people exercising that freedom of speech through peaceful protest. We abhor any abuse of power and miscarriage of justice. We stand united with all humankind, regardless of race, color, gender, creed, religion, national origin, or sexual orientation. May each of us take a moment to reflect deeply on the past events and take deliberate actions to correct errors of the past in order that we may form a more perfect union, whether that be our neighborhood, community, region, state or country.

MONTHLY COMMISSION MEETING
Executive Director's Report
June 18, 2020

Executive Director updates:

Supported various MVPC-led efforts including impacting all of our member communities including:

- Attend and participate in MPO, MVP, MRDC, Newburyport Early Alert System, and EDA-related meetings and workshops. MPO and EDA work is ongoing; draft report is in the works for the MRDC, MVP planning in North Andover and Rowley are progressing well and we're conducting a rest run of the Supported various MVPC-led efforts including e Newburyport Early Alert System (see respective sections for more details).
- Regional partnership engagements
 - Attend the Lawrence Partnership Board meeting as ex-officio
 - Nominated and approved to be on the Board of the Greater Haverhill Chamber of Commerce
 - Engage with EforAll as a member of their Leadership Team
- Organized a presentation by DHCD on the subject of 40B attended by closed to 40 people.
- Stay up to date on COVID-10 related matters which can then be relayed to communities by participating on several weekly calls with the Lt. Governor, mayors and managers in the greater Boston area, and the MMA.
- Worked with the Executive Committee and staff to prepare an equity statement.
- Worked with staff on a reopening strategy.

Transportation Program updates:

Merrimack Valley MPO

- A Virtual Meeting on May 27th. Key items for discussion were:
 - Adoption of MVMPO's FFYs 2021-2025 TIP
 - Adoption of Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan
 - Release of Draft FFY 2021 Unified Planning Work Program.
- The next Virtual Meeting of the MVMPO will be held on June 24th.
- Released Draft MVMPO FFY 2021 Unified Planning Work Program for Public Review and comment according to the MVMPO Public Participation Plan. Held two Virtual Public Hearings for review of the Draft MVMPO FFY 2021 Unified Planning Work Program.
- Prepared Final MVMPO FFYs 2021 to 2025 Transportation Improvement Program and Project Listing for distribution to the MVMPO and for the MVPC website.

Studies, Technical Assistance and Local Activities

- Completed collecting sidewalk location and condition data in Groveland and West Newbury.
- Completed mapping of the Complete Streets projects in the region, which will be incorporated into a story map and included in the Active Transportation Plan.
- Submitted proposal to MassDOT for MVPC to monitor traffic volumes at 30 key locations in the Valley on a monthly basis.
- Began process of updating regional pavement management software to CarteGraph OMS.
- Began updating community development "tracker", which monitors the level and location of residential and commercial developments in the region.

- Identified and disseminated information regarding grant funding available to communities to plan for and implement “Shared Streets” projects.
- Assisted MVRTA in its outreach efforts for a public survey released as part of the Authority’s Five-Year Comprehensive Regional Transit Plan (CRTP) Update.
- Completed analyzing crash data and plotting crash locations for Road Safety Audits at these locations:
 - Haverhill: Main Street (Route 125) in vicinity of Primrose Street and Marsh Avenue;
 - Haverhill: Lowell Avenue, between River Street and the northerly corner
 - Lawrence: Haverhill Street (Route 110) at Lawrence Street.
- Regularly participate in the MVRTA’s Regional Transit planning process.
 - Working with a designer to create a flyer for the MVRTA to be given to seniors by the RMV.
 - Assisting the MVRTA with a grant application for a new micro-transit service.
 - Collecting and analyzing income and other data for the MVRTA in support of their Fare Equity Analysis.
 - Released WikiMapping crowd sourcing tool for public participation in the Active Transportation Plan.

Environmental Program updates:

Municipal Vulnerability Program

- North Andover – Workshop 1 completed virtually with 4 groups of stakeholders.
- Rowley – Workshop 1 completed virtually with 3 groups of stakeholders.
- Planning for Workshop 2 in progress in North Andover and Rowley

Brownfields Program

- Merrimac – Signed RLF for +/- \$150k and a Loan of \$75K. Cleanup work to begin within the next month.
- Newburyport – MVPC has subgranted an additional \$56,000 for cleanup on the wastewater treatment plant site adjacent to the Clipper City Rail Trail site. This funding is the first use of MVPC’s revolved program income.

Stormwater Collaborative/MS4 Support

- Held May 13th Stormwater Collaborative meeting in collaboration with Greenscapes Northshore. Engineering firm SDE presented a training on locating illicit connections.

Green Communities

- Rowley is working toward Green Community Designation. A meeting on the Stretch Code was held on June 10th.
- New MOU’s were submitted for the REPA program. Funding Requested for Haverhill, Lawrence, Newburyport and Merrimac.

Merrimack River District Commission

- A second Technical Advisory Group meeting was held on June 2nd to discuss the format of a regional data hub for the Merrimack River.
- A second meeting of the Merrimack River Steering Committee was held on June 9th to discuss next steps for the MRDC. A final report for the Merrimack River Decision Framework is being prepared by Brown and Caldwell and will be completed by June 30th.

- Testing of the Early Alert System for Newburyport will begin this week.
- MVPC applied for an EPA Healthy Communities Grant to expand the Early Alert System to the Environmental Justice Communities of Lawrence, Lowell, Haverhill and Methuen.
- MVPC applied to be a Regional Nonpoint Source Coordinator in Essex County specifically in the Merrimack River Watershed. This was done in collaboration with the Merrimack River Watershed Council.

Coastal Program

- The first phase of *microplastic* water sample collection for Merrimack River, Plum Island Sound, and Essex Bay was completed. We are working with Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute to use their facilities to process the samples. *Macroplastic* mapping and selected cleanup was completed this spring
- Great Marsh open, high marsh Phragmites remapping and monitoring has begun to determine the effectiveness of previous years management practices
- Isotope profiling of transplanted eelgrass at the Essex River eelgrass restoration site to indicate most compatible eelgrass type for restoration has been completed. Eelgrass planting at the Plum Island Sound site (Nelson's Island) was performed last week.
- The Great Marsh Partnership activity education and outreach project development is underway
- Regional Marsh Edge Erosion (MEE) surveys for Plum Island Sound, Ipswich Bay, and Essex Bay are now complete (local site, in depth MEE is ongoing)
- Federal funding was secured to locate impaired marsh hydrology locations, permit, and implement novel marsh drainage practices (runneling). Potential sites were identified via drone and field checked.

GIS Program updates:

Contracts and Grant Opportunities

- Developed data sharing partnership with Essex County Greenbelt Association (ECGA).
- Executed contract with Town of Salisbury DPW for a full water system data update.

Coordinate Pictometry flight, municipal access and training.

- Negotiated with Eagleview to offer promotional featuring Changefinder product to MVPC communities.
- Arranged webinar for product demonstration by Eagleview staff.
- Coordinated technical meeting between data portal vendor (GIS Planning) and Eagleview
- Received hard drive containing imagery of the region, processing for MIMAP and mobile apps now.

IT Hardware and Software

- Deployed updated Antivirus software office wide.
- Exploring spam and phishing email training for MVPC staff/region.
- Provided Cartegraph with executed contract for upgrade to OMS, awaiting assignment of project team.

Community Initiatives

- Andover – provided information on GPS vehicle tracking, provided contact for asset management software provider.
- Amesbury – completed FY21 parcel update, provided Planning Department with updated Zoning and overlays map.
- Georgetown – completed FY21 parcel update.
- Groveland – deployed mobile app for municipal light department.
- Merrimac – exploring document management solutions using MIMAP.
- Methuen – assisting with preparation of stormwater compliance grant (retention ponds), provided scope of work for assistance with Open Space mapping.
- Newbury – preparing for FY21 parcel update.
- North Andover – facilitated MVP virtual workshops.
- Rowley – completed FY21 parcel update, facilitated MVP virtual workshops, updating RMLP system maps.
- Salisbury – initiated project for water system data updated, preparing CRS maps.
- West Newbury – prepared Historic Properties inventory, printed large format parking and safety maps for DPW/Town Hall re-opening.

Community and Economic Development updates:

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

- Merrimack Valley Cultural Asset Mapping Project. Working with the Essex County Community Foundation we have released *Place and Meaning 2020* to seek input on the region's cultural assets. Over 150 assets have been contributed to the map and this continues to grow by the day. Check out PlaceAndMeaning.mvpc.org
- Submitted a \$400k CARES Act application to support long term resiliency planning and to provide technical assistance to impacted businesses in a way that aligns with CEDS priorities.

Data Portal

- Continue to build out a regional data portal to synthesize, update, and present a wide myriad of data for our region including demographics, available real estate, and businesses. MVPC released an RFR, selected the preferred vendor, and are currently working with them on the final product.

Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) Grant

- Submitted a \$600k EAA application to the U.S. Economic Development Administration to support of the newly expanded Revolving Test Kitchen (RTK) in Lawrence. RTK is a food business incubator

Key Tasks in Merrimack Valley MPO's Draft FFY 2021 Unified Planning Work Program

The following summarizes several important transportation planning activities and analyses proposed to be undertaken under the MVMPO's FFY 2021 Unified Planning Work Program

Task 1.1 – Management and Support of the 3C Transportation Planning Process

MVPC staff will review the existing MVMPO MOU and recommend modifications to reflect the new requirements and relationships established in the Boston Urbanized Area Memorandum of Understanding and the Performance Based Planning Agreement and other issues such as an update of MPO voting procedures.

Staff will also prepare the materials needed by USDOT and participate in the Certification Review of the MVMPO's Transportation Planning Process.

Task 1.2 – Public Participation Process

Staff will revise its Public Participation Plan, which will include the incorporation of provisions that outline the MPO procedures for conducting outreach during emergencies such as in the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Task 2.4 – Regional Pavement Management Program

This task will involve the continued effort to update the region's Pavement Management Program using the new CarteGraph OMS software package.

Task 2.5 - Intermodal Connections with National Highway System / Freight Planning

MVPC staff will conduct quarterly car and bicycle counts at all Park & Ride lots and at commuter rail stations. This data collection effort will, to the greatest extent feasible, incorporate the elements of MassDOT's Park and Ride Lot Data Collection Template.

Task 2.8 – Safety Monitoring System

To supplement MassDOT's Crash Cluster list, MVPC staff will develop a 'Top 100' Crash List that identifies high crash intersections and roadway corridors in the region. A key part of this task will be the selection of regional evaluation criteria that will be used to create this list.

Task 3.2 – Transit Planning

Under this task a survey of bike rack users will be administered by MVRTA and MVPC staff to obtain important information such as origin/destination points, trip purpose, identifying major trip generators, and other facets of their trip decision making process. This task was carried over from the FFY 2020 UPWP due to the drop in fixed route bus ridership caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Task 3.3 – Three Roads Intersection Bicycle and Pedestrian Study in Newburyport

Requested by the City, this large intersection is particularly difficult for pedestrians to navigate. It is an important facility linking the residential areas west of Downtown to the commercial activities along Storey Avenue and to the William Lloyd Garrison Trail.

Task 3.4 – Route 28/Manchester Street/Daisy Street Intersection Road Safety Audit in Lawrence

A MassDOT 2015-2017 Crash Cluster location, this intersection will be an important means of accessing the Lawrence Rail Trail that is now under development.

Task 3.5 - East Street/Prospect Street/Milk Street Intersection Road Safety Audit in Methuen

This confusing intersection, which is in effect three closely linked intersections, has appeared in many MassDOT Crash Cluster lists including the 2015-2017 list.

Task 3.6 – Route 133 Complete Streets Analysis in Andover

The Town is currently developing a project that would improve Route 133 from Shawsheen Square to Lovejoy Road in large measure to improve bicycle and pedestrian travel. This study will identify measures to improve bicycle and pedestrian travel from Lovejoy Road west to the rapidly growing area located near the IRS facility and I-93.

Task 3.7 - Route 110 (Merrimack Street) Complete Streets Analysis in Methuen.

The City has asked that MVPC assist it in identifying Complete Streets improvements that can be made to the section of Route 110 between Pleasant Valley Street and I-495. This growing section of the City serves a broad array of land uses that include farms, residential neighborhoods, retail uses and office buildings.

Task 3.8 – Turkey Hill Road Heavy Commercial Vehicle Exclusion Study in Newburyport

Turkey Hill Road is a narrow residential street in western Newburyport that links Storey Avenue to Hale Street. It is often used by truckers traveling to and from I-95 to the Newburyport Industrial Park. The City has requested MVPC study this issue and prepare a Heavy Commercial Vehicle Exclusion application for submission to MassDOT.

PIZZA TIME

