

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Merrimack Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MVMPO)

Virtual Meeting

Wednesday, August 17, 2022 – 12:00 p.m.

Attending:

Voting Members:

Derek Krevat, representing MassDOT Secretary Jamey L. Tesler
Brian Fallon, representing MassDOT Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver
Rick Taintor, representing MVPC Executive Director Jerrard Whitten
John Pettis, representing the City of Haverhill
Dan McCarthy, representing the City of Lawrence
Neil Harrington, Salisbury, representing MPO Subregion #1
John Cashell, Georgetown, representing MPO Subregion #3
Paul Materazzo, Andover, representing MPO Subregion #4

Others Present:

Anthony Komornick, MVPC	Jenny Raitt, NMCOG
Betsy Goodrich, MVPC	Andrew Wang, MassDOT
Mary Kay Beninati, MVPC	Andrew Shapiro, North Andover
Jim Terlizzi, MVPC	Tim Paris, MassDOT District 4
Kathleen Lambert, MVRTA	Jon Rockwell, TEC
Alex Loncarevic, VHB	Lori Aho, TEC
Jerry Klima, Salisbury	Orlando Pacheco, Georgetown

Agenda Item No. 1: Call to Order

Derek Krevat called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. and stated that he was representing Transportation Secretary Jamey Tesler. Mr. Komornick then announced that eight members were present and that there was a quorum.

Agenda Item No. 2: Opportunity for Public Comment

Mr. Krevat 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 July 27, 2022 Virtual MVMPO Meeting

Vote: John Cashell motioned to accept the July 27, 2022 Virtual MVMPO Meeting Minutes. Dan McCarthy seconded the motion.

The motion to accept the July 27, 2022 Virtual MVMPO Meeting Minutes passed by a roll call vote of seven in favor and one abstention.

Agenda Item No. 4: Status of Ongoing and FFYs 2022-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Projects

a. Status of TIP Roadway and Bridge Projects

Tim Paris of MassDOT District 4 reported on the following changes in the status of MassDOT projects in the MVMPO region:

- Amesbury – Riverwalk Connector to the Salisbury Point Ghost Trail (Project #611977): Has a new project manager, Linda Walsh.
- Andover - Route 133 from Shawsheen Road to Route 28 (Project #611957): The project is now at the 25% Design stage.
- Andover – Bridge Rehabilitation A-9-36, I-495 Over St. 28 SB, A-9-37, I-495 over B&M and MBTA, A-9-41, I-495 over St. 28 NB (Project #606522): Project Total Federal Participating Construction Cost has changed to \$167,517,855.93 and the Total Contract Cost has been changed to \$160,107,133.20.

b. Status of Transit Projects

No Status of Transit Projects report was presented by the MVRTA.

Anthony Komornick reported that at last month's meeting, the MVMPO took action to approve an amendment to the region's FFYs 2022-2026 TIP that added an FTA Section 5310-funded project to support transportation services provided by Northern Essex Elder Transport. However, a similar proposed amendment to use Section 5310 funds to support transportation services provided by Opportunity Works was tabled by the MPO due to concerns about the availability of matching funds for the project. Mr. Komornick said that after the July MPO meeting, MassDOT confirmed that this project will not be moving forward so no further action is needed.

Agenda Item No. 5: Discussion and Potential Action to Release Proposed Amendments #6 and #7 to MVMPO's FFYs 2022-2026 TIP

Mr. Krevat explained that the removal of the two Lawrence intersection improvement projects from the FFY 2022 Regional Target list was discussed at last month's MVMPO meeting. He said that these projects do need to be removed from the current TIP. The MVMPO will likely need to take action on them when the new TIP takes effect.

Anthony Komornick explained that with the removal of these two projects from the Target element of the TIP, an additional \$3.1 million would become available. He said that MassDOT had checked to see if there were any other projects that could be made ready for advertising by the end of September, but there were none.

Should these two projects be removed from the TIP, it would result in over \$4.8 million in Target funding being unprogrammed in FFY 2022. These funds would likely be spent on projects elsewhere in the Commonwealth.

Derek Krevat said that since the original motion was tabled at the last meeting, a motion was needed to untable that motion before a vote on releasing these amendments for public review and comment could be taken.

Vote: John Pettis motioned to untable the motion made on this item at the July MVMPO meeting. Paul Materazzo seconded the motion.

The motion to untable the motion made at the July MVMPO meeting passed by a roll call vote of 8 to 0.

Mr. Krevat then asked for a motion to release the proposed amendments with a reduced public review and comment period. Mr. Komornick said that given the amount of time it takes to place ads in the local newspapers there would likely be a nine-day review and comment period for these proposed amendments.

Vote: John Pettis motioned to release the proposed Amendments #6 and #7 to the MVMPO's FFYs 2022-2026 TIP for public review and comment with a shortened public review and comment period. Rick Taintor seconded the motion.

The motion to release proposed Amendments #6 and #7 to the MVMPO's FFYs 2022-2026 TIP for public review and comment and with a shortened public review and comment period passed by a roll call vote of 7 yes and one abstention.

Agenda Item No. 6: Other

Anthony Komornick reported that he had received an inquiry about the status of the Member Designated Project funding contained in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to complete design for the remaining sections of the Border to Boston Rail Trail. He said that the towns of Boxford and Newbury in the MVMPO region were to receive funding through this Earmark. This was of particular concern in Newbury where there is a washed-out section of the trail that needs to be addressed through the design of a boardwalk.

Derek Krevat said that the guidance MassDOT has received from FHWA for Member Designated Project funding is that there must be a MassDOT project in place for it to be accessed. These funds cannot flow directly to the communities. This could either be through an existing project programmed in the STIP or through the initiation of a new MassDOT project for the design. He suggested that representatives of the

communities and staff from MassDOT planning and from District 4 should discuss what options are available.

Mr. Komornick noted that there is a project in place and programmed in the TIP for the construction of the Georgetown to Newbury section of the Border to Boston Trail and that there is also an approved MassDOT project to construct the Boxford section of the Trail. Derek Krevat asked Mr. Komornick to forward him the email inquiry that he received concerning the availability of these design funds.

Mr. Komornick then alerted members to the fact that the Signature Page for the new Memorandum of Understanding is being circulated and should be signed electronically.

Agenda Item No. 9: Adjourn

Derek Krevat reminded members that the next meeting of the MVMPO is scheduled for August 31st.

Vote: Paul Materazzo made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Neil Harrington seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously, with no objections, by voice vote.

The meeting was Adjourned at 12:23 pm.