

## **DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**

### **Merrimack Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MVMPO)**

#### **Virtual Meeting**

**Wednesday, August 31, 2022 – 12:00 p.m.**

#### **Attending:**

##### **Voting Members:**

David Mohler, representing MassDOT Secretary Jamey L. Tesler

Brian Fallon, representing MassDOT Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver

Jerrard Whitten, Executive Director MVPC

Kathleen Lambert, MVRTA

Dan McCarthy, representing the City of Lawrence

Neil Harrington, Salisbury, representing MPO Subregion #1

John Cashell, Georgetown, representing MPO Subregion #3

##### **Others Present:**

Anthony Komornick, MVPC

Tim Paris, MassDOT District 4

Betsy Goodrich, MVPC

Brian Keating, Methuen

Mary Kay Beninati, MVPC

Andrew Wang, MassDOT

Michelle Ho, MassDOT

#### **Agenda Item No. 1: Call to Order**

David Mohler 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 five members were present and that there was a quorum.

#### **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 August 17, 2022 Virtual MVMPO Meeting**

**Vote:** Jerrard Whitten motioned to accept the August 17, 2022 Virtual MVMPO Meeting Minutes. Neil Harrington seconded the motion.

**The motion to accept the August 17, 2022 Virtual MVMPO Meeting Minutes passed by a roll call vote of five in favor and none against.**

#### **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:

- Rowley Safety Improvements at Route 1 (Project #609392): TIP year changed to 2022 and the costs have been updated.
- Newbury-Newburyport-Salisbury Resurfacing and Related Work on Route 1 (Project #608494): Updated costs.
- Lawrence Intersection Reconstruction at Marston Street and East Haverhill Street (Project #610923): New project advertising date.

Tony Komornick asked about the ad date for the East Haverhill Street and Marston Street intersection project in Lawrence. Brian Fallon said that the September 30 date was a place holder until MassDOT figures out the funding and when it will be ready to be advertising

Brian Keating, Methuen, requested update on the Burnham Road project. Tim Paris said that he would need to look into that. Derek Shooster stated that it is still on the 2024 TIP with a January 2024 advertising date. However, that is subject to change depending on design status and readiness. Brian Fallon mentioned that this project has some right-of-way issues.

##### b. Status of Transit Projects

Kathleen Lambert, MVRTA, reported on the status of transit projects. Currently the biggest project is the Riverbank Reconstruction project. The Authority finally received permits earlier this month and construction continues. Run into some unexpected site conditions. The site has been occupied since 1870 and so we are finding things like a giant boiler and softer soils than expected so we are making engineering adjustments as we go. We have confidence in our contractors who are working cooperatively with our engineering group, and we feel that the project is on track.

Ms. Lambert also noted that route changes will be coming on board with 30-minute service on all the Lawrence Routes and other changes that will start on September 6.

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

Mr. Komornick reported that at the last meeting, we agreed to release for public review and comment, proposed amendments #6 and 7, which include the removal of the two intersection projects in Lawrence because the right-of-way was not secured for them to be advertised by the end of September. We had an abbreviated review and comment period that ended yesterday (August 30, 2022) and we received no adverse comments.

David Mohler asked for comments. None were made.

**Vote:** A motion to endorse the amendments was made by Kathleen Lambert. Neil Harrington seconded.

**The motion was passed with 5 votes to endorse and one vote as 'present'.**

**Agenda Item No. 6: Other**

Tony Komornick informed the MVMPO about a proposed request for an adjustment to the FFY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). With the resignation of our staff engineer, Jim Terlizzi, the MVMPO will not be able to complete three studies in the current fiscal year. The MVMPO is requesting that the remaining funding for those projects instead be used toward public participation. Due to an increase in meetings, amendments, and adjustments, and increased outreach for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan and Active Transportation Plan, the level of spending for public participation has increased.

Kathleen Lambert asked if the MVMPO was going to move the Road Safety Audits to the next fiscal year. Mr. Komornick responded that yes, they will be moved to the FFY2023 UPWP. We will need to amend the FFY 2023 to include them, which may result in removing one or two studies in the FFY 2023 UPWP to make space.

**Vote:** John Cashell moved to accept the adjustment. Neil Harrington seconded.

**The motion to endorse the adjustments passed by a vote of seven for and none against.**

**Agenda Item No. 9: Adjourn**

**Vote:** Kathleen Lambert 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 12:17 pm.**