

## **DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**

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

#### **Virtual Meeting**

**Wednesday, December 22, 2021 – 12:00 p.m.**

#### **Attending:**

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

Dave Mohler, MassDOT, representing MassDOT Acting Secretary Jamey L. Tesler  
Frank Suszynski, representing MassDOT Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver  
Jerrard Whitten, MVPC Executive Director  
Noah Berger, MVRTA Administrator  
John Pettis, representing the City of Haverhill  
Pedro Soto, representing the City of Lawrence  
Neil Harrington, Salisbury, representing MPO Subregion #1  
John Cashell, Georgetown, representing MPO Subregion #3

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

|                               |                                  |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Anthony Komornick, MVPC       | Derek Shooster, MassDOT Planning |
| Mary Kay Beninati, MVPC       | Tim Paris, MassDOT District 4    |
| Betsy Goodrich, MVPC          | Gus Norrbom, MassDOT Planning    |
| Jim Terlizzi, MVPC            | Derek Krevat, MassDOT Planning   |
| Nate Robertson, MVPC          | Brian Fallon, MassDOT District 4 |
| Kathleen Lambert, MVRTA       | David Langlais, Hoyle Tanner     |
| Andrew Shapiro, North Andover | Jerry Klima, Salisbury           |
| Geordie Vining, Newburyport   | Foster Earl III                  |
| Alex Loncarevic, VHB          |                                  |

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

Dave Mohler called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. and asked Anthony Komornick to conduct a roll call vote of members attending the virtual meeting. Mr. Komornick then announced that eight members were present.

#### **Agenda Item No. 2: Opportunity for Public Comment**

Dave 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 November 24, 2021 Virtual MVMPO Meeting**

**Vote:** John Cashell motioned to accept the November 24, 2021 Virtual MVMPO Meeting Minutes. Frank Suszynski seconded the motion.

**The motion to accept the November 24, 2021 Virtual MVMPO Meeting Minutes passed by a roll call vote of 8 to 0.**

**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 stated that most of the revisions to the TIP Project List are financial and he noted changes for the following projects as identified in the list that was sent to Tony Komornick before this meeting and as shown to MPO Members as part of the meeting packet:

Changes to List to Match TIP Amounts Shown in MVMPO's FFYs 2022-2026 TIP

- Lawrence - Lawrence-Manchester Rail Corridor;
- North Andover - Route 114 Corridor Improvement Project;
- Salisbury - Reconstruction of Route 1;
- Andover - Bridge Rehabilitation I-495 over Route 28 and the MBTA Railroad tracks;
- Haverhill – Bridge Replacement Bridge St over the Merrimack River and abandoned B&M Railroad;
- Rowley – Safety Improvements at Route 1, Central and Glen Streets;
- Lawrence – Intersection of Marston Street and East Haverhill Street;
- Lawrence – Community Day Arlington Safe Routes to School, updated cost and year to match TIP, year 2025, and
- Lawrence – Bridge Replacement Short Street over the Spicket River.

Other

- Lowell/Dracut/Methuen Resurfacing and Related Work Project on Route 110 now has TIP Cost of \$5,748,624;
- Tewksbury/Andover Resurfacing Project on I-93;
- Haverhill – North Avenue Reconstruction Project cost is now showing as being \$0, but that is likely an error and may reflect that the project information is in the process of being updated, and
- Lowell/North Andover/Haverhill Bridge Superstructure and Substructure Repairs along I-495 project now has advanced to 100% design.

b. Status of Transit Projects

Noah Berger said that the MVRTA is on track to receive nine 35-foot Gillig buses by the end of next month. He noted that Gillig is one of the few manufactures that has not been significantly affected by supply chain issues.

The Riverbank Stabilization project received its Environmental clearance at the beginning of November, we expect to issue a contract shortly. Noah noted that no work can be conducted in the water between April 15 and July 15 due to possible impacts on Sturgeon breeding in the area. He said the MVRTA will use State funding first because it must be spent this fiscal year.

Since the last MPO meeting, the MVRTA Board in early December voted to have the fixed route service and EZTrans ADA service be free of charge beginning March 1, 2022. He said that the MVRTA will track how ridership and on-time performance are impacted by this change.

As part of the MVRTA rebranding process, he said that the Authority has put together a group of artistic minded planners who are looking at ways to make it more visible. He said he hopes to roll out the new branding at the same time that the free fares are being introduced.

With MassDOT, we look forward to rolling out Bus-on-Shoulder service January 3<sup>rd</sup>. With that service, the Authority is working with the MBTA to get a bus berth at Haymarket. It will also begin offering reverse commute services to the MVMPO region in the morning and into Boston during the afternoon.

**Agenda Item No. 5: Discussion and Potential Action to Approve Proposed Amendment to FFY 2022 Statewide Element of MVMPO's FFYs 2022-2026 TIP**

- a. Increase in Cost of Newbury – Newburyport – Salisbury – Resurfacing and Related Work on Route 1 project (#608494)

Anthony Komornick stated that at the last meeting we agreed to release for Public Review a TIP Amendment that is to increase the cost of project #608494, Newbury, Newburyport, Salisbury resurfacing and related work on Route 1. The anticipated cost in the TIP of just over \$9.7 million has gone up markedly. The project is to be funded with Statewide funding. the District estimate is now \$15,735,772.

He stated that Public Hearings were held on December 15<sup>th</sup>, and we received no adverse comments at those events or any other time during the Public Review and Comment period and that we are therefore ready to take action if the MPO so chooses.

**Vote:** John Pettis motioned to approve the Amendment to Increase the Cost of the Newbury – Newburyport -Salisbury - Route 1 Resurfacing and related work project. Frank Suszynski seconded the motion.

**The motion to approve the amendment to increase the cost of the Newbury – Newburyport – Salisbury - Route 1 Resurfacing and related work project passed by a roll call vote of 8 to 0.**

**Agenda Item No. 6: Other**

Betsy Goodrich announced that the next MVTC meeting will take place on January 13<sup>th</sup>.

Anthony Komornick said a Road Safety Audit at Daisy Street and Broadway in Lawrence was held on December 20<sup>th</sup> and there is an upcoming Road Safety Audit for the Prospect Street/Milk Street/East Street intersection in Methuen that will be held on January 6<sup>th</sup>.

Anthony Komornick said the next meeting of the MPO will be January 26.

**Agenda Item No. 7: Adjourn**

**Vote:** John Pettis made a motion to adjourn the meeting and John Cashell seconded the motion.

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

**The meeting was Adjourned at 12:16 pm.**