

### Board Members Present

Derek Krevat – Representing MassDOT Secretary Gina Fiandaca  
Tim Paris – Representing MassDOT Highway Division Administrator Jonathan Gulliver  
Jerrard Whitten – MVPC Chairperson  
Bonnie Mahoney – MeVa Merrimack Valley Regional Transit  
Kathleen Lambert – Representing Mayor of Haverhill  
Daniel McCarthy – Representing Mayor of Lawrence  
Paul Materazzo, Andover – Representing Region 4

### Other Attendees

Tony Collins, MVPC  
Elizabeth Maldari, MVPC  
Josh Levin, MassDOT  
Patrick Reed, MVPC  
Derek Shooster, MassDOT  
Jonah Williams, MVPC  
Niorka Mendez, MeVa  
Lisa Schwarz, Andover  
John Pettis, Haverhill  
Andrew Wang, MassDOT

### Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

Mr. Krevat called the meeting to order at 12:00pm. Mr. Reed called the roll and established quorum.

### Agenda Item 2 – Opportunity for Public Comment

Mr. Krevat opened the meeting to public comment. There being no comments, Mr. Krevat moved to the next meeting Agenda Item.

### Agenda Item 3 – Adoption of Previous Meeting’s Minutes

Mr. Krevat moved on to agenda item number 3, adoption of the meeting minutes from the July MVMPO meeting. Ms. Mahoney offered two small corrections to the minutes, regarding the inaccurate title “highway administrator” for MeVa and including Ms. Mahoney on the list of other attendees. Mr. Reed noted these necessary updates to the minutes. Mr. Whitten moved to accept the minutes as revised. Mr. Materazzo seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Agenda Item 4 – FFY23 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Amendment

Mr. Krevat moved on to agenda item 4, the FFY23 Unified Planning Work Program Amendment. Mr. Reed explained that this amendment reallocates funding to ongoing tasks and closes out and consolidates programmed road safety audits for future approaches in FFY24. Mr. Reed provided an overview of anticipated remainders of PL funds, explaining that there is an expected \$238,365 remaining for direct expenditures. Mr. Reed highlighted proposed uses for these funds, including staff training, trail counters, office hardware for meetings, and data to support future planning studies. Mr. Reed explained that there were no comments received on the proposed amendment. Mr. Krevat called for a motion to approve the amendment. Ms. Lambert moved to approve the amendment. Mr. McCarthy seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Agenda Item 6 – FFY23-27 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #6 – Highway (Lawrence Rail Crossing)

Mr. Reed explained that the TIP Amendment was to improve the crossing at South Broadway in Lawrence of the CSX Lowell Hill Industrial Track. There were no comments received on this amendment. Mr. Krevat called for a motion to approve the amendment. Mr. Whitten moved to approve the amendment. Ms. Mahoney seconded. Mr. Shooster clarified that the cost of this project was \$395,000 as opposed to \$335,000. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Agenda Item 7 – Draft Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)

Mr. Krevat moved on to agenda item 7, and Mr. Collins explained that the purpose of this agenda item was to provide an overview of the draft Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and open the comment period. Mr. Collins explained that the MTP is the 25-year plan for federally funded transportation projects programmed for implementation. Mr. Collins provided an overview of the contents of the MTP and highlighted the sections that would be presented, and recapped the vision and goals set in the plan. Mr. Collins presented a brief history of transportation and land use in the region, highlighting the impacts of 20<sup>th</sup> century urban renewal programs. Mr. Collins highlighted key data regarding vehicle ownership and household income. Mr. Collins explained how this data aligns with the plan's goals related to mode shift. Mr. Collins provided an overview of key data related to sustainability and the environment included in the plan, including data related to adoption of electric vehicles.

Mr. Williams then presented data for demographics and employment in the MVMPO region. Mr. Reed then presented population and employment projections for the region, highlighting that MVMPO is one the three regions projected to grow in population between now and 2050. Mr. Reed presented the projections data at the municipal level, noting that these MassDOT projections were subject to healthy skepticism.

Mr. Williams presented data on commute times in the region and the inflow and outflow of workers in the region. Mr. Williams then presented maps of data from the statewide travel demand model to highlight patterns in auto and transit travel. Mr. Williams then presented data

about commute mode percentages in the region and maps of the number of jobs accessible by car and by transit. Mr. Williams then presented data about households with no vehicles and regional environmental justice communities and their proximity to transit and the active transportation network.

Mr. Collins highlighted the outreach to municipalities and project list developed through this process. Mr. Collins explained that many of the projects learned about were in conceptual stages and explained how projects related to goals in the MTP. Mr. Collins notified attendees that the draft plan and project viewer are available on the MVPC website.

Mr. Krevat asked for questions and comments. Ms. Lambert commented that the information about urban renewal and environmental justice communities would be helpful in Haverhill's Reconnecting Communities grant application. Mr. Materazzo commented that some of the data would be helpful in the Town of Andover's complete streets process. Mr. Whitten provided the link for the MTP webpage in the chat. Mr. Krevat asked if there was work programmed in the UPWP building on the data Mr. Williams presented. Mr. Williams and Mr. Reed answered that there is work programmed for travel time competitiveness between modes.

Mr. Krevat asked for a motion to release the draft plan for the comment period. Mr. Whitten made the motion. Mr. Materazzo seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

#### [Agenda Item 5 – FFY23-27 Transportation Improvement Program \(TIP\) Amendment #5 – Transit \(MeVa Updates\)](#)

Mr. Reed returned to agenda item 5, TIP Amendment #5, which had been released for an expedited comment period and was conditionally approved with a vote at the previous meeting. Mr. Reed noted that the amendment had been approved based on last month's vote.

#### [Agenda Item 8 – Draft Coordinated Human Services Transit Plan \(CHSTP\)](#)

Mr. Krevat moved on to agenda item 8, the Draft Coordinated Public Transit Human Service Transportation Plan (also called "Coordinated Human Services Transit Plan," CHSTP). Mr. Reed explained that the plan is a public transit plan aimed at supporting elderly and disabled residents and veterans. Mr. Reed presented data on the elderly and disabled populations in the region. Mr. Reed then presented information on rides provided by senior centers in the region. Mr. Reed then presented ridership data by community served by MeVa and overall MeVa bus ridership. Mr. Reed then provided an overview of feedback received from community members through this planning process. Mr. Reed then provided an overview of strategies outlined in the plan. Mr. Reed then informed attendees that the proposed motion was to open the comment period for the draft plan.

Mr. Krevat asked for questions or comments. Ms. Mahoney commented that ridership data presented may not account for disabled residents who are using the MeVa fixed routes. Mr. McCarthy also commented that disabled and elderly residents also frequently use a private limo service in Lawrence.

Mr. Krevat asked for a motion to open the comment period. Ms. Lambert made the motion. Mr. McCarthy seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### [Agenda Item 9 – Status of Ongoing and FFYs 2023-2027 TIP Projects](#)

Transit Projects: Ms. Mahoney highlighted that the RFP for improvements at the McGovern Transportation Center was scheduled to go out in September and the plan to is to transition service from Buckley to McGovern during summer 2024. Ms. Mahoney then discussed that the state legislature passed an increase in funding to expand service, and as a result MeVa is expanding span of service on 6 routes to 9pm.

Mr. Paris provided an update on project 602202 Salisbury Reconstruction of Route 1 (Lafayette Road) that the low bid for this project was Newport Construction after the bid went out on July 15th.

### [Agenda Item 10 – Other Business](#)

Mr. Reed provided an update that MVMPO staff and the MVPC Environmental Program staff had submitted a PROTECT planning grant application to promote resiliency by developing a tool for travel demand modeling and flood modeling. This tool would be a user interface to highlight which components of the transportation network are most vulnerable. Mr. Reed encouraged coastal and river adjacent communities to apply for future rounds of funding. Mr. Reed also highlighted the Reconnecting Communities discretionary grant.

Mr. Krevat then announced that the MassDOT Safe Routes to School Infrastructure grant was opening, as well as the Signs and Lines grant program and provided a link in the chat.

Mr. Reed reminded attendees that the next meeting would be September 27. Mr. Krevat called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:07pm. Mr. Whitten made the motion to adjourn, and Mr. Materazzo seconded. The motion passed unanimously through a voice vote and the meeting was adjourned.