Merrimack Valley Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes

April 14, 2022

Attendees: Betsy Goodrich (MVPC), Anthony Komornick (MVPC), Mary Kay Beninati (MVPC), Allyson Bull (Massachusetts Commission for the Blind (MCB), Kristen Shine (MCB), Lindsay Nichols (American Cancer Society), John Cuneo (Haverhill Transit), Kathleen Lambert (MVRTA), Tracey Fitzpatrick (MCB)

Topic	Discussion	Action
Safety, Presented by Tony Komornick	Tony provided lists of the Top 100 Intersection Crash Locations. Crash data used for the lists came from 2018-2020. MVPC uses this to make a comprehensive crash analysis. MVPC has chosen slightly different scoring methodology than MassDOT to create its scores, in which fatalities and serious injuries are weighted greater than other crashes. The difference between those methodologies was provided and examples shown. MVPC assigned the following point methodology: 20 points for fatalities/serious injuries, 10 points for non-serious/possible injuries and 1 point for property damage. Notably most of the intersections are in Lawrence and Haverhill. MVPC uses this information to make recommendations for Road Safety Audits and other studies. Many of these intersections have been studied. MVPC will also look at corridors that should be studies as opposed to just intersections. Kathleen Lambert noted that there is a need to close up driveways to address crashes at intersections. Tony mentioned that this issue is addressed at Road Safety Audits and provided an example at the Manchester/Daisy Street RSA.	MVPC will provide a map of all intersections and highlight corridors that present as high crash areas. MVPC will also provide data on the number of people vs number of crashes.

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)	Tony Komornick reviewed the current TIP and discussed the different projects throughout the program. The MPO has available funds remaining for the 2022 fiscal year, which has increased to roughly 4 million as a result of funding that just came through from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Staff are looking at options for using the funding, including moving a Rowley Route 1 project forward one year. Kathleen Lambert said that they might be able to use funds for the riverbank stabilization project, which has increased in price. Mary Kay Beninati then reviewed the preliminary 2023-2027 TIP. Kathleen Lambert pointed out highlights in the TIP for transit projects including improvements to the McGovern and Bradford transit locations.	
Unified Planning Work Program	Betsy Goodrich reviewed the different tasks within the UPWP and projects that could be included. The public was encouraged to provide input into the work program. Kathleen Lambert mentioned the need to include MVRTA maps in the transit task list.	
Transit Updates	Betsy Goodrich and Kathleen Lambert talked about the exciting event with Senator Markey who rode the bus to celebrate free fares. Kathleen suggested that if other groups are interested in getting a bunch of folks from their office to try out the bus, it is free or the MVRTA would be happy to organize something with them.	
Other	Ally Bull mentioned the need for more attention to transitions between the pedestrian infrastructure and trails/bike lanes to create a safe environment for the blind. They can't hear bikes and simple solutions such as tactile pads would be helpful. The floating bus stops can pose challenges also. These connections can be disorienting. MVPC noted that it is interested in creating a funding program through the TIP to help communities purchase products, such as tactile pads, to implement. This is something that many of the	

| | regions are interested in doing and we will be working jointly to try to make this happen.

Ally Bull also mentioned the need for updated pedestrian signals for people who are blind.

MVPC encouraged participants to forward examples. Ally suggested a study in Montgomery County Maryland. Montgomery County study: https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DOT/Projects/TLCVision/

Mary Kay Beninati mentioned that we are implementing virtual comment access for people to be able to provide comments on-line. | |