

**PIONEER VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION (PVPC)**  
**Minutes of the Joint Transportation Committee Meeting**  
**Wednesday, May 14, 2025, 10:00 A.M.**

Committee Members Present:

Daryl Amaral, MassDOT Highway District 2  
Mark Berman, East Longmeadow  
Paul Burns, PVTA  
Ben Breger, Bowman  
Michelle Chase, Agawam  
Nick Dines, Town of Williamsburg  
Doug Ellis, City of Chicopee  
Peter Frieri, MassDOT District 1  
Betsy Johnson, Pedestrian Representative, Springfield  
Van Kacoyannakis, VHB  
Chris Klem, MassDOT  
Connor Knightly, West Springfield  
Jeff Maxtutis, BETA Group  
Ben Murphy, Town of Monson  
Dawn Nims, MassDOT Highway District 2  
Carmen Rosado, Stavros ILC Community Access Advocate  
Diane Rossini-Smith, Easthampton  
Matthew Sokop, City of Holyoke

PVPC Staff Present:

Andrew McCaul, Deputy Director of Transportation Planning  
Gary Roux, Principal Planner/Traffic Manager  
Rana Al-Jammal, Principal Transportation Planner  
Jeffrey McCollough, Principal Transportation Planner

1. Call to Order

The May 14, 2025, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission Joint Transportation Committee meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Gary Roux, who served as the de facto Chair, and welcomed everyone in attendance. Roll call was taken, and there was a quorum.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Gary Roux asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2025, Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) meeting.

MOVED BY PAUL BURNS, SECONDED BY BETSY JOHNSON, TO APPROVE THE APRIL 9, 2025, JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY FOLLOWING A ROLL CALL VOTE.

3. Public Comment

There was no comment.

4. Draft Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) – Review, Discussion, and Recommendation to the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to Endorse the Draft Document Currently Out for the Required 21-Day Public Review Period

Gary Roux presented the draft FFY 2026 UPWP, which is currently undergoing a 21-day public review. The finalized budget now totals \$1,748,462, reflecting an increase due to additional funding received.

The budget has been updated to include an additional \$10,000 in planning funds, which will support various tasks, including a new joint task with the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission to explore a Scenic Byway designation for the Skyline Trail.

Feedback from the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority led to a name change for a transit task and a proposed extension of the deadline for a Paratransit Rider Survey, now set for completion by December, 2026. The comment period is still open.

MOVED BY PAUL BURNS, SECONDED BY CARMEN ROSADO, TO RECOMMEND TO THE PIONEER VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO) TO ENDORSE THE DRAFT DOCUMENT FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2026 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM (UPWP) CURRENTLY OUT FOR THE REQUIRED 21-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY FOLLOWING A ROLL CALL VOTE.

5. Amendment No. 4 to the FFY 2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – Review, Discussion, and Recommendation to the MPO to Endorse the Amendment Currently Out for the Required 21-Day Public Review Period

Andrew McCaul outlined the amendments made to the FFY 2025 TIP. He addressed the challenges encountered due to cost increases in specific projects and the necessity to adjust funding to ensure the effective utilization of all federal funds. The Long Meadow and Holyoke projects experienced substantial cost increases, while the Northampton project faced delays, resulting in an over-programming of nearly \$8 million in the current fiscal year. To mitigate funding gaps, the Northampton project was postponed, allowing other projects, such as the Chicopee and South Hadley resurfacing, as well as the Chesterfield project, to be advanced. This adjustment ensures that a total of four projects will be advertised in 2025.

MOVED BY PAUL BURNS, SECONDED BY DOUG ELLIS, TO RECOMMEND TO THE PIONEER VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO) TO ENDORSE AMENDMENT NO. 4 TO THE FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2025 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) CURRENTLY OUT FOR THE REQUIRED 21-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY FOLLOWING A ROLL CALL VOTE.

6. Draft FFY 2026 to 2030 Transportation Improvement Program – Review, Discussion, and Recommendation to the MPO to Endorse the Draft Document Currently Out for the Required 21-Day Public Review Period

Andrew McCaul presented the draft FFY 2026 through 2030 TIP, detailing its funding status and key projects. A public hearing was conducted to solicit comments prior to the MPO meeting for endorsement. The TIP is nearly fully funded through 2029, with an allocation of \$8.651 million for 2030, although no specific project has been identified for this amount yet. Significant projects include the North End bridge and the 391 bridge, both scheduled to commence in 2027. Eleven comments were received, with notable support for the Holyoke High and Maple Street projects, as well as the Southampton Greenway Rail Trail project, which is being monitored for future funding.

MOVED BY PAUL BURNS, SECONDED BY DOUG ELLIS, TO RECOMMEND TO THE PIONEER VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO) TO ENDORSE THE DRAFT DOCUMENT FEDERAL FISCAL YEARS 2026 TO 2030 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM CURRENTLY OUT FOR THE REQUIRED 21-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY FOLLOWING A ROLL CALL VOTE.

7. Update: Top 100 High-Crash Intersection Locations 2019 to 2021

Gary Roux provided an update on the top 100 high-crash intersection locations, detailing the vetting process for crashes from 2019 to 2021 based on finalized data from MassDOT. The staff is aligning their methodology with the state's approach to identify crash clusters and is verifying the locations for accuracy. A list is expected to be ready for the June, 2025, JTC meeting, which will compare new and previous locations to identify improvements and potential future study areas in the Pioneer Valley region.

8. Update: Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant

Gary Roux provided an update on a grant for developing a regional safety action plan and conducting demonstration project work. The PVPC has issued a request for proposals to hire a consultant for this project, with a review of responses expected in the coming months and a preferred consultant to be identified by the end of summer. The regional safety action plan will enable cities and towns to seek funding for future implementation.

9. Other Business

Gary Roux outlined the development of Capital Investment Plan (CIP) by regional planning agencies within the state. These programs are compiled by MassDOT and submitted as the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for approval by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Gary Roux noted that MassDOT will conduct virtual public hearings, including one scheduled for June 3, 2025. The draft document is anticipated to be released on May 22, 2025.

10. Adjournment

There being no further discussion, Gary Roux called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

ON A MOTION DULY MADE TO ADJOURN THE MAY 14, 2025, COMMITTEE MEETING, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED WITHOUT OBJECTION AT 10:32 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,