

OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)



Meeting Minutes of the Old Colony Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) Old Colony Planning Council, 70 School Street, Brockton, MA January 14, 2016 at 12:00 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

Abington	Bruce Hughes	MassDOT District 5	Timothy Kochan
Bridgewater	Robert B. Wood	FHWA	Leah Sirmin
Bridgewater	Lisa Sullivan	MassBike	Barbara Jacobson
Brockton	Robert Moran	MassRIDES	Adam Blye
Brockton	Shane O'Brien	Massasoit Community College	Phil Sheppard
Brockton	Rob May	Independence Associates	Bill Shine
East Bridgewater	Richard O'Flaherty	Howard, Stein, Hudson	Pete Stidman
Easton	David Field	OCPC	Bill McNulty
Easton	Stephanie Danielson	OCPC	Charles Kilmer
Hanson	Laurie Muncy	OCPC	Pat Ciaramella
Kingston	Pine Dubois	OCPC	Paul Chenard
Plymouth	Sid Kashi	OCPC	Shawn Bailey
Stoughton	Noreen O'Toole	OCPC	Ray Guarino
West Bridgewater	Len Graf	OCPC	Jim Watson
Whitman	Dan Salvucci	OCPC	Eric Arbeene
BAT	Kathy Riddell	OCPC	Jimmy Pereira
BAT	Michael Blondin	OCPC	Kyle Mowatt

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chairperson Noreen O'Toole called the meeting to order at 12:00 P.M. and then read the Meeting Accessibility Statement. Those present then introduced themselves.

2. Public Comments

There were no public comments at this time.

3. Minutes of the December 10, 2015 Meeting

Chairperson O'Toole asked if the members had reviewed the minutes of the December 10, 2015 Meeting. The members then unanimously endorsed the minutes of the December 10, 2015 Meeting.

4. Communications

Shawn Bailey reviewed the contents of the communications staff report. Included were letters of correspondence, as well as notices of workshops and conferences.

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5. Reports

A. Brockton Area Regional Transit Authority (BAT)

Kathy Riddell provided the JTC with the following BAT update:

- A TIP Amendment will be presented at the MPO Meeting on Tuesday, January 19th. The two amendments are as follows: 1.) Purchase Replacement 35-FT Bus(4) – Move from FFY 2017 to FFY 2016; and, 2.) Purchase Replacement 40-FT Bus(4) – Move from FFY 2017 to FFY 2016

B. Greater Attleboro-Taunton Regional Transit Authority (GATRA)

Paul Chenard provided an update on GATRA.

- Meetings are ongoing with stakeholders requesting GATRA service (Veterans Associations, Community Colleges, residents in south Plymouth).
- Market Basket is opening in Plymouth. GATRA will be meeting with Market Basket representatives regarding the provision of GATRA service to Market Basket.

C. South Coast Rail Project

Paul Chenard provided a South Coast Rail FY 2015 Technical Assistance update:

- OCPC finalized the pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure plan for the Town of Stoughton and it was presented to Board of Selectmen on December 15th and was accepted by the Town.
- As part of Bridgewater's technical assistance, OCPC with the Town of Bridgewater and Bridgewater State University had released a market analysis survey to better understand resident and student opinions and desires when it comes to the pedestrian network in town. Bridgewater's market analysis survey has concluded and OCPC is currently data mining survey results. OCPC will soon be doing field work in the downtown to gauge the walking conditions that exist between the University and Downtown Bridgewater.

6. Old Business

A. FFY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Implementation

Charles Kilmer reviewed the changes to the FFY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

FFY 2016 PROJECTS:

- AVON – INSTALLATION OF A MEDIAN BARRIER ON HARRISON BOULEVARD (608085)
 - MassDOT comments on the 75% design phase project plans have been returned to the Design Engineer (as of 12/14/2015).
- BROCKTON – SIGNAL & INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS @ ROUTE 123 (BELMONT STREET)/LINWOOD STREET / LORRAINE AVENUE (606036)
 - MassDOT comments on the 100% design phase project plans have been returned to the Design Engineer (as of 12/31/2015).

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- BROCKTON – STORMWATER IMPROVEMENTS ALONG ROUTE 28 (608134)
 - MassDOT comments on the 75% design phase project plans have been returned to the Design Engineer (as of 12/31/2015).

FFY 2017 PROJECTS:

- PLYMOUTH – RECONSTRUCTION OF TAYLOR AVENUE, FROM WHITE HORSE ROAD TO MANOMET POINT ROAD, INCLUDES P-13-010 (605038)
 - Revised Cost Estimate is \$5,419,391 (\$5,310,240 programmed in TIP).

7. New Business

A. FFY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment 1

Charles Kilmer provided an overview of the FFY 2016-2019 TIP Amendment 1. The FFY 2016-2019 TIP Amendment 1 is as follows:

FFY 2016 - SECTION 5307

- BROCKTON AREA TRANSIT (BAT) AMENDMENT: ADD PROJECT - BUY REPLACEMENT 40-FT BUS (4) (Match in FY 17); FEDERAL COST IS \$392,000
- BROCKTON AREA TRANSIT (BAT) AMENDMENT: ADD PROJECT - BUY REPLACEMENT 35-FT BUS (4) (Match in FY 17); FEDERAL COST IS \$400,000

FFY 2017 - OTHER NON-FEDERAL

- BROCKTON AREA TRANSIT (BAT) AMENDMENT: ADD PROJECT - BUY REPLACEMENT 40-FT BUS (4) (Match in FY 16); STATE COST IS \$1,568,000
- BROCKTON AREA TRANSIT (BAT) AMENDMENT: ADD PROJECT - BUY REPLACEMENT 35-FT BUS (4) (Match in FY 16); STATE COST IS \$1,600,000

Richard O’Flaherty asked if the 2005 buses are to be replaced. Kathy Riddell replied by saying yes, the 2005 buses are to be replaced. Richard O’Flaherty asked why refurbish buses if they are going to be replaced, and whether or not it would be cost effective. Mike Blondin stated that it is not a total top to bottom refurbishing. When BAT trades them in, the value will be higher due to the refurbishing. Charles Kilmer stated that he concurred with Mike Blondin and Kathy Riddell.

Rob May made a motion to endorse Amendment 1. The motion was seconded. The Old Colony JTC voted unanimously to endorse the FFY 2016-2019 TIP Amendment 1.

B. Discussion of Bicycle Transportation Initiatives with MassBike

Paul Chenard provided an overview of identifying bicycle transportation needs in the region. OCPC is involved in bicycle safety audits conducted by MassBike through a contract with MassDOT to review bicycle safety in communities participating in its bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Campaign, and through technical assistance provided to Stoughton via a South Coast Rail technical assistance grant that

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resulted in a report providing recommendations to improve bicycle and pedestrian access.

In addition, OCPC is drafting a Bicycle and Pedestrian Connectivity and Safety Study to identify where bicyclists want to travel in the region, how to improve bicyclist safety, and develop regional bicycle transportation network cyclists can use to travel within and out of the region by bicycle. A bicycle/pedestrian advisory committee will help determine the conditions bicyclists face daily riding throughout the region and where they would like to see the bicycle transportation network go.

Barbara Jacobson from MassBike stated that MassBike has had a series of hearings at the State House regarding a variety of bills having to do with bicycle and pedestrian safety. Some of those bills are as follows:

- Sidecar Protection Bill – Helps prevent bicyclists and pedestrian getting caught under large trucks during wide turns.
- Bike Lane Bill – Where there are striped bicycle lanes and a motorist is parked or a taxi is standing, the motorist or taxi will be subject to a fine.
- Vulnerable Road Users Bill – Protects bicyclists and pedestrians. Mandate of a 3 foot passing law. The current law states a safe passing distance. Would define what “safe” is.

Barbara Jacobson stated that MassBike is looking to establish a MassBike chapter in the Old Colony Region. Richard O’Flaherty then expressed concern for having bicycle lanes throughout the City as that would make it more difficult for larger vehicles to travel. Next, Dan Salvucci asked if a bicyclist runs a red light, are they subject to getting a ticket? Barbara Jacobson stated that it depends on the municipality. Rob May then stated that he looks forward to working with OCPC on improving bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure in the City of Brockton. Next, Stephanie Danielson stated that it is important that roads are designed for all users.

C. Old Colony NHS Intermodal Connectors Study

Bill McNulty provided an overview of the Old Colony NHS Intermodal Connectors Study. Intermodal connectors are highways that provide access between major intermodal facilities and the four other subsystems of the National Highway System. In the Old Colony region, there are six designated intermodal connector facilities. These intermodal facilities are: Bridgewater Commuter Rail Station; Brockton (BAT Intermodal Centre); Campello Commuter Rail Station; Kingston Commuter Rail Station; Plymouth & Brockton Bus Terminal – Plymouth Industrial Park; and, Stoughton Commuter Rail Station

The NHS Intermodal Connectors Study evaluates existing conditions at the NHS Intermodal Connectors:

- Traffic operation and safety (ADT, Speeds, Heavy Vehicles; Level of Service; and, Crash Rates)
- Geometric and physical inventory
- At-Grade Railroad Crossings
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Accommodations and Safety

Richard O’Flaherty stated that there was supposed to be a pedestrian bridge from the Police Station to the BAT Intermodal Centre, but that idea was scrapped. Richard O’Flaherty thinks that idea should be looked at again. Next, Shane O’Brien asked why the Montello Rail Station is not considered an Intermodal Connector. Bill McNulty stated that Federal Legislation did not identify an Intermodal

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Facility because it is not located on the National Highway System.

8. Other Business and Public Comment

A. Community Local Technical Assistance Studies

Bill McNulty reported on the following Community Local Technical Assistance Studies:

Bridgewater

- Traffic Study of intersection of Pleasant Street (Route 104) at Elm Street: Data collected and analysis underway
- Traffic Study of intersection of Bedford Street (Route 18/28) at Grove Street and Maple Avenue: Grove Street Data collected and analysis completed; Maple Avenue data to be collected

Easton

- Road Safety Audit for Turnpike Street at Purchase Street, and Washington Street (Route 138) at Turnpike Street: Data collected and analysis underway; Audit to be scheduled
- Multiway Stop Warrant Analyses for Lothrop Street at Sheridan Street and Columbus Avenue at Sheridan Street: Data collection planned for Spring 2016

Hanover

- Traffic Study for Pleasant Street/ Whiting Street at Cedar Street: Data collected; analysis underway; Road Safety Audit to be scheduled

Pembroke/Duxbury

- Heavy Vehicle Exclusion Analysis for Several Roadways: Data collected and analysis underway; Additional location to be counted in 2016

Plymouth

- Road Safety Audit for Standish Avenue at Alden Street: Road Safety Audit conducted; First round of data collection completed. Per request of Town and RSA participants, data will be recollected when Samoset Street construction is complete and detours are no longer in place
- Multiway Stop Warrant Analyses – Several Lunn's Way Intersections: Data collection planned for Spring and Summer 2016
- Traffic Counts for Montgomery Drive: Data collection planned for Spring/Summer 2016
- Traffic Counts for Westerly Road: Data collection planned for Spring/Summer 2016

Stoughton

- Road Safety Audit for Park Street (Route 27) at Sumner Street: Data collected; analysis underway; Road Safety Audit to be scheduled

Whitman

- Washington Street Heavy Commercial Vehicle Exclusion Study: Data collection planned for 2016

Whitman-Hanson Regional School District

- Traffic Circulation Study for Whitman-Hanson Regional High School: Data collected; analysis

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underway

B. Staff Reviews on ENFs, EIRs, and NPCs

Eric Arbeene summarized the Environmental Notification Forms (ENFs), Environmental Impact Reports (EIRs), Notices of Project Changes (NPCs), and Certificates for projects within the OCPC region that are undergoing Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) Office review.

New Projects Submitted as of January 14, 2016

ENF

EEA #15463 – Holmes Dam Removal and Town Brook Restoration – Plymouth

The proposed project consists of the removal of the Holmes Playground Dam, restoring the stream channel in the existing impoundment, day lighting of the stream channel between the dam and Newfield Street, improvements at the Holmes Playground Park, replacement of the Newfield Street Bridge, and downstream channel improvements.

Certificates

NPC

EEA #13418 – Easton Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan – Easton

The project change is limited to the relocation of the connection between Easton's sewer to the Mansfield sewer system and acceleration of the construction schedule to accommodate a new housing development.

C. Regional Concerns and Local Community Transportation Issues

- Dan Salvucci stated that the traffic light at Franklin Street and South Avenue is up but it is not turned on yet. There has been nothing but good comments about the light.
- Dan Salvucci stated that there is a MBTA Advisory Board Meeting on Monday. MBTA may eliminate certain services that have low ridership.
- Paul Chenard stated that in order to be eligible for Complete Street funding you must attend one of the Complete Streets Workshops. There will be one at OCPC on February 8, 2016.
- Jimmy Pereira announced that OCPC is creating a Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee.
- Pat Ciaramella stated that OCPC has helped communities in the past develop their Complete Street policies. Please let OCPC know if your community is looking to implement Complete Streets policies.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle Mowatt

Kyle Mowatt, Transportation Planner