

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 February 11, 2016 at 12:00 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

Abington	Bruce Hughes	MassDOT OTP	Bryan K. Pounds
Bridgewater	Lisa Sullivan	Independence Associates	Bill Shine
Brockton	Rob May	OCPC	Shawn Bailey
Brockton	Shane O'Brien	OCPC	Jimmy Pereira
Brockton	Robert Moran	OCPC	Pat Ciaramella
Easton	David Field	OCPC	Paul Chenard
Hanson	Laurie Muncy	OCPC	Bill McNulty
Hanson	Donald H. Howard	OCPC	Charles Kilmer
Plymouth	Sid Kashi	OCPC	Jim Watson
Whitman	Dan Salvucci	OCPC	Ray Guarino
BAT	Michael Blondin	OCPC	Eric Arbeene
MassDOT District 5	Timothy Kochan	OCPC	Kyle Mowatt

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Vice Chairperson Sid Kashi called the meeting to order at 12:05 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 January 14, 2016 Meeting

Vice Chairperson Kashi asked if the members had reviewed the minutes of the January 14, 2016 Meeting. The members then unanimously endorsed the minutes of the January 14, 2016 Old Colony JTC 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.

Pat Ciaramella stated that the Metro South Multi-Cultural Business Forum & Business After Hours will be held on February 25, 2016 at the Shaw's Center in Brockton.

Bruce Hughes provided some information on expected costs for annual routine maintenance on catch

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basins.

5. Reports

A. Brockton Area Regional Transit Authority (BAT)

Michael Blondin provided the JTC with the following BAT update:

- BAT is in the process of applying for a grant through MassDOT for a total of eleven (11) new buses (7 Dial-A-BAT & 4 Council on Aging).
- Over the next four months there will be aggressive updating of BAT facilities.
- During the last two snow storms there were no accidents on fixed route or Para-transit service.

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

Paul Chenard provided an update on the Greater Attleboro-Taunton Regional Transit Authority (GATRA):

- GATRA is working with colleges in their region to establish a night service for the campuses. The Director of GATRA will soon be holding a legislature breakfast to talk about public transportation in the area.

C. South Coast Rail Project

Paul Chenard provided a South Coast Rail update:

FY 2015 Technical Assistance Projects:

- OCPC finalized the pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure recommendations document for Stoughton and it was accepted by the Town.
- As part of Bridgewater's technical assistance, OCPC with Bridgewater and Bridgewater State University released a market analysis survey this past Fall to obtain 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 Bridgewater to understand 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). They are as follows:

FFY 2016 PROJECTS:

- PLYMOUTH – RESURFACING & RELATED WORK ON ROUTE 3 (607175)
 - 75% design phase project plans completed (as of 01/14/2016).
 - Revised Cost Estimate is \$13,019,478 (\$14,642,040 programmed in TIP).

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FFY 2017 PROJECTS:

- WHITMAN – TRAFFIC SIGNAL IMPROVEMENTS & RELATED WORK ON BEDFORD STREET (ROUTE 18) AT 2 LOCATIONS: AUBURN STREET (ROUTE 14) & TEMPLE STREET (ROUTE 27) (607860)
 - MassDOT comments on the 25% design phase project plans have been returned to the Design Engineer (as of 02/01/2016).

FFY 2019 PROJECTS:

- EAST BRIDGEWATER – RESURFACING AND SIDEWALK CONSTRUCTION ON BEDFORD STREET (ROUTE 18), FROM WHITMAN STREET (ROUTE 106) TO CENTRAL STREET (607941)
 - Revised Cost Estimate is \$3,960,000 (\$2,249,728 programmed in TIP).
- EASTON – ROUTE 123 (DEPOT STREET) RECONSTRUCTION FROM NEWELL CIRCLE TO ROUTE 138
 - Revised Cost Estimate is \$7,305,999 (\$7,220,326 programmed in TIP).

Robert Moran asked what caused the cost increase for the East Bridgewater Project (607941). Charles Kilmer stated that the original cost estimate was made during the design phase. Pavement, sidewalks, and stormwater elements have been added.

Rob May asked for updates regarding the SIGNAL UPGRADES AT ROUTE 123 (BELMONT STREET), V.A. HOSPITAL & THE ROUTE 123/MANLEY STREET INTERSECTION Project. Tim Kochan stated that UEL Contractors, Inc. was awarded the construction contract.

7. New Business

A. Presentation and Discussion of Alternative Funding Sources for Transportation Improvements

- ***Bryan Pounds, MassDOT – Office of Transportation Planning***

Bryan Pounds provided a presentation on Alternative Funding Sources for Transportation Improvements. Alternative Funding sources are as follows:

- Complete Streets; TIGER; REC (RTP); FLAP; MassWORKS; and, FEMA (HMGP)

Complete Streets

- Authorized in the 2014 MA Transportation Bond Bill
- “Offers MA municipalities incentives to adopt policies and practices that provide safe and accessible options for all travel modes – walking, biking, transit and vehicles...”
- MassDOT has allocated \$12.5 million for the first two years (FY 2016-2017) of this effort. Future funding will be based on the availability of funds and the interest and success of the program.
- Projects can enhance a programmed TIP project, but for larger projects, Federal aid eligible roads should follow TIP program process.

Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER)

- Yearly competitive grant process for projects that invest in road, rail, transit and port projects that will achieve critical national objectives

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Recreational Trails (REC)

- Program run by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and funded by FHWA
- Provides reimbursement grants ranging from \$2,000 to \$50,000 for trails projects; Some larger amounts up to \$100,000

Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP)

- Provides funds for projects on Federal Lands access transportation facilities that are located on or adjacent to, or that provide access to Federal Lands

MassWorks

- Public infrastructure funding to support economic development and job creation
- Economic development or housing opportunities in Gateway Cities
- City and town center revitalization projects or mill redevelopment opportunities

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

- Assist communities that have experienced a disaster to significantly reduce or permanently eliminate future risk to lives and property from natural hazards
- Available for 'all-hazard' mitigation projects (flood, wind, etc.) and planning
- No minimum/maximum award amount
- 25% non-federal match

Discussion followed.

B. Development of the FFY 2017-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Charles Kilmer provided an overview of the FFY 2017-2021 Old Colony TIP Development Schedule:

1. Outreach and Data Collection (December – February)
2. Evaluation of Projects (February – March)
3. Staff Recommendations and Draft TIP (March – April)
4. Public Review and Endorsement (April – June)

Charles Kilmer went over the cost estimates on Table 1: Draft Old Colony FFY 2017-2021 TIP Projects. Charles Kilmer then stated that the Route 138 and Central Street project in Stoughton recently had a Road Safety Audit.

Tim Kochan stated that the Route 138 and Elm Street project in Easton proposes bike lanes northerly to the Union Street intersection. This project scored well at the Project Selection Advisory Committee (PSAC).

C. Discussion and Review of Old Colony Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Charles Kilmer provided a summary of the most recent MOU update which occurred in March, 2011.

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The following is a summary of major updates at that time:

- Recognized the Roles and Responsibilities of MassDOT which was created November 1, 2009.
- Specified the number of Signatories that constitute a quorum: “A quorum of the Old Colony MPO shall consist of five (5) voting members. Lack of a quorum shall not prevent an officially called meeting from coming to order, discussing agenda items, and, if agreed to by a majority of voting members in attendance, continuing later.”
- Modified voting procedures: “Votes of the Old Colony MPO, including those on all regional certification documents (i.e. the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), Air Quality Conformity Determinations, compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), shall be by simple majority vote, provided that a quorum is present, and that the affected implementation agency, MassDOT – Highway Division for highway and bridge projects, BAT for regional transit projects, and MassDOT for commuter rail projects) is included in the affirmative vote.”

Discussion followed regarding the federal guidance on transit representation on MPO policy boards.

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

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recollected when Samoset Street construction is complete and detours are no longer in place

- Multiway Stop Warrant Analyses at 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 / Abington

- 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 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.

Projects Currently Under Review

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.

C. Regional Concerns and Local Community Transportation Issues

- Paul Chenard stated that Jimmy Pereira is looking for people to join OCPC's Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:51 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle Mowatt

Kyle Mowatt, Transportation Planner