

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 November 10, 2016 at 12:00 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

Abington	Bruce Hughes	BAT	Glenn Geiler
Bridgewater	Robert Wood	Independence Associates	Bill Shine
Brockton	Shane O'Brien	MassDOT – SRTS	Moss Lynch
East Bridgewater	Richard O'Flaherty	MassDOT - MassRIDES	Kyle Bonus
Easton	Gregory Swan	Massasoit Community College	Phil Sheppard
Hanson	Donald Howard	OCPC	Shawn Bailey
Plymouth	Sid Kashi	OCPC	Jimmy Pereira
Stoughton	Noreen O'Toole	OCPC	Paul Chenard
Whitman	Dan Salvucci	OCPC	Pat Ciaramella
MassDOT District 5	Tim Kochan	OCPC	Charles Kilmer
CDM Smith	Dan Murphy	OCPC	Ray Guarino
BAT	Ray Ledoux	OCPC	Eric Arbeene

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chairperson Noreen O'Toole called the meeting to order at 12:11 P.M. and then read the Meeting Accessibility Statement. Those present then introduced themselves.

2. Public Comments

No public comments were made.

3. Minutes of the October 13, 2016 Meeting

Chairperson O'Toole asked if the members had reviewed the minutes of the October 13, 2016 Meeting. The members then unanimously endorsed the minutes of the October 13, 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.

5. Reports

A. Brockton Area Regional Transit Authority (BAT)

Ray Ledoux stated that there was not a lot to report since the previous JTC meeting. He stated that BAT

OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)

is continuing working on planning scopes with OCPC, including a scope of work for the Title VI report that is due to the FTA in March. Ray Ledoux also thanked Paul Chenard and Charles Kilmer for agreeing to help identify and select a new bike racking system to increase bicycle parking for BAT. Discussion followed.

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

Paul Chenard stated that there is no new news regarding GATRA. Paul Chenard also stated that the GATRA Consumer Advisory Committee will be held next month and that there will be an update at the next JTC meeting.

C. South Coast Rail Project

Paul Chenard reported that there is no new technical assistance with South Coast Rail, both the Stoughton and Bridgewater technical assistances are complete. Paul Chenard also stated that MassDOT is re-evaluating the Middleborough/Lakeville alternative for the project. Due to cost and time, they are re-considering using the Middleborough Line as the preferred alternative.

6. Old Business

A. FFY 2017-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Implementation

Charles Kilmer stated that there are no project updates with the FFY 2017-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

7. New Business

A. Old Colony Congestion Management Process (CMP)

▪ Commuter Parking Facility Utilization and Commuter Origins

Shawn Bailey provided a presentation on the background, details, methodology, and results of the Commuter Parking Facility Utilization and Commuter Origins Study.

Introduction

The Old Colony CMP transit facilities include the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) Commuter Rail Service, Brockton Area Transit Authority (BAT), and the MassDOT Park & Ride commuter lots on the AmVets Memorial Highway (Route 24) and Pilgrim Highway (Route 3) limited access highway corridors. Data collection at the transit facilities is done on a biannual basis as a part of OCPC's CMP Data Collection Program. The CMP Data Collection Program is an important factor in developing the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The projects included in the TIP address highway, bridge, and transit needs, and thus, address the issues identified in the CMP.

All transit parking facilities within the OCPC region, including MBTA Commuter Rail Lines and Parking Lots, and MassDOT Park & Ride Lots, are part of the Old Colony CMP. Through continuous input from

OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)

the Old Colony Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and Joint Transportation Committee (JTC), the Old Colony CMP defines a congested facility as:

- MBTA Commuter Rail Station Parking Lots with Utilization Rates of $\geq 85\%$
- Park & Ride Parking Lots with Utilization Rates of $\geq 85\%$

Methodology

The OCPC annual data collection routine includes two visits per year to the MBTA Commuter Rail lots to count the number of parked vehicles and determine the availability of peak parking. This data collection effort takes place in the spring (April) and fall (October) of each year, during the mid-week period, and between the hours of 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM. In 2009, OCPC extended the data collection program area to include the Canton Junction and Canton Center Stations on the Providence/Stoughton Line. This was done to provide a complete assessment of parking lot utilization for the entire Stoughton Branch of the Providence/Stoughton Line. As part of a comprehensive, system-wide process, the CMP includes a focus on vehicles per parking space at the peak parking time for commuter rail and park & ride lots, and transit passengers per seat (at the peak load point) for commuter rail and bus.

Results

In this study, OCPC staff recorded over 5,700 vehicle license plate numbers, entered them into a database, and then forwarded the data to the Central Transportation Planning Staff (CTPS). Further analysis uncovered that 70% of the license plates recorded at the Commuter Rail Stations originated within the town and the bordering towns of the station. Sixty-two percent of the plates recorded at the Park & Ride Lots also originated within the same general area. The behavior of Commuter Rail and Park & Ride users are obviously different when analyzing the distance; both are willing to travel in order to utilize the provided commuter option.

Richard O'Flaherty brought up a letter from the Communications packet that was about requesting a new MBTA station in the town of East Bridgewater, and if East Bridgewater or West Bridgewater could be considered for a station. Charles Kilmer stated that MassDOT would have to consider multiple data sources and go through an extensive process for that to happen. Discussion followed regarding parking at Park & Ride facilities, potential commuter trends for various reasons, and other topics.

B. Development of the Old Colony ADA Transition Plan

Title II of the ADA requires that government entities, to afford persons with disabilities equal opportunity to benefit from all of the programs, services and activities that may be offered by the Metropolitan Planning Organization. Title II requirements include physical accommodations (buildings and meetings) and policies, practices and procedures. Under Title II, it is required to make reasonable accommodations in order to provide access and to communication effectively with persons who have hearing, vision or speech impairments.

To help achieve the goals of the Title II of the ADA, OCPC is conducting a self-evaluation by examining administrative policies, operational procedures, and communications systems for accessibility. As such, OCPC is preparing an ADA Transition Plan that will outline a path to achieve the removal of any barriers

OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)

if identified, whether it is infrastructural, administrative or operational. Items to be reviewed by the Old Colony ADA Transition Plan:

- OCPC Policy and Practice Evaluation
 - ADA/Section and 504 Coordinator
 - Public Participation
 - Public Meetings and Opportunity for Public Comment
 - Publications
 - Grievance Procedure for Employees
 - Compliant Procedure for General Public

- Evaluation of Premises
 - Building Access
 - Doorways and Hardware
 - Reception Areas
 - Offices
 - Internal Navigation
 - Communication Devices
 - Conference Room

Pat Ciaramella stated that OCPC engaged Bill Shine of Independence Associates, to review improvements to the OCPC building to become ADA compliant. Such renovations include placement of toilets and height of the sinks in the bathroom.

C. Results of the Old Colony MPO Local Signatory Election

Charles Kilmer stated that the Old Colony MPO Signatories include the following eight members:

- The Secretary and CEO of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation
- The Administrator of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation Highway Division
- The President of the Old Colony Planning Council
- The Administrator of the Brockton Area Transit Authority
- The Mayor of the City of Brockton
- The Chief Elected Official of Plymouth
- One Signatory Member from a community with a population less than 14,000 (based on 2010 U.S. Census) (Avon, East Bridgewater, Halifax, Hanover, Hanson, Kingston, Plympton, and West Bridgewater)
- One Signatory Member from a community with a population over 14,000, other than Brockton (Abington, Bridgewater, Duxbury, Easton, Pembroke, Stoughton, and Whitman)

Charles Kilmer then discussed the results of the Old Colony MPO Local Signatory Election for One Signatory Member to represent the communities with populations less than 14,000. The election was held in the month of October for the Signatory Member from a community with a population less than 14,000.

Eldon Moreira, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen for the Town of West Bridgewater, was elected by a majority vote to serve a two-year term, as the Signatory Member to represent communities with

OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)

populations less than 14,000. The term commences on November 1, 2016.

8. Other Business and Public Comment

A. Community Local Technical Assistance Studies

Eric Arbeene reported on the following Community Local Technical Assistance Studies:

Abington

- Traffic Counts (Volumes, Speed, and Vehicle Classifications) for Several Roadways – Data collected; Data processing and analysis underway

Bridgewater

- Traffic Study of intersection of Pleasant Street (Route 104) at Elm Street – Data collected; Draft analysis sent to town for review; Report in development
- Traffic Study of intersection of Bedford Street (Route 18/28) at Grove Street and Maple Avenue – Data collected and analysis underway

Easton

- Road Safety Audit for Turnpike Street at Purchase Street, and Washington Street (Route 138) at Turnpike Street – Data collected and analysis underway; Road Safety Audit to be scheduled

Hanover

- Traffic Study for Woodland Drive Neighborhood – Data collected; Analysis underway
- Safety and Alternatives Analysis for Mill Street at Hanover Mall / Mill Pond Drive – Report in development

Kingston

- Traffic Study for Kingston Historic District – Data collected; Report in Development
- Traffic Count for Cranberry Road – Data collection planned for late November - early December

Plymouth

- Road Safety Audit for Standish Avenue at Alden Street – Data collected; Analysis underway

West Bridgewater

- Traffic Study of West Center Street (Route 106) and Crescent Street – 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

NPC

OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)

EEA #15386-Water Street Promenade Project-Plymouth

The subject of this Water Street Promenade Project Notice of Project Change (NPC) addresses proposed additions and modifications to the so-called Northern Section of the project. The proposed modifications are consistent with and will improve the Town's original goal of improving pedestrian accommodations along the waterfront while addressing deteriorating infrastructure and the effects of climate change.

C. Regional Concerns and Local Community Transportation Issues

- Dan Salvucci discussed some issues that were observed at the Whitman Town Hall on Election Day. He stated that there was an estimated 5,000 people crossing the street to get to Town Hall to vote and that there were many drivers speeding down the street, despite the presence of a police officer to assist people crossing the street to Town Hall. Dan then asked if it was legal to put up a sign that says "police officer ahead" or "slow down" to try to control speeding drivers.
 - Ray Ledoux stated that if someone is injured as a result of the sign, then it could result in a lawsuit. He also stated that if the sign complies with MUTCD regulations, then the sign is good. Ray Ledoux also stated that there are multiple types of warning signs that could be used.
 - Ray Guarino stated that under a new state law, you can change the speed limit to 25 MPH in thickly settled neighborhoods. Charles Kilmer continued by stating that that law does not work on roads that are state highways.
 - Sid Kashi then stated an idea to create a detour around the neighborhood to have traffic rerouted on days with high pedestrian traffic at Town Hall, such as Election Day.
- Pat Ciaramella concluded the meeting by stating that there are five OCPC communities that applied for MassWorks grants. As of today, two of those communities, Avon and Brockton, both received substantial amounts – Avon received \$900,000 and Brockton received \$10 million.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:04 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Shawn Bailey

Shawn Bailey, Assistant Transportation Planner

List of Documents for November 10, 2016 Old Colony JTC Meeting

- Minutes of October 13, 2016 Old Colony JTC Meeting
- Staff Report for November 10, 2016 Old Colony JTC Meeting Agenda Items
- Old Colony Congestion Management Process (CMP) - Commuter Parking Facility Utilization and Commuter Origins PowerPoint Presentation