

# OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)

Meeting Minutes of the Old Colony Joint Transportation Committee (JTC)  
Held Virtually via Zoom due to the Covid-19 State of Emergency in Massachusetts  
June 4, 2020 at 12:00 P.M.

## ATTENDANCE

Abington	John Stone	CDM Smith	Dan Murphy
Brockton	Rob May	Pine duBois	Jones River Watershed Association
Duxbury	Valerie Massard	MassDOT	Barbara LaChance
Easton	Imaikalani Aiu	MassDOT	Ben Muller
Easton	David Field	State Representative	Benjamin Swan
Easton	Greg Swan	OCPC	Paul Chenard
Hanson	Deborah Pettey	OCPC	Bill McNulty
Stoughton	Joe Scardino	OCPC	Charles Kilmer
Whitman	Noreen O'Toole	OCPC	Mary Waldron
Whitman	Dan Salvucci	OCPC	Jimmy Pereira
BAT	Glenn Geiler	OCPC	Shawn Bailey
BAT	Michael Lambert	OCPC	Ray Guarino
BETA Group	Greg Lucas	OCPC	Andrew Vidal
BETA Group	Dan McCormack		

### 1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chairperson Noreen O'Toole called the meeting to order at 12:04 P.M. and then read the Meeting Accessibility Statement and the Title VI Notice of Protection Statement. Those present then introduced themselves.

### 2. Public Comments

There were no public comments made.

### 3. Minutes of the May 7, 2020 Meeting

Chairperson O'Toole asked if the members had reviewed the minutes of the May 7, 2020 Meeting. The members then voted to endorse the minutes of the May 7, 2020 Old Colony JTC Meeting.

### 4. Communications

Shawn Bailey reviewed the contents of the communications staff report. Included were letters of

## OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)

correspondence, as well as notices of workshops and conferences. They are as follows:

- **Stoughton - Design Public Hearing Webinar**  
**Webinar will be posted on Thursday, June 17, 2020**

A Design Public Hearing Webinar will be published to present the proposed safe route to school (SRTS) improvements project at Richard L. Wilkins Elementary School (former West School in Stoughton).

Written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking are to be submitted to Patricia Leavenworth, P.E., Chief Engineer, MassDOT, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Roadway Project Management, Project File No. 608829. Mailed statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing webinar transcript must be postmarked no later than ten (10) business days after the webinar is posted to the MassDOT website listed below. Inquiries may be emailed to [dot.feedback.highway@state.ma.us](mailto:dot.feedback.highway@state.ma.us).  
<https://www.mass.gov/event/stoughton-design-public-hearing-webinar-2020-06-17t000000-0400-2020-06-17t235900-0400>

- **"Walkability and Main Street Resilience Panel Discussion" Virtual Event**  
**June 24, 2020 at 1 PM**

Join WalkBoston, main streets and municipal representatives to discuss how small, local businesses influence walkability. Through the panel, you will also learn how you can support local businesses to secure long-term neighborhood walkability during and after COVID-19.  
[https://barrfoundation.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_MddkOVxyQ2yDYBB1r\\_yS9A](https://barrfoundation.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_MddkOVxyQ2yDYBB1r_yS9A)

- **"Streets for Recovery" mini-grants now available from the Solomon Foundation**

As described by the Solomon Foundation: "In a time when we're required to maintain physical distance to protect public health, streets need to do more than ever. Streets must be configured so that people are able to move safely and provide space so people can safely access food, essential services, and businesses." To help address this need, the Solomon Foundation set up a resource and information page with best practices from around the country, local examples of how communities are responding, and a mini-grant funding opportunity.  
<https://www.solomonfoundation.org/streetsforrecovery/>

### 5. Reports

#### A. Brockton Area Regional Transit Authority (BAT)

Michael Lambert announced that BAT continues to provide enhanced Saturday transit service, which was increased starting on Tuesday June 2, 2020. BAT is tracking Governor Baker's reopening plan and will be adapting it to create their own plan. Once Phase 2 of Baker's plan goes into effect on Monday June 8, 2020, Michael Lambert is expecting an increase in ridership, as more people will be going back to work. As with the MBTA, BAT will be adding in more buses in their service. Michael Lambert also stated that BAT will be monitoring their ridership by route and hour and will adjust their service

## **OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)**

accordingly by any discovered needs. BAT's goal is to provide service above what is needed to allow for social distancing as well as to continue their cleaning and sanitation efforts. At the BAT Advisory Board Meeting last week, the FY 2021 budget was passed. Lastly, Michael Lambert noted that despite the lack of knowledge of how much state funding they will receive, BAT still expects to provide regular or increased service.

### **▪ 2020 Title VI Report**

Paul Chenard reported on BAT's Title VI Report that was a combined effort between BAT and OCPC. It is a report that is produced every three years. As BAT receives Federal funding, it must demonstrate that it is meeting the requirements of Title VI, and making sure that there is no overt or unintentional discriminatory practice occurring during the provision of transit services. BAT provides evidence of Title VI compliance every three years by producing their Title VI Report and submitting it to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The Title VI Report catalogues policies, complaint procedures and forms, investigations, complaints, lawsuits, demographic analysis, and a Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan. BAT currently has completed the draft Title VI and LEP Plan documents and is soliciting public comments. Once comments are received, they will be included in the report. Lastly, Paul Chenard stated the Report is due to the FTA in June 2020.

### **▪ Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Goal**

Michael Lambert reported on BAT's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Goal that was presented at the Advisory Board Meeting on Thursday May 28, 2020. BAT established that they have a DBE Goal of taking 2.5% of their eligible contracting funds and providing them to local disadvantaged businesses in need. Michael Lambert also stated that there will be public workshops, this Goal was advertised on May 30, 2020, and the public has 30 days to review and provide comments.

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

Paul Chenard reported on the status of GATRA. GATRA is reopening their transit service and like BAT, is following guidance from MassDOT and the MBTA. Paul Chenard stated that GATRA has mandated all passengers enter through the rear entrance (when boarding a bus that has one) and they must wear a facemask. Drivers are also wearing facemasks in addition to gloves and have plexiglass barriers for their and the passenger's protection. GATRA, like all transit authorities, hopes to return to full service at some point soon. Finally, Paul Chenard stated that GATRA will continue their Consumer Advisory Board meetings soon with virtual meetings.

## **C. South Coast Rail Project**

Paul Chenard reported on the updates for the South Coast Rail Project. The construction of the track and culvert work is still happening to get the service ready for the anticipated Phase 1 start date. COVID-19 has put a burden on the project as workers are practicing the required safety procedures like social distancing. The work on the project continues.

## **6. Old Business**

# OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)

## A. FFY 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Implementation

Charles Kilmer discussed updates for projects included in the FFY 2020-2024 TIP. They are as follows:

### FFY 2020 Project:

- BROCKTON - CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS ON ROUTE 123 (BELMONT STREET), FROM ANGUS BEATON DRIVE TO WEST STREET (608088)
  - Plans, Specifications, and Estimate (PS&E) received by MassDOT (as of 2/18/2020).
  - Cost Estimate is \$8,571,440 (\$7,781,344 programmed in the TIP).

### FFY 2021 Projects:

- AVON - STOUGHTON - PAVEMENT PRESERVATION AND RELATED WORK ON ROUTE 24 (608496)
  - 75% Package received by MassDOT (as of 5/14/2020).
  - Cost Estimate is \$6,312,800.
- STOUGHTON – IMPROVEMENTS AT RICHARD WILKINS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (SRTS) (608829)
  - MassDOT comments on the 75% Package returned to the Design Engineer (as of 10/25/2019).
  - Design Public Hearing Webinar scheduled for June 17, 2020.

## 7. New Business

### A. Reporting of Nominating Committee and Election of Old Colony JTC Officers (202-2021)

Charles Kilmer stated that the Nominating Committee met on May 14, 2020. Glenn Geiler stated the Committee reviewed the list of nominations. Noreen O’Toole was nominated for Chairperson and Dan Salvucci was nominated for Vice Chairperson. A motion was made to nominate Noreen O’Toole as Chairperson and Dan Salvucci as Vice Chairperson and seconded.

*The Old Colony JTC voted unanimously to nominate Noreen O’Toole as Chairperson and Dan Salvucci as Vice Chairperson.*

### B. Business/ Retail and Social Distancing Options for Active Transportation

Paul Chenard provided a presentation on the Business/ Retail and Social Distancing Options for Active Transportation and highlighted Design Element Considerations for Businesses and Retail establishments. The examples of design elements are as follows:

1. Temporarily Expanded Sidewalks
  - Provides pedestrians with needed space to social distance.
  - Does not require new concrete or asphalt, only requires traffic cones, jersey barriers, or water/sand fill barriers.
  - Can use parking spaces to place tables for restaurants.

## OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)

### 2. The Parklet

- An urban design tool where on-street parking spaces are transformed into outdoor seating or space for outdoor dining and retailing.
- Could provide the needed space for a restaurant to maintain social distancing while being able to seat enough patrons to receive enough business.
- Joe Scardino expressed concerns over liability if a pedestrian trips, falls, and is injured since sidewalks are owned by the communities. He asked if Paul addressed liability indemnification. Paul stated that he did not, this is simply a design guide being used as a visual example, and to speak to the legal department to discuss any concerns. Rob May stated that in Governor Baker's COVID-19 Order 34, it waives zoning requirements and they can be dealt with quickly without public hearings. Discussion followed.

### 3. Temporarily Bicycle Lane/Shared Path

- Could provide joggers and bicyclists the needed space to social distance that may not exist under current roadway conditions.
- With retail and dining establishments either closed or operating with reduced business hours, people will look towards outside activities to fill their entertainment void.

### 4. Open Streets

- An urban design tool where a street is restricted from automobiles to allow free flow of pedestrians and bicyclists, and to allow businesses and restaurants to put up tents and tables for outdoor retailing and dining.
- Like the other elements, Open Streets allows the space for social distancing with needed additional space for people.
- Encourages people to walk or bike the corridor and can create revenue for local businesses.

Paul Chenard then provided an 8-step process of How to implement these design elements:

1. Engage your local elected officials about these temporary design element ideas
2. Engage Public Works about these designs
3. Engage municipal safety service about these temporary design elements
4. Engage the local Chamber of Commerce and/or local businesses to see what they think about expanding their operations into the street utilizing these temporary designs
5. Develop a quick installation, maintenance, and removal plan
6. Engage the public on what these temporary designs are and how they will benefit them, local businesses, and the community overall
7. Set a date for possible ending of temporary design elements
8. Discuss if these temporary design elements should become permanent

Noreen O'Toole thanked Rob May for providing the website in the Zoom chat for the executive order he previously mentioned. Ben Muller thanked Paul Chenard for putting this together and stated that MassDOT is looking at how they can support municipalities and how transit authorities are utilized during COVID-19.

# OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)

## C. Draft FFY 2021 Old Colony Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Charles Kilmer discussed the Draft FFY 2021 Old Colony Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and noted that the UPWP is ongoing a public review and comment period. The Old Colony MPO released it to a 21-day review and comment period at their May 19, 2020 meeting and will be reviewing it again at their June 16, 2020 meeting. Charles Kilmer stated that due to COVID-19 and the transportation trend shifts, some subtasks under Task 3000: Short- and Long-Range Transportation Planning Activities are different for FFY 2021. Instead of large-scale studies such as corridor studies, OCPC will be conducting the following projects:

### Task 3300 - Road Safety Audits (RSAs) at Multiple Locations

- This task will cover at least fifteen (15) Road Safety Audits that will be conducted across the region over FFY 2021. Bill McNulty has identified crash clusters where some of these RSAs can be done, provided there have not been any in recent years.

### Task 3400 - Active Transportation Study

- This task will cover an overall look at the transportation network across the OCPC Region. Paul Chenard will be looking to address areas where better bicycle and pedestrian accommodations are needed for recreation and primary transportation purposes (bike racks and lanes, walking paths, etc.). This study will look at the region through connectivity of these modes both between and within the communities.

### Task 3500 - Climate Change Vulnerability Transportation Assessment

- This task will cover updating the FFY 2010 Climate Change Transportation Impact Study on how climate change affects and has affected the transportation network. This study will address how current and future climate change will affect the transportation network, stormwater runoff, the road network, and flood prone areas.

Pine duBois asked if public comments were due on Monday June 8, 2020. Charles Kilmer replied that public comments will be taken through June 12, 2020 and will also be taken at the June 16, 2020 MPO Meeting.

A motion was made to approve the FFY 2021 Old Colony UPWP and seconded.

*The Old Colony JTC voted unanimously to accept the FFY 2021 Old Colony UPWP.*

## 8. Other Business and Public Comment

### A. Community Local Technical Assistance Studies

Bill McNulty stated that while OCPC remains responsive to the technical assistance needs from our communities, data collection activities are currently suspended due to the continuing COVID-19 State of Emergency in Massachusetts. Resumption of data collection activities will be determined based on official guidance from the Governor, MassDOT, as well as input from OCPC. Bill McNulty stated that OCPC provided guidance to the Town of Hanson regarding removing passing zones from roadways and the

## OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)

Town of West Bridgewater requested a traffic study on Scotland Street.

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

### Easton

- Belmont Street (Route 123) Traffic Counts: Data collection planned

### Plymouth

- Intersection Traffic Study of Carver Road and Montgomery Drive: Analysis underway

### West Bridgewater

- Scotland Street Traffic Study: Data collection planned

## **B. Staff Reviews on ENFs, EIRs, and NPCs**

Andrew Vidal 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 as of May 20, 2020 Environmental Monitor**

- EEA #16204 - Duplex Residential Dwelling in South (Easton) (ENF)
  - The Town of Easton Affordable Housing Trust Fund wishes to permit the construction of an 8-bedroom 4,800 sf duplex for BAMSII. There is a high need for affordable rental housing for physically and cognitively disabled individuals. This project coincides with Easton's 2017 Housing Production Plan.

### **MEPA Certificates**

- EEA #16162 - Bridgewater Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan - Recommended Plan (Bridgewater) (ENF)
  - Based on review of the ENF and comments received on it, and in consultation with State Agencies, it was determined by the Secretary of Environmental Affairs that an EIR is not required. Remaining issues can be addressed through the local, state, and federal permitting and review process.

## **C. Regional Concerns and Local Community Transportation Issues**

Noreen O'Toole announced that Sid Kashi is retiring as the Plymouth Town Engineer and then extended the JTC's congratulations and thanked him for being a member and Vice Chairperson for the JTC for many years. Multiple people also on the Zoom call congratulated Sid on his retirement and wished him well. Mary Waldron thanked everyone at OCPC for their hard work with everyone working remotely. Mary Waldron then read OCPC's Reflection and Action statement from the OCPC Weekly Newsletter in response to recent events. The statement reads:

““Talk the talk, walk the walk.” A person should support what they say with action. George Floyd should

## OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)

be alive today. This is not a political statement. It's a truth – and continuing as usual is not an option.

As planners we need to ensure that the work we do addresses current and future needs of *all* members of our communities. At OCPC, we pledge to continue listening to all, regardless of race or ethnicity. We also pledge to fully hear what's said, especially about needs.

We will listen and we will hear, and we will *proactively* ask for guidance on how OCPC can help ensure equity for all. Everyone should be treated with dignity and respect, and have equal access to opportunities and services.

Breathing – we take it for granted; we're all entitled to breathe. Eight minutes and 46 seconds. Those minutes bring many of us to tears, feeling anger, pain, and frustration. OCPC will do what we can to address inequity, and that includes advocating for all members of our communities.

Yesterday, OCPC began to build a Reflection and Action Taskforce. Starting with staff and Council members, we're going to review our policies and procedures. Look at ways we can improve public engagement and other practices. We're going to embrace uncomfortable conversations and change.

Let us hope that these discussions become consistent, and as natural and innate as each breath we take.”

Noreen O'Toole thanked Mary Waldron for reading the statement and thanked everyone for all their hard work.

### 9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Shawn Bailey*

Shawn Bailey

Transportation Planner

### List of Documents for June 4, 2020 Old Colony JTC Meeting

1. Minutes of the May 7, 2020 Old Colony JTC Meeting
2. Staff Report for the June 4, 2020, Old Colony JTC Meeting Agenda Items