

OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)

Meeting Minutes of the Old Colony Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) Virtual Meeting September 3, 2020 at 12:00 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

Abington	John Stone	Office of Senator Timilty	Keisha Adarkwah
Brockton	Chike Odunukwe	Tighe and Bond	Kim Tran
Brockton	Rob May	MassDevelopment	Mary Ellen DeFrias
Easton	David Field	BETA Group	Dan McCormack
Easton	Greg Swan	Jones River Watershed	Pine Dubois
Hanover	Ann Lee	Caller #1	Unknown
Stoughton	Joe Scardino	Caller #2	Unknown
Whitman	Dan Salvucci	OCPC	Bill McNulty
Whitman	Noreen O'Toole	OCPC	Charles Kilmer
Whitman	Mary Holland	OCPC	Paul Chenard
BAT	Glenn Geiler	OCPC	Jimmy Pereira
MassDOT	Barbara LaChance	OCPC	Shawn Bailey
MassDOT	Ben Muller	OCPC	Ray Guarino
Safe Routes to School	Vivian Ortiz	OCPC	Andrew Vidal
CDM Smith	Dan Murphy	OCPC	Kyle Mowatt
CDM Smith	Lisa Sherman		

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. Charles Kilmer then conducted the roll call.

2. Public Comments

There were no public comments at this time.

3. Minutes of the June 4, 2020 Meeting

Chairperson O'Toole asked if the members had reviewed the minutes of the June 4, 2020 Meeting. The members then voted unanimously to endorse the minutes of the June 4, 2020 Old Colony JTC Meeting.

4. Communications

OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)

Shawn Bailey reviewed the contents of the communications staff report. Included were the following notices of workshops and conferences:

- Bay State Bike Month (September) - 26th Annual MassCommute Bicycle Challenge September 19-27, 2020.
- 2020 Moving Together Conference - November 17-19, 2020 (We're Going Virtual!)
- MassDOT Innovation Series - MassWildlife & MassDER: Partnering for Resilient Infrastructure and Ecosystems - September 10, 2020 at 2pm

5. Reports

A. Brockton Area Regional Transit Authority (BAT)

Glenn Geiler provided an update on BAT and reported on the following:

- No service was provided on Monday for Labor Day
- Fare collection resumed on August 25
- Ticket vending machines have been moved outdoors at the BAT Centre to provide safer access for passengers. Hand sanitizer machines have also been installed.
- BAT's new mobile ticketing app was released on August 25. Customers can use smartphones to buy BAT ticket from anywhere.

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

Paul Chenard stated that GATRA has reduced service due to the pandemic. The Pembroke shuttle was not operating but has since returned to service. The service previously featured a bus every hour, now it is reduced to a bus every two hours. GATRA is providing an extensive cleaning process, and is looking to procure a UV light disinfecting system for the A/C unit. Fare collecting resumed for GATRA on August 31.

C. South Coast Rail Project (SCR)

Paul Chenard stated SCR is moving along. Phase 1 is currently undergoing construction, and will operate on the Middleborough/Old Colony Line. The physical management control board recently approved a second major construction contract of around \$403 Million, which was awarded to build the lower end of the line. This consists of the rail line in New Bedford, upgrading the Middleborough secondary to allow the trains to transition from the SCR line to the Old Colony Line. Also included are the construction of the new stations in East Taunton and New Bedford.

6. Old Business

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

OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)

Charles Kilmer summarized several updated for projects programmed in the FFY 2020-2024 TIP. The updates are as follows:

FFY 2020 Projects:

- BROCKTON - CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS ON ROUTE 123 (BELMONT STREET), FROM ANGUS BEATON DRIVE TO WEST STREET (608088)
 - Construction Bids opened on 09/1/2020

FFY 2021 Projects:

- AVON-STOUGHTON - PAVEMENT PRESERVATION AND RELATED WORK ON ROUTE 24 (608496)
 - 100% Package received by MassDOT (as of 08/14/2020)
- EASTON - ROUTE 123 (DEPOT STREET) RECONSTRUCTION FROM NEWELL CIRCLE TO ROUTE 138 (607217)
 - Plans, Specifications, and Estimates (PS&E) received by MassDOT (as of 08/24/2020)

7. New Business

A. OCPC Reflections, Opportunities, and Actions (ROA) Task Force Update

Paul Chenard stated that the ROA Task Force seeks to reaffirm the OCPC's commitment to embracing diversity, equity, and inclusion as organizational values and reflect these values in all the work the council does.

With its genesis originating with the death of George Floyd, the mission of OCPC's ROA Task Force is to reflect on how we work (both internally and externally), identify opportunities for doing better, and take action – ensuring that our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion remains strong.

The ROA Task Force's vision is one in which OCPC continues to be regarded as a partner and asset to communities in our region. Communities turn to OCPC for planning support and information, knowing that everyone is included both in planning processes and in decision-making, and that all members of our communities feel valued and receive benefits from our work.

Chairperson O'Toole thanked everyone for all their hard work on this. Something like this makes a difference in all of our planning.

B. Main Street (Brockton) Corridor Study – Status Report and Next Steps

Ray Guarino provided a status report and next steps for the Main Street Corridor Study. Several potential short term and long term recommendations have been developed for the study based on the public outreach (public meetings, stakeholder interviews, and public survey). Some recommendations are for corridor-wide improvements such as better lighting and improved bicycle accommodations, while some focus on specific intersection locations such as installing signals at the Main Street/Nilsson Street/East Nilsson Street intersection.

OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)

The next steps include a virtual public meeting on Wednesday September 9, 2020 at 7PM to garner further public input on the potential improvements. In addition, a draft report will be distributed to stakeholders and partners for review and comment. The study is set to wrap up at the end of September 2020.

Dan Salvucci asked if there is consideration to removing street parking on one side of Main Street. Ray Guarino stated that the consultant BSC Group eliminated parking where the Court House is and that any parking that was eliminated on Main Street was accommodated elsewhere. Charles Kilmer noted that as part of the parking reallocation, the City is looking to build another parking garage at the corner of Frederick Douglas Way and Warren Avenue.

Charles Kilmer stated that the credentials for the Zoom meeting are posted on the calendar on the OCPC web site.

C. Route 139 (Hanover) Corridor Study – Status Report and Next Steps

Bill McNulty provided a status report and next steps for the Route 139 Corridor Study. A draft final report has been completed and will be released to a 2-week public review period following a public presentation. The public presentation will be conducted via webinar on September 17, 2020, and will present a recap of the Study and include a summary of its findings and potential recommended improvements.

Potential Improvements:

- Road Safety Audits at various intersections
- Re-design of Hanover Center to alleviate congestion and improve mobility and safety
- Improving bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure along the corridor is recommended to improve both regional bicycle mobility and local connections to recreation for improved community health and lifestyle
- Lighting, roadway striping, and signage have been evaluated along the corridor, and recommendations for upgrading these facilities is being made where appropriate to improve safety.

D. Traffic Volume Trends during COVID-19 Pandemic

Shawn Bailey provided a presentation and summary of the Traffic Volume Trends during COVID-19 Pandemic. The study found that:

- Used data from nine (9) MassDOT permanent locations within and adjacent to OCPC region
- Many other permanent locations present, but with inconsistent data
- Extracted data from MassDOT's MS2 Transportation Data Management System
- Used 2019 as baseline to compare to 2020 data (pre-quarantine and during quarantine)
- With many people out of work, working from home, or quarantining due to health risks, traffic has declined significantly since mid-March compared to 2019
- Traffic has increased since April, but still below 2019 numbers
- March 29th – date with the lowest traffic volume

OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)

- Steady incline in traffic volumes since March 29th
- April was hardest hit month (48.1% below April 2019)
- May was 34.7% below May 2019, June was 18.6% below June 2020, and July was 10.7% below July 2019.

8. Other Business and Public Comment

A. Community Local Technical Assistance Studies

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

Avon

- Traffic Study for East Main Street (Route 28) at East and West Spring Street: Data collection scheduled for Fall 2020

Easton

- Belmont Street (Route 123) Traffic Counts: Data collection scheduled for Fall 2020

Pembroke

- Traffic Study for Chapel Street: Data collection scheduled for Fall 2020

West Bridgewater

- Scotland Street Traffic Study: Data collection scheduled for Fall 2020

B. Staff Reviews on ENFs, EIRs, and NPCs

Kyle Mowatt 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 August 26, 2020

- EEA #16256 - Catena Way (Abington) (ENF)

MEPA Certificates

- EEA #16218 - Reconstruction of Depot Street (Route 123) (Easton)
 - Does not require the preparation of an EIR
- EEA #16204 - Duplex Residential Dwelling (Easton)
 - Does not require the preparation of an EIR
- EEA #16215 - 0 Keene Street (Duxbury)
 - Does not require the preparation of an EIR

C. Regional Concerns and Local Community Transportation Issues

OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)

Dan Salvucci commented on improvement projects at the intersection of Route 14 at 18, and Route 27/18 in Whitman. There were some issues with the traffic signals when they were being installed. This work was completed within a day. Dan Salvucci thanked MassDOT on their responsiveness and efficient work.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle Mowatt

Kyle Mowatt

Transportation Planner

List of Documents for September 3, 2020 Old Colony JTC Meeting

1. Minutes of the June 4, 2020 Old Colony JTC Meeting
2. Staff Report for the September 3, 2020, Old Colony JTC Meeting Agenda Items