

OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)

Minutes of the Old Colony Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) Virtual Meeting November 5, 2020 at 12:00 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

Abington	Bruce Hughes	Mass Development	Mary Ellen DeFrias
Abington	John Stone	Tighe & Bond	Dan Murphy
Brockton	Rob May	VHB	Rob Cahoon
Easton	David Field	OCPC	Shawn Bailey
Hanson	Deborah Pettey	OCPC	Kyle Mowatt
Whitman	Dan Salvucci	OCPC	Charles Kilmer
Whitman	Noreen O'Toole	OCPC	Mary Waldron
MassDOT	Barbara LaChance	OCPC	Bill McNulty
MassDOT	Ben Muller	OCPC	Jimmy Pereira
BAT	Glenn Geiler	OCPC	Ray Guarino
BETA Group	Greg Lucas	OCPC	Dottie Fulginiti
GPI	Sid Kashi	OCPC	Andrew Vidal

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chairperson Noreen O'Toole called the meeting to order at 12:03 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

Bruce Hughes thanked MassDOT for their work on Route 18 in Abington.

3. Minutes of the October 1, 2020 Meeting

Chairperson O'Toole asked if the members had reviewed the minutes of the October 1, 2020 Meeting. The members then voted unanimously to endorse the minutes of the October 1, 2020 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. They are as follows:

- 2020 Moving Together Conference - November 17-19, 2020 (Virtual)
- MBTA seeks rider input on service priorities, schedules public meetings
- 2021 MassTrails Grant Round - Now Open

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Dan Salvucci attended the most recent MBTA Advisory Board meeting where they discussed cutting service. They want to cut service, but not so much that they lose customers. The MBTA is currently \$100 Million in debt due to lack of ridership during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

5. Reports

A. Brockton Area Regional Transit Authority (BAT)

Glenn Geiler reported on the following:

- New mobile friendly website is now live
- Continuing with new automated mobile app for tickets and passes
- BAT Centre is still closed to the public, with exception to those needing customer service. There is a walk-up window that has been a success on the Commercial Street side of the BAT Centre.

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

Shawn Bailey reported on the following:

- Microtransit service that started back in October in the Town of Plymouth is going well
- GATRA awaiting the recommendations of the Comprehensive Regional Transportation Plan that is under development.

C. South Coast Rail Project

Shawn Bailey reported on the following:

- Most construction is being done in the southern part of the Commonwealth
- Contractors are in the process of clearing trees and delivering building material to complete the work

6. Old Business

A. FFY 2021-2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Implementation

Charles Kilmer discussed updates to projects in the FFY 2021-2025 TIP. They are as follows:

FFY 2021 Projects:

AVON - INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT HARRISON BOULEVARD AND POND STREET (608086)

- Plans, Specifications, and Estimates (PS&E) Resubmission received by MassDOT (10/30/2020).

EASTON - ROUTE 123 (DEPOT STREET) RECONSTRUCTION FROM NEWELL CIRCLE TO ROUTE 138 (607217)

- Plans, Specifications, and Estimates (PS&E) Resubmission received by MassDOT (10/9/2020).

FFY 2023 Projects:

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STOUGHTON - CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS ON ROUTE 138 (607403) AC PHASE 1 OF 2

- 25% Package received by MassDOT Engineer (10/13/2020).

FFY 2024 Projects:

STOUGHTON - CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS ON ROUTE 138 (607403) AC PHASE 2 OF 2

- 25% Package received by MassDOT Engineer (10/13/2020).

Deborah Pettey, from Hanson, asked why their project on Maquan Street is not in the TIP. Charles Kilmer explained that the TIP has two essential parts, one is the five federal fiscal years (financially constrained), the second part is projects looking for funding. The Hanson project on Route 14 was one of the projects reviewed by the MPO as part of the 6 scenarios debated, and it was not selected for funding in the current TIP. However, the project will remain an eligible candidate for funding and will be considered in the next TIP. Deborah Pettey stated that she will contact Charles Kilmer to discuss further.

7. New Business

A. Traffic Volumes and Commuter Parking Trends During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Shawn Bailey provided a presentation on the Traffic Volumes and Commuter Parking Trends During the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Utilizing the MassDOT MS2 Transportation Data Management System website, data from nine (9) permanent MassDOT locations has been extracted and organized to display the traffic data in 2019 and 2020 to compare the difference between the two years. These locations are both within and adjacent to the OCPC region to get an idea of how traffic has trended both amongst and leading to our region, using the same principal as is used with our Congestion Management Process. For this project, 2019 was used as the baseline year. Not all locations had data for every single date during that year, so data from previous years was used and calculated for 2019 based on the annual growth rate. It should be noted that the same can be said for 2020 (there are dates where data is not available), so those dates will be blank on the line graphs since there is no growth rate for 2020.

COVID-19 Traffic Data Update:

- Overall, traffic has declined since August (Following normal trends).
- Plymouth location in September only 0.5% below September 2019.
- With new COVID-19 restrictions, traffic will likely continue to decline.

Traffic Volume Results/Going Forward:

- Slight decline from August to September, steeper decline from September to October.
- August was 10.8% below August 2019, September was 7.2% below September 2019, & October was 9.7% below October 2019.

Commuter Rail Parking Trends:

- April 2020

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- 5 locations with zero vehicles.
- Highest vehicle count was 23 (Montello).
- Combined utilization of 1.34% (compared to 5.99% from previous 10 April counts).

- October 2020
 - No stations with zero vehicles.
 - Highest vehicle count was 88 (South Weymouth).
 - Combined utilization of 8.35% (compared to 62.7% from previous 10 October counts).

Commuter Rail Results/Going Forward:

- Every lot increased since April.
- Plymouth had vehicles present for first time since October 2018 count.
- Depending on future status of the State with COVID-19, April 2021 could continue trend.
- Plan to conduct all future counts.

Park & Ride Parking Trends:

- In April, no data was collected.
- October 2020
 - Bridgewater - comparable to a normal year.
 - Every other location, significant decrease in utilization.
 - Highest vehicle count was 111 (Rockland).
 - Combined utilization of 22.79% (compared to 74.2% from previous 10 October counts).

Park & Ride Results/Going Forward:

- Unable to determine trend with no April data.
- Lots along Route 3 corridor – probably carpool.
- West Bridgewater – only CMP location above 50% utilization.
- Plan to conduct all future counts.

Chairperson Noreen O’Toole stated that this was an excellent presentation and thanked Shawn Bailey.

Charles Kilmer stated that BAT received a Workforce Transportation Grant and extended Rockland’s deviated fixed route all the way up to the Rockland Park & Ride.

B. Understanding Disparate Impact Training

Shawn Bailey reported on the Understanding Disparate Impact Training.

Disparate impact is a part of equity in transportation. Participants will hear how civil rights laws factor into transportation planning decisions and how disparities across diverse populations are identified and addressed.

The training will take place on November 5, 2020 at 6:00 pm.

C. FFY 2022-2026 Old Colony Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development Schedule

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Charles Kilmer discussed the FFY 2022-2026 Old Colony Transportation Improvement (TIP) Development Schedule.

Draft FFY 2022-2026 Old Colony TIP Development Schedule

November-January

- Annual Solicitation of Projects
- Outreach, coordination, and consultation with communities, BAT, MassDOT, JTC, MPO, and stakeholders
- Communities and Consultants provide project updates and schedules at JTC and/ or MPO meetings

January-March

- Continued coordination and consultation with communities, BAT, MassDOT, JTC, MPO, and stakeholders
- MARPA - MassDOT Coordination Meeting and provision of Draft Financial Funding Targets
- TIP Readiness Day - Discussion of Projects by RPAs and MassDOT
- Equity Analysis and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Analysis of Projects
- Transportation Evaluation Criteria Analysis of Projects
- Determination of Preferred Set of Projects by MPO (March)

April

- Continued coordination and consultation with communities, BAT, MassDOT, JTC, MPO, and stakeholders
- Staff Recommendation and Draft TIP Development
- Draft TIP release to public review and comment period by MPO

April-May

- Continued coordination and consultation with communities, BAT, MassDOT, JTC, MPO, and stakeholders
- Draft TIP Public Review Period
- Intake of Public Comments and Preparation of Revised Draft TIP
- TIP Endorsement by MPO (May)

May-June

- Preparation of Draft STIP and Draft CIP (MassDOT)

June-September

- Draft STIP review by FHWA, FTA, and DEP

Chairperson O'Toole asked if the coordination meeting between MARPA and MassDOT is a public meeting. Charles Kilmer stated that it is a meeting of the collective staffs of the organizations.

Sid Kashi asked if the criteria for how the projects will be evaluated is available. Charles Kilmer stated that

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it is included in the TIP and that he will email the criteria to Sid Kashi.

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 in progress.
- Traffic Study for West Main Street at South Street and School Street: Data collected; Analysis underway

Brockton

- Signal Warrant Analysis for Warren Avenue at Market Street: Data collected; Analysis underway

Easton

- Union Street Traffic Study: Data collection in progress

Plymouth

- Clark Road / Beaver Dam Road Corridor Traffic Study: Data collected; Analysis underway

Bruce Hughes, as a resident of Abington, thanked OCPC for conducted the study on Summit Road. John Stone then thanked Bill McNulty for the quick turnaround with the traffic counts on Summit Road.

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 October 22, 2020

EEA #16283 – Duxbury, Marshfield – Beach and Dune Nourishment

The Towns of Marshfield and Duxbury applied for and received a CZM Grant in FY20 for \$175,842 to fund field data collection, an alternatives analysis, and initial permitting for beach and dune nourishment at suitable beaches. A previous CZM Grant (FY18) (\$36,000) funded an evaluation of beneficial reuse opportunities for material dredged annually from Green Harbor by the US Army Corps of Engineers.

The proposed project includes beach and dune nourishment at four (4) locations:

- Rexhame Public Beach (Marshfield)
- Winslow Ave Beach (Marshfield)
- Fieldston & Sunrise Beaches (Marshfield)
- Bay Ave (Marshfield) and Gurnet Rd (Duxbury) Beaches

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EEA #16287 - Stoughton - Lawler Lane

The proposed project consists of the construction of a cul-de-sac roadway, infrastructure, and a stormwater basin to service a proposed nine-lot residential subdivision. The proposed roadway will be located fully outside the 100 ft. BVW Buffer. Minor roadway grading is proposed within the outer 100 ft. BVW buffer. All the stormwater structures will be located outside of the BVW buffer by being installed within the roadway. A portion of the stormwater basin will be located within the outer 50-100 ft. BVW buffer. A 2 ft. high field-stone retaining wall will be installed along the rear grade of the proposed basin to limit grading to the 50-100 ft. buffer zone only. Without the proposed retaining wall, grading would be required within the outer 0-50 ft. BVW buffer. Proposed lot development will include areas of grading, lawn, rooftop and driveway within the 50-100 ft BVW buffer.

C. Regional Concerns and Local Community Transportation Issues

Bruce Hughes announced that he is retiring on November 20, 2020. He will stay on as the Abington Alternate for the JTC. He has been an employee with OCPC since 1990.

- Chairperson Noreen O'Toole thanked Bruce Hughes for his years of service.
- Sid Kashi stated that it has been great working with Bruce Hughes.
- Charles Kilmer stated that it has been wonderful working with Bruce Hughes.

Ben Muller provided an update the MassDOT Mobility Hub. There is a new part of the dashboard showing travel time differences during COVID-19 (2020 vs. 2019).

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle Mowatt

Kyle Mowatt

Senior Transportation Planner

List of Documents for November 5, 2020 Old Colony JTC Meeting

- Minutes of the October 1, 2020 Old Colony JTC Meeting
- Staff Report for November 5, 2020, Old Colony JTC Meeting Agenda Items