

# OLD COLONY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)



## Meeting Minutes of the Old Colony MPO Meeting, March 15, 2016 - 10:00 A.M. At Old Colony Planning Council, 70 School Street, Brockton, MA

### Signatories Present:

Trey Wadsworth, Representing Stephanie Pollack, Secretary and CEO, MassDOT  
Pamela Haznar, Representing Thomas Tinlin, P.E. , Administrator, MassDOT Highway Division  
Ray Ledoux, Administrator, Brockton Area Transit  
Eldon Moreira, Vice-Chairman, West Bridgewater Board of Selectmen  
Pat Ciaramella, Executive Director, OCPC, Representing Lee Hartmann, President, OCPC  
Nick Giaquinto, Brockton, Representing Mayor Bill Carpenter  
Lee Hartmann, Plymouth, Representing Kenneth Tavares, Chairman, Board of Selectmen

### Others Present:

Phil Sheppard, Massasoit Community College  
Timothy Kochan, MassDOT District 5  
Kathy Riddell, BAT  
Kristin Wood, FTA  
Leah Sirmin, FHWA  
Annie Lemelin, Conservation Law Foundation  
Bill Fitzgerald, Avon  
Heidi Cho, Hanover  
Eric Arbeene, Old Colony Planning Council  
Shawn Bailey, Old Colony Planning Council  
Paul Chenard, Old Colony Planning Council  
Charles Kilmer, Old Colony Planning Council  
Kyle Mowatt, Old Colony Planning Council  
Ray Guarino, Old Colony Planning Council  
Bill McNulty, Old Colony Planning Council  
Pat Ciaramella, Old Colony Planning Council  
Jimmy Pereira, Old Colony Planning Council

### 1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chairperson Wadsworth called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. and then read the meeting accessibility statement. Those in attendance then introduced themselves.

### 2. Public Comments

Eldon Moreira thanked OCPC for work they have done in the town of West Bridgewater. Everything that the Town has asked for has been done and done well.

Pat Ciaramella and Council President Lee Hartmann recognized Kathy Riddell on her retirement from BAT and for her service for the past 25 years.

Phil Shepard read his comment letter of support for the OCPC and its planning process to the MPO and submitted that letter to be on the record.

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Lee Hartman stated that OCPC has been a great partner and asset to the Town of Plymouth.

Nick Giaquinto expressed the City of Brockton's support for OCPC as they've been an outstanding partner and they understand Brockton's priorities.

### 3. Minutes of the January 19, 2016 Meeting

Chairperson Wadsworth asked the Signatories for comments or changes regarding the minutes of the January 19, 2016 meeting. Chairperson Wadsworth abstained. The Old Colony MPO then endorsed the minutes of the January 19, 2016 Old Colony MPO Meeting.

### 4. Brockton Area Transit (BAT) Report

Ray Ledoux stated that on June 7, 2016 in Worcester, the 2016 Northeast Transportation Safety Conference is taking place. Along with transit administrators being present, Mayor Carpenter will also be there moderating a section of the conference. Ray Ledoux asked OCPC if they can get the word out about this conference to members of the MPO.

Ray Ledoux stated that BAT will be issuing a scope of work with OCPC to continue BAT's Comprehensive Regional Transportation Plan (CRTP) efforts. There will be deeper equity analysis and potential fare change analysis.

Ray Ledoux announced the possibility of BAT becoming a beta tester for a Charlie Card system that would identify where passengers get on the bus. It will also identify by route and time of day.

### 5. MassDOT District 5 Briefing on Highway and Bridge Projects Under Design and Construction in the Old Colony Region

Pamela Haznar stated that she has worked with OCPC for about a decade. The relationship that OCPC has with the communities and the studies they have performed over the years have been excellent.

Pamela Haznar provided a briefing on Highway and Bridge Projects under Design and Construction in the Old Colony Region.

#### Brockton – Signal Upgrades at Route 123 (Belmont Street), V.A. Hospital & The Route 123/Manley Street Intersection

- Contract awarded to UEL
- Pre-construction conference this week
- Project will commence within the month

#### Pembroke – Reconstruction on Route 14, from the Hanson T.L. to Washington Street (Route 53)

- Contract awarded to P.A. Landers
- Notice to Proceed has been issued

#### Brockton – Pedestrian Improvements at Various Locations

- Notice to proceed to go through this summer

#### Brockton – Signal & Intersection Improvements @ Route 123 (Belmont Street)/Linwood Street/ Lorraine Avenue

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- Project is at 100% Design
- Expecting PS&E this month

### Avon – Installation of a Median Barrier on Harrison Boulevard

- Plans, Specifications, and Estimate (PS&E) submitted this month
- No right of way required

### Pembroke – Route 53 @ Pleasant Street Signalization and Geometric Improvements

- Project is at 75% Design

### Plymouth – Reconstruction of Taylor Avenue, from White Horse Road to Manomet Point Road

- Project design is moving towards 100% design shortly
- Design Public Hearing needs to be scheduled

### Whitman – Traffic Signal Improvements & Related Work on Bedford Street (Route 18) at 2 Locations: Auburn Street (Route 14) & Temple Street (Route 27)

- Project is at 25% Design
- Design Public Hearing this Spring

### Plymouth – Improvements on Obery Street, from South Street to A.A. Caranci Way/Plymouth North H.S. Drive Intersection

- Project is at 25/75%
- Some drainage and traffic issues need to be resolved

### Brockton – Intersection Improvements @ Crescent Street (Route 27) / Quincy Street/Massasoit Boulevard

- Project is at 25% design

### Brockton – Corridor Improvements on Route 123 (Belmont Street), from Angus Beaton Drive to West Street

- Designer is onboard and survey is complete

### Easton – Route 123 (Depot Street) Reconstruction from Newell Circle to Route 138

- Project is at 25% design

### Brockton – Intersection Improvements at North Quincy Street, Boundary Avenue and Chestnut Street

- Designer is onboard
- Setting up kickoff meeting soon

### Avon – Intersection Improvements at Harrison Boulevard and Pond Street

- Consultant is secured
- Survey is complete and moving ahead

### East Bridgewater – Resurfacing and Sidewalk Construction on Bedford Street (Route 18), from Whitman Street (Route 106) to Central Street

- In process of securing a design consultant

### Bridgewater – Traffic Signal & Intersection Improvements at Broad Street (Route 18) and High Street

- Completion this Spring

## **6. Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Assessment for the Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA) and Self-Certification**

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Charles Kilmer provided a summary on the GHG Assessment for the GWSA. The Global Warming Solutions Act of 2008 requires statewide reductions in greenhouse gas (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions of 25 percent below 1990 levels by the year 2020, and 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050.

The Commonwealth's thirteen MPOs are involved in helping to achieve greenhouse gas reductions mandated under the GWSA. The MPO's work with MassDOT and other involved agencies to develop common transportation goals, policies, and projects that would help to reduce GHG emission levels statewide, and meet the specific requirements of the GWSA regulation.

A motion was made to approve the Global Warming Solutions Act Self-Certification Requirements and Compliance for the Transportation Sector and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation.

The motion was seconded and was passed.

The Old Colony MPO voted unanimously to approve the Global Warming Solutions Act Self-Certification Requirements and Compliance for the Transportation Sector and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation.

## **7. Transportation Planning Process Certification Review and Discussion with FHWA and FTA**

Leah Sirmin provided an overview on the Transportation Planning Process Certification Review. Every four years, the FHWA and FTA are required by law to review the metropolitan transportation planning process conducted by the Old Colony MPO and its partners in order to certify that they are carrying out the process in accordance with all applicable Federal requirements.

As part of this review, the Federal agencies would like to hear from members of the MPO and the public on their views of how the metropolitan transportation planning process is conducted in the region.

Leah Sirmin stated that after the certification review FHWA and FTA will put together a report of their findings and recommendations on how to improve the region.

Lee Hartmann stated that OCPC is regularly down in Plymouth doing public outreach for various studies. It is great to have the kind of representation that OCPC has for the public process Lee Hartmann stated.

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

Charles Kilmer provided an overview on the Old Colony MPO Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) defines the responsibilities of implementing the formal 3C process. The existing Old Colony MPO MOU calls for the periodic review of its contents, and the updating as may be mutually agreeable.

The most recent MOU update occurred in March 2011, and 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

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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.”

Ray Ledoux stated that he thinks the MOU works very well. It is an effective document that has been used elsewhere and has been successful.

There were no nominated changes to the MOU.

Tim Kochan had a comment under Part 2 on page 3 – composition of Old Colony MPO. As the region has grown by at least 2 or 3 communities in recent years, Tim Kochan questioned whether consideration should be given to expanding the local community signatory representation beyond the existing four (4) members. Pat Ciaramella suggested waiting until after the current certification review is concluded and seeing if there are any recommendations from FHWA and FTA regarding this topic.

### **9. Administrative Matters, Other Business, and Date and Time of Next Meeting(s)**

The next MPO Meeting is scheduled for April 19, 2016.

Bill Fitzgerald from Avon stated that OCPC has provided technical assistance to Avon and that the work provided has been very helpful.

Chairperson Wadsworth adjourned the meeting at 11:00 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

*Kyle Mowatt*

Kyle Mowatt, Transportation Planner