

OLD COLONY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)

Meeting Minutes of the Old Colony MPO Meeting, January 17, 2017 - 10:00 A.M.
At Old Colony Planning Council, 70 School Street, Brockton, MA

Members Present:

Stephen Woelfel, Representing Stephanie Pollack, Secretary and CEO, MassDOT
Pamela Haznar, Representing Thomas Tinlin, P.E. , Administrator, MassDOT Highway Division
Eldon Moreira, Chairman, West Bridgewater Board of Selectmen
Pat Ciaramella, Executive Director, OCPC, Representing Frank Staffier, President, OCPC
Lee Hartmann, Plymouth, Representing Kenneth Tavares, Chairman, Board of Selectmen
Ray Ledoux, Administrator, Brockton Area Transit Authority (BAT)
Dan Salvucci, Vice-Chairman, Whitman Board of Selectmen
Darren Duarte, Representing the Honorable Bill Carpenter, Mayor, City of Brockton
Kenneth Miller, FHWA

Others Present:

Glenn Ann Geiler, BAT
Sandra Wright, Bridgewater
Bill Shine, Independence Associates
Gary St. Fleur, MassRIDES
Annie Lemelin, Conservation Law Foundation
Bill McNulty, Old Colony Planning Council
Bruce Hughes, Old Colony Planning Council
Charles Kilmer, Old Colony Planning Council
David Nolan, Old Colony Planning Council
Eric Arbeene, Old Colony Planning Council
Jim Watson, Old Colony Planning Council
Jimmy Pereira, Old Colony Planning Council
Kyle Mowatt, Old Colony Planning Council
Paul Chenard, Old Colony Planning Council
Ray Guarino, Old Colony Planning Council
Shawn Bailey, Old Colony Planning Council

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chairperson Woelfel called the meeting to order at 10:03 A.M. and then read the meeting accessibility statement. Those in attendance then introduced themselves.

2. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

3. Minutes of the July 26, 2016 Meeting

Chairperson Woelfel asked the Signatories for comments or changes regarding the minutes of the July 26, 2016 meeting. The Old Colony MPO then endorsed the minutes of the July 26, 2016 Old Colony MPO Meeting.

4. Brockton Area Transit (BAT) Report

Ray Ledoux reported on the following:

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- OCPC is working on the Federal Civil Rights Title VI Study. OCPC will be submitting the draft to BAT by February 1st.
- OCPC is working on an Aging in Place Study that will highlight areas where there are unmet service needs as well as how it will impact the core service area.
- The Community Access Grant Program is now delayed until April or May.

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

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

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

- Advertised for construction bids
- Bid opening scheduled for mid-February

Plymouth – Resurfacing & Related Work on Route 3

- Aggregate Industries awarded construction contract
- Notice to Proceed was issued in mid-December

Avon – Installation of a Median Barrier on Harrison Boulevard

- Contract awarded to Lynch and Sons on December 6, 2016

Plymouth – Reconstruction of Taylor Avenue, From White Horse Road to Manomet Point Road, Include Bridge Replacement of P-13-010

- 100% Design Package has been received by MassDOT (as of 1/10/2017)

Pembroke – Intersection Improvements and Related Work at Washington Street (Route 53) and Pleasant Street

- Waiting for PS&E submission
- Project was delayed due to the Town looking into extending the sidewalk

Easton – Intersection Improvements at Washington Street (Route 138) and Union Street

- At 25% Design

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

- 75% Design Plans Due Today (1/17/2017)

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

- Design Public Hearing scheduled for 1/19/2017

Brockton – Corridor Improvements on Route 123 (Belmont Street)

- Designer Secured
- 25% Design Plans due in the Spring

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

- At 25% Design

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- Comments from MassDOT have been sent back to designer

Avon – Intersection Improvements at Harrison Boulevard and Pond Street

- At 25% Design

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

- At 25% Design

Easton – Corridor Improvements on Depot Street (Route 123), from Newell Circle to Washington Street (Route 138)

- Moving onto 75% Design

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

- The City is responsible for the Design
- Need an update from Brockton on the status as there was concern raised about the project's necessary right of way

Ken Miller asked if any projects programmed in 2017 are problematic. Pam Haznar stated that she does not anticipate any problems.

6. Draft Old Colony Public Participation Plan (PPP)

- **Review and Potential Release to Public Review and Comment Period**

Charles Kilmer provided an overview of the Draft Old Colony Public Participation Plan (PPP), which was attached to the staff report.

- Updated from the previous plan back in 2011
- This Plan guides the MPO in its continued efforts to offer early, continuous, and meaningful opportunities for the public to help identify social, economic, and environmental impacts of proposed transportation policies, projects and initiatives across the Old Colony MPO's jurisdiction
- One change is reducing the public comment periods for the TIP, UPWP, RTP from 30 days down to 21 day. Going down to 21 days might fall short of checking in with the JTC.

Charles Kilmer stated that there are three options:

- Change when the MPO meets
- Change when the JTC meets
- Hold the public comment period beyond the minimum time frame

Ken Miller asked if it is possible to have a 24 day public review and comment period. Chairperson Woelfel stated that MassDOT is trying to have the same time period across the Commonwealth. Chairperson Woelfel suggested moving the JTC earlier in the month.

Ray Ledoux asked OCPC to consider including BAT in their Public Participation Plan as a way to communicate BAT Projects, service reductions and fare increases. Charles Kilmer stated that that information is located on page 7 in the PPP but will also add it onto page 3.

Ken Miller thanked OCPC for including FHWA and FTA in the Plan. On Page 2, the text says that the MPO consists of 8 voting members. Ken Miller clarified that FHWA and FTA are not voting members.

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Chairperson Woelfel asked if there is a motion to release the Draft Old Colony Public Participation Plan (PPP) with Ken Miller's and Ray Ledoux's clarifications for a 45 day public review and comment period.

A Motion was made and was seconded.

The Old Colony MPO voted unanimously to release the Draft Old Colony Public Participation Plan (PPP) with Ken Miller's and Ray Ledoux's comments for a 45 day public review and comment period.

7. FFY 2017-2021 Old Colony Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Adjustment 1

Charles Kilmer described the FFY 2017-2021 Old Colony TIP Adjustment 1.

Plymouth – Reconstruction of Taylor Avenue, from White Horse Road to Manomet Point Road, Includes Bridge Replacement of P-13-010

- Change funding source from NHPP and CMAQ to NHPP and STP
- Cost decrease from \$8,829,256 to \$8,726,144

Chairperson Woelfel asked if there is a motion to approve the FFY 2017-2021 Old Colony TIP Adjustment 1. A motion was made and was seconded.

The Old Colony MPO voted unanimously to approve the FFY 2017-2021 Old Colony TIP Adjustment 1.

8. Development of the FFY 2018-2022 Old Colony Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Charles Kilmer discussed the development of the FFY 2018-2022 Old Colony TIP, and referenced the staff report that contained multiple project tables.

Charles Kilmer then stated that the development schedule for the FFY 2018-2022 TIP has been advanced by 2 months. The MPO will release the Draft TIP to Public Review and Comment Period in April. In May, the MPO will complete the public review and comment period and consider endorsement of the TIP. Charles Kilmer then discussed the Draft Old Colony FFY 2018-2022 TIP Projects. They are as follows:

2018

- 607438 – Easton – Route 138 @ Union Street Signalization and Geometric Improvements
- 607337 – Pembroke – Route 53 at Pleasant Street Signalization and Geometric Improvements
- 606264 – Plymouth – Improvements on Obery Street, from South Street to A.C. Caranci Way/Plymouth North H.S. Drive Intersection

2019

- 608143 – Abington/ Brockton – North Quincy Street, Chestnut Street, and Boundary Avenue Signalization and Geometric Improvements
- 608088 – Brockton – Corridor Improvements on Route 123 (Belmont Street), from Angus Beaton Drive to West Street (\$3,943,700 Regional Target; \$592,300 Statewide CMAQ)
- 607941 – East Bridgewater – Resurfacing and Sidewalk Construction on Bedford Street (Route 18), from Whitman Street (Route 106) to Central Street (\$2,385,800 Regional Target; \$1,891,000 Statewide CMAQ)

2020

- 607217 – Easton – Route 123 (Depot Street) Reconstruction from Newell Circle to Route 138

2021

- 606143 – Brockton – Intersection Improvements @ Crescent Street (Route 27)/ Quincy

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Street/Massasoit Boulevard

- 607403 – Stoughton – Corridor Improvements on Route 138 from Lincoln Street to Central Street, Including Intersection Improvements @ Route 138 (Washington Street) & Central Street

2022

- Projects to be determined

Charles Kilmer stated that projects in Table 3 are a list of candidate projects looking for a slot in one of the fiscally constrained five years of the TIP. Among the list, there were projects in Brockton, Easton, Pembroke, and Stoughton. Chairman Woelfel noted that the Pembroke – Route 36 has a lower evaluation score than the other candidate projects. Charles Kilmer responded that while the project may have a lower score, it is still an important project and nonetheless should still be considered for programming due to its readiness and community and regional support.

Ray Ledoux stated that it was discussed at the JTC to communicate with towns that have projects at 25% design whether or not they are still priority projects. If not, maybe they can be bumped down a year.

Pat Ciaramella stated that the cost of projects are going up so high that it could come down to only programming one project in a single year of the TIP. Chairperson Woelfel stated that MassDOT is seeing this issue across the Commonwealth.

Charles Kilmer asked Chairperson Woelfel if there is a timeline for when the projects being reevaluated for the CIP will be completed. Chairperson Woelfel stated that there is no definite date, but hopefully by the end of the month. Charles Kilmer suggested adding the updated project scores to Table 3.

Dan Salvucci stated that Towns need to look at their list of projects and prioritize them before they submit them for consideration into the TIP.

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

- **MPO Coordination and Planning Area Reform Final Rule**

Pat Ciaramella thanked the State for the Complete Streets and Small Bridge Program. Many communities have already utilized these programs.

Gary St. Fleur stated that he is working with Amazon's Stoughton location. They would like to revisit the idea of having public transit to and from their location. Gary St. Fleur asked how he could get this conversation going. Ray Ledoux stated that he could bring this up directly to BAT. Ray Ledoux asked if the Town of Stoughton includes anything about public transit to the Amazon Location in their ENF. Eric Arbeene stated that there was not an ENF or EIR for the Stoughton Amazon Project. Ray Ledoux stated that Gary St. Fleur could give OCPC and BAT the contact information for Amazon and they would be happy to reach out to them.

Ken Miller stated that FHWA has completed the Certification Review for the Old Colony MPO. Ken Miller thanked everyone for participating in the review. The planning process has been certified and everyone is doing a great job. There are some recommendations on how to make some improvements. Ken Miller suggested having FHWA provide an overview of the Certification Review at the next MPO Meeting.

Charles Kilmer asked what the status of the paving and construction on Route 123 in Brockton is regarding the ongoing Brockton Project in the vicinity of the V.A. Hospital. The pavement is very rough in front of the Shell Gas Station. Pam Haznar stated that MassDOT is doing what they can to hold over the pavement during the winter.

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Charles Kilmer then raised a similar concern for the status of the pavement with regard to the Route 14 Project in Pembroke. The Town had inquired to OCPC for assistance. Pam Haznar replied that the project has not shut down for the winter and the DPW is working with the contractor.

Charles Kilmer discussed the MPO Coordination and Planning Reform Final Rule. The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) jointly finalized this new rule in mid-December 2016.

The rule revises the definition of "Metropolitan Planning Area" (MPA) to align with its statutory definition, and requires the MPA to include the entire urbanized area. Where there are multiple MPOs in a single MPA, the rule would also require that those MPOs and their states' governors decide whether to consolidate, adjust their boundaries, prepare unified planning products, or request an exemption.

The time of the next meeting is February 21, 2017 at 10:00 AM.

10. Adjournment

Chairperson Woelfel adjourned the meeting at 11:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle Mowatt

Kyle Mowatt, Transportation Planner