

OLD COLONY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)

Meeting Minutes of the Old Colony MPO Meeting, March 21, 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
Nicholas Giaquinto, Representing Mayor Bill Carpenter, City of Brockton
Ken Miller, FHWA, Massachusetts Division

Others Present:

Glenn Geiler, BAT
Paul Umamo, City of Brockton
Annie Lemelin, Conservation Law Foundation
Bill Shine, Independence Associates
Phil Sheppard, Massasoit Community College
Trey Wadsworth, MassDOT
Timothy Kochan, MassDOT District 5
Shawn Bailey, Old Colony Planning Council
Bruce Hughes, Old Colony Planning Council
Ray Guarino, Old Colony Planning Council
Charles Kilmer, Old Colony Planning Council
Kyle Mowatt, Old Colony Planning Council
Jimmy Pereira, Old Colony Planning Council

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chairperson Woelfel 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

There were no public comments.

3. Minutes of the February 21, 2017 Meeting

Chairperson Woelfel asked the Signatories for comments or changes regarding the minutes of the February 21, 2017 meeting. The Old Colony MPO then endorsed the minutes of the February 21, 2017 Old Colony MPO Meeting.

4. Brockton Area Transit (BAT) Report

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Ray Ledoux reported on the following:

- OCPC has completed the BAT Title VI Study. Paul Chenard is putting together an executive summary to present to the JTC and MPO.
- 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.
- BAT is working with the MBTA on developing a beta project with The Ride to try and improve the customer experience.

5. Draft Old Colony Public Participation Plan (PPP)

▪ Public Comments and Potential Endorsement

Charles Kilmer provided a summary of the public comments received in regards to the Draft Old Colony Public Participation Plan (PPP), and noted that a revised Draft Report, reflective of the public comments, is attached to the staff report.

Public Comments are as follows:

- Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC) Board of Directors – The Old Colony Planning Council Board of Directors reviewed and approved the Draft Old Colony Public Participation Plan.
- Kathy Riddell, BAT – Comments provided are with regard to suggested edits and clarifications.
- Old Colony Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) – The Old Colony JTC reviewed and approved the Draft Old Colony Public Participation Plan. The Old Colony JTC changed their recurring meeting date from the second Thursday of the month to the first Thursday of the month so that their meetings will occur during the 21-public review and comment periods for 3C documents.
- Nikki Tishler / Greg Sobczynski, MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning / MassDOT Office of Civil Rights – Comments provided are with regard to suggested edits, updates, clarifications, and document accessibility.

Charles Kilmer stated that an additional public comment period can be provided by an MPO vote. The following is stated on Page 15 of the PPP: “After the public comment period, the Old Colony MPO can endorse, reject or re-release the draft document for an additional comment period by vote. An additional opportunity for public comment will be provided if the final RTP or TIP differs significantly from the version that was made available for public comment by the MPO and raises new material issues that interested parties could not reasonably have foreseen from the public involvement efforts.” This explanation in the PPP is being provided as a follow up to one of the recommendations included in the Transportation Planning Certification Review Report.

Chairperson Woelfel asked if there is a motion to approve the Draft Old Colony Public Participation Plan (PPP). A motion was made and was seconded.

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The Old Colony MPO voted unanimously to approve the Draft Old Colony Public Participation Plan (PPP).

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

Charles Kilmer provided an overview of the two potential alternatives for the MPO's consideration. In Alternative 1, Brockton - Belmont Phase 3 Project (608088) would stay programmed in 2019 and Pembroke - Route 36 (600380) project would be added to 2022. In Alternative 2, Brockton - Belmont Phase 3 Project (608088) would move out one year to 2020, and the Easton - Route 123 Reconstruction (607217) project would move out one year from 2020 to 2021. The movement of these two projects creates some regional target space in 2020, so this would allow the moving up of the Brockton - Intersection Improvements at Crescent Street/ Quincy/ Massasoit Boulevard (606143) project from 2021 to 2020 in Alternative 2. Stoughton - Route 138 (607403) project would move out one year from 2021 to 2022 in Alternative 2. Pembroke - Route 36 (600380) project would be dropped in Alternative 2 and Easton - Route 138 and Elm Street (608195) would be brought in.

Chairperson Woelfel asked the MPO members if they have a preference with regard to the two alternatives. Pat Ciaramella stated that OCPC's preference is Alternative 1.

Pam Haznar provided updates on some projects:

- Brockton - Corridor Improvements on Route 123 Phase 3: MassDOT has just received the 25% design plans.
- Stoughton - Corridor Improvements on Route 138: Project is pre 25% design, but a consultant has been reserved.
- Pembroke - Rehabilitation of Route 36: Project is at 75% design phase.
- Brockton - Intersection Improvements at Crescent Street/Quincy Street/ Massasoit Boulevard: MassDOT is in need of a project schedule to see that the City is committed to getting this project going. Phil Sheppard showed his appreciation to the MPO and the City for their efforts and for getting this project on the TIP. This project is very important to the City of Brockton and Massasoit Community College.

Trey Wadsworth stated that draft targets are up slightly in each year, and to just be mindful of available funds in each year.

Chairperson Woelfel asked if it is the consensus of the MPO to continue working on Alternative 1 for now. The MPO members agreed.

The list of projects for Alternative 1 is 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

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- 607860 - Whitman - Traffic Signal Improvements & Related Work on Bedford Street (Route 18) at 2 Locations: Auburn Street (Route 14) & Temple Street (Route 27)

2019

- 608143 - Abington/ Brockton - North Quincy Street, Chestnut Street, and Boundary Avenue Roundabout and Geometric Improvements
- 608086 - Avon - Intersection Improvements at Harrison Boulevard and Pond Street
- 608088 - Brockton - Corridor Improvements on Route 123 (Belmont Street), from Angus Beaton Drive to West Street
- 607941 - East Bridgewater - Resurfacing and Sidewalk Construction on Bedford Street (Route 18), from Whitman Street (Route 106) to Central Street

2020

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

2021

- 606143 - Brockton - Intersection Improvements @ Crescent Street (Route 27)/ Quincy Street/ Massasoit Boulevard
- 608615 - Kingston - Bridge Replacement, K-01-014, Smiths Lane over Route 3 (Pilgrim Highway)
- 607403 - Stoughton - Corridor Improvements on Route 138 from Lincoln Street to Central Street, Including Intersection Improvements @ Route 138 & Central Street

2022

- 600380 - Pembroke - Rehabilitation of Route 36 (Center Street) from Route 27 to Route 14

7. Duxbury Route 3A Corridor Study – Findings and Recommendations

Ray Guarino discussed the Duxbury Route 3A Corridor Study – Findings and Recommendations.

Traffic volumes vary along the corridor, with generally lighter volumes on the northern half of the corridor towards Marshfield, and heavier volumes on the southern half towards Kingston. Traffic speeds are fairly consistent throughout the corridor, with recorded prevailing speeds between 38 and 41 miles per hour at most locations.

Three locations (Route 3A at Route 139; Route 3A at Route 14; Route 3A at Depot Street) have elevated crash rates which are above the regional MassDOT District 5 average for intersections. Four of the intersections analyzed have level of service grades of “F” during the peak demand hours.

Pedestrian and bicycle mobility and safety are generally poor along the Route 3A corridor in Duxbury. The corridor does not have any sidewalks, and paved shoulders are not wide enough to adequately accommodate bicyclists.

Recommendations:

- Install “Share the Road” signage along the Route 3A corridor to alert drivers to the presence of bicyclists.
- Resurface the entire length of Route 3A in Duxbury.
- Route 3A at Church Street and Tremont Street – Clear vegetation within right-of-way on northwest corner of intersection. Consider the installation of a flashing warning beacon.

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- Route 3A at West Street (Route 14) and St. George Street – Monitor crash rate at intersection.
- Route 3A at Tobey Garden Street and Chestnut Street – Signage improvements on Route 3A approaches to intersection.
- Route 3A at Route 3 Exit 10 – Reconstruct ramps to include full signalization of both the Route 3 northbound and southbound ramps.

8. Avon and Brockton Route 28 Corridor Study – Findings and Recommendations

Ray Guarino discussed the Avon and Brockton Route 28 Corridor Study – Findings and Recommendations. Corridor wide findings and recommendations are as follows:

Findings:

- Not all intersections have ADA compliant curb ramps at crossings.
- There is a lack of shoulders to accommodate bicycles throughout most of the Route 28 corridor. Speeds and volume of traffic are not compatible with bicycle use for much of the corridor; however, bicyclists are using Route 28.
- There are sporadic breaks in sidewalk connectivity.
- Much of the signage and pavement markings are faded.
- Street name signs are not readily available at all intersections.
- There are outdated traffic signals within the corridor.

Recommendations:

- Transit signal priority technology, which gives extended green times to buses, should be installed in traffic signals within the corridor.
- Replace outdated traffic signals and improve intersection geometry
- Install traffic signal at the Route 28 and East/ West Spring Street Intersection
- Provided ADA compliant curb ramps at intersection and other crossings throughout the corridor.
- Since bicyclists use the corridor despite deficiencies, signs, such as “bicycles may use full lane”, and sharrows should be considered as appropriate in some areas within the corridor.
- Provide sidewalk connectivity and reduce gaps in the pedestrian accommodations as warranted.
- Update lighting, pavement marking, signs, and wayfinding signs in areas as appropriate.
- Update street name signs for size and availability conforming to the latest MUTCD standards.

Dan Salvucci expressed concern regarding “bicycles may use full lane” signage. This forces cars to pass the bicyclists on the other side of the road, having to cross the center yellow line. Discussion followed.

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

The time of the next meeting is April 18, 2017 at 10:00 AM.

Charles Kilmer announced that the Massachusetts Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Board (MBPAB) is having their March meeting at OCPC tomorrow, March 22nd at 1:00 PM.

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Charles Kilmer announced that on May 18th at 6:00 PM, at the 1620 Hotel in Plymouth, the Old Colony Planning Council 50th Anniversary celebration will be taking place.

Tim Kochan offered that it would be helpful to allow people to patch in remotely via conference call for the JTC and MPO meetings. Chairperson Woelfel stated that MassDOT has looked into this in the past. Vice-Chairperson Ledoux noted that it is better to have people engage in the meeting face to face, and then voiced his opposition of this idea going forward. Chairperson Woelfel agreed with Vice-Chairperson Ledoux, but stated he would bring this back to MassDOT and discuss it further.

10. Adjournment

Chairperson Woelfel adjourned the meeting at 10:48 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle Mowatt

Kyle Mowatt, Transportation Planner

List of Documents for the March 21, 2017 Old Colony MPO Meeting

- Minutes of February 21, 2017 Old Colony MPO Meeting
- Staff Reports for March 21, 2017 Old Colony MPO Meeting Agenda Items
- Revised Draft Old Colony Public Participation Plan (PPP)
- MassDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Look! Brochure