

OLD COLONY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)

Meeting Minutes of the Old Colony MPO Meeting, May 19, 2020 - 10:00 A.M.
Virtual Meeting - Held Remotely

Signatories Present:

Lee Hartmann, Representing Chairman Kenneth Tavares, Plymouth Board of Selectmen
Eldon Moreira, Chairman, West Bridgewater Board of Selectmen
Dan Salvucci, Vice-Chairman, Whitman Board of Selectmen
David Mohler, Representing Stephanie Pollack, Secretary and CEO, MassDOT
Pam Haznar, Representing Jonathan Gulliver, Administrator, MassDOT Highway Division
Michael Lambert, Administrator, Brockton Area Transit Authority (BAT)
Mary Waldron, Representing Christine Joy, President, Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC)

Others Present:

Rob May, Brockton
Debra Pettey, Hanson
Dan McCormack, BETA Group
Glenn Geiler, Brockton Area Transit Authority (BAT)
Cassandra Ostrander, FHWA
Pine duBois, Jones River Watershed Association
Omar Mejia, Massachusetts Safe Routes to School
Vivian Ortiz, Massachusetts Safe Routes to School
Mary Ellen DeFrias, MassDevelopment
Michelle Ho, MassDOT
Ben Muller, MassDOT
Bryan Pounds, MassDOT
Barbara Lachance, MassDOT District 5
Shawn Bailey, Old Colony Planning Council
Paul Chenard, Old Colony Planning Council
Ray Guarino, Old Colony Planning Council
Bruce Hughes, Old Colony Planning Council
Charles Kilmer, Old Colony Planning Council
Bill McNulty, Old Colony Planning Council
Laurie Muncy, Old Colony Planning Council
Jimmy Pereira, Old Colony Planning Council
Paula Fisher, Plymouth Community Development Council
Unknown Caller 1
Unknown Caller 2
Unknown Caller 3

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chairperson David Mohler called the meeting to order at 10:03 A.M. and then read the meeting accessibility statement, and the Title VI Notice of Protection Statement. The signatories in attendance then introduced themselves. Charles Kilmer then read the roll call of Signatories.

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2. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

3. Minutes of the April 21, 2020 Meeting

Chairperson Mohler asked the MPO Members for comments or changes regarding the minutes of the April 21, 2020 meeting. There being none, the Old Colony MPO then voted unanimously via roll call to endorse the minutes of the April 21, 2020 Old Colony MPO Meeting.

4. Brockton Area Transit (BAT) Report

Michael Lambert provided updates regarding recent BAT events. Michael Lambert stated that five BAT bus drivers tested positive for COVID-19, and they have all recovered and are back to work. BAT, following the MBTA, has continued to suspend fare enforcement to provide a gap between the drivers and passengers. The BAT Centre is looking to reopen shortly and is installing Plexiglass on buses and anywhere else necessary to provide extra protection. Michael Lambert also informed the MPO that ridership remains low as people are not working and staying home to optimize safety. Michael Lambert's final statement was that all of BAT's requests are included in the MassDOT's Capital Investment Plan (CIP).

5. FFY 2020-2024 Old Colony Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Adjustments and/ or Amendments

Charles Kilmer stated that there were no amendments or adjustments to the FFY 2020-2024 Old Colony TIP.

6. FFY 2021-2025 Old Colony Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

▪ Public Comments and Potential Endorsement

Charles Kilmer discussed the contents of, and public comments received on the FFY 2021-2025 Old Colony TIP. The Old Colony MPO released the draft FFY 2021-2025 TIP at the April 21, 2020 meeting to a 21-Day Public Review and Comment Period. The funding for the TIP is divided into \$70.7 million for 12 Road Projects and one Bridge Project and \$46.9 million for Brockton Area Transit Authority operation and capital assistance and includes 19 replacement fixed route buses and three Bridgewater State University buses.

Charles Kilmer discussed the projects programmed for the Draft FFY 2021-2025 TIP.

FFY 2021

- Avon - Intersection Improvements at Harrison Boulevard and Pond Street (\$4,969,007)
- Easton - Route 123 (Depot Street) Reconstruction from Newell Circle to Route 138 (\$10,502,923)
- Stoughton - Improvements at Richard Wilkins Elementary School (SRTS) (\$3,171,443)

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FFY 2022

- Avon & Stoughton - Pavement Preservation and Related work on Route 24 (\$6,314,880)
- Brockton - Intersection Improvements and Related work at Centre Street (Route 123), Cary Street, and Lyman Street (\$3,232,320)
- Pembroke - Rehabilitation of Route 36 (Center Street) from Route 27 to Route 14 (\$10,088,920)

FFY 2023

- Brockton - Route 123 (Centre Street) at Plymouth Street Signalization and Geometric Improvements (\$2,523,420)
- Stoughton - Corridor Improvements on Route 138 AC Phase 1 of 2 (Total cost is \$13,351,414; AC Phase 1 cost is \$5,244,574)
- Stoughton - Intersection Improvements and Related Work at Central Street, Canton Street and Tosca Drive (\$3,799,916)

FFY 2024

- Stoughton - Corridor Improvements on Route 138 AC Phase 2 of 2 (Total cost is \$13,351,414; AC Phase 2 cost is \$8,106,840)
- Plympton - Bridge Replacement, Winnetuxet Road over Winnetuxet River (\$2,220,987)

FFY 2025

- Abington - Intersection Improvements at Hancock Street and Chestnut Street (\$2,900,232)
- Brockton - Improvements and Related Work on Crescent Street (Route 27), Including Replacement of Grove Street Bridge, B-25-005, Over Salisbury Plain River (\$4,872,000)
- Duxbury - Signal Installation @ Route 3 (NB & SB) Ramps & Route 3A (Tremont Street) (\$2,784,000)

Charles Kilmer then displayed and summarized the five public comments received during the Public Review and Comment Period, the first two coming from OCPC communities. Matt Cahill of Hanson expressed concern about Project 608506 (Corridor Improvements on Route 14) not being programmed when they were certain it would be on the 2025 TIP. It was then explained that Project 608506 was in Scenario Three, but that the MPO selected Scenario Six as their Preferred Set of Projects. The Route 14 Project will be considered for inclusion in the future TIP or the current one if there is additional financial capacity realized. Charlie Selig of Halifax expressed concerns that the Town does not have the funding to do the initial engineering for any TIP project, that their project needs exceed the financial capacity of the Complete Streets Program, and that the Town's own money cannot be spent on TIP project costs.

The final three comments came from the Old Colony Planning Council Board of Directors, MassDOT's Office of Transportation Planning, and the Old Colony Joint Transportation Committee. The OCPC Board of Directors reviewed and approved the Draft FFY 2021-2025 TIP at their April 29, 2020 meeting. The MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning, through David Mohler, provided multiple comments regarding revisions and additions in the content of the TIP. Finally, the Old Colony JTC reviewed and did not offer any negative comments on the Draft FFY 2021-2025 TIP at their May 7, 2020 meeting.

Charles Kilmer stated that he is working on the revised TIP now and that no changes in the programming

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of any of the projects has occurred.

Chairperson Mohler asked if there is a motion to endorse the FFY 2021-2025 TIP. A motion was made and was seconded.

The Old Colony MPO voted unanimously via roll call to endorse the FFY 2021-2025 TIP.

7. FFY 2020 Old Colony Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Reallocation

▪ Review and Potential Approval

Charles Kilmer stated that reallocation is being developed and will be presented at the upcoming MPO meeting on June 16, 2020.

8. FFY 2021 Old Colony Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

▪ Review and Potential Release to Public Review and Comment Period

Charles Kilmer presented the FFY 2021 Old Colony Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and provided an overview of the transportation planning tasks and activities and the budgetary information for each project. Charles Kilmer then went into detail on the various tasks within the UPWP, three of which will replace the usual Corridor Studies undertaken by transportation staff (Tasks 3300, 3400, and 3500):

Task 1100 - 3C Program Support

- This task will cover the administrative side of the transportation staff. It will assist with the implementation of the MPO's Action Plan based off recommendations from last year's Certification Review with the FTA and FHWA.

Task 1200 - Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

- This task will cover the development of the UPWP, which includes the quarterly progress reports per federal requirements.

Task 1300 - Public Participation Program (PPP)

- This task will cover the current work from home order by which OCPC is complying. This also has the potential for carrying on the virtual meetings as a cost saving and health measure.

Task 3300 - Road Safety Audits (RSAs) at Multiple Locations

- This task will cover at least fifteen (15) Road Safety Audits that will be conducted across the region over FFY 2021. Bill McNulty has identified crash clusters where some of these RSAs can be done, provided there have not been any in recent years.

Task 3400 - Active Transportation Study

- This task will cover an overall look at the transportation network across the OCPC Region. Paul Chenard will be looking to address areas where better bicycle and pedestrian accommodations are needed for recreation and primary transportation purposes (bike racks and lanes, walking paths, etc.). This study will look at the region through connectivity of these modes both between and within the communities.

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Task 3500 - Climate Change Vulnerability Transportation Assessment

- This task will cover updating the FFY 2010 Climate Change Transportation Impact Study on how climate change affects and has affected the transportation network. This study will address how current and future climate change will affect the transportation network, stormwater runoff, the road network, and flood prone areas.

Charles Kilmer displayed and discussed the new addition to the FFY 2021 Old Colony UPWP which is a geographic distribution of both Major UPWP Funded Studies in FFYs 2004-2021 and Local Technical Assistance (LTA) Studies in FFYs 2015-2019. Both distributions are broken down by community or region wide. The Major UPWP Funded Studies primarily consist of Corridor Studies, but also consists of other studies. The LTA Studies distribution shows by community how many studies, Automatic Traffic Recorders (ATRs), Turning Movement Counts (TMCs), and LTA studies each community has had conducted in the previous five Federal Fiscal Years.

Pine duBois stated that Kingston has multiple parts of town with flooding issues, including roads owned by MassDOT like Route 3A in Kingston Center. She stated that MassDOT has not been brought into the picture enough to sufficiently address flooding issues on Routes 3 and 3A as well as other places that have chronic flooding. Pine duBois asked Charles Kilmer for the map of flooding areas; Charles Kilmer stated the map is in the previously mentioned FFY 2010 Climate Change Transportation Impact Study which can be found on the Reports page of OCPC's website.

Eldon Moreira expressed concern regarding heavy vehicle traffic on River Street in West Bridgewater and inquired about the status of the Town's request to MassDOT for a Commercial Heavy Vehicle Exclusion. Eldon Moreira said that many residents have expressed concerns with the truck traffic and would like River Street to be free of truck traffic. Charles Kilmer stated that OCPC, per West Bridgewater's request, installed ATRs throughout River Street, provided the data to the Town, and the the Town submitted a request for a truck exclusion. Pamela Haznar stated that she would follow up to determine the status of the MassDOT review. Discussion followed.

Chairperson Mohler asked if there is a motion to release the FFY 2021 Old Colony UPWP to a 21-Day Public Review and Comment Period. A motion was made and was seconded.

The Old Colony MPO voted unanimously via roll call to release the FFY 2021 Old Colony UPWP to a 21-Day Public Review and Comment Period.

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

Charles Kilmer stated that MassDOT has two plans out for a Review and Comment Period. The first is the Draft FY21 Capital Investment Plan (CIP); comments for the CIP must be received by June 1, 2020. The second plan is the FFY 2021-2025 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP); comments for the STIP must be received by June 1, 2020.

Mary Waldron announced that OCPC's E-Newsletter is available and published on a weekly basis and that anyone interested may sign up via the OCPC website.

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Dan Salvucci asked Charles Kilmer if everyone should take MassDOT's Intercity Bus Survey to which it was emailed. Charles Kilmer replied saying yes and then encouraged people to respond to the survey as their input would be valuable.

Charles Kilmer stated that the next meeting will be on June 16, 2020 at 10 AM.

11. Adjournment

Chairperson Mohler adjourned the meeting at 10:44 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Shawn Bailey

Shawn Bailey, Transportation Planner

List of Documents for the May 19, 2020 Old Colony MPO Meeting

1. Minutes of April 21, 2020, Old Colony MPO Meeting
2. Staff Report for May 19, 2020 Old Colony MPO Meeting Agenda Items