

OLD COLONY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)

Meeting Minutes of the Old Colony MPO Virtual Meeting, October 20, 2020 - 10:00 A.M.
Held Via Zoom

Signatories Present:

Lee Hartmann, Representing Chairman Kenneth Tavares, Plymouth Board of Selectmen
Dan Salvucci, Vice-Chairman, Whitman Board of Selectmen
Stephen Woelfel, Representing Stephanie Pollack, Secretary and CEO, MassDOT
Pam Haznar, Representing Jonathan Gulliver, Administrator, MassDOT Highway Division
Glenn Geiler, Representing Michael Lambert, Administrator, Brockton Area Transit Authority (BAT)
Mary Waldron, Representing Christine Joy, President, OCPC

Others Present:

Kim Tran, CDM Smith
Bryan Bjorklund, Independence Associates
Andrew Reovan, FHWA
Michelle Ho, MassDOT
Ben Muller, MassDOT
Bryan Pounds, MassDOT
Barbara Lachance, MassDOT District 5
Shawn Bailey, OCPC
Paul Chenard, OCPC
Dottie Fulginiti, OCPC
Ray Guarino, OCPC
Bruce Hughes, OCPC
Charles Kilmer, OCPC
Bill McNulty, OCPC
Kyle Mowatt, OCPC
Unidentified Participant
Unidentified Participant

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chairperson Stephen Woelfel called the meeting to order at 10:04 A.M. and then read the meeting accessibility statement, and the Title VI Notice of Protection Statement. Charles Kilmer then conducted the roll call. Charles Kilmer then reported that there is a quorum. 6 of the 8 members are present.

2. Public Comments

There were no public comments at this time.

3. Minutes of the September 15, 2020 Meeting

Chairperson Woelfel asked the MPO Members for comments or changes regarding the minutes of the September 15, 2020 meeting.

The Old Colony MPO then voted unanimously via roll call to endorse the minutes of the September 15,

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2020 Old Colony MPO Meeting.

4. Brockton Area Transit (BAT) Report

Glenn Geiler reported on the following BAT items:

- BAT continues their focus on safety
- Ridership is hovering around 50%
- Fare collection began again started back up in August. A new app has been introduced for mobile ticketing
- BAT Centre is closed to the public, but it is open for anyone that needs customer assistance
- A consultant is in process of finalizing BATs Comprehensive Regional Transit Plan (CRTP)

5. MassDOT District 5 Update on Projects Under Design or Construction

Pam Haznar provided updates on several Old Colony TIP projects under design or construction. The updates are as follows:

CONSTRUCTION

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

- The constructed has been completed

Plymouth - Reconstruction of Taylor Avenue, from White Horse Road to Manoment Point Road

- The constructed has been completed

Plymouth - Improvements on Obery Street, from South Street to A.A. Caranci Way

- Full depth construction is continuing
- Completion date is scheduled for April 2021

Pembroke - Resurfacing and Related Work on Route 53

- The contractor is starting to begin drainage installation

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

- Drainage installation, roadway patching, and utility work is underway

Brockton - Corridor Improvements on Route 123 (Phase 3)

- Notice to proceed was issued earlier this month
- MDR Construction expects to begin work shortly and will get done whatever they can before winter

Abington/Brockton - Intersection Improvements at North Quincy Street, Boundary Avenue and Chestnut Street

- Contractor is adjusting structures to an intermediate grade and undertaking utility work, and expects to start to install curbing and grading of walks soon

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- Utility work ongoing

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

- Contractor is undertaking miscellaneous patching and adjusting structures

DESIGN

2021

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

- Design is at final Plans, Specifications, and Estimates (PS&E) Stage

Avon - Intersection Improvements at Harrison Boulevard and Pond Street

- Design is at final Plans, Specifications, and Estimates (PS&E) Stage

Stoughton - Improvements at Richard L. Wilkins Elementary School (SRTS)

- Design is at 100% Stage

2022

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

- Design is at final Plans, Specifications, and Estimates (PS&E) Stage
- MassDOT will be having follow up meeting with town

Brockton - Route 123 at Cary and Lyman Street

- Design is at 25% Stage
- MassDOT is looking to combine this project with the Route 123 Corridor Project

Avon/Stoughton - Resurfacing and Related Work on Route 24

- In house design
- Design is at 75% Stage and it is an in-house MassDOT design

2023

Brockton - Intersection Improvements at Centre Street (Route 123) and Plymouth Street

- MassDOT met with City of Brockton and Designer to finalize project scope

Stoughton - Intersection Improvements and Related Work at Central Street, Canton Street and Tosca Drive

- Design is at 75% Stage and 100% Design expected in November

Stoughton - Corridor Improvements on Route 138 (AC Phase 1 of 2)

- Design is at 25% Stage

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2024

Plympton - Bridge Replacement, Winnetuxet Road over Winnetuxet River

- There was a project scoping meeting held in June

Stoughton - Corridor Improvements on Route 138 (AC Phase 2 of 2)

- Design is at 25% Stage

2025

Brockton - Lyman, Grove, and Summer Street Including the Grove Street Bridge

- MassDOT recently met with City and their designer
- City was concerned about the bridge, so the scope was reduced to find a place in the TIP

Abington - Intersection Improvements at Hancock Street & Chestnut Street

- MassDOT recently met with Town and their designer
- 25% Design due in December

Duxbury - Signal Installation at Route 3 and 3A

- Design is currently not active
- Town and OCPC asked MassDOT to grant a twelve-month extension to allow the town to seek funds for design and not to deactivate the project

6. FFY 2021-2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments and/ or Adjustments

Charles Kilmer reported that there are no TIP Amendments or Adjustments at this time.

7. Old Colony Self-Certification Compliance Statements

- **Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process - Review and Potential Endorsement**

Charles Kilmer reviewed the eleven (11) items within the Self-Certification Compliance Statements. The Self Certification Compliance Statement certifies that the conduct of the metropolitan transportation planning process complies with all applicable requirements, and that this process includes activities to support the development and implementation of the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and Air Quality Conformity Determination, the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Air Quality Conformity Determination, and the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

Charles Kilmer stated that this is an update item from the February approval. This has been updated to include one additional item which is the implementation of an equal opportunity program on federal aid highway construction contracts.

Chairperson Woelfel asked if there is a motion to endorse the Old Colony Self-Certification Compliance Statements. A motion was made and was seconded.

The Old Colony MPO voted unanimously via roll call vote to endorse the Old Colony Self-Certification

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Compliance Statements.

8. Active Transportation Study - Overview and Next Steps

Paul Chenard discussed the Active Transportation Study.

Funded through the FFY 2021 Old Colony Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), the Active Transportation Study seeks to provide an analysis of the bicycle, pedestrian, and transit network within a connectivity, public health, and safety context. The Active Transportation Network Study seeks to understand how the Old Colony region can improve the bicycle and pedestrian network to increase its utility for recreational and transportation purposes. Additionally, the study will work to develop a menu of potential projects by community that can be advanced in the MassDOT Highway Division project development process for funding with statewide funding resources.

The Active Transportation Study will include the collecting of data to formulate bicycle level of service (BLOS) and pedestrian level of service (PLOS). In addition, MassDOT crash cluster data, intersection analysis, and heat map data provided by third party data providers will all be used to inform the study and guide potential recommendation that will be included in the report. To aide in the development of potential bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, past and current community studies will be reviewed to have those study recommendations be a part of the Active Transportation Study and committees will be formed to guide the recommendation process. Final product will be a report that communities can use as a reference to help guide their activities in planning bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure and amenities.

9. Climate Change Transportation Vulnerability Assessment Study – Overview and Next Steps

Ray Guarino discussed the Climate Change Transportation Vulnerability Assessment Study. Acting on an Executive Order issued in 2013 (Executive Order 13653, Preparing the United States for the Impacts of Climate Change), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) issued a directive that establishes FHWA policy on preparedness and resilience to climate change and extreme weather events. The FHWA recognizes that climate change poses a significant challenge to the safety, reliability, effectiveness, and sustainability of the national transportation system.

This study builds upon previous studies prepared by OCPC including Stormwater mapping and roadway drainage runoff, Hazard Mitigation and Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness plans, an Old Colony Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, and an Old Colony 2010 Climate Change Transportation Impact Study. The purpose of the Climate Change Vulnerability Transportation Assessment is to update the 2010 Climate Change Transportation Impact Study, and to identify the impacts of Climate Change on the transportation system, examine them, and assess the vulnerability of the system resulting in strategies for management and mitigation. Elements of the study include:

1. Identifying hazards due to Climate Change including but not limited to:
 - Coastal flooding and erosion
 - Inland flooding

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- Extreme temperatures both hot and cold
 - Drought and potential for forest fires
 - High winds from severe weather including winter storms, hurricanes, tornados, and tropical storms
 - Other hazards such as falling rocks, landslides
2. Public outreach including public meetings, as well as identifying and consulting with stakeholders including but not limited to: MassDOT, providers of public transportation, state and federal officials, Watershed Associations (Jones River, Taunton River), local elected officials and city and town officials, Highway Departments, DPW's, Planners, and Conservation Commissions.
 3. Examining and identifying the root causes of climate change, identifying and mapping potential negative impacts in the region, identifying and mapping existing modes of transportation, and analyzing the impacts of climate change on transportation systems and transportation systems management and operations (TSMO).
 4. Developing a vulnerability assessment and developing strategies and policies to reduce and manage climate change.
 5. A draft report will be developed and distributed to stakeholders for review and comment and the comments incorporated into the report before the report is finalized.

10. Road Safety Audits (RSAs) at Multiple Locations – Overview and Next Steps

Bill McNulty discussed the RSAs at Multiple Locations Project.

Through Task 3300 of the FFY 2021 Old Colony MPO Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), Old Colony Planning Council will be conducting Road Safety Audits at Multiple Locations throughout the region. Road safety audits will be conducted at a minimum of 15 high crash locations, selected based on the Old Colony MPO's Safety management System that ranks intersections based on the Equivalent to Property Damage Only (EPDO) value. EPDO is a weighted value which accounts for crash severity in addition to overall crash count for 2017 through 2019. Old Colony Planning Council is also coordinating with the communities and Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) in site selection.

Old Colony Planning Council is currently reaching out to the municipalities, distributing lists of the most hazardous locations in their community based on the Old Colony Safety Management System, and soliciting local input on priority areas. This input will be a factor in the site selection for these Road Safety Audits.

Bill McNulty stated that each RSA will have its own individual report. Pam Haznar stated that MassDOT will be providing a list of RSAs that they will be performing.

11. Administrative Matters, Other Business, and Date and Time of Next Meetings(s)

Charles Kilmer discussed some upcoming events. They are as follows:

1. October 29, 2020 - Training/Workshop on Disparate-Impact Discrimination
2. November 17-19, 2020 - 2020 Moving Together Conference
 - Chairperson Woelfel stated that attendance is free this year

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3. Date and Time of Next Meeting(s)

- Charles Kilmer note that the November 17, 2020 at 10 AM time conflicts with the 2020 Moving Together Conference. As such, Charles Kilmer suggested two potential options: have the next meeting in December or choose a different date and/ or time in November. Glenn Geiler Stated that BAT will have action items for the meeting in November and suggested choosing another date and time in November. Following discussion, the MPO selected November 17, 2020 at 3:00 PM for their next meeting.

Chairperson Woelfel adjourned the meeting at 10:35 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle Mowatt

Kyle Mowatt, Senior Transportation Planner

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

1. Minutes of September 15, 2020, Old Colony MPO Meeting
2. Staff Report for October 19, 2020 Old Colony MPO Meeting Agenda Items