

OLD COLONY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)

Minutes of the Old Colony MPO Virtual Meeting, November 17, 2020 - 3:00 P.M.

Signatories Present:

Danielle Littman, Representing Mayor Robert Sullivan, City of Brockton
Lee Hartmann, Representing Chairman Kenneth Tavares, Plymouth Board of Selectmen
Meredith Anderson, West Bridgewater Board of Selectmen
Dan Salvucci, Vice-Chairman, Whitman Board of Selectmen
David Mohler, Representing Stephanie Pollack, Secretary and CEO, MassDOT
Robert Wheeler, Representing Jonathan Gulliver, Administrator, MassDOT Highway Division
Michael Lambert, Administrator, Brockton Area Transit Authority (BAT)
Mary Waldron, Representing Christine Joy, President, OCPC

Others Present:

Christine Quinn, Avon COA
Rob May, Brockton
Peter Spagone Jr., East Bridgewater
Glenn Geiler, BAT
Andrew Reovan, FHWA
Mary Ellen DeFrias, Mass Development
Ben Muller, MassDOT
Barbara Lachance, MassDOT District 5
Rob Cahoon, VHB
Shawn Bailey, OCPC
Paul Chenard, OCPC
Ray Guarino, OCPC
Charles Kilmer, OCPC
Bill McNulty, OCPC
Kyle Mowatt, OCPC

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chairperson David Mohler called the meeting to order at 3:02 P.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 present as eight of the eight Signatories are present.

2. Public Comments

Charles Kilmer welcomed Selectperson Meredith Anderson from West Bridgewater, who is the newly elected Selectperson to represent communities with a population under 14,000 on the MPO.

3. Minutes of the October 20, 2020 Meeting

Chairperson Mohler asked the MPO Members for comments or changes regarding the minutes of the October 20, 2020 meeting.

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The Old Colony MPO then voted unanimously via roll call vote to endorse the minutes of the October 20, 2020 Old Colony MPO Meeting.

4. Brockton Area Transit (BAT) Report

Michael Lambert reported on the following BAT items:

- Regular service is being provided according to the schedule that has been in place for the last few months.
- A café has opened in the BAT Centre.

Mary Waldron confirmed that it is C&J Soul Food operating the café.

5. Performance Based Planning and Brockton Area Transit (BAT) Public Transit Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) and Transit Safety Performance Targets

- **Presentation, Discussion, and Possible Adoption of the Proposed Set of Federally Required Performance Targets pertaining to Transit Safety**

Charles Kilmer reported on the following:

The Public Transit Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) details the safety processes and procedures for BAT. This plan utilizes existing agency safety practices and best practices to be implemented to meet the new regulation set in 49 CFR Part 673 of the federal guidelines.

The PTASP includes formal documentation to guide the agency in proactive safety management policy, safety risk management, safety assurance, and safety promotion. The goal is to provide management and labor a comprehensive, collaborative approach to managing safety. The plan includes safety performance targets, the process and schedule for an annual review to evaluate the safety performance measures and update processes to continuously improve the organization's safety practices.

Michael Lambert then presented and discussed BATs Safety Performance Targets.

Chairperson Mohler asked if there is a motion to approve the Transit Safety Performance Targets for BAT. A motion was made and was seconded.

The Old Colony MPO voted unanimously via roll call vote to approve the Transit Safety Performance Targets for BAT.

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

- **Amendment 1 – Review and Potential Release to Public Review and Comment Period**

Charles Kilmer presented Amendment 1. Amendment 1 adds two (2) projects to FFY 2021. They are as follows:

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1. BROCKTON AREA TRANSIT (BAT)

- AMENDMENT: ADD PROJECT – BUY REPLACEMENT 40-FT BUS (4)
- COST IS \$2,250,000 (2018 - \$141,416; 2019 - \$878,105; 2020 - \$780,479 FEDERAL; \$450,000 STATE)

2. BROCKTON AREA TRANSIT (BAT)

- AMENDMENT: ADD PROJECT – ACQUIRE – MISC SUPPORT EQUIPMENT. COST IS \$490,000 (\$490,000 FEDERAL; \$98,000 TDC)

Chairperson Mohler asked if there is a motion to release Amendment 1 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 vote to release Amendment 1 to a 21-day public review and comment period.

7. **MBTA Forging Ahead Schedule Planning and Service Impacts – Public Meetings**

Charles Kilmer discussed the MBTA Forging Ahead Schedule Planning and Service Impacts which are available online at: <https://www.mbta.com/forging-ahead>

According to the MBTA, in 2019, MBTA riders took 1.26 million daily trips. In October 2020, riders are taking around 330,000 daily trips, or 26% of daily ridership compared to 2019. The MBTA is proposing to reduce service where there are fewer riders.

The proposed adjustments preserve the vast majority of MBTA service while also:

- Aligning current service levels with changing ridership and demand
- Preserving and protect service for those who depend on the MBTA for frequent and reliable service
- Reducing primarily non-essential services

Starting mostly in May 2021, the MBTA plans to:

- Stop all service after 9PM
- Stop all weekend service (Fairmount Line replaced by bus service), starting as early as January 2021
- Decrease weekday peak service and some midday service, reducing from 505 trains (Fall 2019) to 430 trains
- Close six (out of 141) stations based on low ridership, operational impacts, and availability of alternatives:
 - Plimptonville
 - Prides Crossing
 - Silver Hill
 - Hastings
 - Plymouth
 - Cedar Park

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- Take into account ridership patterns when adjusting service levels by line

Proposed Changes to Bus (starting in summer 2021):

- Stop all service after midnight (early service will continue on essential bus routes)
- Reduce frequency on essential routes by system-wide average of 5% (will vary by route, high ridership will not be changed)
- Reduce frequency on non-essential routes system-wide by 20% (will vary by route based on ridership)
- Consolidate or restructure approximately 10 routes
- Eliminate approximately 25 routes that served less than 0.5% of pre-COVID riders (about 1,700)

Dan Salvucci, who is a member of the MBTA Advisory Board, stated that it is a concern when MBTA is running a deficit that they will sell property that they have. The MBTA has to do whatever it can to maintain whatever service they can provide to not get into a deficit.

Rob May stated that if we have to have MBTA service cuts, he would like to see them listed as temporary cuts. There is a history of cutting service and then not restoring service.

8. Old Colony Public Participation Plan Update (Virtual Public Meetings, and Measures of Effectiveness, etc.)

- **Overview and Next Steps**

Paul Chenard provided an update on the Old Colony Public Participation Plan.

The Old Colony MPO has been developing its Measures of Effectiveness (MOE) Report. The MOE Report is one of the outcomes of the recommendations offered by the Federal partners during the MPO's Federal Certification Review. The Federal partners suggested that the public participation process should be tracked in more detail to help the MPO understand the performance of its public outreach process. The MOE report tracks and compares, where available, five years' worth of public outreach effort data to understand how engagement between the MPO and members of the public and organizations has been achieving greater participation in the planning process.

Beginning in March 2020, because of the pandemic, was the introduction of virtual public meetings and participation. The MPO adapted and embarked upon conducting its public outreach efforts via online meeting platforms such as Zoom to continue its efforts in meeting its public participation requirements. The MPO will also be tracking its virtual public participation process and will be included in the MOE reports going forward. The next steps will be submitting the MOE to our Federal partners for review, which will be continued on a yearly cycle.

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

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

1. MassDOT - Shared Winter Streets and Spaces

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Shared Winter Streets and Spaces will be focused on supporting communities during the next several months, when the need for physical distancing poses challenges. The program will invest in cities and towns in order to facilitate outdoor activities and winter programming by creating safe spaces for people of all ages and abilities to walk, bicycle, eat, shop, play, and enjoy community events. Types of eligible projects include:

- **Main Streets:** Investments in local downtowns and villages that repurpose streets, plazas, sidewalks, curbs, and parking areas to facilitate outdoor activities and winter programming, including, but not limited to, facilities for eating, shopping, play, and community events and spaces for all ages. Grant limit: up to \$300,000.
- **Reimagined Streets:** Creation of safe spaces for people walking and bicycling by implementing low-speed streets, 'shared streets,' new sidewalks, new protected bike lanes, new off-road trails, new bicycle parking, new crosswalks, new traffic calming measures, and new ADA-compliant ramps. Grant limit: up to \$300,000.
- **Better Buses:** Establishment of new facilities for public buses, including, but not limited to, dedicated bus lanes, traffic-signal priority equipment, and bus shelters. Grant limit: up to \$500,000.
- **Shared Mobility:** Support for the capital costs of equipment for new bikeshare and micromobility programs. Grant limit: up to \$200,000.
- **Making Pilots Permanent:** Conversion of temporary Shared Streets and Spaces projects to permanent facilities. Grant limit: up to \$300,000.

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis, and decisions will be made in four rounds.

Chairperson Mohler strongly encourages cities and towns to apply for this money.

2. Date and Time of Next Old Colony MPO Meeting(s)

The next MPO Meeting(s) are scheduled for December 15, 2020 and January 19, 2021.

Chairperson Mohler then adjourned the meeting at 3:27 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle Mowatt

Kyle Mowatt, Senior Transportation Planner

List of Documents for the November 17, 2020 Old Colony MPO Meeting

1. Minutes of October 20, 2020 Old Colony MPO Meeting
2. Staff Report for November 17, 2020 Old Colony MPO Meeting Agenda Items