

# OLD COLONY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)

Minutes of the Old Colony MPO Virtual Meeting, held December 15, 2020 - 10:00 A.M. via Zoom

## Signatories Present:

Rob May, 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  
Stephen Woelfel, 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, OCPC

## Others Present:

Chike Odunukwe, City of Brockton  
Glenn Geiler, Brockton Area Transit Authority  
Andrew Reovan, FHWA  
Bryan Bjorklund, Independence Associates  
Bill Mitchell, Massasoit Community College  
Mary Ellen DeFrias, MassDevelopment  
Ben Muller, MassDOT  
Bryan Pounds, MassDOT  
Barbara Lachance, MassDOT District 5  
Michelle Ho, MassDOT  
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 Stephen Woelfel called the meeting to order at 10:02 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, as eight of the eight Signatories are present.

## 2. Public Comments

Chairperson Stephen Woelfel asked if there were any members of the public who wished to address the MPO. There were none.

## 3. Minutes of the November 17, 2020 Meeting

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Chairperson Woelfel asked the Old Colony MPO Members if they had any comments or changes regarding the minutes of the November 17, 2020 meeting. There were not any comments or changes offered.

The Old Colony MPO then voted via roll call to endorse the minutes of the November 17, 2020 Old Colony MPO Meeting. Pam Haznar and Rob May abstained as they were not present at the November 17, 2020 meeting.

## 4. Brockton Area Transit (BAT) Report

Vice-Chairman Michael Lambert reported on the following BAT items:

- BAT is getting closer to budget clarity for the rest of the fiscal year. BAT is hopeful that the Federal partners will act on another version of the CARES Act.
- BAT is about to launch a study with MassDOT on the feasibility of electric buses.
- TIP changes via TIP Amendment 1 are up for a vote today and BAT appreciates everyone's support.

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

Pam Haznar provided an update on several projects under design or construction. They are as follows:

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

- Project has been advertised, and the bid opening is scheduled for December 22, 2020

### **Avon - Intersection Improvements at Harrison Boulevard and Pond Street**

- Project is at Plans, Specifications, and Estimates (PS&E) and the advertising date is at the end of January 2021

### **Stoughton - Safe Routes to School (West Elementary School)**

- Project is at 100% Design and the advertising date is in May 2021

### **Pembroke - Rehabilitation of Route 36 from Route 14 to Route 27**

- Project is at Plans, Specifications, and Estimates (PS&E)

### **Avon & Stoughton - Resurfacing of Route 24**

- Project is at Plans, Specifications, and Estimates (PS&E)

### **Brockton - Intersection Improvements at Center Street / Cary and Lyman**

- Project is at 25% Design

### **Brockton - Intersection Improvements at Centre Street & Plymouth Street**

- MassDOT is expecting 25% Design Plans in April 2021

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## **Stoughton - Intersection Improvements at Central, Canton and Tosca**

- Project is at 75% Design and the 100% Design is due later this month

## **Stoughton - Corridor Improvements on Route 138 from Lincoln Ave to Canton Town Line**

- Project is at 25% Design

## **Brockton - Intersection Improvements at Lyman, Grove, Summer (Including Grove Street Bridge)**

- Project is at 25% Design and MassDOT is awaiting revised plans due to change in the scope

## **Abington - Intersection Improvements at Hancock Street & Chestnut Street**

- A roundabout is preferred alternative and the 25% Design is expected at the end of January

## **Duxbury - Signal Improvements at Route 3 and Route 3A**

- MassDOT is awaiting information on the design from the Town of Duxbury

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

- **Amendment 1 - Public Comments and Potential Endorsement**

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

### **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 Transportation Development Credit (TDC))

Charles Kilmer stated that two public comments were received. The first comment is from the Old Colony Planning Council Board of Directors at their public meeting held on December 2, 2020. The Amendment was reviewed and approved. The second comment is from the Old Colony JTC at their public meeting held on December 3, 2020. The Amendment was reviewed and approved.

Chairperson Woelfel asked if there is a motion to endorse Amendment 1. A motion was made and was seconded.

The Old Colony MPO voted unanimously via roll call to endorse Amendment 1.

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

- **Amendment 2 - Review and Potential Release to Public Review and Comment Period**

Charles Kilmer stated that there are no items right now, but he is deferring to Glenn Geiler to set the

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stage for Amendment 2 for review and potential release at the Old Colony MPO meeting next month.

Glenn Geiler stated that there is not additional information at this time, but BAT is working on a few project changes that will be made available at the meeting in January.

## 8. Traffic Volumes and Commuter Parking Trends During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Shawn Bailey provided a presentation on the Traffic Volumes and Commuter Parking Trends During the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Utilizing MassDOT's MS2 Transportation Data Management System website, data from nine (9) permanent MassDOT locations has been extracted and organized to display the traffic data in 2019 and 2020 to compare the difference between the two years. These locations are both within and adjacent to the OCPC region to get an idea of how traffic has trended both amongst and leading to our region, using the same principal as is used with our Congestion Management Process. For this project, 2019 was used as the baseline year. Not all locations had data for every single date during that year, so data from previous years was used and calculated for 2019 based on the annual growth rate. It should be noted that the same can be said for 2020 (there are dates where data is not available), so those dates will be blank on the line graphs since there is no growth rate for 2020.

### Traffic Volume Results/ Going Forward

- Decline since August has increased each month
- September was 7.2% below September 2019, October was 9.7% below October 2019, and November was 13.8% below November 2019
- November 6<sup>th</sup> restrictions have affected traffic; December 13<sup>th</sup> restrictions will likely continue to affect traffic
- Thanksgiving – lowest traffic since late April to mid-May
- Page on OCPC website with data and interactive map

### Commuter Rail Parking Trends

- April 2020
  - Five locations with zero vehicles
  - Highest vehicle count was 23 (Montello)
  - Combined utilization of 1.34% (Compared to 59.9% from previous 10 April counts)
- October 2020
  - There were no stations observed with zero vehicles
  - Highest vehicle count was 88 (South Weymouth)
  - Combined utilization of 8.35% (Compared to 62.7% from previous 10 October counts)

### Park & Ride Parking Trends

- October 2020
  - Bridgewater - comparable to a normal year
  - Every other location had significant decreases in utilization
  - Highest vehicle count was 111 (Rockland)

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- Combined utilization of 22.79% (Compared to 74.2% from previous 10 October counts)

Pam Haznar thought it was interesting how dramatically the Plymouth Route 3 count station dropped on Thanksgiving.

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

Charles Kilmer recognized Mary Waldron on her One Year Anniversary of being the Executive Director of the Old Colony Planning Council. Charles Kilmer furthered that Mary Waldron has done a fabulous job and has helped to elevate everyone's efforts. Mary Waldron stated that she is blessed to be in this position.

Mary Waldron, on behalf of the Old Colony Planning Council wished everyone a happy and healthy Holiday.

Chairperson Woelfel confirmed that the next Old Colony MPO Meeting(s) are scheduled for January 19, 2021 and February 16, 2021.

Chairperson Woelfel adjourned the meeting at 10:35 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

*Kyle Mowatt*

Kyle Mowatt, Senior Transportation Planner

### List of Documents for the December 15, 2020 Old Colony MPO Meeting

1. Minutes of November 17, Old Colony MPO Meeting
2. Staff Report for December 15, 2020 Old Colony MPO Meeting Agenda Items
3. Traffic Volumes and Commuter Parking Trends During the COVID-19 Pandemic Presentation