

OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)

**Meeting Minutes of the Old Colony Joint Transportation Committee (JTC)
Held Virtually Via Zoom due to the Covid-19 State of Emergency in Massachusetts
October 7, 2021 at 12:00 P.M.**

ATTENDANCE

Abington	John Stone	BETA Group	Dan McCormack
Abington	Bruce Hughes	GPI	Sid Kashi
Avon	John Costa	MassDevelopment	Mary Ellen Defrias
Brockton	Rob May	VHB	Matthew Duranleau
Brockton	Brady Winsten	Fuss & O'Neil	Eileen Gunn
Easton	David Field	Keolis	Clary Coutu
Hanson	Jamison Shave	OCPC	Kyle Mowatt
Hanson	Don Howard	OCPC	Bill McNulty
Hanover	Christine Stickney	OCPC	Charles Kilmer
Plymouth	Sheila Sgarzi	OCPC	Guoqiang Li
West Bridgewater	Meri Anderson	OCPC	Ray Guarino
Whitman	Dan Salvucci	OCPC	Shawn Bailey
BAT	Glenn Geiler	OCPC	Mary Waldron
MassDOT District 5	Barbara Lachance		

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Vice Chairperson Dan Salvucci called the meeting to order at 12:00 P.M. and then read the Meeting Accessibility Statement and the Title VI Notice of Protection Statement. Bill McNulty then conducted the roll call.

Vice Chairperson Dan Salvucci asked for a moment of silence for the passing of Joyce Scardino.

2. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

3. Minutes of September 2, 2021 Meeting

Vice Chairperson Dan Salvucci asked if there is a motion to approve the September 2, 2021 Meeting Minutes. A motion was made by Meri Anderson and seconded by John Stone to approve the Meeting Minutes from September 2, 2021.

The Old Colony JTC voted unanimously to approve the September 2, 2021 Meeting Minutes.

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4. Communications

Shawn Bailey reviewed the contents of the communications staff report. Included were letters of correspondence, as well as notices of workshops and conferences. They are as follows:

- Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Infrastructure Launch Information Session – October 15, 2021 at 2:00 PM
- Safe Routes to School Annual Fall Summit – October 29, 2021 at 9:00 AM
- MassDOT Releases New Chapter 90 Informational Resources
- MassDOT Project Intake Tool (MaPIT) 3.0 Training Opportunity

5. Reports

A. Brockton Area Regional Transit Authority (BAT)

Glenn Geiler reported on the following:

- The Transportation Safety administration (TSA) order requiring masks on public transit remains in effect. Drivers have masks available for passengers in need of one.
- The Massachusetts Senate met and completed an override of Governor Baker's budget veto regarding the budget for the transit authorities in Massachusetts, which included an additional \$3.5 Million which will be spread across the RTAs across the Commonwealth
- BAT is working to evaluate its facilities and fleet in preparation for converting to a completely electric fleet.
- BAT is evaluating conditions, use, and need for bus shelters throughout their service area. The Authority is planning for the placement of new shelters.
- The program offering reduced Commuter Rail fares for Brockton residents from the Campello, Brockton, and Montello stations continues through March 2022. This program was made available through a cooperative effort between the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA), Brockton Area Transit (BAT), and the City of Brockton to relieve crowding and allow for more social distancing on the Authority's Route 12 Ashmont service. This reduced fare is available to 250 passengers.

B. Greater Attleboro-Taunton Regional Transit Authority (GATRA)

Shawn Bailey reported on the following:

- The Authority is evaluating adjusting routes in Plymouth. There will be 3 public meetings regarding proposed service changes.
- A third vehicle is being added to the GATRA Go service in south Plymouth

C. South Coast Rail Project

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Shawn Bailey reported on the following:

- In September 2021, work was conducted at one railroad grade crossing in Assonet and two others in Lakeville that resulted in detours for all traffic resulting in accessibility only for local traffic. Drill shaft work for a support wall was conducted between Church Street in Raynham and Middleboro Avenue in Taunton. Daytime track work was conducted between Colonial Drive and Forge Road in Assonet. Construction is occurring 24 hours per day.
- Additional work done included construction at station and layover sites from Middleborough to New Bedford and from Berkley to Fall River, transportation of soils by truck to two stockpile locations in Assonet and one in Fall River, and soil excavated from work along the right-of-way along the Middleborough Secondary and New Bedford Main Lines were transported to the New Middleborough and the Freetown stations

6. Old Business

A. FFY 2022-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Implementation

Charles Kilmer reported on changes to projects within the TIP. They are as follows:

FFY 2026

- ABINGTON – INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT HANCOCK STREET AND CHESTNUT STREET (609440)
 - MassDOT comments on 25% Package returned to the Design Engineer (as of 9/6/2021)

Currently Unprogrammed Projects in FFY 2022-2026 TIP

- STOUGHTON – RECONSTRUCTION OF TURNPIKE STREET (607214)
 - MassDOT comments on the 25% Package returned to the Design Engineer (as of 9/7/2021)

7. New Business

A. MBTA – Vegetative Management Plan Presentation and Overview

Clary Coutu, Director of Environmental Services, Compliance and Sustainability, Keolis, provided a presentation and overview.

Every five years, the MBTA Vegetative Management Plan:

- Describes the 5-year Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program for managing vegetation in accordance with the requirements
- Describes a variety of operational practices which include physical (mechanical cutting); chemical (herbicide application); and indirect methods used to manage, control, and eradicate vegetation

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on railroad ROWs

- Addresses the major components of vegetation management including the rationale for the various techniques, buffering and protection of sensitive areas, application of Integrated Pest Management (IPM), and an overview of the railroad ROW system
- Is subject to public review, published in the Environmental Monitor and reviewed by local officials, and DAR review and approval

Vice Chairperson Dan Salvucci stated that there is a historic turn table overrun with vegetation adjacent to the Whitman Station. The town maintains that location by utilizing Eagle Scouts to clear the vegetation. Dan Salvucci stated he will send Clary Couto the information to see if Keolis would be able to help the Town with this project.

John Costa stated the tracks in Avon travel through wetlands that supply one of the key wells in town. The concern is using chemicals in that area to clear the tracks. Discussion followed.

Don Howard stated the tracks in Hanson lie directly over the Town's water supply. The Hanson Water Commission opposes the use of herbicides on the MBTA right-of-way in the Town of Hanson.

B. Road Safety Audits (RSAs) at Multiple Locations Study – Review of FFY 2021 and Introduction to FFY 2022

Bill McNulty provided a review of FFY 2021 RSAs and introduced FFY 2022 RSAs.

Through the Old Colony MPOs FFY 2021 Unified Planning Work Program, OCPC conducted Road Safety Audits at fifteen locations in Abington, Bridgewater, Brockton, East Bridgewater, Easton, Hanover, Kingston, Plymouth, Stoughton, and West Bridgewater. These audits were a collaborative effort of multidisciplinary teams consisting of OCPC planners, local public safety, local elected and municipal officials, MassDOT, FHWA, BAT, and our legislative delegation of State Senators and Representatives.

OCPC is looking forward to continuing this effort in the MPOs FFY 2022 UPWP. OCPC staff are currently reviewing their internal safety management system and coordinating with communities on site selection for FFY 2022.

C. High Priority Corridor Study Screening Assessment – Introduction and Overview

Guoqiang Li provided an introduction and overview on the High Priority Corridor Study Screening Assessment.

The objectives of this task are to conduct a High Priority Corridor Study Screening Assessment of state numbered routes (arterial segments) that will identify, rank, and inform the selection process for locations to conduct corridor studies that will then inform the Long-Range Transportation Plan Needs Assessment. This project will apply a holistic approach to analyzing problems and forming recommendations ensuring that the needs of all transportation users are considered.

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Examples of proposed criteria for corridor examination scoring:

1. Safety Conditions
2. Congested Conditions
3. Multimodal Significance
4. Regional Significance
5. Regional Equity
6. Implementation Potential

The Study tasks include:

1. Gathering and assembling data about the arterial segments and then using the data to identify and prioritize
2. Examining the arterial segments more closely by applying specific criteria
3. Staff scoring each arterial segment and assigning a priority of low, medium or high to each segment
4. Preparing reports and documents

D. Freight Planning and Action Plan – Introduction and Project Scope

Ray Guarino provided an introduction and project scope for the Freight Planning and Action Plan.

The principal objectives of this study are to integrate freight into the overall planning process, identify and plan for long-term freight needs, develop specific long-range transportation projects, identify potential funding sources for those projects, and evaluate policy-based solutions to accommodate future levels of freight on the regional transportation system enhancing the mobility and safety of the traveling public. This plan will be a follow up to the 2014 Regional Freight & Goods Movement Study, the 2014 NHS Intermodal Connectors Study, and will build upon the findings and recommendations from MassDOT's 2018 Freight Study.

Vice Chairperson Dan Salvucci made a comment regarding the truck weigh stations on highways and if they should be utilized again to maintain safety on the highways.

Bruce Hughes stated that CSX has precision schedule railroading.

8. Other Business and Public Comment

A. Community Local Technical Assistance Studies

Bill McNulty reported on the following Community Local Technical Assistance Studies:

Old Colony Planning Council completed the following projects requested through the Local Highway Planning Technical Assistance Program:

- Kingston: Traffic Study of Smith's Lane between Route 3 and Crescent Street
- Plymouth: Traffic Counts for Clark Road / Beaver Dam Road

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Project Status Updates

Plymouth

- Commerce Way Traffic Counts – Data collection planned for Fall 2021

West Bridgewater

- Traffic Study of Howard Street, Prospect Street, and Walnut Street – Data collection completed, Analysis Underway

B. Staff Reviews on ENFs, EIRs, and NPCs

Kyle Mowatt summarized the Environmental Notification Forms (ENFs), Environmental Impact Reports (EIRs), Notices of Project Changes (NPCs), and Certificates for projects within the OCPC region that are undergoing Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) Office review.

ENF

EEA #16447 – Greystone Village - Kingston

The project will result in a construction period of 4-5 years once started. Early impacts will be primarily from the demolition of structures and removal of impervious surfaces within the existing developed front portion of the property and then from activities such as roadway and drainage construction. Subsequent impacts will be the construction of the 24 single family homes proposed for the site. The area of disturbance is 40% of the total geographic project land area. Stormwater is managed to ensure no post-development increase in run-off. The site is served by public water and is located on an arterial street. No upgrade of public infrastructure is necessitated by the project build-out. Sanitary Wastewater is to be treated by individual private septic systems on each lot in conformance with the State and Local sanitary codes.

It should be noted that the project will remove a commercial manufacturing facility (Kingston Trailers), a commercial space (Martial Arts) as well as an existing house, with the associated impervious areas for driveways, parking, loading, etc. While there will be a short-term impact during the demolition phase (dust and debris removal from the property), there will be a positive long-term impact with the reduction of traffic, noise, etc. associated with the current use. The anticipated footprint of the proposed 24 houses (30,780 SF) will be about 19% less than the footprint of the existing structures to be removed (38,192 SF).

EIR

EEA #16283 – Proposed Beach and Dune Nourishment – Marshfield & Duxbury

Single EIR was released on September 8, 2021. Comments are due by October 8, 2021.

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DEIR

EEA#16383 – Lincoln Park – West Bridgewater

DEIR was released on September 22, 2021. Comments are due by October 22, 2021.

Certificates

EEA #16409 – Former National Fireworks Site – Hanover/Hanson

The certificate states the project **requires** the submission of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). In a separate Draft Record of Decision (DROD), there is a **proposal to grant** a Waiver that will allow the proponent to proceed with Phase 1 of the project prior to completing the MEPA process for the entire project.

Public Notice

Hydrogeologic Evaluation Scope of Work – Avon

The Scope of Work for a proposed soil absorption system to be located on property proximate to the Avon Industrial Park in Avon, MA, in support of a future application for a Ground Water Discharge Permit for subsurface disposal of 230,000 gallons per day of treated wastewater.

MEPA Regulatory Review Update

Please be informed that the MEPA Office has issued amended regulations for public comment. Comments are due by October 20, 2021. The new MEPA Interim Protocol on Climate Change Adaptation and Resiliency will be in effect for all ENFs/EENFs as of October 1, 2021.

All new projects filing with the MEPA Office will be required to attach to the Environmental Notification Form (ENF) or Expanded Environmental Notification Form (EENF) the output report generated from the RMA Climate Resilience Design Standards Tool. New project filings must also complete the new Climate Change Adaptation and Resiliency Section added to the ENF form.

Detailed information, including opportunities for public participation, is available on the MEPA website.

C. Regional Concerns and Local Community Transportation Issues

Bill McNulty recognized Hanover Town Planner, Christine Stickney, who joined the meeting.

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9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle Mowatt

Kyle Mowatt

Senior Transportation Planner

List of Documents for October 7, 2021 Old Colony JTC Meeting

- Minutes of the September 2, 2021 Old Colony JTC Meeting
- Staff Report for October 7, 2021, Old Colony JTC Meeting Agenda Items
- MBTA Vegetative Management Plan Presentation