

OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)

**Meeting Minutes of the Old Colony Joint Transportation Committee (JTC)
Held Virtually Via Zoom
March 2, 2023 at 12:00 P.M.**

ATTENDANCE

Abington	Bruce Hughes	BAT	Michael Lambert
Abington	John Stone	BAT	Glenn Geiler
Avon	Bill Fitzgerald	MassDOT District 5	Barbara Lachance
Bridgewater	Shane O'Brien	MassDOT District 5	Pam Haznar
Bridgewater	Carlton Hunt	Safe Routes to School	Maggie Burke
Bridgewater	Bob Rulli	Tighe & Bond	Greg Lucas
Brockton	Alan Castaline	GPI	Sid Kashi
Easton	Greg Swan	OCPC	Mary Waldron
Hanson	Don Howard	OCPC	Charles Kilmer
Kingston	Valerie Massard	OCPC	Shawn Bailey
Plymouth	James Downey	OCPC	Ray Guarino
West Bridgewater	Shawn Anderson	OCPC	Guoqiang Li
Whitman	Noreen O'Toole	OCPC	Jay Song
Whitman	Dan Salvucci	OCPC	Bill McNulty

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chairperson Noreen O'Toole 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. Shawn Bailey then conducted the roll call.

2. Public Comments

There were no public comments at this time.

3. Minutes of February 2, 2023 Meeting

Chairperson Noreen O'Toole asked if there is a motion to approve the February 2, 2023 Meeting Minutes. A motion was made by Dan Salvucci and seconded by Valerie Massard to approve the Meeting Minutes from February 2, 2023.

The Old Colony JTC voted unanimously to approve the January 5, 2023 Meeting Minutes.

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 were as follows:

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- Announcement of 2023 MassDOT Transportation Innovation Conference scheduled for May 2 and May 3, 2023 at the DCU Center in Worcester, Massachusetts
- Notice of State Freight Plan Guidance and National Highway Freight Program Update Webinar scheduled for March 7, 2023
- Announcement of Massachusetts Safe Routes to School Spring Webinar: New Tools for Schools – April 26, 2023 at 10:00 AM
- Announcement of Old Colony Vision 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Public Information Webinar scheduled for March 21, 2023 at 6:00 PM
- Massachusetts Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board – Save the Dates:
 - Wednesday, March 22, 2023, 1:00 - 3:00 PM
 - Wednesday, May 31, 2023, 1:00 - 3:00 PM
 - Wednesday, July 26, 2023, 1:00 - 3:00 PM
 - Wednesday, September 20, 2023, 1:00 - 3:00 PM
 - Wednesday, November 29, 2023, 1:00 - 3:00 PM

5. Reports

A. Brockton Area Regional Transit Authority (BAT)

Michael Lambert reported on the following items:

- Ridership was down slightly in February, which is typical. Overall, for the year to date ridership is up over last year and about seventy-five per cent of pre-quarantine ridership levels.
- Brockton Area Transit is actively monitoring the development of the new state budget. Governor Healey's draft budget includes an approximately 8% increase in funding to Regional transit Authorities and opportunities for applying for additional discretionary grants.
- Brockton Area Transit is preparing to apply for low and no emission grant which will help fund the Authority's conversion to an electric fleet.
- Brockton Area Transit is working closely with Signature Healthcare Brockton Hospital and other medical services providers following the closing of Signature Healthcare Brockton Hospital.

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

Shawn Bailey reported on the following items:

- GATRA has announced service changes on seven routes, going into effect on March 6, 2023.
- GATRA is hosting a COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic at the Attleborough train station on March 10, 2023 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

C. South Coast Rail Project

Shawn Bailey reported on the following:

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The South Coast Rail (SCR) project will restore commuter rail service between Boston and southeastern Massachusetts by the end of 2023. Taunton, Fall River, and New Bedford are the only major cities within 50 miles of Boston that do not currently have commuter rail service to Boston. SCR will reconnect this region to jobs and generate economic development.

South Coast Rail consists of two phases:

Phase 1 will provide a one-seat ride by extending the existing Middleborough/Lakeville commuter rail line from Boston to Taunton, Fall River, and New Bedford and it will deliver service to the South Coast by late 2023.

Full Build plans to extend Commuter Rail service to continue travel on the Stoughton branch of the Providence/Stoughton line, connecting to more communities in the region. Doing so would result in reconstructing the Canton Center and Stoughton stations to accommodate two rail lines.

In February 2023, work conducted involved fencing installation in eight communities on Fall River & Middleborough Secondary Lines and New Bedford Main Line; utilizing Cotley Street in Berkley to access right-of-way (ROW) for various project activities; daytime shoulder and lane closure on Route 140 Southbound in Taunton for curb and sidewalk installation; daytime track work in Berkley; daytime signal work in Berkley; water main work at the Samuel Barnet Boulevard crossing in New Bedford; daytime roadwork on Route 105 in Middleborough; and signal system installation and testing in seven communities on the Fall River & Middleborough Secondary and New Bedford Main Lines.

Additional work done included daytime construction at station sites, layover sites, and along the right-of-way from Middleborough to New Bedford as well as along the right-of-way from Berkley to Fall River. There was also overnight and daytime transportation of soils by truck to designated project sites as well as detours for various project activities.

If anyone is interested in signing up for weekly updates on the South Coast Rail project, please click on the following link to enter an email address:

https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MADOT/subscriber/new?topic_id=MADOT_30

6. Old Business

A. FFY 2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Implementation

▪ Update on TIP Amendment 1

Bill McNulty provided the following update on the implementation on the implementation of the FFY 2023-2027 TIP, reporting that TIP Amendment 1 had been endorsed by the Old Colony MPO on February 21, 2023. TIP Amendment 1 programmed four MassDOT Community Transit Grant Program awards into the TIP.

Bill McNulty noted that project costs have increased for Project 607403 (Route 138 Corridor Improvement, Stoughton) and 608279 (Intersection Improvements at Central Street (Route 27), Canton

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Street, and Tosca Drive, Stoughton) and that future MPO action to amend the TIP may be needed to accommodate these cost increases.

7. New Business

A. Development of FFY 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Bill McNulty reported on the results of TIP Readiness Day, an annual project status review of projects currently programmed in the existing FFY 2023-2027 TIP and review of projects that could potentially be programmed in the FFY 2024-2028 TIP.

Bill McNulty reported as a result of TIP Readiness Day, Project 608506 (Corridor Improvements on Maquan Street (Route 14), Hanson), currently programmed for Advance Construction in FFY 2026 and FFY 2027, is recommended now for FFY 2027 and FFY 2028 due to concerns that utility issues may not be resolved in time for FFY 2026. The recommendation for Project 606143 (Crescent Street (Route 27) at Quincy Street and Massasoit Boulevard, Brockton) was to deprogram due to lack of activity on this project. All other existing programmed projects appeared to be on track for their current years of programming.

B. Old Colony MPO Measure of Effectiveness Report

▪ Presentation and Report Summary

Shawn Baily provided a presentation on the Old Colony MPO Measure of Effectiveness Report.

Public Participation is a key ingredient in the Old Colony Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) transportation planning efforts. Public Participation not only leads to better projects, studies, and outcomes, but also helps spend limited funding in a manner in line with community and regional goals. In addition to helping develop better projects, public outreach fosters greater trust between citizens and Local, State, and the Federal Government and their representative entities like the Old Colony MPO. Lastly, the MPO is required by State and Federal partners to ensure it is including members of the public in the transportation planning process.

In order ensure the Old Colony MPO is meeting its public participation requirements, measures are necessary to determine whether its Public Participation Plan (PPP) is accomplishing its goals. Through a series of data collection efforts that take place during outreach efforts, the MPO obtains the ability to see where the PPP is succeeding and where there are opportunities for greater participation. This report explores outreach efforts and measures their effectiveness in expanding public participation to members of the public and outside organizations in MPO planning activities.

In order to better understand how the MPO is meeting its commitment to fostering public engagement in all MPO planning activities, it is key to develop a series of measurements to understand the effectiveness of the public outreach efforts. It is through the tracking of public engagements, whether it be in person, via email, through social media or utilizing virtual public engagement, that the MPO can determine if its public outreach efforts are delivering the results that are desired and required.

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The Old Colony MPO tracks all the outreach efforts it conducts. Public meeting attendance is recorded with additional attention given to attendees that are from Title VI protected classes. The MPO tracks the methods it employs in getting information to the public on upcoming meetings, the release of public documents, and the viewing and engagement of the public through its social media presence. Through the collection of this information the MPO gains greater clarity on where it is doing well and where there is a need to increase public engagement.

C. Old Colony 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan – Development Update

Bill McNulty provided an update on the development of the Old Colony Vision 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

Old Colony Planning Council will host an information session virtually via Zoom on March 21, 2023 at 6:00 PM. During this information session, Staff will present an overview of the Vision 20250 Long Range Transportation Plan and discuss the contents of each section (Goals and Objectives, Performance Targets and Measurement, Planning Scenarios, Regional Profile, Highway, Transit, Vulnerable Users, Safety and Security), and welcome guests to ask questions and provide input on their transportation priorities over the life of the Plan.

Collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), and UMASS Donahue Institute continuous, reviewing and socioeconomic (population, households, and employment) estimates for 2030, 2040, and 2050. A final set of figures is anticipated this Spring.

Stakeholder engagement is currently underway. Meetings with stakeholders are being scheduled to discuss their needs and solicit their input into the process. A series of public engagement events (webinars, open houses, information tables) are also being planned and scheduled.

Old Colony Planning Council is currently performing a pavement conditions assessment of the federal-aid eligible roadway network in the Old Colony region. This assessment will be used in developing investment scenarios and an overall investment figure needed to improve and maintain the entire system in a state of good repair.

The Draft 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan will be released for public review and comment later this Spring.

8. Other Business and Public Comment

A. Community Local Technical Assistance Studies

Bill McNulty provided an update of project statuses being prepared through the Old Colony MPO's Local Highway Technical Assistance Program.

The Town of Stoughton has requested Old Colony Planning Council conduct a traffic study with Road

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Safety Audit of the Plain Street Corridor. This traffic study and Road Safety Audit will be completed this Spring.

Project Status Updates

Avon

- South Street Road Safety Audit
Data analysis in progress; Audit to be scheduled

Duxbury

- Traffic Study for Route 3A at Oak Street and Parks Avenue, and Route 3A at Elm Street and Soule Avenue
Data analysis in progress; Audit to be scheduled

Halifax

- Road Safety Audit of Plymouth Street (Route 106) at Pine Street
Data collection underway; RSA to be scheduled.

Kingston

- Road Safety Audit of Landing Road
Data collection underway; RSA to be scheduled.

Stoughton

- Traffic Study and Road Safety Audit of Plain Street Corridor
Data collection planned; Coordination with Town underway.

B. Staff Reviews on ENFs, EIRs, and NPCs

Bill McNulty 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.

Submitting Comments to MEPA

The Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) accepts written comments on projects currently under MEPA review. Comments may be submitted electronically, by mail, via fax, or by hand delivery. Comments submitted to MEPA are public records and should be sent to the following address:

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Secretary Kathleen Theoharides
EEA, Attn: MEPA Office
[Analyst Name], EEA No. _____
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

New Projects

EENF

EEA #16665 – East Bridgewater-Brockton Sewer Extension Project

The proposed sewer extension project includes construction of several thousand feet of gravity and force main pipe and one wastewater pumping station to service a limited area sewer district in the Town of East Bridgewater. Wastewater flows collected at the proposed pump station will be pumped from East Bridgewater across the municipal boundary into the City of Brockton before discharging into Brockton's existing sewer infrastructure. The project triggers MEPA review thresholds for a wastewater service across a municipal boundary and temporary impacts of more than 5,000 square feet of bordering vegetated wetlands.

FEIR Rollover

EEA #16636 – Ellis Brett Pond Dam Repairs – Brockton

The following project is under review:

- Remove remaining brush, stumps and root systems, from within 20 feet of the dam. Unstable portions of the dike will be regraded.
- Regrade the embankment at the dam and associated dike to have a uniform crest with a downstream and upstream slope.
- Provide vegetated articulated concrete block matting.
- Restore gravel access drive along dike to uniform elevation.
- Grass area downgradient of the wetland flags will be restored with a mowable native wetland or conservation seed mix.

Certificates

EEA #16642 Lincoln Logistics - Middleborough

The Certificate states that this project **REQUIRES** the submission of an EIR.

EEA #16642 Lincoln Logistics - Middleborough

The Certificate states that this project **REQUIRES** the submission of an EIR and has a **Special Review Procedure Established**.

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As described in the SRP request, Phase I is at an advanced stage of design and future development of Phase II is in the preliminary stages. The Proponent requested that the SRP allow MEPA review of the two phases to be staggered based on the distinct development and permitting schedule of each phase.

Public Notice

Statewide – Notice of Federal Consistency Review

The Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM) is reviewing the proposal(s) listed below for consistency with its enforceable program policies.

C. Regional Concerns and Local Community Transportation Issues

There were no concerns at this time.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

William McNulty

William McNulty

Principal Transportation Planner

List of Documents for February 2, 2023 Old Colony JTC Meeting

- Minutes of the February 2, 2023 Old Colony JTC Meeting
- Staff Report for March 2, 2023, Old Colony JTC Meeting Agenda Items
- PowerPoint Presentation – Old Colony MPO Measure of Effectiveness Report