

OLD COLONY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)

Minutes of the Old Colony MPO Virtual Meeting, March 21, 2023 - 10:00 A.M., Held Via Zoom

Signatories Present:

Stephen Woelfel, Representing Gina Fiandaca, Secretary and CEO, MassDOT
Pam Haznar, Representing Jonathan Gulliver, Administrator, MassDOT Highway Division
Kamiya Parkin, Representing Mayor Robert Sullivan, City of Brockton
Lee Hartmann, Representing Betty Cavacco, Chair, Select Board, Town of Plymouth
Meredith Anderson, Clerk, Board of Selectmen, West Bridgewater
Dan Salvucci, Vice-Chair, Board of Selectmen, Whitman
Michael Lambert, Administrator, Brockton Area Transit (BAT)
Valerie Massard, President, Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC)

Others Present:

Al DeGirolamo, Office of Senator Michael Brady
Glenn Geiler, Brockton Area Transit
Andrew Reovan, FHWA
Steven Findlen, Howard Stein Hudson
Raissah Kouame, MassDOT
Derek Krevat, MassDOT
Barbara Lachance, MassDOT
Andrew Wang, MassDOT
Alan Castaline, MBTA Advisory Board
Tracy Altrich, West Bridgewater
Linda Dolne, West Bridgewater
Shawn Bailey, OCPC
Ray Guarino, OCPC
Guoqiang Li, OCPC
Charles Kilmer, OCPC
Bill McNulty, OCPC
Jay Song, OCPC
Mary Waldron, OCPC

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chairperson Stephen Woelfel called the meeting to order at 10:01 A.M. and Charles Kilmer read the meeting accessibility statement and the Title VI Notice of Protection Statement. Charles Kilmer then conducted the roll and announced there was a full quorum present.

2. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

3. Minutes of the February 21, 2023 Meeting

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Chairperson Woelfel asked the MPO Members for comments or changes regarding the minutes of the February 21, 2023 meeting.

Dan Salvucci made a motion and Meri Anderson seconded to endorse the minutes of the February 21, 2023 meeting.

There being no comments or changes, the Old Colony MPO then voted via roll call to endorse the minutes of the February 21, 2023 Old Colony MPO Meeting.

4. Brockton Area Transit (BAT) Report

Michael Lambert reported that BAT is awaiting the release of the State' Capital Investment Plan (CIP), which BAT will review upon its release. BAT is moving forward with its long-term capital plans which include diesel & electric bus procurement as well as electric bus infrastructure installation. Mr. Lambert reported that BAT conducted a soft launch of the Rockland micro transit service in December, and while it is still in the soft launch phase, ridership on that service had doubled by February, and BAT expects a continued increase into March. This service is a pilot program that only four or five transit systems across Massachusetts have and it will be an example of making any necessary adjustments or replications elsewhere.

Chairperson Woelfel informed Michael that MassDOT has a new Manager of Transit Planning, Jonathan Church, formerly of the Boston MPO.

5. FFY 2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments and/or Adjustments

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

Bill McNulty presented the Draft TIP Amendment 2 for a review and potential release for a 21-day Public Review and Comment Period. Amendment 2 includes the following three (3) changes:

FFY 2023

- **STOUGHTON – CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS ON ROUTE 138 (607403) AC PHASE 1 OF 2**
 - Total Project Cost Increase to \$17,404,332
 - Advance Construction Phase 1: \$8,411,033 (Phase 1 amount decreased by \$822,967; Difference along with increase is cost to be added to Phase 2 in FFY 2024)
- **STOUGHTON - INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AND RELATED WORK AT CENTRAL STREET, CANTON STREET AND TOSCA DRIVE (608279)**
 - Total Project Cost Increase to \$5,242,643 (Increase of \$999,666)

FFY 2024

- **STOUGHTON - CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS ON ROUTE 138 (607403) AC PHASE 2 OF 2**
 - Total Project Cost Increase to \$17,404,332
 - Advance Construction Phase 2: \$8,963,299 (Phase 2 amount increased by \$6,098,947)

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Mr. McNulty then asked the MPO to consider releasing Amendment 2 for a 21-day Public Review and Comment Period. This Amendment will then be on the April MPO Meeting agenda for potential endorsement where any comments received will be presented.

Chairperson Woelfel asked if there is a motion to release Amendment 2 for a 21-day Public Review and Comment Period. The motion was made by Dan Salvucci and seconded by Meri Anderson.

Dan Salvucci asked if the increase was due to an increase in material cost; Mr. McNulty stated he believes it is due to an increase in material and labor cost as well as general inflation.

The Old Colony MPO then voted unanimously via roll call to release Amendment 2 for a 21-day Public Review and Comment Period.

6. Development of FFY 2024-2028 Transportation Improvements Program (TIP)

▪ Review of Scenarios and Potential Determination of Preferred Set of Projects

Bill McNulty presented the development of the FFY 2024-2028 TIP Development and reviewed three project programming scenarios .

Chairperson Woelfel asked if the MPO would be voting on a preferred scenarios at this meeting or reviewing and voting at the April MPO meeting. Mr. McNulty stated that the intention is to vote on one scenario to move forward with. Charles Kilmer followed up with confirming Bill's statement and that over the next month will entail crafting the entire TIP document have that ready for the April MPO meeting for review and potentially release for a 21-day Public Review and Comment Period.

Bill McNulty then proceeded to review the three Scenarios of projects. Last month, a TIP Readiness Day was held where the projects in FFY 2023-2027 TIP were reviewed in terms of readiness and to identify potential projects for FFY 2028. Most projects in the existing TIP were determined to be eligible for their current programming year, with the exception of two projects. One was Project 608506 (Hanson - Corridor Improvements on Route 14 (Maquan Street)), and the other was Project 606143 (Brockton - Intersection Improvements at Crescent Street (Route 27)/ Quincy Street/ Massasoit Boulevard). Project 608506 was recommended to move from 2026 & 2027 to 2027 & 2028 due to concerns of its readiness for 2026. Project 606143 was recommended to be removed from financial programming in the TIP due to lack of progress and right-of-way issues.

Scenario 1 retains the Hanson and Brockton projects in 2026 & 2027 and adds in Projects 612525 (Abington - Intersection Improvements at Randolph Street/ Richard A. Fitts Drive (Route 139) at Chestnut Street and Old Randolph Street) and 612769 (Hanover - Corridor Improvements on Route 139 (Hanover Street) at Main Street, Center Street, and Silver Street).

For the Statewide Funded Projects, three were added: Project 612770 (Abington - Intersection Improvements at Route 18 (Bedford Street) and Route 123 (Brockton Avenue), 608615 (Kingston - Bridge Replacement, Smiths Lane over Route 3 (Pilgrim Highway), and 611891 (Stoughton - Intersection Improvements at Canton Street (Route 27), School Street, and Summer Street). These three Statewide

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Funded Projects are the same selected State funded projects in all three Scenarios.

Scenario 2 incorporates the suggestions from TIP Readiness Day. It moves Project 608506 entirely to FFY 2027, removes Project 606143, programs Project 612525 in FFY 2027, keeps Project 612769 in FFY 2028, and programs Project 612262 (Brockton - Intersection Improvements at Route 123 (Belmont Street), Pearl Street, and Stonehill Street in FFY 2028.

Scenario 3 removes Project 606143, programs Project 608506 to FFY 2027 and 2028, programs Project 612525 in FFY 2027, and programs Project 612769 in FFY 2028.

Chairperson Woelfel asked if OCPC Staff had a Preferred Scenario to recommend. Mr. McNulty stated that the preferred Scenario from staff is Scenario 2. This scenario replaces one Brockton project with another one as well as moves up Project 612525 to FFY 2027. Chairperson Woelfel asked about any updates on Project 612262 (Brockton - Intersection Improvements at Route 123 (Belmont Street), Pearl Street, and Stonehill Street since TIP Readiness Day. Mr. McNulty stated he was unaware of any updates, but that the project is feasible. Charles Kilmer noted that during TIP Readiness Day, MassDOT indicated FFY 2028 would be okay for programming. Mary Waldron stated that she and Charles Kilmer meet annually with Brockton officials (Mayor's Office, DPW, Planning, Engineering, etc.) to present and review TIP Projects.

Pam Haznar stated that MassDOT supports project 606143 and the 25% Design was submitted in 2015, and because it is eight years old, it would have to start over with design submissions. When Brockton is ready to address this Project again, MassDOT will meet with them to continue the efforts to move this project forward. Pam Haznar confirmed that Project 612262 was recommended for FFY 2028, that a Designer is on board, and that a survey has been completed, and they will be scheduling a meeting with Brockton and OCPC. Pam Haznar commented that if Project 608506 in Hanson was not evenly split between FFYs 2027 and 2028, then Project 612262 could potentially be moved into FFY 2027 2028 in Scenario 3 (where Project 612262 is not listed). Lee Hartmann asked Charles Kilmer about Pam Haznar's comments about the potential allocation of funds to possibly bring Project 612262 into Scenario 3. Charles Kilmer said it is a possibility by adjusting the funds for Project 608506, but then the amount of FFY 2028 projects would be identical to Scenario 2, with the difference of Project 608506 would be split instead of all in one year.

Al DeGirolamo stated that Senator Brady has been in favor of Project 606143 for many years and asked what would need to be done to get that project back on track. Charles Kilmer stated that this project was first introduced by MassDOT's Project Review Committee in 2010 with the 25% Design Plan submitted in 2015. Since then, design submissions and with the traffic data outdated, a resubmission of an updated 25% Design submission is required. Also as previously mentioned, the right-of-way is another issue that would need to be addressed and the City of Brockton did not have the fiscal capacity to acquire that right-of-way. Brockton has made short-term improvements at this intersection.

Valerie Massard stated she spent time reviewing the Scenarios before the meeting and states she supports Scenario 2.

Lee Hartmann stated that he motions to accept Scenario 2 as the Preferred Scenario and Dan Salvucci

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seconded the motion.

The Old Colony MPO then voted via roll call to accept Scenario 2. Kamiya Parkin abstained from the vote

Charles Kilmer stated that he would like to review the draft transit investments with the STIP and welcomed Michael Lambert to speak on them. Michael Lambert stated that the items BAT is submitting for acquisition are typical Capital items (maintenance (parking garage, maintenance facility, or Intermodal Centre), bus shelters, ADA ramps, etc.).

7. Development of FFY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

▪ Discussion of Universe of Projects

Charles Kilmer presented on the development of the Old Colony FFY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program. Any feedback or suggestions are welcome from Signatories, Delegates, and Alternates. Charles Kilmer then reviewed the Universe of Projects for Element 3000 of the UPWP:

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Lee Hartmann stated that the projects and background information provided for the Kingston and Plymouth projects speak well to the needs of the projects in those areas. Valerie Massard and Pam Haznar concurred with Lee Hartmann's statement. Pam Haznar followed up by stating that OCPC provides valuable information when conducting traffic studies and that Route 3A is a corridor that needs attention.

8. Development of the 2050 Old Colony Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) – Update and Status Report

Bill McNulty provided a status update on the progress of the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan. Initially, the goals and objectives of this Plan were developed and more recently, the chapters of the Report are being written (highway, transit, vulnerable roadway users, etc.). Staff have been working with other RPAs in Massachusetts as well as MassDOT in developing socioeconomic projections for the Plan, which are near completion. Staff is hosting a webinar later tonight (March 21, 2023 at 6PM) to provide an overview of the Plan, provide the public an opportunity to meet the Staff preparing this Plan, and voice their priorities for the region. After providing an overview of the major chapters, the webinar will be open for any members of the public to provide feedback. Bill McNulty then discussed the survey for the LRTP (which is still open) and asked anybody to take it who has not had the chance to do so. The following slide had a QR code and a link to register for the webinar.

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

Charles Kilmer reported on the following items:

Cape Cod Bridges Program Virtual Public Information Meetings
March 22, 2023 at 6:00 PM - Bourne Bridge Meeting
March 29, 2023 at 6:00 PM - Sagamore Bridge Meeting

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Two virtual public information meetings are scheduled to provide updates on the Cape Cod Bridges Program. MassDOT will present the status of the Program, interchange alternatives for the Bourne Bridge on March 22 at 6:00 PM, the Sagamore Bridge on March 29 at 6:00 PM, and also provide next steps at both meetings. The Cape Cod Bridges Program includes the replacement of the Bourne and Sagamore bridges, provides new connections to the local roadway network and improves multimodal accommodations within the Cape Cod Canal area.

There will be an opportunity for public comments and questions following the formal presentation. Public input will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings>.

MassDOT District 5: Bridge bundle project in Duxbury and Plymouth March 30, 2023 at 6:00 PM

A virtual design public hearing will be hosted by MassDOT to present the design for the proposed District 5: Bridge Bundle Design-Build project in Duxbury and Plymouth, MA.

The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed District 5: Bridge Bundle Design-Build project for the preservation of the East Street over Route 3 (Pilgrims Highway) bridge in Duxbury, the River Street over Plimoth Plantation Highway bridge in Plymouth and the Jordan Road over Route 3 (Pilgrims Highway) in Plymouth. All views and comments submitted in response to the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

The proposed project consists of, but is not limited to, the design and construction of bridge deck replacements, bridge preservation, traffic management, pavement markings and signage, utility protection and other related bridge and highway work. Project inquiries, written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking may be submitted to Carrie E. Lavalley, P.E., Chief Engineer, via e-mail to massdotmajorprojects@dot.state.ma.us or via US Mail to Suite 7210, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Major Projects, Project File No. 613005.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings>.

2023 MassDOT Transportation Innovation Conference May 2, 2023 at 7:45 AM to May 3, 2023 at 4:30 PM DCU Center, 50 Foster Street, Worcester, Massachusetts

The annual MassDOT Transportation Innovation Conference provides a forum for innovative transportation systems, management ideas, and initiatives. Each year, the conference provides an important opportunity for transportation practitioners to share knowledge, sponsor peer-to-peer learning, and collaborate on issues of mutual interest. A specific focus of this year's conference will be on MassDOT's investment in infrastructure. Conference participants will have the opportunity to discuss the advantages and challenges associated with the innovative methods and technologies being presented.

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MassDOT has created a forum for users called SWAG to share applications, analyses and ideas that use GIS technology. At this year's Innovation Conference, MassDOT wants to expand SWAG to a large-scale collaborative to allow the greater GIS community to share how they are innovating and building new and exciting GIS tools. This collaboration will be an important focus of the Innovation Conference and will include GIS experts onsite for questions and hands-on tutorials covering various GIS tools.

The event is open to all transportation practitioners from federal, state, and local transportation agencies, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, transit agencies, academia, and private industry.

To register, please visit: <https://www.umasstransportationcenter.org/assnfe/ev.asp?ID=5162>

Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance Grant - Now Accepting Applications!

The Division of Ecological Restoration (DER), Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game, seeks proposals from Massachusetts local government units interested in replacing undersized, perched, and/or degraded culverts and bridges located in areas of high ecological value. The purpose of this funding is to encourage eligible applicants to replace structures with better designed crossings that meet improved structural and environmental design standards and climate resiliency criteria. In general, **individual awards have ranged from \$25,000 to \$400,000** for single stream crossing replacements, depending on the project phases and work proposed. Awards over \$200,000 are anticipated for construction projects only.

Only projects that intend to meet the goals of the Massachusetts Stream Crossing Standards will be considered for funding. Projects should be designed to facilitate fish & wildlife passage, maintain the natural movement of water and sediment through the stream crossing, and reconnect upstream and downstream habitat. Use of these Standards to design replacement structures or structure removals improves river function and access for fish and wildlife, and reduces hazards to public safety, such as flooding, culvert failure, and road washout.

Massachusetts local government units are eligible to apply for funding to support advancing single or multiple culvert replacement project(s) on the same local connected stream network toward completion.

Interested communities should view the full announcement, including funding, eligibility and evaluation criteria that can be found on COMMBUYS:

<https://www.commbuys.com/bs0/external/bidDetail.sdo?docId=BD-23-1046-DER-FWE01-85277>

and DER's website:

<https://www.mass.gov/how-to/culvert-replacement-municipal-assistance-grant-program>

The application deadline for this grant opportunity is 3PM March 31, 2023.

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

The Old Colony MPO members are respectfully requested to confirm the dates and times of their next virtual meeting(s).

2023

- **April 18, 2023 at 10 AM**
- **May 16, 2023 at 10 AM**
- **June 20, 2023 at 10 AM**
- **July 18, 2023 at 10 AM**

10. Adjournment

Chairperson Krevat adjourned the meeting at 10:54 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Shawn Bailey

Shawn Bailey, Senior Transportation Planner

List of Documents for the March 21, 2023 Old Colony MPO Meeting

- Minutes of February 21, 2023, Old Colony MPO Meeting
- Staff Report for March 21, 2023 Old Colony MPO Meeting Agenda Items
- Vision 2050: The Future of Transportation - Survey Announcement
- Vision 2050: The Future of Transportation - Informational Webinar Announcement
- Cape Cod Bridges Program Public Information Meeting Announcements
- MassDOT District 5: Bridge Bundle Design Public Hearing Announcement - Duxbury and Plymouth
- OCPC Route 18 Corridor Study Survey Announcement

