

# **OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)**

## **Meeting Minutes of the Old Colony Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) Hybrid Meeting – Held In Person (70 School Street, Brockton) and Virtually Via Zoom March 7, 2024 at 12:00 P.M.**

### **ATTENDANCE**

Abington	Bruce Hughes	GATRA	Mary Ellen DeFrias
Abington	John Stone	MassDOT	Raissah Kouame
Abington	Kevin Cogan	MassDOT District 5	Barbara Lachance
Bridgewater	Shane O'Brien	MassDOT	Richard Bilski
Bridgewater	Greg Tansey	CDM Smith	Lisa Sherman
Bridgewater	Sristhi Jain	Howard Stein Hudson	Steven Findlen
Brockton	Alycia Montrond	Tighe & Bond	Dan Murphy
Brockton	Rob May	OCPC	Bill McNulty
Brockton	Celia Canavan	OCPC	Charles Kilmer
Easton	Greg Swan	OCPC	Ray Guarino
Halifax	Jonathan Selig	OCPC	Mary Waldron
Hanson	Don Howard	OCPC	Kyle Mowatt
Pembroke	Becky Coletta	OCPC	Paul Umano
Whitman	Dan Salvucci	OCPC	Guoqiang Li
Whitman	Noreen O'Toole	OCPC	Shawn Bailey
BAT	Kelly Forrester		Tina Guarino
BAT	Michael Lambert		

### **1. Call to Order and Introductions**

Noreen O'Toole called the meeting to order at 12:03 P.M. and then read the Meeting Accessibility Statement and the Title VI Notice of Protection Statement. Bill McNulty then conducted the roll call.

### **2. Public Comments**

There were no public comments at this time.

### **3. Minutes of February 1, 2024 Meeting**

Chairperson O'Toole asked if there is a motion to approve the February 1, 2024 Meeting Minutes. A motion was made by Dan Salvucci and seconded by Rob May to approve the Meeting Minutes from February 1, 2024.

*The Old Colony JTC voted via roll call to approve the February 1, 2024 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:

- Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance Grant Program – Division of Ecological Restoration (DER), Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game
- Route 24 over Canton Street Bridge Replacement Virtual Public Information Meeting- Monday, March 11, 2024 – 6 PM – 7:30 PM
- Massachusetts Project Intake Tool (MaPIT) 5.0 Virtual Classroom – March 21, March 27, March 28 (each at 10 AM)
- Federal Funds & Infrastructure Office
- Ray Guarino's Retirement Party – March 7, 2024

## **5. Reports**

### ***A. Brockton Area Regional Transit Authority (BAT)***

Michael Lambert reported on the following items:

- Ridership continues to increase, with daily ridership matching or exceeding pre-pandemic ridership.
- Weekend service was recently expanded.
- BAT continues to look for avenues to increase service with a focus now on late and overnight service.
- BAT will attend the Annual Legislative Luncheon, as it continues work to ensure increased funding for transit.

Bruce Hughes asked Michael Lambert about the status on the electric bus program. Michael stated that BAT has 5 buses to be delivered at the end of this fiscal year throughout June. BAT is working closely with National Grid to install charging infrastructure. Bruce asked if they will be capable of running all day. BATs schedule and route works well with electric buses as the routes are tight in a small area. The buses will be able to make their routes and charge back at the BAT Centre. Bruce asked what will happen to the Diesel Buses. Michael Lambert stated that Diesel buses will continue to run as BAT phases in the electric buses.

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

Mary Ellen DeFrias reported on the following items:

- GATRA has rolled out full Sunday service across all routes. GATRA is now running service 7 days a week. GATRA is very encouraged by the ridership numbers they are seeing.
- Service hours will be looked at and will determine where it makes sense to increase service.

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- Halifax has joined GATRA as a service community.
- Transit App is now live to track buses.

Jonathan Selig stated that the Town of Halifax is excited to be a service area member of GATRA..

### ***C. South Coast Rail Project***

Shawn Bailey reported on the following:

In February 2024, work conducted involved fencing installation in five communities; daytime roadway sign installations near stations in Middleborough and Taunton; construction of a pedestrian bridge over Route 18 in New Bedford, including overnight lane closures over seven days for falsework (temporary support steel structures) installation; return of Mass Coastal Railroad daytime and nighttime freight operations on the New Bedford Main and New Bedford Secondary lines; daytime brush cutting and tree trimming along the railroad right-of-way in eight communities; and signal system installation and testing in seven communities.

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 from Berkley to Fall River. There was also transportation of soil by truck to designated project sites.

Michael Lambert asked if a date for Phase 1 opening has been determined. Shawn Bailey stated that there has not been an opening date announced. Final stations are looking to be completed this month or next. Looking at late Spring/Early Summer.

Chairperson O'Toole asked about SCR Phase 2. Shawn stated that once Phase 1 is completed, it is expected that more information will come out about Phase 2.

## **6. Old Business**

### ***A. FFY 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Implementation***

Bill McNulty discussed a couple project updates:

- BROCKTON - ROUTE 123 (CENTRE STREET) AT PLYMOUTH STREET SIGNALIZATION AND GEOMETRIC IMPROVEMENTS (609052)
  - **Will Not Advertise in FFY 2024**
  - 25% Package received by MassDOT (3/16/2023).
  - Cost Estimate is \$2,792,790.

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- PLYMPTON - BRIDGE REPLACEMENT, WINNETUXET ROAD OVER WINNETUXET RIVER (609435)
  - 100% Package Received 1/19/2024.
  - Cost Estimate is \$ \$1,753,213.

### 7. New Business

#### A. *Old Colony FFY 2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development – Results of TIP Readiness Days*

Bill McNulty discussed the timeline and key dates for the FFY 2025-2029 TIP Development.

Date	Progress / Milestone
Underway	Review of Project Statuses Consultation with Project Proponents and MassDOT
February 6-7, 2024	TIP Readiness Days
March 19, 2024	Old Colony MPO Reviews Scenarios and Potentially Selects Preferred Set of Projects
April 16, 2024	Old Colony MPO Reviews Draft FFY 2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and Potentially Releases to 21-Day Public Review and Comment Period
May 21, 2024	Old Colony MPO Reviews Results of 21-Day Public Review and Comment Period, and Potentially Endorses Old Colony FFY 2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program

The following summarizes the projects with risks/concerns that were brought up during TIP Readiness Day:

Programmed Year	Project	TIP Readiness Day Recommendation	Risks/Concerns
2024	Brockton – Intersection Improvements at Centre Street (123) and Plymouth Street	2025	High risk due to municipal ROW and Endangered Species (bats)
2025	Brockton – Intersection Improvements at Lyman Street/Grove Street/Summer Street & Replacement of Grove Street Bridge	2025	Some concerns about City's capacity on ROW delivery in 2025 with other priority project (609052); please coordinate with City on preferred years
2025	Plymouth – Town Brook Stream Restoration: Deep Water Culvert Replacement	2025	Defer to Plymouth on recommended program year
2027	Hanson – Corridor Improvements on Route 14 (Maquan Street), from the Pembroke T.L. to Indian Head Street and Related Work	2028	A lot of ROW and permitting concerns; design needs to progress, old plans (2020); busy designer

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2027	Duxbury – Bridge Replacement, D-14-003 (438), powder point avenue over Duxbury Bay	2027	Complex permitting and utility impacts may be controversial around tree removal (i.e. lengthier process). Project Manager to coordinate with designer
2028	Abington – Intersection Improvements at Route 18 (Bedford Street) and Route 123 (Brockton Avenue)	2028	New project manager, straightforward project. If it makes progress, might advance sooner – evaluate next year

Bill McNulty stated that Old Colony recently updated the Transportation Evaluation Criteria used in evaluating potential TIP projects. This is the system OCPC uses to score projects in the Universe of Projects to determine how they rank against each other. This helps us determine which projects to program. Since this was a brand new scoring system, we had to go back and re-score all the projects.

Bruce Hughes asked when we will see construction in Abington. Bill McNulty stated that the Chestnut and Hancock project is programmed in 2026.

### **B. Route 3A / 53 Corridor Study - Kingston** **▪ Project Update**

Bill McNulty provided a project update on the Route 3A / 53 Corridor Study.

The Study purpose is to identify, quantify, and study in depth the Route 3A Corridor in Kingston from the Duxbury Town Line to the Plymouth Town Line. This planning level study will assess existing conditions and operations in relation to service needs for the community, regional commuting and the economy, assess current zoning and land use along the corridor and result in the development of short term and long-term actions that will enhance circulation and traffic flow efficiency and improve safety, as well as providing recommendations relative to economic gaps and zoning recommendations for the town to consider. Staff will review volume to capacity ratios, levels-of-service, crash analyses, pedestrian and bicycle traffic and infrastructure, pavement conditions, traffic control, and signage and overall physical condition. Public input will be included as part of the project identification process. Staff will utilize the Old Colony Metropolitan Planning Organization's Congestion Management Process, Safety Management System, Pavement Management System, and Land Use Management System to assist in the identification and development of the short term and long-term recommendations for motorized, transit, and non- motorized modes.

This corridor study will help the Town identify and develop economic incentives and zoning improvements in addition to understanding traffic patterns and understanding where improvements can be made. The project team will work with Kinson business owners and the Kingston Collection to understand where consumers are coming from and how they use this Corridor.

So far there has been a lot of data collection and analysis. We have met with the Town and discussed land use surveys. We have brought in our comprehensive planning team to look at how this area can grow in the future.

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## **C. Route 139 Corridor Study – Stoughton**

### **▪ Project Update**

Guoqiang Li provided a project update on the Route 139 Corridor Study.

The purpose of the comprehensive Route 139 Corridor Transportation Planning Study is to evaluate in-depth the total distance of approximately 3.4-mile segment along Route 139 Corridor between the northern Stoughton Town Line (bordering with Randolph, MA) and Route 27, also known as Park Street/Washington Street within the Town of Stoughton of Massachusetts. Route 139 Corridor is mostly under local jurisdiction except that the segment (between Turnpike St/Hawes Way and Stoughton and Randolph Town Line) at the interchange area of Route 139 over Route 24 is under MassDOT jurisdiction. Route 139 is known as Pleasant Street and Turnpike Street within our study area.

This planning level study will assess existing conditions and operations in relation to service needs for the community, regional commuting, and the economy and result in the development of short-term and long-term actions that will enhance circulation and traffic flow efficiency and improve safety. Staff will review and analyze the traffic volume, speeds, vehicle types, capacity ratios, levels-of-service, collisions, access management design, pedestrian and bicycle traffic and infrastructure, pavement conditions, traffic control, signage, and overall physical layouts and operation. Public input will be included as part of the project identification process.

### **Study Process**

1. Public Outreach
  - a. Public Survey completed in English and four other languages.
  - b. Survey opens between March and June in 2024
  - c. Project website developed.
2. Stoughton Transportation Task Force Meetings
  - a. Kick-off Meeting in January 2024
  - b. Drive-through and Field Audit in Feb 2024
  - c. Field Studies and analysis
3. Assessed and Analyzed Existing Conditions
  - a. Major intersections
  - b. Segments
4. Compile and Develop Findings and Recommendations
5. Facilitate Stakeholders, Regional Partners Coordination Meetings
6. Conduct Community Outreach, Public meeting.
7. Create Route 139 Corridor Study Final Report completed by September 2024

### **Preliminary Findings**

- Pleasant Street (Route 139) & Washington Street (Route 138) – Tight turning radius; excessive queue length southbound left turn at peak hours; signal display blockage by the utility pole; inadequate width of sidewalk on north-east side of Washington Street; pedestrian crossing safety in the area

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- Pleasant Street (Route 139) & Lincoln Street – High crash location; high pedestrian crossing location; speeding issues; no defined curbs; vehicles not stopping at stop sign; slope along Pleasant and Lincoln Street (west) worsen the safety conditions; no defined crosswalk; town made multiple improvements to the location and have consultant to help re-design
- Pleasant Street (Route 139) & Central Street – Speeding issues; slope along pleasant Street not ideal; no bicycle lanes; crosswalk too long for pedestrian crossing safety; Town has a consultant working on signal system upgrades and loop detector relocation
- Pleasant Street (Route 139) & Pine Street – Poor intersection design; no formal curbs; no bicycle and pedestrian accommodations; Town has a consultant working on the redesign of intersection
- Pleasant Street (Route 139) & Turnpike Street – Tight turning radius at north-east corner; excessive queue length southbound left turn; signal display blockage by the utility pole; inadequate width of sidewalk on north-east side of Washington Street; pedestrian safety
- Turnpike Street (Route 139) & Hawes Way – Speeding; high volume and turning movement during peak hour and busy shopping seasons; lack of bicycling and pedestrian accommodations; excessive long crosswalk without refugee island; declining slope to the north direction and tight horizontal curvature noted
- Lindelof Ave (Route 139) & Technology Center Drive/Kay Way – Speeding; lack of bicycling and pedestrian accommodations; pavement marking, striping needed; inadequate road width for an exclusive right turn from Kay Way; noted older signal system, smaller signal displays

### **8. Other Business and Public Comment**

#### ***A. Community Local Technical Assistance Studies***

Bill McNulty reported on the following items:

The Old Colony Planning Council completed a traffic study of the Route 3A Corridor in Plymouth, from the Kingston Town Line to Sandwich Street. Traffic conditions, crash history, and land use along the 3.5-mile section of corridor were assessed to determine most appropriate speed limits based on Federal Highway Administration guidance. The results of this analysis have been distributed to the Town.

The Town of Plympton has requested a traffic study with road safety audit for the intersection of Palmer Road (Route 58) and Center Street. Data collection for this Study will be performed this Spring.

#### **Project Status Updates**

##### **Bridgewater**

- Traffic Counts on Multiple Roadways  
*Data collection planned for March 2024.*

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## Duxbury / Kingston

- Traffic Study of Landing Road / Loring Street / Parks Street Corridor  
*Data collection planned for May 2024.*

## Plympton

- Heavy Commercial Vehicle Exclusion Zone Study for Multiple Roadways  
*Data collection planned for March 2024.*
- Road Safety Audit for Palmer Road (Route 58) and Center Street  
*Data collection planned for Spring 2024.*

### ***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.

### **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:

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

### **New Projects**

None

### **Certificates**

**EEA #11085R – South Weymouth Naval Air Station Redevelopment Project – Abington, Rockland, Weymouth**

*Notice of Project Change (NPC)*

Certificate states that this project requires an Environmental Impact Report.



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## **Public Notices**

### **Notice of Application for a 401 Water Quality Certificate – Duxbury**

This application is in regards to the replacement of two existing bridges carrying Route 3 NB and SB, over Franklin Street in Duxbury.

### **Notice of Application for a 401 Water Quality Certificate – Pembroke**

This application is in regards to the Center Street (Route 36) Reconstruction Project.

### **Notice of Submission of a Yearly Operational Plan – Abington, Kingston, Avon, Plymouth, Whitman, Duxbury, Brockton, Stoughton**

This Yearly Operational Plan is to apply herbicides along Eversource Rights of Way.

### ***C. Regional Concerns and Local Community Transportation Issues***

Bruce Hughes stated that the Abington Planning Board had public hearing last night on the MBTA Housing Plan. That is going to Town Meeting on April 1, 2024.

Bruce Hughes stated that the Citizens Planning Training Collaborative is having their annual conference on Saturday, March 16, 2024. If you are an AICP planner you can get a lot of credits.

## **9. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Kyle Mowatt*

Kyle Mowatt

Senior Transportation Planner

### **List of Documents for March 7, 2024 Old Colony JTC Meeting**

- Minutes of the February 1, 2024 Old Colony JTC Meeting
- Staff Report for March 7, 2024, Old Colony JTC Meeting Agenda Items
- Presentation: Route 3A / 53 Corridor (Kingston) Study
- Presentation: Route 139 Corridor (Stoughton) Study