

# **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 September 2, 2021 at 12:00 P.M.**

### **ATTENDANCE**

Abington	Bruce Hughes	VHB	Rob Cahoon
Avon	Bill Fitzgerald	BETA Group	Greg Lucas
Brockton	Rob May	Senator Michael Brady's Office	Al DeGirolamo
Easton	Greg Swan	Tighe & Bond	Dan Murphy
Easton	David Field	GPI	Sid Kashi
Hanson	Don Howard	BETA Group	Dan McCormack
Plymouth	James Downey	WATD	David Cedrone
Stoughton	Joe Scardino	OCPC	Kyle Mowatt
West Bridgewater	Meredith Anderson	OCPC	Charles Kilmer
Whitman	Dan Salvucci	OCPC	Shawn Bailey
BAT	Glenn Geiler	OCPC	Guoqiang Li
MassDOT District 5	Barbara Lachance	OCPC	Mary Waldron
Mass Development	Mary Ellen DeFrias		
GPI	David Price		

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

Vice Chairperson Dan Salvucci called the meeting to order at 12:01 P.M. and then read the Meeting Accessibility Statement and the Title VI Notice of Protection Statement. Charles Kilmer then conducted the roll call.

### **2. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

### **3. Minutes of August 5, 2021 Meeting**

Vice Chairperson Dan Salvucci asked if there is a motion to approve the August 5, 2021 Meeting Minutes. A motion was made by Don Howard and seconded by Rob May to approve the Meeting Minutes from August 5, 2021.

*The Old Colony JTC voted unanimously to approve the August 5, 2021 Meeting Minutes.*

### **4. Communications**

Shawn Bailey reviewed the contents of the communications staff report. Included were letters of

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correspondence, as well as notices of workshops and conferences. They are as follows:

- Correspondence from Mary-Joe Perry, MassDOT District 5 Highway Director, to Mayor Robert Sullivan, Brockton, regarding MassDOT Project Review Committee (PRC) approval of Project number 612262: Intersection Improvements at Route 123 (Belmont Street), Pearl Street and Stonehill Street.(August 2, 2021)
- Correspondence from Mary-Joe Perry, MassDOT District 5 Highway Director, to Connor Read, Town Administrator, Easton, regarding the MassDOT Project Review Committee (PRC) approval of Project number 612269: Improvements on Foundry Street (Route 106/123) for design only. (August 2, 2021)
- Massachusetts Project Intake Tool (MaPIT) 3.0 – Virtual classes will be offered on October 6, 2021; October 20, 2021; and October 27, 2021.
- 2021-2022 Safe Routes to School Signs and Line Program – Application period opened Wednesday, August 18, and all applications are due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, September 17, 2021.

### **5. Reports**

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

Glenn Geiler reported on the following:

- BAT anticipates that the joint agreement between MassDOT, the MBTA, and Brockton Area Transit that has provided reduced Commuter Rail fares between Zones 4 and 1A for Brockton residents will be extended until March, 2022. BAT thanked MassDOT and the MBTA for their partnership and making this happen
- Ridership remains steady around 50% of pre-pandemic levels, averaging 5,000 passengers per day.
- Brockton Area Transit is working with OCPC on producing BAT's Ridership Report, along with a Bus Lane Study.
- BAT is working on a larger project in support of their CRTP to improve and add new bus shelters with lighting. BAT is open to recommendations for new locations
- The weekend of September 4 and September 5, 2021 is the last weekend for BAT's free fare summer program.

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

Shawn Bailey reported on the following:

- GATRA is hosting a series of upcoming public meetings regarding route adjustments on their system.
- GATRA Go service has been successful. A third vehicle will be added for the GATRA Go service fleet

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

Shawn Bailey reported on the following:

- In August, track materials were delivered by rail along the New Bedford Main Line. New track installation was conducted at multiple locations. Tree clearing continued from Myricks Junction in Berkley heading south. Construction on the replacement of multiple culverts continued. Replacement of the railroad bridge over Assonet River in Lakeville continued. And work at multiple railroad grade crossings that resulted in street closures.
- Additional work done included site preparation, drainage and utility installation, tree clearing, and installing erosion controls along the railroad right-of-way from Middleborough to New Bedford and on the Fall River Secondary.

### **6. Old Business**

#### **A. FFY 2021-2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Implementation**

Charles Kilmer reported that all three projects programmed in FFY 2021 have been advertised for construction bids. They are as follows:

- AVON – INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT HARRISON BOULEVARD AND POND STREET (608086)
  - Construction bids opened on March 2, 2021. Low bid was \$3,998,924.70 was submitted by George R. Cairns & Sons Inc. of Windham, NH
  - Cost Estimate is \$4,969,007
- EASTON – ROUTE 123 (DEPOT STREET) RECONSTRUCTION FROM NEWELL CIRCLE TO ROUTE 138 (607217)
  - Bids opened on January 12, 2021. Low bid was \$10,134,494 submitted by RJV Construction Corporation of Canton, MA
  - Cost Estimate is \$10,502,923
- STOUGHTON – IMPROVEMENTS AT RICHARD WILKINS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (SRTS) (608829)
  - Bids opened on July 7, 2021. Low bid was \$2,624,673 submitted by Aqua Line Utility Inc. of Weymouth, MA
  - Design Public Hearing held June 17, 2020
  - Cost Estimate is \$3,171,443 (TFPCC Cost increased to \$4,650,151 via TIP Amendment 2)

Charles Kilmer stated that the MassDOT Project Review Committee (PRC) approved two new projects into the overall system. They are the Brockton – Belmont Street at Pearl Street Intersection Project, and the Easton – Foundry Street Project.



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### **7. New Business**

#### ***A. Old Colony Drone Program – Overview and Opportunities***

Kyle Mowatt provided an overview on the Old Colony Drone Program.

Three Staff at the Old Colony Planning Council have pursued and obtained their Part 107 (Commercial) Remote Pilot Certificates. The OCPC Drone Program is currently underway, with staff practicing flying the drone to get ready for drone missions. These drone missions will supplement our Local Technical Assistance Studies, DLTA, Road Safety Audits (RSAs), Corridor Studies, Congestion Management Process, Etc. with a “birds-eye view”.

Communities will also have the opportunity to request drone services for the following:

- Intersection photography
- Roof Inspection photography
- Water tower inspection photography
- Before/After Project Analysis
- Capture phases of construction projects
- 4K Roadway Corridor Videos
- Hazard Mitigation
- Open Space Photography
- Infrastructure Inspections (Bridges, Signage, Light Poles, Pavement)
- Public Education and Outreach

Joe Scardino asked if photographs and video can be taken with the drone without having to actually be at the location. Kyle Mowatt responded stating that due to the Part 107 rules, you always need to maintain visual line of sight of the drone, so you need to be on location wherever the data is being collected. Discussion followed.

David Price, Chief Drone Operator for GPI, stated that they are able to provide very accurate vehicle and parking counts. They are able to provide survey grade photos. David offered their assistance with putting together safety procedures for OCPC’s Drone Program.

#### ***B. Update on Traffic Volume Trends During the COVID-19 Pandemic & Recovery***

Shawn Bailey provided an update on Traffic Volume trends During the COVID-19 pandemic and recovery.

- Traffic overall increased in June, however decreased in July and August were observed.
- The Plymouth count station was 5.8% above baseline in June. The Weymouth count station was also higher.
- July 4<sup>th</sup> traffic was higher this year than in 2020.

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- Tropical Storm Henri significantly impacted traffic volumes.

### **Traffic Volume Results/Looking Ahead:**

- Increase in June traffic volumes likely due to termination of Commonwealth's State of Emergency lifting and increasing vaccination rates.
- Across all locations, July 4<sup>th</sup> traffic was 5.5% higher than July 4<sup>th</sup> 2020
- Tropical Storm Henri caused lowest overall Daily Traffic since February 7<sup>th</sup> 2021.
- Decline in traffic likely due to the Delta variant and extreme weather (heat and rain).
- With further FDA vaccine approvals and booster shot rollout, there is hope for a better fall and winter.

David Cedrone asked if the ridership on public transit was looked into. Shawn Bailey stated that BAT ridership was not looked into for this project. The ridership for BAT is currently at about 50%.

### ***C. FFY 2023-2027 Old Colony TIP Development Schedule***

Charles Kilmer provided the FFY 2023-2027 Old Colony TIP Development Schedule.

#### **November-January**

- Annual Solicitation of Projects
- Outreach, coordination, and consultation with communities, BAT, MassDOT, JTC, MPO, and stakeholders
- Communities and Consultants provide project updates and schedules at JTC and/ or MPO meetings

#### **January-March**

- Continued coordination and consultation with communities, BAT, MassDOT, JTC, MPO, and stakeholders
- MARPA – MassDOT Coordination Meeting and provision of Draft Financial Funding Targets
- TIP Readiness Day – Discussion of Projects by RPAs and MassDOT
- Equity Analysis and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Analysis of Projects
- Transportation Evaluation Criteria (TEC) Analysis of Projects
- Determination of Preferred Set of Projects by MPO (March)

#### **April**

- Continued coordination and consultation with communities, BAT, MassDOT, JTC, MPO, and stakeholders
- Staff recommendation and Draft TIP Development
- Draft TIP release to public review and comment period by MPO

#### **April-May**

- Continued coordination and consultation with communities, BAT, MassDOT, JTC, MPO, and stakeholders

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- Draft TIP Public Review Period
- Intake of Public Comments and Preparation of Revised Draft TIP
- TIP Endorsement by MPO (May)

May-June

- Preparation of Draft STIP (MassDOT) and Draft CIP (MassDOT)

June-September

- Draft STIP review by FHWA, FTA, and DEP

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

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

Kyle Mowatt 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:

- Duxbury: Traffic Volumes and Speeds on Multiple Roadways Following Opting into Chapter 90 Section 17C (25 MPH Speed Limit in Thickly Settled Areas)
- Kingston: Assistance with Green Street HCVE Request

The Town of Duxbury requested a Road Safety Audit for the intersection of Summer Street (Route 53) and Franklin Street. This Road Safety Audit will be completed in Fall 2021 as part of the FFY 2022 Road Safety Audits at Multiple Locations task in the FFY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

The City of Brockton requested a Road Safety Audit for the intersection of West Chestnut Street at Southworth Street. This Road Safety Audit will be completed in Fall 2021 as part of the FFY 2022 Road Safety Audits at Multiple Locations task in the FFY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

#### Project Status Updates

##### **Kingston**

- Heavy Commercial Vehicle Exclusion Feasibility Study for Smiths Lane – Data collection planned

##### **Plymouth**

- Clark Road/Beaver Dam Road Traffic Speed Analysis – Analysis Underway
- Commerce Way Traffic Counts – Data collection planned for Fall 2021



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### **Plympton**

- Assistance with Heavy Vehicle Commercial Vehicle Exclusion Request for Several Roadways – Data Analysis in progress.

### ***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 #16419 – Western Point Saguish – Plymouth**

The purpose of this project is to rebuild a single-family home located within 15,143 s.f. that will only be accessible by water on the south side. There will be no driveway or parking on the site. The proposed 600 s.f. single-family home will be elevated on timber piles and include appurtenances consisting of an elevated boardwalk, incinerating toilet, Solatubes, rainwater collection & distribution system, and a suspended grey water tank. Three to six months should be allowed for construction. There will also be a dune enhancement and restoration plan covering 735 s.f. is proposed to improve the stability of the dune in the vicinity of the swale.

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

#### **Notification of filing an NOI for Savery Grassy Pond – Plymouth**

The proposed project is seeking approval to initiate an Aquatic Management Program at Savery Grassy Pond in Plymouth, MA. Selective management of nuisance aquatic vegetation will be conducted using USEPA/state registered herbicides in assistance with manual hand pulling in order to protect the interests of the Wetlands Protection Act by impeding eutrophication and improving fish and wildlife habitat value.

#### **Notice regarding Individual Groundwater Discharge Permit – Hanover**

An application is being processed for an Individual Groundwater Discharge Permit for the Sconset Landing Project in Hanover, MA. Type of Discharge: Sanitary Wastewater; Quantity of Discharge: 38,320 Gallons Per Day.

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

Vice Chairperson Dan Salvucci made an announcement to be aware of busses now that school is in

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session

### **9. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 12:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Kyle Mowatt*

Kyle Mowatt

Senior Transportation Planner

### **List of Documents for September 2, 2021 Old Colony JTC Meeting**

- Minutes of the August 5, 2021 Old Colony JTC Meeting
- Staff Report for September 2, 2021, Old Colony JTC Meeting Agenda Items