

OLD COLONY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)

Minutes of the Old Colony MPO Virtual Meeting held February 16, 2021 at 10:00 A.M., via Zoom

Signatories Present:

Danielle Littmann, Representing Mayor Robert Sullivan, City of Brockton
Lee Hartmann, Representing Chairman Kenneth Tavares, Plymouth Board of Selectmen
Daniel Salvucci, Vice-Chairman, Whitman Board of Selectmen
Stephen Woelfel, Representing Jamey Tesler, Acting Secretary and CEO, MassDOT
Pam Haznar, Representing Jonathan Gulliver, Administrator, MassDOT Highway Division
Michael Lambert, Administrator, Brockton Area Transit Authority (BAT)
Charles Kilmer, Representing Christine Joy, President, Old Colony Planning Council

Others Present:

Matthew Rushton, Councilor-At-Large, Bridgewater
Kelly Forrester, Brockton Area Transit Authority
Glenn Geiler, Brockton Area Transit Authority
Greg Lucas, BETA Group
Peter Spagone, East Bridgewater
Andrew Reovan, FHWA
Ben Muller, MassDOT
Bryan Pounds, MassDOT
Barbara Lachance, MassDOT District 5
Lea Filson, Plymouth County Development Council/Convention & Visitors Bureau
Shawn Bailey, Old Colony Planning Council
Paul Chenard, Old Colony Planning Council
Ray Guarino, Old Colony Planning Council
Bill McNulty, Old Colony Planning Council
Kyle Mowatt, Old Colony Planning Council

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chairperson Stephen Woelfel called the meeting to order at 10:04 A.M. and then read the meeting accessibility statement, and the Title VI Notice of Protection Statement. Charles Kilmer then conducted the roll call. Charles Kilmer then reported that there is a quorum present as seven of the eight signatories are in attendance.

2. Public Comments

There were no public comments at this time.

3. Minutes of the January 19, 2021 Meeting

Chairperson Woelfel asked the MPO Members for any comments or changes regarding the minutes of the January 19, 2021 meeting. There were not any comments or changes offered.

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The Old Colony MPO then voted unanimously via roll call vote to endorse the minutes of the January 19, 2021 Old Colony MPO Meeting.

4. Brockton Area Transit (BAT) Report

Michael Lambert stated that there are three drivers or support staff out due to close contact or positive COVID-19 results.

Michael Lambert then noted that ridership continues to hover around the 40-50% level when compared to ridership pre-pandemic.

5. FFY 2021-2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments and/ or Adjustments

Chairperson Woelfel reported that there are not items ready for this agenda item at this time, and that that this agenda item will be included on next month's meeting.

6. Development of FFY 2022-2026 Old Colony Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

▪ Review of Projects including Evaluation Criteria and Results of TIP Readiness Days

Charles Kilmer discussed the development of FFY 2022-2026 Old Colony TIP, provided an overview of TIP Readiness Days and discussed the Transportation Evaluation Criteria (TEC).

Charles Kilmer explained that the annual TIP Readiness Days is a collaborative process of gathering information and discussing currently programmed projects, and candidate projects being considered for programming. During information gathering phase, MPOs provide preliminary review of the FFY 2021-2025 Regional Priority Projects list and advise if the project is intended to be programmed in that FFY. The MPOs also offer additional projects for review and potential programming consideration. Concurrently, MassDOT Districts, Right-of-Way Bureau, Environmental Offices, Program Managers, and Section Directors review the projects and offer comments on project status and readiness. Following the information gathering phase, MassDOT and the MPO staffs meet to interactively review the status and readiness information for the projects. The result is a recommend year of programming for the projects reviewed.

Charles Kilmer then explained that during TIP development, current and proposed projects are evaluated using Transportation Evaluation Criteria. Projects are evaluated using the Transportation Evaluation Criteria of Condition, Mobility, Safety and Security, Community Effects and Support, Land Use and Economic Development, and Environmental Effects. The MPO staff uses the transportation evaluation criteria results, as well as readiness information, available funding, to develop scenarios for Preferred Set of Projects for MPO review, discussion, and consideration.

Charles Kilmer then presented the Universe of Projects:

- AVON - INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT HARRISON BOULEVARD AND POND STREET
 - Program Year is 2021 and the project has been advertised for construction bids

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- EASTON - ROUTE 123 (DEPOT STREET) RECONSTRUCTION FROM NEWELL CIRCLE TO ROUTE 138
 - Program Year is 2021 and the project has been advertised for construction bids
- STOUGHTON - IMPROVEMENTS AT RICHARD WILKINS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (SRTS)
 - Program Year is 2021 and the project is on schedule to be advertised later in FFY 2021
- PEMBROKE - REHABILITATION OF ROUTE 36 (CENTER STREET) FROM ROUTE 27 TO ROUTE 14
 - Current Program Year is 2022 and is on schedule
- AVON & STOUGHTON - PAVEMENT PRESERVATION AND RELATED WORK ON ROUTE 24
 - Current Program Year is 2022, though MassDOT indicated that it may be ready in 2021
- BROCKTON - INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AND RELATED WORK AT CENTRE STREET (ROUTE 123), CARY STREET AND LYMAN STREET
 - Current Program Year is 2022 and MassDOT is recommending 2023 given the state of project readiness, design schedule, that this project will be combined with the BROCKTON/ABINGTON - PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE IMPROVEMENTS ON ROUTE 123 PROJECT
 - Pam Haznar stated that the 123 Corridor Project is funded with statewide non-federal aid funding and the intersection with statewide federal aid funding. As such, neither project would affect the regional target.
- STOUGHTON - INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AND RELATED WORK AT CENTRAL STREET, CANTON STREET AND TOSCA DRIVE
 - Current Program Year is 2023 and the project is on schedule
- BROCKTON - ROUTE 123 (CENTRE STREET) AT PLYMOUTH STREET SIGNALIZATION AND GEOMETRIC IMPROVEMENTS
 - Current Program Year is 2023 and MassDOT is recommending 2024 given the state of project readiness and design schedule
- PLYMPTON - BRIDGE REPLACEMENT, WINNETUXET ROAD OVER WINNETUXET RIVER
 - Current Program Year is 2024
- ABINGTON - INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT HANCOCK STREET AND CHESTNUT STREET
 - Current Program Year is 2025 and the project is on schedule
- BROCKTON - INTERESECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT LYMAN STREET/ GROVE STREET/ SUMMER STREET & REPLACEMENT OF GROVE STREET BRIDGE, B-25-005, OVER SALISBURY PLAIN RIVER
 - Current Program Year is 2025 and the project is on schedule
- DUXBURY - SIGNAL INSTALLATION @ ROUTE 3 (NB & SB) RAMPS & ROUTE 3A
 - Current Program Year is 2025 and MassDOT is seeking Design Status from the Town. Charles Kilmer explained that the Town is working on the Spring Town Meeting Warrant.

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- EASTON - CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS ON ROUTE 138 INCLUDING INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT ROUTE 138 AND ELM STREET
 - Currently unprogrammed and MassDOT confirmed readiness and eligibility for potential 2025 or 2026 programming
- HANSON - CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS ON ROUTE 14 (MAQUAN STREET), FROM THE PEMBROKE T.L. TO INDIAN HEAD STREET AND RELATED WORK
 - Currently unprogrammed and MassDOT confirmed readiness and eligibility for potential 2025 or 2026 programming
- AVON - INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT ROUTE 28, SPRING STREET AND HARRISON BOULEVARD
 - Recently approved by MassDOT Project Review Committee and currently unprogrammed
- BROCKTON - INTERESECTION IMPROVEMENTS @ CRESCENT STREET (ROUTE 27)/QUINCY STREET/ MASSASOIT BOULEVARD
 - Currently unprogrammed and most recent design submission was in 2015
- EAST BRIDGEWATER - INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT BEDFORD STREET (ROUTE 18), WEST STREET (ROUTE 106) AND EAST STREET
 - Recently approved by MassDOT Project Review Committee and currently unprogrammed
- EAST BRIDGEWATER - INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT HIGHLAND STREET AND NORTH BEDFORD STREET (ROUTE 18)
 - Recently approved by MassDOT Project Review Committee and currently unprogrammed
- EASTON - RESURFACING AND RELATED WORK ON ROUTE 138
 - Currently unprogrammed
- HANOVER - RESURFACING & RELATED WORK ON ROUTE 53
 - Currently unprogrammed
- PEMBROKE - INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT WASHINGTON STREET AND SCHOOSSETT STREET
 - Recently approved by MassDOT Project Review Committee and currently unprogrammed
- STOUGHTON - RECONSTRUCTION OF TURNPIKE STREET
 - Currently unprogrammed
- STOUGHTON - INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT CANTON STREET (ROUTE 27), SCHOOL

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STREET AND SUMMER STREET

- Recently approved by MassDOT Project Review Committee and currently unprogrammed

Pam Haznar stated that the recently approved projects on State highway intersection locations are being developed with coordination with the Boston Traffic Safety Unit. They are high crash locations and MassDOT will be performing Road Safety Audits in the near future. For the Hanover Project on Route 53, MassDOT is going to be deactivating as spot improvements have been made.

Charles Kilmer thanked Ben Muller of MassDOT and for coordinating and implementing this year's TIP Readiness Day.

7. Shared Winter Streets and Spaces Grant Program

Paul Chenard provided an overview of the Shared Winter Streets and Spaces Grant Program. The Shared Streets and Spaces Program was established in June 2020 and quickly became a success with cities and towns across the Commonwealth. This program provides grants from \$5,000 to \$300,000 for quick-build improvements to sidewalks, curbs, streets, on-street parking spaces, and off-street parking lots in order to support public health, safe mobility, and renewed commerce as a result of the Corona Virus Pandemic. Applications need to be submitted by February 26, 2021. Project completion and spending deadline for all four rounds is May 31, 2021.

Paul Chenard stated that Plymouth received \$172,000 to provide temporary accommodations in the public right of way, and then noted that recently, the Town of West Bridgewater received \$254,400 to construct a new sidewalk linking the center of West Bridgewater to the historic War Memorial Park, including a midblock crossing with flashing safety beacons and the conversion of a portion of Arch Street (currently closed) into a small pedestrian mall linking the Town Park to the War Memorial Park Dam just upstream of Arch Street.

8. Administrative Matters, Other Business, and Date and Time of Next Meetings(s)

Charles Kilmer provided the Dates and Time of Next Old Colony MPO Meetings(s):

- March 16, 2021 at 10 AM
- April 20, 2021 at 10 AM
- May 18, 2021 at 10 AM
- June 15, 2021 at 10 AM

Charles Kilmer then provided an announcement regarding: **Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) Issues Preliminary Guidance for MBTA communities under Partnerships for Growth Act.** The recently enacted \$626 million economic development bond bill includes a housing policy provision requiring MBTA communities to have at least one zoning district of reasonable size in which multi-family housing is permitted as of right. These districts must also meet the following criteria:

- Minimum gross density of 15 units per acre
- Not more than one-half mile from a commuter rail station, subway station, ferry terminal or

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bus station, if applicable

- No age restrictions
- Suitable for families with children

Charles Kilmer then announced that there is a conference on **Dementia-Friendly Transportation Driver Training** on Wednesday, March 3rd from 2-3:30 pm and Tuesday, March 9th from 10-11:30 am.

Charles Kilmer then announced a **Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance Grant Program**. The application period is closing this coming Thursday (February 18, 2021).

Charles Kilmer then announced that the **MassDOT Innovation Conference** is scheduled for May 25-27.

9. Adjournment

Chairperson Woelfel adjourned the meeting at 10:39 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle Mowatt

Kyle Mowatt

Senior Transportation Planner

List of Documents for the February 16, 2021 Old Colony MPO Meeting

1. Minutes of January 19, 2021, Old Colony MPO Meeting
2. Staff Report for February 16, 2021 Old Colony MPO Meeting Agenda Items