

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 February 4, 2021 at 12:00 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

Abington	John Stone	BETA Group	Dan McCormack
Abington	Bruce Hughes	Tighe & Bond	Dan Murphy
Avon	Christine Savage-Quinn	BETA Group	Greg Lucas
Easton	Greg Swan	McMahon Associates	Phil Viveiros
Hanson	Don Howard	VHB	Rob Cahoon
Hanson	Deb Pettey	OCPC	Kyle Mowatt
Stoughton	Joe Scardino	OCPC	Bill McNulty
Stoughton	John Charbaneau	OCPC	Charles Kilmer
Whitman	Dan Salvucci	OCPC	Mary Waldron
Whitman	Noreen O'Toole	OCPC	Paul Chenard
BAT	Glenn Geiler	OCPC	Ray Guarino
BAT	Michael Lambert	OCPC	Shawn Bailey
MassDOT District 5	Barbara LaChance	OCPC	Kaylee Dolan
Independence Associates	Bryan Bjorklund		

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chairperson Noreen O'Toole 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. Bill McNulty then conducted the roll call.

2. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

3. Minutes of the January 7, 2021 Meeting

Chairperson O'Toole asked if the members had reviewed the minutes of the January 7, 2021 Meeting. The members then voted to endorse the minutes of the January 7, 2021 Old Colony JTC Meeting.

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, which included:

- Taunton South Coast Rail Virtual Meeting – Thursday, February 4, 2021, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)

- Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance Grant Program
- Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) issues preliminary guidance for MBTA communities under Partnerships for Growth Act

5. Reports

A. Brockton Area Regional Transit Authority (BAT)

Michael Lambert reported on the following:

- BAT's work force is currently 100% healthy.
- Systemwide ridership continues to operate at approximately 50% on average compared to one year earlier (pre-pandemic).
- BAT will soon be releasing their Comprehensive Regional Transit Plan (CRTP) for public comment
- The Ridership Report and the Brockton/Taunton Connectivity Study are both nearing completion. These are both being prepared by the Old Colony Planning Council

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

Paul Chenard reported on the following:

- GATRA continues to experience low ridership due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Micro Transit service in South Plymouth has been very successful. This service may be expanded into the Pembroke area

C. South Coast Rail Project

Paul Chenard reported on the following:

- Majority of work currently underway is taking place south of our region.
- Grading for stations in Taunton and other points south is underway in anticipation of railroad construction.
- Clearing of trees has reduced noise pollution dampening in some areas. Noise from CSX operations has resulted in some noise complaints from residents.

6. Old Business

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

Charles Kilmer discussed updates to projects in the FFY 2021-2025 TIP. They are as follows:

FFY 2021 Projects:

OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)

AVON – INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT HARRISON BOULEVARD AND POND STREET (608086)

- Project was advertised on January 30, 2021. Bid opening is scheduled for March 2, 2021

EASTON – ROUTE 123 (DEPOT STREET) RECONSTRUCTION FROM NEWELL CIRCLE TO ROUTE 138 (607217)

- Bids opened on January 12, 2021. The low bid was \$10,134,494, submitted by RJV Construction Corporation of Canton, Massachusetts.

7. New Business

A. Active Transportation Study

▪ Project Status and Update

Paul Chenard provided an update on the Active Transportation Study.

Current Project Status

Staff is currently reviewing community master plans, open spaces documents, and other materials related to bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure in the Old Colony region. Project staff have also started reaching out to communities and speaking with relevant town or city officials to see if bicycle and pedestrian accommodations have changed since the last region wide bicycle and pedestrian plan. These changes will be reflected in the new Active Transportation Study to understand where new infrastructure is being build and planned for in the future.

B. Climate Change Vulnerability Transportation Assessment

▪ Project Status and Update

Ray Guarino provided an update on the Climate Change Vulnerability Transportation Assessment.

This study builds upon previous studies by OCPC including storm water mapping and roadway drainage runoff, Hazard Mitigation and Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness plans, an Old Colony Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, and an Old Colony 2010 Climate Change Transportation Impact Study. The purpose of this study is to update the 2010 Climate Change Transportation Impact Study, and to identify the impacts of Climate Change on the transportation system, examine them, and assess the vulnerability of the system resulting in strategies for management and mitigation.

Public outreach has included reaching out to stakeholders in the communities, with feedback from eight of the communities regarding the impact of Climate Change on the community and the priorities in dealing with the impacts of Climate Change.

The next steps for the study include, continue local input regarding the priorities of OCPC communities in their response to Climate Change (information has been compiled via the MVP process), schedule a public meeting to garner public input, develop recommendations through local input and public input.

OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)

The completion date of this study is September 2021.

Joe Scardino stated that the inspection fees are the same for electric vehicles. The emissions are part of the test, which is irrelevant, which seems contradictory to the states policy to encourage these vehicles. Also, in other parts of the country, electric vehicles are allowed as a matter of right regardless of the number of individuals in the vehicle in the high occupancy vehicle lane. Both of these should be revisited.

Chairperson O'Toole asked if this PowerPoint will be on the OCPC website. Ray Guarino stated that it will be posted on the website.

C. Shared Winter Streets and Open Spaces Grant Program

- **Program Overview and Application Process**

Paul Chenard provided an overview and application process for the Shared Winter Streets and Open Spaces Grant Program.

To date, \$10.2 Million has been allocated to 103 municipalities to implement 123 projects, from pop-up bike lanes to safe 'parklets' for outdoor dining to improved crosswalks to dedicated bus lanes, as well as a range of traffic calming measures. MassDOT has allocated \$10 Million for this program. Applications up to this point have been accepted on a rolling basis, but the program is coming to an end. The last application period will close on February 26th with notification of awards being sent out on March 26th.

Examples of Eligible Projects

- Expanding sidewalks and upgrading their accessibility
- Repurposed and/or expanded portions of streets, to create more safe space for people to walk and bike, retail activity, dining, and community programming
- Repurposed parking areas – on- and off-street – for walking, biking, recreation, outdoor seating, retail and/or dining
- Convert streets for exclusive and/or shared use by people walking and/or biking
- Safety, traffic calming, and speed reduction measures such as raised crossings/intersections, decreased width of travel lanes, mini traffic circles, chicanes, curb extensions/tightening curb radii

Chairperson O'Toole asked about restaurants setting up outdoor dining with heaters and "igloos". She asked are these allowed where the public could sit, without required purchase from businesses? Paul Chenard stated that the facility must be open to general public use. These facilities cannot be used exclusively for paying customers of a particular business.

Joe Scardino asked of the communities that have received these grant awards, did they make provision for municipal maintenance of those spaces? Paul Chenard stated that maintenance was not included. The town or partnerships with the business would maintain these spaces.

OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)

8. Other Business and Public Comment

A. Community Local Technical Assistance Studies

Bill McNulty reported on the following Community Local Technical Assistance Studies:

Project Status Updates

Avon

- Traffic Study for East Main Street (Route 28) at East and West Spring Street - Data analysis in progress

Duxbury

- Follow-up Traffic Study: Travel Speeds on Various Roadways – Speed limit regulation assistance in progress. Additional Data collection planned for Summer 2021

Plymouth

- Clark Road/Beaver Dam Road Peak Summer Traffic Analysis – Data collection planned for Summer 2021

Stoughton

- Turnpike Street Traffic Speed Study – Data Collection planned for Spring 2021

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.

EIR

EEA #16268 – Proposed Duxbury Beach Nature-Based Storm Damage Protection Project (Duxbury)

Comments on the Environmental Impact Report are due by 2/22/2021.

For copies, please contact Beth Gurney, bgurney@woodsholegroup.com

C. Regional Concerns and Local Community Transportation Issues

Bill McNulty stated that he is looking for guest speakers to come to this committee. If anyone has any

OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)

suggestions, they should contact him.

Chairperson O'Toole asked about the recent bill passed on reform. She asked if there was any outline or summary for the members that could be distributed. Mary Waldron stated that she will send that information out.

Bruce Hughes stated that Abington had a project withdrawn. The project was for a storage facility at the corner of Route 18 and Shaw Avenue. One of the issues was curb cuts. He asked would OCPC be able to get someone from MassDOT to do a tutorial on curb cuts to bring us all up to speed on this subject. Bill McNulty stated that he will investigate this.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle Mowatt

Kyle Mowatt

Senior Transportation Planner

List of Documents for February 4, 2021 Old Colony JTC Meeting

- Minutes of the January 7, 2021 Old Colony JTC Meeting
- Staff Report for February 4, 2021, Old Colony JTC Meeting Agenda Items
- Climate Change Transportation Vulnerability Assessment Presentation