

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

ATTENDANCE

Abington	Bruce Hughes	MassDOT District 5	Barbara Lachance
Abington	John Stone	MA Safe Routes to School	Vivian Ortiz
Bridgewater	Bob Wood	USDOT Volpe Center	Terry Regan
Easton	Dave Field	OCPC	Mary Waldron
Easton	Greg Swan	OCPC	Kyle Mowatt
Hanson	Don Howard	OCPC	Shawn Bailey
Hanson	Deb Pettey	OCPC	Bill McNulty
Whitman	Dan Salvucci	OCPC	Charles Kilmer
Whitman	Noreen O'Toole	OCPC	Dottie Fulginiti
BAT	Michael Lambert	OCPC	Elijah Romulus
BAT	Glenn Geiler	OCPC	Ray Guarino

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 February 4, 2021 Meeting

Chairperson O'Toole asked if the members had reviewed the minutes of the February 4, 2021 Meeting. The members then voted to endorse the minutes of the February 4, 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. They are as follows:

- MBTA Sets Direction for Spring 2021 Commuter Rail Schedules
- 2021 MassDOT Transportation Innovation Virtual Conference Seeking Presentation Abstracts
- Coastal Pollutant Remediation (CPR) Grants
- Coastal Resilience Grants

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5. Reports

A. Brockton Area Regional Transit Authority (BAT)

Michael Lambert reported on the following:

- Safety Update – All staff are currently healthy.
- Staff are being encouraged to get their coronavirus vaccine as they become eligible. Transit operators will follow educators in eligibility and prioritization.
- Ridership continues to hover around 40-50% of ridership one year prior. Installation of heaters acquired through the Winter Shared Streets and Open Spaces Grant will soon complete, making shelters on the BAT Centre platform more comfortable during cold weather.
- The Draft Comprehensive Regional Transportation Plan (CRTP) will be going out to the Board and general public shortly.
- New automated passenger counters have been installed on all buses. Customers will be able to click on a bus on their phone and see how full the bus is. There will be a demo on this software at an upcoming JTC meeting.

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

Paul Chenard reported on the following:

- GATRA is still operating at 50% capacity. Ridership is still low.
- On-demand service using Uber/Lyft in south Plymouth has been successful.
- An on-demand service in Pembroke will be launched soon

C. South Coast Rail Project

Paul Chenard reported on the following:

- Majority of work currently in progress is on the South Coast in New Bedford and Fall River.
- Tree clearing and culvert replacement is underway in Middleborough, Lakeville, and into East Taunton.

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 2022 Projects:

PEMBROKE – REHABILITATION OF ROUTE 36 (CENTER STREET) FROM ROUTE 27 TO ROUTE 14 (600380)

- Plans, Specifications, and Estimates (PS&E) Package received by MassDOT (02/08/2021).

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7. New Business

A. Impacts of COVID-19 on Transportation and Funding

- **Guest Speaker: Terry Regan, USDOT Volpe Center**

Terry Regan provided a presentation on COVID-19's impacts on transportation and funding. Mr. Regan is a Principal Technical Advisor for Innovative Transportation Planning and Financing at the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) Volpe National Transportation Systems Center, and a Professor in City Planning and Urban Affairs at Boston University.

Terry Regan's Presentation is summarized as follows:

- Challenges to the existing collection of roadway funding through the fuel tax include shift away from gas-fueled vehicles, increased fuel efficiency of vehicles, and increase in teleworking and e-commerce. States might respond to this by increasing motor fuel taxes, adopting vehicle miles traveled charges, adopting Electric Vehicle registration fees, or adopting more user fee type facilities (Toll roads, managed lanes, etc.).
- Challenges to the existing collection of transit funding include MBTA getting funding from the Massachusetts state sales tax – which was down by 6% FY 20, fare box revenue is about 30% of MBTA funding, and federal transit funding will probably remain level. Massachusetts might respond by the MBTA implementing service and fare adjustments, Regional Transit Authorities are examining their budgets and assessing service levels.
- Total Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) for the first nine months of 2020 was 14.5% below 2019. Total fatalities for the first nine months of 2020 were 4.6% higher.
- Highway Trust Fund receipts for FY2020 were only 2% below FY2019 levels.
- Massachusetts collected +2.7% more in tax revenues so far in FY21 compared to FY20 (\$372 million more) but, sales tax is down, except for motor vehicle sales tax. A large portion of the state funding for the MBTA and RTAs comes from sales tax.
- For the week ending 2/25/21, Massachusetts has the 2nd highest rate of teleworking among states in the nation (51%). The national average is 38.6%.
- Boston Metro has the 2nd highest rate of teleworking among metro areas.
- Massachusetts has seen a higher [percentage drop in travel volume in Eastern Massachusetts compared to Western Massachusetts.
- Since 2008, Congress has appropriated \$140 billion in general funds to the Highway Trust Fund. A 1 cent increase in the motor fuels tax would net about \$1.5 billion in revenue for the Highway Trust Fund.
- Twenty-six (26) states impose a registration fee on electric vehicles to help offset the loss in gas tax revenue from electric vehicles.
- Transit agencies have experienced a significant decline in ridership and revenue collection
- Reduced air travel results in less parking revenues, impacting what the airport can do

Bill McNulty thanked Terry Regan for the great presentation.

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Chairperson O'Toole asked if there was a trend in electric car sales. Terry Regan stated that the electric vehicle sales are at 2.5%. That number will probably rise in the near future.

Charles Kilmer asked if there was any insight with how rideshare companies will be responding post pandemic with regard to their recovery. Terry Regan stated that Uber just released their 4th quarter results. Their revenue from ridesharing was down 80%, but their revenue from meal delivery was up 65%. They are in a tough short-term situation.

Michael Lambert stated that BAT is currently doing a study on electrifying buses.

Sid Kashi asked about driverless cars and trucks and if they have been included in the research. Terry Regan stated that we're probably going to see the greatest amount of adoption in trucking and the trucking network.

B. Development of the FFY 2022 – 2026 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, and explained the transportation evaluation criteria and the results of TIP Readiness Day.

The following is the Universe of Projects:

- AVON – INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT HARRISON BOULEVARD AND POND STREET
 - Program Year – 2021 – Advertised
- EASTON – ROUTE 123 (DEPOT STREET) RECONSTRUCTION FROM NEWELL CIRCLE TO ROUTE 138
 - Program Year – 2021 – Advertised
- STOUGHTON – IMPROVEMENTS AT RICHARD WILKINS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (SRTS)
 - Program Year – 2021 – On schedule to be advertised
- PEMBROKE – REHABILITATION OF ROUTE 36 (CENTER STREET) FROM ROUTE 27 TO ROUTE 14
 - Program Year – 2022
- AVON – STOUGHTON – PAVEMENT PRESERVATION AND RELATED WORK ON ROUTE 24
 - Program Year – 2022 (Could be a 2021 Project)
- BROCKTON – INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AND RELATED WORK AT CENTRE STREET (ROUTE 123), CARY STREET AND LYMAN STREET
 - Program Year – 2022 (Recommended to be moved out to 2023).
 - To be combined with BROCKTON/ABINGTON – PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE IMPROVEMENTS ON ROUTE 123

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- BROCKTON/ABINGTON – PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE IMPROVEMENTS ON ROUTE 123
 - Not Programmed – To be combined with BROCKTON – INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AND RELATED WORK AT CENTRE STREET (ROUTE 123), CARY STREET AND LYMAN STREET
- STOUGHTON – INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AND RELATED WORK AT CENTRAL STREET, CANTON STREET AND TOSCA DRIVE
 - Program Year – 2023
- STOUGHTON – CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS ON ROUTE 138
 - Program Year – 2023 & 2024, Advance Construction
- BROCKTON – ROUTE 123 (CENTRE STREET) AT PLYMOUTH STREET SIGNALIZATION AND GEOMETRIC IMPROVEMENTS
 - Program Year – 2023 (Recommended to be moved out to 2024)
- PLYMPTON – BRIDGE REPLACEMENT, WINNETUXET ROAD OVER WINNETUXET RIVER
 - Program Year – 2024
- ABINGTON – INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT HANCOCK STREET AND CHESTNUT STREET
 - Program Year – 2025
- BROCKTON – INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT LYMAN STREET/GROVE STREET/SUMMER STREET & REPLACEMENT OF GROVE STREET BRIDGE, B-25-005, OVER SALISBURY PLAIN RIVER
 - Program Year – 2025
- DUXBURY – SIGNAL INSTALLATION @ ROUTE 3 (NB & SB) RAMPS & ROUTE 3A
 - Program Year – 2025, Need Design Status from Town
- EASTON – CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS ON ROUTE 138 INCLUDING INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT ROUTE 138 AND ELM ST
 - Program Year – Potential 2025 or 2026
- HANSON – CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS ON ROUTE 14 (MAQUAN STREET), FROM THE PEMBROKE T.L. TO INDIAN HEAD STREET AND RELATED WORK
 - Program Year – Potential 2025 or 2026
- AVON – INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT ROUTE 28, SPRING STREET AND HARRISON BOULEVARD
 - NOT PROGRAMMED
- BROCKTON – INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS @ CRESCENT STREET (ROUTE 27)/QUINCY

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STREET/MASSASOIT BOULEVARD

- NOT PROGRAMMED
- EAST BRIDGEWATER – INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT BEDFORD STREET (ROUTE 18), WEST STREET (ROUTE 106) AND EAST STREET
 - NOT PROGRAMMED
- EAST BRIDGEWATER – INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT HIGHLAND STREET AND NORTH BEDFORD STREET (ROUTE 18)
 - NOT PROGRAMMED
- EASTON – RESURFACING AND RELATED WORK ON ROUTE 138
 - NOT PROGRAMMED
- HANOVER – RESURFACING & RELATED WORK ON ROUTE 53
 - NOT PROGRAMMED
- PEMBROKE – INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT WASHINGTON STREET AND SCHOOSSETT STREET
 - NOT PROGRAMMED
- STOUGHTON – RECONSTRUCTION OF TURNPIKE STREET
 - NOT PROGRAMMED
- STOUGHTON – INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT CANTON STREET (ROUTE 27), SCHOOL STREET AND SUMMER STREET
 - NOT PROGRAMMED

Don Howard asked if the Hanson project is programmed in FY25/26 due to money. Charles Kilmer stated that Environmental Partners has submitted the 25% design this past May. Old Colony Planning Council is working with MassDOT to determine best potential program year for this project. The TIP must adhere to financial constraint.

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

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

Brockton

- Road Safety Audit for Main Street at Forest Avenue – To be scheduled late Spring or early Summer 2021.
- Road Safety Audit for Pearl Street at Torrey Street – To be scheduled late Spring or early Summer 2021.

Duxbury

- Follow-up Traffic Study: Travel Speeds on Various Roadways – Data collection planned for Spring 2021.

Plymouth

- Clark Road/Beaver Dam Road Peak Summer Traffic Analysis – Additional Data Collection planned for Summer 2021.

Plympton

- Technical Analysis and Guidance for Establishing Safety Zones – Ongoing Analysis.

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.

ENF

EEA #16325 – Red Mill Road Water Treatment Plant (Easton)

The site selected for the proposed water treatment plan (WTP) is an undeveloped, wooded area located at 12 Red Mill Road, Easton, MA. The project consists of the construction of a WTP, including utility work

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near Well Station 3 and a new generator at Well Station 5; a residual management lagoon system; and minor modifications to interior piping at Well Stations 3,5, and 7.

EEA #16324 – MBTA Service Level Reduction (Statewide)

Challenged by unprecedentedly low ridership due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the MBTA is facing a historic moment. Despite this significant drop in ridership, the MBTA has continued to run service at pre-pandemic levels, even though it does not match current demand. In order to protect essential service for those who depend upon it, the MBTA needs to reduce service where there are fewer riders. The goal of these changes is to preserve access to these transit-critical customers. The MBTA's plan to readjust service levels to current COVID era ridership is an overall program that the MBTA refers to as Forging Ahead.

EEA #16328 – Downtown/Trout Brook Redevelopment Plan (Brockton)

The boundary of the redevelopment area includes the CSX property, which is a former railyard for freight rail, and surrounding properties. The area is bisected by Trout Brook. This redevelopment area is directly adjacent to Downtown Brockton and is generally located between the MBTA Commuter Rail Tracks on the west and Parker Street on the east.

Potential Build-out from this plan:

- Residential Apartments: 250-300 units (Monthly Rent: \$1,350-\$1,900/month)
- Single-Family Detached Houses: 31 lots
- Commercial Flex: ~185,000 SF
- Retail/Office Ground Floor: ~14,000 SF
- Public Safety Building or Commercial Flex: ~63,000 SF

EEA #16332 – Old Pine Drive Well Development (Hanson)

The Town of Hanson proposes to construct a new water supply source for its residents and businesses. The Town's existing four wells have a MassDEP-approved yield of 1.364 million gallons per day, but normally cannot produce that much, especially in drier seasons. During times when additional water supply is needed, the Town purchases water from the City of Brockton's water system. Construction of a new in-town water supply source will allow Hanson to be independent of Brockton for its water demands, will provide consistent water quality to the Hanson customers, and will allow Hanson to better balance its withdrawals with respect to the town basins in which Hanson lies.

C. Regional Concerns and Local Community Transportation Issues

Deb Pettey stated that Hanson is having an issue with a culvert in Pratt Place. Hanson has been looking to submit this for the culvert grant, but upon closer look, this culvert would not be viable for this grant. This culvert is in imminent danger of failing. The quote for the repair is \$1.2 million which Hanson has no funding for. Hanson is looking for direction on how to move forward. Charles Kilmer asked if that is a

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public facility or private. Deb Pettey stated that it is a public roadway and serves 3 houses and goes over Indian Head Brook. Charles Kilmer was wondering if this would be eligible for the MassDOT Small Bridge Grant Program. Charles Kilmer will send along the information for this.

Bill McNulty recognized Vivian Ortiz from Safe Routes to School. Vivian will now be covering the whole OCPC region.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Kyle Mowatt
Kyle Mowatt
Senior Transportation Planner

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

- Minutes of the February 4, 2021 Old Colony JTC Meeting
- Staff Report for March 4, 2021, Old Colony JTC Meeting Agenda Items