

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 April 1, 2021 at 12:00 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

Abington	Bruce Hughes	T & B	Dan Murphy
Avon	Bill Fitzgerald	BETA Group	Greg Lucas
Brockton	Rob May	VHB	Rob Cahoon
Easton	David Field	Mass Development	Mary Ellen DeFrias
Stoughton	Joe Scardino	GPI	Sid Kashi
Whitman	Noreen O'Toole	Plymouth County Development Council	Paula Fisher
BAT	Michael Lambert	OCPC	Shawn Bailey
BAT	Glenn Geiler	OCPC	Bill McNulty
MassDOT D5	Barbara Lachance	OCPC	Charles Kilmer
MassDOT D5	Pam Haznar	OCPC	Mary Waldron
MassDOT	Ben Muller	OCPC	Ray Guarino
SRTS	Vivian Ortiz		

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 March 4, 2021 Meeting

Chairperson O'Toole asked if the members had reviewed the minutes of the March 4, 2021 Meeting. A vote on acceptance of the meeting minutes was deferred until the next (May 2021) 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:

- MassDOT Announces \$2.8 Million in Shared Winter Streets and Spaces Program Funding Awards

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- Massachusetts Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Spring Webinar – New Tools for Schools – April 14, 2021
- Virtual 2021 MassDOT Transportation Innovation Conference – May 25-27, 2021
- Community One Stop for Growth
- MBTA To Restore Service to Pre-Pandemic Levels

5. Reports

A. Brockton Area Regional Transit Authority (BAT)

Michael Lambert reported on the following:

- Safety Update – All workers are healthy, and Brockton Area Transit does not currently have any staff in quarantine due to COVID-19.
- All workers have received at least the first shot of the Vaccine. Michael Lambert thanked the City of Brockton, Massachusetts Department of Public Health, and Brockton Neighborhood Health.
- Ridership continues to be about 60% lower than pre-pandemic ridership levels. BAT hopes to see ridership increase with warmer weather and higher vaccination levels
- BAT received 2 discretionary grants from MassDOT. The first grant continues BATs expanded service into Stoughton. The second grant is for BATs Commuter Rail Pilot. This provides reduced fare trips from Brockton Commuter Rail Station to JFK-UMass and South Station. This helps with overcrowding on the Ashmont Bus
- BAT will be installing new bike equipment this Spring.

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

Shawn Bailey reported that there are no GATRA updates.

C. South Coast Rail Project

Shawn Bailey reported on the following:

- Drainage work along the railroad right of way in Fall River is in progress
- Tree clearing and erosion control between Middleborough and East Taunton Station continues
- A retaining wall has been constructed along the railroad ROW in Assonet
- Additional work completed thus far includes site preparation, drainage and utility installation, and material delivery at stations, layover sites, and along the railroad ROW from Middleborough to New Bedford and on the Fall River Secondary

Joe Scardino asked if Phase 2 will get funded out of the transportation bond bill or the next big infrastructure bill coming out of Washington. Shawn Bailey stated that he will look into that and have an update by next meeting.

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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:

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

- Construction bids opened on March 2, 2021. Low bid was \$3,998,824.70 was submitted by George R. Cairns & Sons Inc. of Windham, NH

STOUGHTON – IMPROVEMENTS AT RICHARD WILKINS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (SRTS) (608829)

- Plans, Specifications, and Estimate (PS&E) Resubmission 1 Package received by MassDOT (3/5/2021)

7. New Business

A. Massachusetts Safe Routes to School Program

- **Guest Speaker: Vivian Ortiz, Massachusetts Safe Routes to School**

Vivian Ortiz provided a presentation on the Massachusetts Safe Routes to School Program.

- The Massachusetts Safe Routes to School Program is funded by the United States Department of Transportation (DOT) as part of the Transportation Alternatives Program
- The Program has been funded by MassDOT since 2005
- Outreach coordinators serve six regions covering the Commonwealth
- There are currently 924 Safe Routes to School partner schools in Massachusetts
- Recognized by the National Safe Routes to School Partnership as “Building Speed”

Safe Routes to School incorporates the six E’s of transportation (Evaluation, Education, Encouragement, Engagement, Engineering, and Equity) in its operations.

Sustainability:

- Adding active transportation policy language to the school district or school’s wellness policy
- Naming schools that are impacted in street improvement projects
- Asking school building committees to reach out to MA SRTS for guidance on how to build campuses that are less car-centric
- Establishing SRTS Taskforces

Chairperson Noreen O’Toole stated that she witnessed a group of eight girls on their bikes crossing the street but not one of the looked to the left to check for traffic. Vivian Ortiz stated that when SRTS does

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the Bike Rodeo and Skills training, one of the things they teach is how to scan for traffic.

Joe Scardino observed that there are more and more kids without helmets. He suggested there needs to be more public outreach campaigns to educate parents on teaching their kids to wear helmets. Vivian Ortiz stated that a lot of this has to do with peer pressure. Kids leave the house with their helmet and then take it off when they join up with their friends that are not wearing a helmet.

Pam Haznar thanked Vivian Ortiz for her presentation. Pam stated that this program is great. She noted several schools in the District have received transportation improvements through the program.

Dan Murphy asked if he wanted to volunteer to get involved into making some of these events happen who would he talk to. Vivian Ortiz stated that they should contact her.

B. Development of the FFY 2022 – 2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

- **Scenarios and Determination of MPO Preferred Set of Projects**

Charles Kilmer stated that the MPO, at their meeting on March 16, 2021, reviewed and considered several programming scenarios and then selected a preferred scenario for their programming of projects in the FFY 2022 – 2026 TIP.

The preferred scenario is as follows:

- PEMBROKE – REHABILITATION OF ROUTE 36 (CENTER STREET) FROM ROUTE 27 TO ROUTE 14
 - Program Year – 2022
- STOUGHTON – INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AND RELATED WORK AT CENTRAL STREET, CANTON STREET AND TOSCA DRIVE
 - Program Year – 2023
- STOUGHTON – CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS ON ROUTE 138 AC PHASE 1 OF 2 (TOTAL COST IS \$11,485,518 WITH FFY 2023 COST OF \$6,971,447 AND FFY 2024 COST OF \$4,514,071)
 - Program Year – 2023
- STOUGHTON – CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS ON ROUTE 138 AC PHASE 2 OF 2 (TOTAL COST IS \$11,485,518 WITH FFY 2023 COST OF \$6,971,447 AND FFY 2024 COST OF \$4,514,071)
 - Program Year – 2024
- BROCKTON – ROUTE 123 (CENTRE STREET) AT PLYMOUTH STREET SIGNALIZATION AND GEOMETRIC IMPROVEMENTS
 - Program Year – 2024
- EASTON – CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS ON ROUTE 138 INCLUDING INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT ROUTE 138 AND ELM ST

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- 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
- ABINGTON – INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT HANCOCK STREET AND CHESTNUT STREET
 - Program Year – 2026
- HANSON – CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS ON ROUTE 14 (MAQUAN STREET), FROM THE PEMBROKE T.L. TO INDIAN HEAD STREET AND RELATED WORK AC PHASE 1 OF 2 (TOTAL COST IS \$11,960,783 WITH \$5,464,471 IN FFY 2026 AND \$6,496,312 IN 2027)
 - Program Year – 2026
- HANSON – CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS ON ROUTE 14 (MAQUAN STREET), FROM THE PEMBROKE T.L. TO INDIAN HEAD STREET AND RELATED WORK AC PHASE 2 OF 2 (TOTAL COST IS \$11,960,783 WITH \$5,464,471 IN FFY 2026 AND \$6,496,312 IN 2027)
 - Program Year – 2027

Joe Scardino asked where the inflation figures come from. Charles Kilmer stated that we use a 4% per year increase in price. This was an agreed to inflation factor between Federal Highway and MassDOT and is uniform across the state.

Glenn Geiler provided a summary of the Transit Projects in the TIP. There is a total of 41 projects and includes the replacement of 14 buses, continuation of vehicle overhaul program, safety improvements for both BAT facilities, and new technology.

C. FFY 2022 Old Colony Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) - **Universe of Projects**

Charles Kilmer discussed the Universe of Projects for the UPWP.

Draft Universe of Projects for Element 3000:

1. Brockton – Route 27 (Reynolds Memorial Highway) Corridor Study
2. Duxbury – Route 14 Corridor Study from Pembroke Town Line to Route 3A
3. Plymouth – Long Pond Road Corridor Study from Obery Street to Drew Road
4. Regional – 2023 Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation (HST) Plan
5. Regional – Corridor Profile Study
6. Regional – Freight Study and Action Plan
7. Regional – Road Safety Audits (RSAs) at Multiple Locations
8. Regional – Major Bottleneck Identification Study
9. Regional – Route 3 Safety and Mobility Study

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10. Regional – Route 24 Safety and Mobility Study

D. Old Colony Public Participation Plan (PPP)

- **Update on Draft Old Colony Public Participation Plan (PPP)**

Ray Guarino provided an update on the Draft Old Colony PPP.

The most significant changes in the update over the previous plan include the establishment of Measures of Effectiveness to evaluate the outreach efforts. Other changes in the PPP update include the establishment of the Reflections, Opportunities and Actions (ROA) Task Force at OCPC to strengthen the values and workplace policies and identify areas for opportunities of improvement regarding public participation methods, pro=active engagement in identifying stakeholders, and documenting LEP/Title VI encounters. In addition, the COVID pandemic has brought to light the need to ensure we adhere to public outreach guidelines as we utilize virtual meetings.

A draft of the update of the Old Colony MPO's PPP will be presented to the MPO at the April MPO meeting for a 45-day public review.

8. Other Business and Public Comment

A. Community Local Technical Assistance Studies

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

The Town of Kingston has requested a follow-up review of a 2018 traffic study prepared by Old Colony Planning Council of the Historic District centered around Green Street.

Project Status Updates

Avon

- 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

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Duxbury

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

Kingston

- Review of Kingston Historic District Traffic Pattern and Potential Traffic Calming Options – Ongoing analysis and technical assistance

Plymouth

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

Plympton

- Technical Analysis and Guidance for Establishing Safety Zones – Data Collection in progress

Stoughton

- Turnpike Street Traffic Speed Study – Data Collection in progress

B. Staff Reviews on ENFs, EIRs, and NPCs

Shawn Bailey 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 #16346 – Release of House Lot from Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) (Doten Road) - Plymouth

This ENF is submitted in connection with the creation of a house lot on the southerly side of Doten Road in Plymouth, its release from a 1984 APR and the Amendment and confirmation of that APR as it affects the remaining land subject to it. The purpose of this project is succession planning. The proposed house lot will be used as a single-family residence and barn. The remaining APR acreage will be farmed

CERTIFICATES

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

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The proposed project includes 4 key components:

1. Oceanside beach and dune nourishment
2. Bayside erosion control
3. Flood vulnerability reductions along roadway
4. Powder Point Bridge abutment area erosion control

The certificate states that this project adequately and properly complies with MEPA.

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 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.

The Certificate states that this project does not require an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

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

The Certificate states that this project does not require an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

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.

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The Certificate states that this project does not require an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

C. Regional Concerns and Local Community Transportation Issues

Ray Guarino asked the members to reconsider endorsing the March 4 JTC Meeting Minutes. The endorsing of the March 4 Meeting Minutes will take place at the May JTC Meeting.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle Mowatt

Kyle Mowatt

Senior Transportation Planner

List of Documents for April 1, 2021 Old Colony JTC Meeting

- Minutes of the March 4, 2021 Old Colony JTC Meeting
- Staff Report for April 1, 2021, Old Colony JTC Meeting Agenda Items