

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 May 6, 2021 at 12:00 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

Abington	Bruce Hughes	Mass Development	Mary Ellen DeFrias
Abington	John Stone	Tighe & Bond	Dan Murphy
Avon	Bill Fitzgerald	McMahon Associates	Phil Viveiros
Easton	Dave Field	VHB	Rob Cahoon
Easton	Greg Swan	MA State Senator	Vinny DeMacedo
Hanson	Jamison Shave	OCPC	Andrew Vidal
Hanson	Don Howard	OCPC	Ray Guarino
Plymouth	James Downey	OCPC	Mary Waldron
Whitman	Dan Salvucci	OCPC	Kyle Mowatt
Whitman	Noreen O'Toole	OCPC	Bill McNulty
BAT	Glenn Geiler	OCPC	Charles Kilmer
BAT	Michael Lambert	OCPC	Shawn Bailey
MassDOT D5	Barbara Lachance		

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Vice Chairperson Dan Salvucci called the meeting to order at 12:04 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 April 1, 2021 Meeting and Minutes of March 4, 2021 Meeting (Deferred from April Meeting)

Vice Chairperson Salvucci asked if there was a motion to approve the April 1, 2021 and March 4, 2021 Meeting Minutes. A motion was made by Don Howard and seconded by Glenn Geiler to approve the Meeting Minutes from April 1, 2021 and March 4, 2021.

The Old Colony JTC voted unanimously to approve the April 1, 2021 and March 4, 2021 Meeting Minutes.

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:

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- Virtual 2021 MassDOT Transportation Innovation Conference – May 25-27, 2021
- 2020 CIP Public Process Announcement
- New MassDOT Grant Opportunity: Shared Streets & Spaces
- RAISE Discretionary Grants

5. Reports

A. Brockton Area Regional Transit Authority (BAT)

Michael Lambert reported on the following:

- Brockton Area Transit's workforce is healthy.
- 80% of Brockton Area Transit staff are now fully vaccinated.
- The Brockton Area Transit Intermodal Centre re-opened to the public on May 3, 2021.

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

Shawn Bailey reported on the following:

- The microtransit service called GATRA GO has been performing very well in South Plymouth.
- GATRA has acquired a grant from the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) and MassDevelopment to offer taxi rides to vaccine appointments and for other COVID-19 related essential transportation needs.

C. South Coast Rail Project

Shawn Bailey reported on the following:

- In April 2021, primary work on South Coast Rail (SCR) included 24-hour per day drainage work along the railroad right-of-way in Fall River, Freetown, and Middleborough.
- Erosion control work continued on the Middleborough Secondary and New Bedford main lines.
- An access road was installed off Horizon Way in Fall River on the Fall River Secondary Main Line.
- The construction of the retaining wall along the railroad ROW in Assonet from Beechwood Road to Forge Road in Freetown continued, and a culvert was replaced adjacent to the Fall River Country Club.
- Additional work done included site preparation, drainage and utility installation, and material delivery at stations and layover sites along the railroad ROW from Middleborough to New Bedford and on the Fall River Secondary.

6. Old Business

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

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Charles Kilmer stated that there are no updates for any of the projects in the FFY 2021-2025 TIP at this time.

7. New Business

A. FFY 2021-2025 Old Colony Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment 2

Charles Kilmer stated that the Old Colony MPO released TIP Amendment 2 to a 21-day public review and comment period. The Old Colony MPO will meet on May 18, 2021 to potentially endorse this amendment. The Amendment is as follows:

FFY 2021

- Stoughton – Improvements at Richard Wilkins Elementary School (SRTS) (608829)
 - AMENDMENT: INCREASE COST: Increase cost from \$3,171,443 to \$4,650,151
 - ADJUSTMENT: CHANGE DESCRIPTION – Change Description from Stoughton – Improvements at West Elementary School (SRTS) (608829) to Stoughton – Improvements at Richard Wilkins Elementary School (SRTS) (608829)

Vice Chairperson Dan Salvucci asked if there is a motion to accept FFY 2021-2025 TIP Amendment 2. A motion was made by Don Howard and was seconded by Bruce Hughes.

Bill McNulty conducted the roll call.

The Old Colony JTC voted unanimously to accept FFY 2021-2025 TIP Amendment 2.

B. Draft FFY 2022-2026 Old Colony Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Charles Kilmer stated that the Old Colony MPO released the Draft FFY 2022-2026 TIP to a 21-day public review and comment period. The Draft TIP is as follows:

Over the upcoming five years, the TIP provides the following funding:

- \$62.0 Million – 11 Road Projects and 1 Bridge Project
- \$45.3 Million – Brockton Area Transit Authority operational and capital assistance (Includes replacement of 20 fixed route buses)

FFY 2022

- **Avon & Stoughton** – Pavement Preservation and Related work on Route 24 (\$7,339,593)
- **Pembroke** – Rehabilitation of Route 36 (Center Street) from Route 27 to Route 14 (\$10,160,995)

FFY 2023

- **Brockton** – Intersection Improvements and Related work at Centre Street (Route 123), Cary Street, and Lyman Street (\$2,135,071)
- **Stoughton** – Corridor Improvements on Route 138 AC Phase 1 of 2 (Total Cost is \$11,485,518)

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with FFY 2023 Cost of \$6,971,447 and FFY 2024 Cost of \$4,514,071)

- **Stoughton** – Intersection Improvements and Related Work at Central Street, Canton Street and Tosca Drive (\$4,596,463)

FFY 2024

- **Brockton** – Route 123 (Centre Street) at Plymouth Street Signalization and Geometric Improvements (\$2,523,420)
- **Stoughton** – Corridor Improvements on Route 138 AC Phase 2 of 2 (Total Cost is \$11,485,518 with \$5,971,447 in FFY 2023 and \$4,514,071 in FFY 2024)
- **Plympton** – Bridge Replacement, Winnetuxet Road over Winnetuxet River (\$2,141,666)

FFY 2025

- **Brockton** – Intersection Improvements at Lyman Street/ Grove Street/ Summer Street & Replacement of Grove Street Bridge, B-25-005, over Salisbury Plain River (\$4,704,000)
- **Easton** – Corridor Improvements on Route 138 including Intersection Improvements at Route 138 (Washington Street) and Elm Street (608195)

FFY 2026

- **Abington** – Intersection Improvements at Hancock Street and Chestnut Street (\$2,900,232)
- **Duxbury** – Signal Installation @ Route 3 (NB & SB) Ramps & Route 3A (Tremont Street) (\$2,784,000)
- **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 FFY 2027)

FFY 2027

- **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 FFY 2027)

Glenn Geiler provided a summary of the Transit Projects in the TIP. There is a focus on keeping BATs fleet in a state of good repair. The largest focus is on bus replacement and continuation of vehicle overhaul program. The TIP also includes improvements to BATs maintenance facilities, parking garage, Intermodal Centre, and administrative offices.

Bruce Hughes asked if a new facility would be needed for electrification of the BAT fleet. Michael Lambert stated that a new facility will not be necessary, but rather installation of new infrastructure around the existing facility.

Vice Chairperson Dan Salvucci asked if there is a motion to accept the Draft 2022-2026 TIP. A motion was made by Michael Lambert and seconded by Don Howard.

Bill McNulty conducted the roll call.

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The Old Colony JTC voted unanimously to approve the Draft 2022-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

C. Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Highway Safety in the Old Colony Region

Bill McNulty provided a presentation regarding the impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Highway Safety in the Old Colony Region.

While the overall number of crashes on the highway network dropped with the coinciding reduction in travel, they did not drop at the same magnitude. Furthermore, while there was a reduction in total number of crashes, there was a marked increase in the level of severity of these crashes.

Many police departments reported an increase in speeding in 2020, and Massachusetts State Police reported a record number of drivers traveling at speeds exceeding 100 miles per hour on limited access highways. Social and physical factors, such as drowsiness and distraction, from the ongoing pandemic are another potential cause.

Vice Chairperson Salvucci stated that he has noticed many cars driving faster on major highways.

D. Appointment of Nominating Committee for Old Colony JTC Officers (2021-2022)

Mary Waldron announced that Chairperson Noreen O'Toole has joined the meeting.

Chairperson O'Toole stated that if anyone is interested, they can email Bill McNulty or Mary Waldron. Nominations of JTC Officers for 2021-2022 will be announced at the June 3, 2021 JTC meeting, and a vote will follow nominations.

Chairperson Noreen O'Toole and Vice Chairperson Dan Salvucci expressed their willingness to continue their service in these positions through the 2021-2022 term.

Glenn Geiler, John Stone, and Bill Fitzgerald volunteered to be on the nominating committee.

Chairperson Noreen O'Toole made a motion to accept the nominating committee. Dan Salvucci seconded the motion. The motion carried. Glenn Geiler then asked that a nominating committee meeting be set up in advance of the June JTC meeting.

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 East Bridgewater has requested a traffic study of East Street, between Route 18 and the Bridgewater Town Line. Data collection for this traffic study will be scheduled for May.

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The Town of Stoughton has requested a traffic study of Walnut Street. Data collection for this traffic study will be scheduled for May 2021.

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

Duxbury

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

East Bridgewater

- East Street Traffic Study – Data collection planned

Kingston

- Review of Kingston Historic District Traffic Pattern and Potential Traffic Calming Options – Additional data collection planned for Summer 2021

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 Analysis in progress

Stoughton

- Turnpike Street Traffic Speed Study – Data Analysis in progress
- Walnut Street Traffic Study – Data collection planned

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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 #16364 – Jenney Pond Dredging Project (Plymouth)

The Town of Plymouth seeks to perform sediment dredging of Jenney Pond (the “pond”), the upstream impoundment to the Jenney (Arms House) Pond Dam (No. MA00907). The town also seeks to replace the existing pedestrian footbridge (Town Brook Park footbridge) over the pond. Jenney Pond is a 4.5-acre impoundment fed by Town Brook that is upstream (south) of Jenney Grist Mill, off Spring Lane in central Plymouth, Massachusetts. The pond can be visually and practically divided by the Town Brook Park footbridge into a northern section and a southern section. The section north of the footbridge receives the bulk of the sediment deposition, as this is where Town Brook enters the impoundment and flows downstream in a northerly direction towards the dam. This section is approximately one acre in area. The section south of the footbridge is approximately 3.5 acres in areas and does not appear to receive significant sediment deposition from Town Brook.

The primary goals of the Jenney Pond dredging project are to improve water quality and fish habitat in the pond by removing an estimated 6,350 cubic yards of sediment within the northern section of the pond and installing fish habitat features including boulder piles, woody debris, and rootwads. Additionally, the existing pedestrian bridge over the pond will be removed and replaced with a new bridge in-kind.

CERTIFICATES

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.

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

C. Regional Concerns and Local Community Transportation Issues

Vice Chairperson Salvucci stated that the Route 18 and 27 and Route 18 and Route 14 Project is nearing

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completion, and that the improvements are very much appreciated.

Bruce Hughes stated that he did a site walk of the 0 Summer Street Project. Abington has asked the proponent to conduct the traffic counts while school is in session.

Michael Lambert stated that BATs CRTP is currently out for public comments.

Don Howard asked for clarification on the Old Pine Drive Well Development project in Hanson. Kyle Mowatt clarified that the project does not require an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle Mowatt

Kyle Mowatt

Senior Transportation Planner

List of Documents for May 6, 2021 Old Colony JTC Meeting

- Minutes of the April 1, 2021 Old Colony JTC Meeting
- Staff Report for May 6, 2021, Old Colony JTC Meeting Agenda Items