

# **OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)**

## **Meeting Minutes of the Old Colony Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) Held Virtually Via Zoom. August 5, 2021 at 12:00 P.M.**

### **ATTENDANCE**

Abington	Bruce Hughes	McMahon Associates	Phil Viveiros
Avon	Bill Fitzgerald	VHB	Rob Cahoon
Easton	Greg Swan	Independence Associates	Steven Higgins
Hanover	Christine Stickney	MassDevelopment	Mary Ellen DeFrias
Hanson	Don Howard	GPI	Sid Kashi
Stoughton	Joe Scardino	OCPC	Bill McNulty
Stoughton	John Charbonneau	OCPC	Kyle Mowatt
Whitman	Dan Salvucci	OCPC	Shawn Bailey
Whitman	Noreen O'Toole	OCPC	Ray Guarino
MassDOT District 5	Barbara Lachance	OCPC	Charles Kilmer
MassDOT	Ben Muller	OCPC	Guoqiang Li
FTA	Leah Sirmin	OCPC	Andrew Vidal
BAT	Glenn Geiler	OCPC	Mary Waldron
SRTS	Vivian Ortiz		

### **1. Call to Order and Introductions**

Vice Chairperson Dan Salvucci called the meeting to order at 12:02 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 June 3, 2021 Meeting**

Chairperson O'Toole asked if there is a motion to approve the June 3, 2021 Meeting Minutes. A motion was made by Don Howard and seconded by John Charbonneau to approve the Meeting Minutes from June 3, 2021.

*The Old Colony JTC voted unanimously to approve the June 3, 2021 Meeting Minutes.*

### **4. Communications**

Shawn Bailey reviewed the contents of the communications staff report. Included were letters of

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correspondence, as well as notices of workshops and conferences. They are as follows:

- Correspondence from Avon Town Administrator Gregory Enos to Mary-Joe Perry, Director, MassDOT District 5 regarding Traffic Calming Solutions for Main Street (Route 28) in Avon. (June 2, 2021)
- Correspondence from West Bridgewater Town Administrator David Gagne to MassDOT seeking authorization to implement a 24-hour Heavy Commercial Vehicle Exclusion on Scotland Street (July 12, 2021)
- Statewide Bicycle Survey – Accepting responses through August 19, 2021
- Baker-Polito Administration Announces \$6.5 Million to Municipalities in Shared Streets and Spaces Program Funding Awards
- MassDOT Announces Over \$6 Million in Complete Streets Funding Program Awards

### **5. Reports**

#### **A. Brockton Area Regional Transit Authority (BAT)**

Glenn Geiler reported on the following:

- Reminder that Federal Transit Administration continues to require all passengers to wear face coverings on transit vehicles.
- Free weekend service is continuing through Labor Day Weekend

Glenn Geiler stated that the Public Participation Plan (PPP) will be discussed later on in the meeting.

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

Shawn Bailey reported on the following:

- GATRA has added another vehicle for their GATRA GO Coastal micro transit service
- GATRA is continuing to meet demand as Councils on Aging and rehab facilities are opening to full capacity
- All fixed route service is back to operating on a normal schedule.

#### **C. South Coast Rail Project**

Shawn Bailey reported on the following:

- During June and July 2021, the following work continued: installation of new track at multiple locations; continued tree clearing from Myricks Junction in Berkley heading south; replacement of multiple culverts, installation of soldier piles and precast panels for retaining walls on the Fall River line; replacement of the railroad bridge over Assonet River in Lakeville; and work at multiple railroad grade crossings that resulted in street closures

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- Additional work done included site preparation, drainage and utility installation, and material delivery at stations and layover sites along the railroad right-of-way from Middleborough to New Bedford and on the Fall River Secondary

Joe Scardino asked if funding is included in the federal infrastructure legislation for Phase 2 of South Coast Rail. Shawn Bailey stated that he has not been able to find any specifics to its inclusion for Phase 2 of South Coat Rail.

### **6. Old Business**

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

Charles Kilmer provided updates on projects in the TIP. They are as follows:

FFY 2021 Projects:

- STOUGHTON – IMPROVEMENTS AT RICHARD WILKINS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (SRTS) (608829)
  - Bids opened on July 7, 2021. Low bid was \$2,624,673 submitted by Aqua Line Utility Inc. of Weymouth, MA.

FFY 2022 Projects:

- BROCKTON – INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AND RELATED WORK AT CENTRE STREET (ROUTE 123), CARY STREET, AND LYMAN STREET (609410)
  - 25% Package Resubmission 1 received by MassDOT (7/9/2021).
- PEMBROKE – REHABILITATION OF ROUTE 36 (CENTER STREET) FROM ROUTE 27 TO ROUTE 14 (600380)
  - Plans, Specifications, and Estimate (PS&E) Resubmission 1 received by MassDOT (6/2/2021).

Currently Unprogrammed:

- AVON – INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT ROUTE 28, SPRING STREET AND HARRISON BOULEVARD (611979)
  - The Notice to Proceed (NTP) to begin work on the contract has been issued (7/9/2021).

Included for Funding in the Upcoming FFY 2022-2026 TIP:

- EASTON – CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS ON ROUTE 138 INCLUDING INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT ROUTE 138 (WASHINGTON STREET) AND ELM STREET (608195)
  - Currently not programmed in FFY 2021-2025 TIP but is programmed in FFY 2025 of the upcoming FFY 2022-2026 TIP.

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- HANSON – CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS ON ROUTE 14 (MAQUAN STREET), FROM THE PEMBROKE T.L. TO INDIAN HEAD STREET AND RELATED WORK (608506)
  - Currently not programmed in FFY 2021-2025 TIP but is programmed in FFYs 2026 and 2027 of upcoming FFY 2022-2026 TIP.

Don Howard asked if Hanson paid the remainder of the money for the Maquan Street Project would this move the project up in the TIP? Charles Kilmer stated that if Hanson is willing to provide funds for construction to share the overall cost, the project could be programmed earlier in the TIP if total funding is available and the project is in a state of readiness to match the program year. OCPC will meet with Hanson, the consultant, and MassDOT offline to see if there are slots available earlier and to discuss the proximity of the water main.

### **7. New Business**

#### ***A. Draft Old Colony Public Participation Plan (PPP) Review and Endorsement***

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

The update of the Old Colony PPP updates the previous 2017 Plan. It documents the guidelines for the MPO's public outreach efforts, establishes the process to solicit and engage public involvement in MPO activities and transportation decision making, and ensures that the process is pro-active inclusive, and accessible. It ensures early, continuous, and meaningful opportunities for all the have input including traditionally underrepresented and underserved populations (low-income, minority, Limited English Proficient, LEP, persons with disability).

Included in the 2021 PPP update is the accommodation of remote meetings and accessibility, the establishment of measures of effectiveness, and the establishment of the OCPC Reflection, Opportunity, and Action (ROA) Task Force.

Joe Scardino expressed concern about people without access to computers and internet. Charles Kilmer stated that OCPC continues to provide flexibility in meeting with people at the office and OCPC is willing and able to provide printed materials. OCPC is not going totally digital with this PPP, but rather adding these elements to this update. OCPC is continuing all of their in-person outreach.

Joe Scardino then noted that if you're conveying anything that's an emergency you should have sign language interpretation available.

Steven Higgins, Executive Director of Independence Associates is offered that they are available to translate documents into Braille.

Chairperson O'Toole asked if there is a motion to endorse the Draft Old Colony PPP. A motion was made by Glenn Geiler and seconded by Dan Salvucci.

*The Old Colony JTC voted unanimously to endorse the Draft Old Colony PPP.*

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### ***B. FFY 2021 Road Safety Audits at Multiple Locations Project Status and Update***

Bill McNulty provided a project status and update on the FFY 2021 Road Safety Audits at Multiple Locations Project.

To date, the following Road Safety Audits have been completed under this program:

- Abington – Route 123 at Rockland Street and Elm Street
- Abington – Route 139 at Chestnut Street and Old Randolph Street
- Brockton – Main Street at Nilsson Street
- Brockton – Main Street at Forest Avenue
- Brockton – Forest Avenue between Belmont Street and Gordon Street
- Easton – Turnpike Street at Depot Street
- Hanover – Route 53 at Broadway
- Kingston – Route 27 at Lake Street
- Plymouth – Commerce Way at Christa McAuliffe Boulevard and Colony Place
- Plymouth – Commerce Way at Industrial Park Road
- Stoughton – Pearl Street at School Street
- West Bridgewater – West Street at Manley Street

Additional locations to be completed this program year:

- Bridgewater – Route 104 at High Street and Pond Street
- Brockton – Pearl Street at Torrey Street
- East Bridgewater – Central Street at Union Street and North Union Street
- West Bridgewater – Route 106 between and Including Prospect Street and Market Basket Intersections

Chairperson O'Toole stated that this is a great program and OCPC does a great job explaining everything at the RSAs.

### ***C. Old Colony Active Transportation Study Project Status and Update***

Ray Guarino provided a project status and update on the Old Colony Active Transportation Study.

This study builds upon previous studies by OCPC including the Old Colony Bicycle and Pedestrian Connectivity and Livability Study 2018, 2013, and 2011. The study process includes bicycle level of service and pedestrian level of service, based on the (comfort level) method developed for the Highway Capacity Manual for bicycle travel. Safety analysis is included utilizing MassDOT crash clusters and crash history analysis as well as sidewalk gap analysis.

Joe Scardino stated that in Stoughton, the Town asks developers to upgrade and improve infrastructure with noted sidewalk and crosswalk deficiencies as part of their project mitigation.

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Vivian Ortiz clarified that when the slides show the number of communities that are Safe Routes to Schools partners, it means they have partnered with the Program, but that does not necessarily reflect their level of active participation.

### ***D. Old Colony Climate Change Vulnerability Transportation Assessment Project Status and Update***

Ray Guarino provided a project status and update on the Old Colony Climate Change Vulnerability Transportation Assessment Project.

Ray explained the story map which can be accessed by the OCPC Website. It has the interactive map and the PowerPoint slides. The interactive map shows infrastructure locations in the OCPC region that are vulnerable to flooding.

The draft report will be online for people to review.

## **8. Other Business and Public Comment**

### ***A. Community Local Technical Assistance Studies***

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

Old Colony Planning Council completed the following projects requested through the Local Highway Planning Technical Assistance Program:

- Avon: Traffic Data Collection and Analysis for Route 28 at East and West Spring Street, and Route 28 at Harrison Boulevard
- East Bridgewater: Traffic Study of East Street
- Stoughton: Traffic Study and Speed Analysis of Turnpike Street
- Stoughton: Traffic Study of Elm Street
- Stoughton: Traffic Study of Walnut Street

The Town of Plymouth has requested OCPC collect traffic counts on Commerce Way, which the Town will use for the pursuit of establishing special speed regulations (speed limits) for roadway in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 90 Section 17. This request was the result of a Road Safety Audit of the roadway.

### **Project Status Updates**

#### **Duxbury**

- Follow-up Traffic Study: Travel Speeds on Various Roadways – Data analysis underway

#### **Kingston**

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- Assistance with Heavy Commercial Vehicle Exclusion Request for Green Street – Ongoing analysis and technical assistance
- Heavy Commercial Vehicle Exclusion Feasibility Study for Smiths Lane – Data collection planned

### **Plymouth**

- Clark Road/Beaver Dam Road Traffic Speed Analysis – Additional Data Collection planned
- Commerce Way Traffic Counts – Data collection planned for Fall 2021

### **Plympton**

- Assistance with Heavy Vehicle Commercial Vehicle Exclusion Request for Several Roadways – Data Analysis in progress

### ***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 #16409 – Former National Fireworks Site – Hanover/Hanover**

An [Environmental Notification Form \(ENF\)](#) has been submitted to the MEPA Office on behalf of the Fireworks Site Joint Defense Group (FSJDG) c/o Pierce Atwood LLP for hazardous material remediation within Factory Pond at the former National Fireworks site which is regulated under the Massachusetts Contingency Plan (MCP). The preferred alternative would involve the installation of roughly 46,200 ft<sup>2</sup> (1,540 linear ft) of sheet pile to isolate 4.57 acres associated with the high metal density area (HMDA) in Factory Pond from the remainder of Factory Pond. The sheet pile wall will be designed at a height that would prevent overtopping during a 100-year storm. From there, the project entails dredging approximately 22,500 CY of material and backfilling 24,750 cy of material. Dredging operations will be performed in shallow water depth conditions (approximately 5 to 7 ft). Sediment dredging will likely start from the shoreline where a long-reach excavator can dredge nearshore sediment. Once dredged, contaminated sediments would be processed at an on-site upland location prior to transportation offsite. The project will impact 199,000 sf of Land Under Water (LUW).

### **CERTIFICATES**

#### **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-

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acre impoundment fed by Town Brook that is upstream (south) of Jenney Grist Mill, off of 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.

The certificate states that this project does not require an Environmental Impact Report (EIR)  
**EEA #16373 – Aldana Road, Land Swap (Halifax)**

The “sliver” (so-called, owned by DFG) is 39,120 sq. ft (0.898 acres) and runs along the south side of Aldana Rd. for a distance of 2,546+/- ft, with an average width of 15 ft. (Plan Bk 43 Pg 56). The “sliver” lies along the toe of the slope of Aldana Rd. The surface of Aldana Rd. is several feet higher than the adjacent wetland. The “sliver” is wetland but has negligible habitat value because of its long, very narrow configuration.

The Town of Halifax desires to acquire the “sliver” in order to create a safer layout at the location of a pronounced sharp curve in Aldana Rd., a gravel surfaced public way. This sharp curve is shown on Plan Bk 43 Pg 56.

The Town of Halifax is aware that wetlands along the toe of the slope of the south side of Aldana Rd may be impacted if the Town proceeds with any changes in the layout of Aldana Rd (i.e., roadway improvements). Currently the Town has no proposal for any such changes or improvements, no plans have been prepared, no funds have been approved, and the Town does not anticipate generating any such proposal within the next 5 years. The Town understands that if or when the Town decides to make any changes to the layout of Aldana Rd and if those changes involve wetland impacts, the Town may need to submit an ENF to MEPA, as well as obtain any other required permits, regarding wetland impacts.

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

### **EEA #16383 – Lincoln Park – West Bridgewater**

The proposed project is centered around the development of a 350,000-sf warehouse with other areas of the site, potentially being used for a 100,000-sf warehouse or expanded trailer parking area. The northern most corner of the property would be used in conjunction with a portion of the existing Lincoln Street layout for a 13,000-sf retail venue on roughly 1.5 acres of land.



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Development of the project is predicated on the relocation of Lincoln Street to align with Crescent Street and other improvements to West Center Street (Route 106) that are proposed as part of the project. Access to the proposed project would be provided through four driveways, one on West Center Street (Route 106) and three on Lincoln Street. The proposed improvements at the intersection of West Center Street (Route 106) and Lincoln Street/Crescent Street would improve existing traffic conditions and offset any traffic impact of the proposed project. Aligning Lincoln Street with Crescent Street and placing those approaches under traffic signal control would improve the safety of the two offset unsignalized intersection approaches. Providing additional capacity along West Center Street (Route 106) would improve the organization and flow of vehicles traveling to and from the Route 24 interchange. These proposed improvements represent a significant investment in the Town of West Bridgewater.

The project site has been designed to serve the needs of the development and the region and will be constructed in phases so as to ensure that the size of the project continues to be appropriate for the site needs in the future. The initial build program of 350,000 sf of warehouse would serve the immediate needs of the area. An appropriate amount of parking (528 spaces) and impervious area would accompany this portion of the development and allow for the eventual end user to operate efficiently. At an appropriate time, the potential for an additional 100,000 sf of warehouse and/or up to 13,000 sf of retail could also be constructed on the site and as such are included in this project review. The parking and impervious areas that would accompany the additional elements of the project would be designed to minimize environmental disturbance while meeting the needs of the specific development.

The Certificate states that this project requires an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

#### **City of Brockton – Notice of Availability of the Draft Resource Management Plan (Monponsett Pond) Report and Public Meeting**

The report addresses the Resource Management Plan requirements of the May 21, 2019 amendment to the Administrative Consent Order (ACO). The ACO defines the RMP as recommending “metrics and procedures for Silver Lake diversions and Stump Brook Dam operations intended to improve Monponsett Pond’s water quality and ecosystem while maintaining Brockton’s drinking water supply reliability.”

A virtual public meeting to present the draft report will be held at 7:00 p.m. on August 3, 2021 via Microsoft Teams.

#### ***C. Regional Concerns and Local Community Transportation Issues***

Bruce Hughes stated that a lot of Chapter 90 money has been used to pave streets in Abington. It’s great to see. Also, the contractors have relocated the bridge on Route 18 over the train tracks. That is another important milestone with Route 18 project. Bruce Hughes stated that there was great content at the

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meeting today. Compliments to all the OCPC Staff.

Charles Kilmer took a moment to thank Ben Muller for almost three years being the Liaison for the MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning. Charles Kilmer on behalf of OCPC wished the best of luck to Ben Muller.

### **9. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Kyle Mowatt*

Kyle Mowatt

Senior Transportation Planner

### **List of Documents for August 5, 2021 Old Colony JTC Meeting**

- Minutes of the June 3, 2021 Old Colony JTC Meeting
- Staff Report for August 5, 2021, Old Colony JTC Meeting Agenda Items