

OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)

Meeting Minutes of the Old Colony Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) Held Virtually Via Zoom December 2, 2021 at 12:00 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

Abington	John Stone	MA Safe Routes to School	Rachel McCaffery
Abington	Bruce Hughes	MA Safe Routes to School	Vivian Ortiz
Brockton	Brady Winsten	See Plymouth	Paula Fisher
East Bridgewater	John Haines	United Way - Greater Plymouth	Dennis Carman
Easton	David Field	BETA Group	Dan McCormack
Hanover	Christine Stickney	Environmental Partners	Greg Lucas
Hanson	Jamison Shave	BETA Group	Kien Ho
Kingston, Duxbury	Valerie Massard	Metro South Chamber	Chris Cooney
Kingston	Paul Basler	VHB	Matthew Duranleau
Pembroke	Becky Coletta	MassDevelopment	Mary Ellen DeFrias
Plymouth	James Downey	WATD	David Cedrone
Stoughton	Joe Scardino	OCPC	Kyle Mowatt
Whitman	Noreen O'Toole	OCPC	Bill McNulty
BAT	Abigail Adams	OCPC	Charles Kilmer
BAT	Glenn Geiler	OCPC	Shawn Bailey
BAT	Linda Sacchetti	OCPC	Guoqiang Li
BAT	Michael Lambert	OCPC	Mary Waldron
MassDOT District 5	Barbara Lachance		

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chairperson Noreen O'Toole called the meeting to order at 12:00 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

Chairperson Noreen O'Toole recognized Mary Waldron and congratulated her on her leadership, innovative ideas and her 2 year anniversary of working at OCPC as the Executive Director. Mary Waldron stated that it has been an honor to work with everyone.

Chairperson Noreen O'Toole then congratulated Bill McNulty on obtaining the Professional Transportation Planner (PTP) Certification.

3. Minutes of November 4, 2021 Meeting

Chairperson O'Toole asked if there is a motion to approve the November 4, 2021 JTC Meeting Minutes.

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A motion was made by Michael Lambert and seconded by Glenn Geiler to approve the Meeting Minutes from November 4, 2021.

The Old Colony JTC voted unanimously to approve the November 4, 2021 JTC 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:

- **Advancing Regional Transit: A Southeastern MA Roundtable** – On December 8th at 6 pm, the Regional Transit Authority Advocates Coalition and Southeastern Massachusetts partners invite you to participate in Advancing Regional Transit: A Southeastern MA Roundtable.
- **2021 MassDOT Moving Together Virtual Conference – December 7-9, 2021** – Learn about the latest pedestrian, bicyclist, and public transportation topics with transportation professionals from across Massachusetts.
- **2022 MassTrails Program – Grant Round Now Open** – Applications are accepted annually for a variety of well-planned trail projects benefiting communities across the state. Applications must be submitted online by 11:59 pm, Tuesday, February 1, 2022.
- **Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)** – On November 15, 2021, President Biden signed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act into law. The IIJA is the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) that reauthorizes surface transportation programs through September 30, 2026 and invests about \$440 billion in new funding for infrastructure.

5. Reports

A. Brockton Area Regional Transit Authority (BAT)

Michael Lambert reported on the following items:

- Work force is healthy and on the job
- Ridership is stable at around 55% of pre-Covid numbers
- The Infrastructure Bill passed a couple of weeks ago and contains incentives and funding on a competitive basis on electrification of busses. BAT visited GATRA yesterday to view their electric bus and charging station. BAT is bringing on an electrical engineer consultant to help map out what BAT's options and strategies could be.

Chairperson O'Toole inquired about a pilot program in Boston where one of their public transit routes was free. How are programs like that funded? Michael Lambert stated that in this case, the Mayor utilized stimulus funding that came to Boston towards this service. Discussion followed.

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

Shawn Bailey stated that GATRA is finalizing some minor changes to their routes. They will be having a meeting tonight in Wareham to discuss these final changes. GATRA's Plymouth service has been doing well.

C. South Coast Rail Project

Shawn Bailey reported on the following:

- In November 2021, work conducted involved continued 24-hour grade crossings and track work at Forge Road and Richmond Road in Assonet as well as Old Colony Avenue in Taunton; 24-hour track work south of East Taunton station site; 24-hour work in Berkley, Fall River, Lakeville, & Taunton; and demolition of the Weaver Street Bridge in Fall River.
- Additional work done included construction at station sites, layover sites, and along the right-of-way from Middleborough to New Bedford as well as along the right-of-way from Berkley to Fall River and transportation of soils to Middleborough, East Taunton, & Weaver Cove sites.

6. Old Business

A. FFY 2022-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Implementation

Charles Kilmer reported on changes to projects within the TIP. They are as follows:

FFY 2022

- AVON & STOUGHTON – PAVEMENT PRESERVATION AND RELATED WORK ON ROUTE 24 (608496)
 - Construction bids opened 11/23/2021. Low bid was \$6,595,610 submitted by PJ Keating Company of Lunenburg, MA.

FFY 2024

- BROCKTON – ROUTE 123 (CENTRE STREET) AT PLYMOUTH STREET SIGNALIZATION AND GEOMETRIC IMPROVEMENTS (609052)
 - 25% Package received by MassDOT (11/15/2021).

Charles Kilmer stated that while this is our current program, we're already begun developing the next TIP which will go live October 1, 2022.

Joe Scardino asked how the Infrastructure Bill passing will affect the budget going forward. Charles Kilmer stated that the Bill includes the reauthorization of the Federal Transportation Programs. At a minimum there is an increase in those programs. The Bill did not contain the member designated projects (earmarks). Funds will either be formula funds or discretionary grant programs.

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7. New Business

A. Old Colony Congestion Management Process – Results of Fall 2021 Analysis

Shawn Bailey provided the Results of Fall 2021 Analysis – Old Colony Management Process.

On October 26th and November 2nd, members of Old Colony Planning Council's Transportation Department conducted its annual Congestion Management Process (CMP) data collection at fifteen (15) MBTA Commuter Rail stations and six (6) MassDOT Park & Ride lots. With the COVID-19 vaccine available to everyone 12 years old and up and the beginning of the booster rollout, it was expected that utilization would be higher than the two previous counts (which were similar), but still below pre-pandemic levels. That was found to be the case overall, which is positive news as it is a step in the right direction.

All 15 Commuter Rail stations experienced an increase of utilization, ranging from 41% higher utilization at the Bridgewater station to a 300% increase at the Hanson station. For the first time since before the COVID-19 pandemic, there were stations with over 100 vehicles present (six in total), and Canton Junction had over 300 vehicles on the date it was visited. The Park & Ride lots had a different result; there were increases in utilization, but not at all locations. The West Bridgewater lot, which historically has been well utilized, had less than 100 vehicles for the first time (results dating back to 2001 were checked). This is likely due to the change in provided bus service at this location. The previous service (Bloom bus) provided four morning and four afternoon peak trips, both inbound and outbound. The new service (Plymouth & Brockton) provides seven inbound and seven outbound trips spread throughout the day and is less ideal for commuters who need bus service at this lot for their work commute.

It was originally planned to conduct this CMP data collection utilizing OCPC's new Drone Program, however due to the Nor'easter and the aftermath, drone usage was not possible. It is planned to conduct April's and all future CMP data collections utilizing OCPC's drone, provided that there is not severe weather or any other factors that would prevent it.

Chairperson O'Toole asked if the numbers in the Park and Rides were lower due to people not driving to it and utilizing bus service. Shawn Bailey stated that was definitely a part of it.

Joe Scardino said that due to the price of gasoline, you are going to see these utilization numbers go up even higher.

B. 2024-2050 Old Colony Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Preview of Plan and Development Schedule

Bill McNulty provided an overview on the 2024-2050 Old Colony LRTP.

Old Colony Planning Council has begun the development of the Old Colony Metropolitan Planning Organization's 2024 - 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) is the policy and visioning document of the MPO. This document results from regional and statewide collaboration and consensus on a region's transportation system and serves as the defining

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vision for the region. The document also contains a financial plan or budget which guides and shapes the actions an MPO undertakes as they fulfill the region's visions and objectives. This 20-year transportation vision document is updated every four years by the MPO.

The 2020 – 2040 Plan contained the following sections. While some format adjustments are possible with the 2024 - 2050 Plan, the Plan will continue to include these sections:

- Introduction and Planning Process
- Regional Goals, Objectives, and Performance Management
- Regional Profile and Livability
- Regional Highway System
- Regional Transit System
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation
- Transportation, the Environment, and Climate
- Safety and Security
- Financial Plan

Accounting for how the Coronavirus Pandemic has adjusted the demographic, economic, and travel demand landscape will have a significant focus in this Plan. Major questions continue to exist regarding the extent and lasting impact of the Pandemic on the landscape, and this Plan will examine these impacts and incorporate them into the planning process.

Old Colony Planning Council has begun collaborating with our partner MPOs in the Commonwealth along with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) and the University of Massachusetts Donahue Institute (UMDI) on the development of socioeconomic projections through 2050. While the focus currently is on development statewide and regional projections, Old Colony Planning Council will coordinate with our municipalities on municipal level projections in 2022.

Old Colony Planning Council has also begun the process of data needs assessment and analysis and will shortly begin reaching out to stakeholders. As 2022 progresses, the public outreach effort will become more robust. Currently, a Draft version of the Plan is expected to be released to a public review and comment period in the early Spring of 2023, with a target Plan endorsement date of May 2023.

Chairperson O'Toole asked if it is too early to get numbers on the shifts of employees out of downtown areas. Bill McNulty stated that it's still early to look at those numbers.

Mary Waldron stated that as soon as we hear something we will let everyone know.

8. Other Business and Public Comment

A. Community Local Technical Assistance Studies

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

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Old Colony Planning Council recently completed a Heavy Commercial Vehicle Exclusion Study for West Spring Street in the Town of Avon. Traffic count data and supporting inventory material for the Town's request for an HCVE have been distributed to the Town.

Old Colony Planning Council received a request from the Town of Plymouth to collect video and photography of peak hour operations at Obery Street and South Street. The drone mission has been completed and recorded video is currently being processed.

Project Status Updates

Brockton

- Level of Service Analysis and Crash Rate Analysis of Route 123 at Quincy Street and Route 27 at Quincy Street and Massasoit Boulevard – Data collection in progress
- Level of service Analysis and Crash Rate Analysis of Three Belmont Street (Route 123) Intersections – Data collection Planned

Plymouth

- Commerce Way Traffic Counts – Data collection planned for Fall December 2021
- Survey of Obery Street and South Street Operations via Drone Program – Video and photography collected; Processing underway

West Bridgewater

- Traffic Study of Howard Street, Prospect Street, and Walnut Street – Data collection completed, Analysis Underway

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 # 16478 - 850 Bedford Street – Bridgewater

The Project proposes to develop the Site for warehouse/industrial use. The project will consist of:

- A 219,000 sf. Warehouse/industrial facility w/ single-load access for trucks
- Approximately 224 standard parking spaces at 3 sides of the building
- Truck loading and parking area for approximately 50 trucks to manage queues
- Associated 30-ft drive aisles for truck access and circulation
- Associated stormwater features
- And all associated utilities

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CERTIFICATES

EEA #16447 - Greystone Village - Kingston

The certificate states that this project **Does Not** require an Environmental Impact Report.

EEA #16383 - Lincoln Park - West Bridgewater

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

EEA #16457 - Swanberg Property Wellfield - Pembroke

The Certificate states that this project **Does Not** require an Environmental Impact Report (EIR)

10. Regional Concerns and Local Community Transportation Issues

Charles Kilmer was recently talking to a colleague from Plymouth and they inquired about the status of any potential Safe Routes to School Projects on Route 80. The Town of Plymouth would like to re-engage with the SRTS professionals to discuss potential opportunities on how to move forward with some enhancements, including sidewalks, on that roadway.

Vivian Ortiz stated that we have tried to engage with Plymouth. This is important information for us going forward. Yesterday was the deadline for the latest round of infrastructure for SRTS.

Vivian Ortiz stated that this will be her last JTC that she will be attending. Rachael McCaffrey will be taking over as outreach coordinator.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle Mowatt

Kyle Mowatt

Senior Transportation Planner

List of Documents for December 2, 2021 Old Colony JTC Meeting

- Minutes of the November 4, 2021 Old Colony JTC Meeting
- Staff Report for December 2, 2021, Old Colony JTC Meeting Agenda Items