

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 January 6, 2022 at 12:00 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

Abington	John Stone	Safe Routes to School	Rachel McCaffery
Abington	Bruce Hughes	GPI	Sid Kashi
Brockton	Brady Winsten	Environmental Partners	Greg Lucas
Brockton	Pat Hill	CDM Smith	Lisa Sherman
Brockton	John Fay	Tighe & Bond	Dan Murphy
East Bridgewater	John Haines	VHB	Rob Cahoon
Easton	Greg Swan	BETA Group	Dan McCormack
Kingston	Valerie Massard	Mass Development	Mary Ellen DeFrias
Plymouth	James Downey	OCPC	Shawn Bailey
Stoughton	John Charbonneau	OCPC	Kyle Mowatt
Whitman	Dan Salvucci	OCPC	Mary Waldron
Whitman	Noreen O'Toole	OCPC	Ray Guarino
BAT	Michael Lambert	OCPC	Charles Kilmer
BAT	Glenn Geiler	OCPC	Guoqiang Li
BAT	Abigail Adams	OCPC	Dottie Fulginiti
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. Shawn Bailey then conducted the roll call.

2. Public Comments

There were no public comments at this time.

3. Minutes of December 2, 2021 Meeting

Chairperson O'Toole asked if there is a motion to approve the December 2, 2021 Meeting Minutes. A motion was made by Dan Salvucci and seconded by John Charbonneau to approve the Meeting Minutes from December 2, 2021.

The Old Colony JTC voted unanimously to approve the December 2, 2021 Meeting Minutes. Dan Salvucci abstained due to his absence at the last meeting.

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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:

- **Correspondence** – Correspondence from Mayor Robert Sullivan, Brockton, to Secretary Jamey Tesler, MassDOT, regarding the need to invest and upgrade Old Colony Commuter Rail Lines; Re-evaluate fare structures; provide strategic double-tracking at the JFK/UMASS and Quincy Center Stations and vicinity; and reconfigure the Red Line at the Savin Hill Station.
- **FTA Webinar – Bipartisan Infrastructure Law** – Join FTA for a detailed look at the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and how it will be implemented through FTA’s programs at a webinar scheduled for 2 P.M. on January 7, 2022.
- **Multi-Family Zoning Requirement for MBTA Communities** – This Webinar will be held on January 12, 2022 at 1:00 P.M.
- **2022 MassTrails Program – Grant Round Now Open** – Applications must be submitted by 11:59 P.M., Tuesday, February 1, 2022.
- **Scenic Byways Program** – FHWA announced a competitive NSBP grant funding program that will make \$16 Million available in the coming years.

5. Reports

A. Brockton Area Regional Transit Authority (BAT)

Michael Lambert reported on the following items:

- BAT’s priorities continue to focus on service and safety
- The vaccination or testing requirement continues for staff
- Ridership remains around 55% of pre-Covid levels
- BAT expects a decline in ridership in January due to weather and the overall rise in COVID cases
- BAT continues to make progress towards the next generation of transit in the Brockton Area: Electrification of BAT’s Fleet and converting Rockland Service from a fixed route to a curb to curb micro transit service that would connect all of Brockton to Rockland.

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

Shawn Bailey stated that there is no update.

C. South Coast Rail Project

Shawn Bailey reported on the following:

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- In December 2021, work conducted involved continued 24-hour bridge and track work in Fall River; 24-hour track work adjacent to the East Taunton station site; 24-hour drill shaft work in Lakeville; demolition of the Weaver Street Bridge in Fall River; sewer casing installations at the New Bedford site.
- Additional Work done included daytime 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. There was also overnight transportation of soils to the Middleborough, East Taunton, & Weaver Cove sites.

6. Old Business

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

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

FFY 2022 Projects

- 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.
 - Cost Estimate is \$7,339,593.
- PEMBROKE – REHABILITATION OF ROUTE 36 (CENTER STREET) FROM ROUTE 27 TO ROUTE 14 (600380)
 - Project has been advertised for construction bids by MassDOT (12/11/2021). Bid opening scheduled for 1/19/2022.

Charles Kilmer stated that OCPC is currently developing the FFY 2023-2027 TIP, and will be reaching out to communities, MassDOT, and designers to gather project schedules and any obstacles that could be holding projects up, or any opportunities where a project might be accelerated through the design and permitting process.

7. New Business

A. High Priority Corridor Study Screening Assessment Status Report

Guoqiang Li provided a status report on the High Priority Corridor Study Screening Assessment.

Staff are developing a High Priority Corridor Study Screening Assessment process for federal aid and functionally classified arterial roads, including state number routes. Staff will identify, rank, and inform the selection process for locations to conduct corridor studies that will then inform the Long-Range Transportation Plan Needs Assessment in the next few months. This project will apply a comprehensive approach to analyzing problems and forming recommendations ensuring that the needs of all

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transportation users are considered.

Proposed Project Evaluation Criteria Components:

- Capacity (Congestion)
- Safety
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Accommodation
- Climate resilience
- Criticality Factor (supporting the land use and business)
- Transit Operation
- Transportation Equity (Environmental Justice)
- Implementation Potential
- Physical Conditions

Estimated Timeline for Project Completion:

- Develop GIS database to manage candidate project scoring – January 2022
- Verify traffic data, update Synchro and SimTraffic Simulation – March 2022
- Develop base year Travel Demand Model to verify volume and travel time results – March 2022
- Develop and validate network scoring – April 2022
- Select final projects – May 2022
- Develop technical reports, maps and results summary – June 2022
- Provide project presentation – July 2022
- Gather comments and suggestions – August 2022
- Final project completion – September 30, 2022

Chairperson O'Toole asked what type of data will be collected. Charles Kilmer referred back to the Corridor Evaluation Criteria Matrix and noted Safety, Bicycle & Pedestrian, Climate Resilience, Transportation Equity, and Physical Conditions. All of these categories will be scored.

Dan Salvucci stated that traffic seems to be getting worse. This would be beneficial for BAT and GATRA to take a look at and to gather their input.

Michael Lambert stated that the City routes have bounced back faster than the Ashmont route. It's apparent to most that Boston has not recovered yet. There is a change in commuting patterns that could have an impact in the future as far as changing routes.

B. Old Colony Traffic Counting Program – Summary of 2021 Program and Data Sources

Kyle Mowatt provided a summary of the 2021 Old Colony Traffic Counting Program.

Through Task 3200 (Local Highway Technical Assistance) of the Old Colony Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) FFY 2021 Unified Planning Work Program and Task 2200 (Multi-Modal Data Surveillance and System Monitoring), The Old Colony Planning Council conducts multiple ATR (Automatic Traffic Recorder) and TMC (Turning Movement Count) counts.

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MassDOT ATR Locations – MassDOT provides OCPC with a list of ATR locations to complete for the current year. These counts run on a 2-3 year cycle. The locations of the MassDOT counts completed in 2021 are as follows:

Bridgewater – 2
Brockton – 8
East Bridgewater – 1
Easton – 3
Plymouth – 3
Stoughton – 1
West Bridgewater – 3
Whitman – 3
Total – 24

ATR Locations Completed Through Task 3200 and Task 2200

Abington – 1
Avon – 1
Bridgewater – 4
Brockton – 19
Duxbury – 18
East Bridgewater – 1
Easton – 1
Halifax – 1
Hanover – 1
Hanson – 1
Kingston – 2
Pembroke – 1
Plymouth – 4
Plympton – 10
Stoughton – 9
West Bridgewater – 6
Total – 79

TMC Locations Completed Through Task 3200 and Task 2200

Bridgewater – 2
Brockton – 6
Pympton – 6
West Bridgewater – 2
Total - 16

MassDOT Transportation Data Management System Website (MS2)

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The MassDOT MS2 Website contains a collection of current and historic traffic count data (ATR and TMC) across all of Massachusetts via an interactive map. At the end of each traffic counting season OCPC uploads all of their data on this site. Kyle Mowatt then provided a demo of the MassDOT MS2 Website.

C. Old Colony Drone Program Update

Kyle Mowatt provided an update on the Old Colony Drone Program.

The OCPC Drone Program is currently underway. Requests for drone missions have been coming in, with the Town of Plymouth being the first. The Town of Plymouth requested Drone footage along Obery Street to capture the completed TIP Project. Video at the intersection of Obery Street and South Street was also conducted to compare traffic flow before/after traffic signal calibration.

Photography and Video have also been collected at the following locations:

- Brockton City Hall
- Hanson Commuter Rail Station
- Hanson Town Hall
- Brockton Area Transit (BAT) Centre

New Requests

Plymouth

Before/After Video and Photos for Billington Street, from Summer Street to the Morton Park Entrance (Complete Streets Grant)

Ray Guarino stated that we are having the drone pilots look into using the drone to get a snapshot of how full rest areas are during peak hours to see if there is a need for more truck stops in our region.

8. Other Business and Public Comment

A. Community Local Technical Assistance Studies

Kyle Mowatt reported on the following Community Local Technical Assistance Studies:

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 Complete – Analysis Underway

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- 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 Winter 2022/Spring 2022
- Survey of Obery Street and South Street Operations via Drone Program – Survey Complete and photos/video sent to Town of Plymouth
- Survey of Billington Street via Drone Program – Planning Stages

West Bridgewater

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

Ray Guarino stated that using the Drone to analyze roundabouts will be very helpful.

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 # 16504 – Warehouse Facility Project (East Bridgewater)

The Project Site is previously developed with a go-kart racing facility, including several small buildings and a paved racetrack, as well as paved roadways and a gravel parking lot.

The proposed redevelopment of the Project Site consists of an approximately 412,500-square foot (sf) warehouse building that will contain a small amount of ancillary office space and approximately 300 vehicle parking spaces (approximately 138 net new) with tractor trailer truck storage and loading docks (the “Project”). While the building will be devoted to a warehouse use, the exact nature of the facility is not yet determined, as a tenant has not yet been secured. Refer to Figure 1.5 for the proposed conditions site plan.

Dan Salvucci asked if this is going to increase tractor trailer traffic on Route 18. Kyle Mowatt stated that it will, seeing as they are going to have tractor trailer truck storage and loading docks.

John Haines stated that East Bridgewater does have some reservations regarding this project. East Bridgewater has their own engineering consulting firm which will be looking into traffic impacts that this project may create.

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Public Notice

Herring Run Culvert (Pembroke)

Notice is given of a 401 Water Quality Certification application for the Herring Run Culvert Replacement project by the Town of Pembroke Public Works Department. The project will take place within a portion of Herring Brook and the access road to the Herring Run Historical Park at 211 Barker Street and will include replacement of the Herring Run culvert and its associated structures

C. Regional Concerns and Local Community Transportation Issues

There were no regional concerns or local community transportation issues at this time.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle Mowatt

Kyle Mowatt

Senior Transportation Planner

List of Documents for January 6, 2022 Old Colony JTC Meeting:

Minutes of the December 2, 2021 Old Colony JTC Meeting

Staff Report for January 6, 2022, Old Colony JTC Meeting Ada Items