

OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)

Meeting Minutes of the Old Colony Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) Held Virtually Via Zoom September 1, 2022 at 12:00 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

Abington	John Stone	South Shore Chamber of Commerce	Peter Forman
Abington	Bruce Hughes	MA Safe Routes to School	Rachel McCaffery
Bridgewater	Shane O'Brien	RND Consultants	Janice Bergeron
Bridgewater	Michael Dutton	BETA Group	Dan McCormack
Bridgewater	Paul Decosta	VHB	Rob Cahoon
Brockton	Jay DeGrace	GPI	Sid Kashi
Easton	David Field	Tighe & Bond	Greg Lucas
Hanson	Don Howard	CDM Smith	Lisa Sherman
Whitman	Noreen O'Toole	OCPC	Bill McNulty
Whitman	Dan Salvucci	OCPC	Charles Kilmer
BAT	Glenn Geiler	OCPC	Guoqiang Li
BAT	Michael Lambert	OCPC	Ray Guarino
GATRA	Mary Ellen DeFrias	OCPC	Shawn Bailey
Environmental Partners	Jim Fitzgerald	OCPC	Mary Waldron

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 at this time.

3. Minutes of August 4, 2022 Meeting

Chairperson O'Toole asked if there is a motion to approve the August 4, 2022 Meeting Minutes. A motion was made by Dan Salvucci and seconded by Don Howard to approve the Meeting Minutes from August 4, 2022.

The Old Colony JTC voted unanimously to approve the August 4, 2022 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:

OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)

- Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Resources
- Safe Routes to School Infrastructure Launch Information Session – October 3, 2022 at 2:00 PM
- Baker-Polito Administration Announces \$16.4 Million in Shared Streets & Spaces Program Awards

5. Reports

A. Brockton Area Regional Transit Authority (BAT)

Michael Lambert reported on the following items:

- Ridership remains consistent at about 65-75% of pre-Covid numbers. The BAT system experienced its higher post-pandemic ridership at the end of July.
- BAT signed a contract to provide Micro-Transit service in Rockland. There will also be Micro-Transit service at the V.A. Hospital, BAT Centre, and Abington Commuter Rail Station
- BAT was awarded a grant through the Massachusetts Shared Streets and Spaces Program to expand its bus stop at Westgate Mall. Work will commence for this project in the next couple weeks
- BAT has ordered five fully electric busses. Working with National Grid to make sure adequate infrastructure is in place
- State budget includes \$2.5 Million statewide for a low or no-fare service

Chairperson Noreen O'Toole asked if there's been research done on how cold weather affects the batteries on electric busses. Michael Lambert stated that battery capacity will be lowered in the colder weather, but battery technology is always improving.

Mary Ellen DeFrias stated that GATRA has learned that the hot weather also effects the batteries. During the extreme heat during the summer GATRA observed a performance reduction in their electric fleet. GATRA will fully evaluate how weather effects their vehicles after a full year of service.

Dan Salvucci stated that some towns in Massachusetts are advocating for electric school busses. Dan Salvucci asked Mary Ellen DeFrias to share that report when it comes out.

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

Mary Ellen DeFrias reported on the following items:

- GATRA is operating 4 Micro-Transit operations right now in Franklin, Foxborough, Norfolk and Wrentham. There is a separate GATRA Go system in Mansfield, Foxborough, Pembroke, and Plymouth.

C. South Coast Rail Project

Shawn Bailey reported on the following:

OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)

In August 2022, work conducted involved continued fencing installation in eight communities on Fall River and Middleborough Secondary Lines; utilizing Cotley Street in Berkley to access right-of-way (ROW) for various project activities; 24-hour track work in Assonet, Berkley, Lakeville, Middleborough, Raynham, and Taunton; 24-hour crossing work in Freetown and New Bedford; 24-hour track switch work in Freetown; a detour in Fall River for bridge work; roadwork on Route 105 (daytime and nighttime) and Route 28 (daytime) in Middleborough, and improvements to the CSX Rail Yard in Middleborough.

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 and daytime transportation of soils by truck to designated project sites as well as detours for various project activities.

6. Old Business

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

Bill McNulty reported on changes to projects within the TIP. They are as follows:

FFY 2024 Projects:

- BROCKTON – ROUTE 123 (CENTRE STREET) AT PLYMOUTH STREET SIGNALIZATION AND GEOMETRIC IMPROVEMENTS (609052)
 - 25% Package Received by MassDOT (11/15/2021)
 - Design Engineer Reports, Updated Data Collection, and Analysis Required for 25% Design (8/25/2022)
 - Cost Estimate is \$2,523,420

FFY 2025 Projects:

- BROCKTON - INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT LYMAN STREET/ GROVE STREET/ SUMMER STREET & REPLACEMENT OF GROVE STREET BRIDGE, B-25-005, OVER SALISBURY PLAIN RIVER (607818)
 - 25% Resubmission 1 Package received by MassDOT (12/24/2019).
 - Design Engineer Reports Updated Data Collection and Analysis Required for 25% Design (8/26/2022).
 - Cost Estimate is \$4,704,000.

Unprogrammed Projects:

- DUXBURY - BRIDGE REPLACEMENT, D-14-010 (48H & 48J), ROUTE 3 (PILGRIM HIGHWAY) NB/SB Over Franklin Street (605294)
 - Currently not programmed, but to be included in FFY 2023 of the FFY 2023-2027 TIP.
 - 25% Package Resubmission 1 received by MassDOT (as of 2/22/2015).

OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)

- Design Public Hearing Scheduled for October 6, 2022
- Cost Estimate is (\$30,575,483)

7. New Business

A. South Shore 2030 – Infrastructure Priorities for Sustainable Growth

Peter Forman, President and CEO of South Shore Chamber of Commerce and Janice Bergeron, Vice Chairperson of SSEDG Transportation Advisory Group and CEO of RND Consultants presented on the South Shore Chamber of Commerce's South Shore 2030 – Infrastructure Priorities for Sustainable Growth Report.

Takeaways from the presentation is as follows:

- Aging population and workforce – a multi-year project is underway to promote housing diversity on the South Shore.
- Wastewater is the greatest challenge to the region's future.
- Focused on Boston commute and the resident experience of getting in and out of Boston. Chamber will start shifting focus to intraregional south of Boston focus.
- The agenda looks at what the Chamber can do for transportation in the region and how they can tie into the land use strategies
- The key takeaway is to set up zoning to be flexible in each community to allow transit-oriented development.

Michael Lambert thanked South Shore Chamber of Commerce and Peter Forman and Janice Bergeron for this great work. BAT has a contract to launch micro-transit in Rockland and there is an order placed for electric busses. BAT is trying to serve communities as best as they can, as development patterns and density in suburban and rural areas create challenges for traditional fixed route transit service.

Dan Salvucci at one time there were two or three taxi companies in Whitman, and that private taxi service or shuttle buses stationed at stations could be a good option for transporting people to and from Commuter Rail stations.

Bill McNulty thanked Peter Forman and Janice Bergeron for their presentation and discussed how this is a great segway into OCPCs 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). As the demographics of the population and the local economy shifts through 2050, there is going to be increasing demand for micro-transit.

Discussion followed.

B. FFY 2024-2028 Old Colony Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) **▪ Development Schedule**

Bill McNulty provided the general development schedule for the FFY 2024-2028 Old Colony TIP. The schedule is as follows:

OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)

November 2022 -January 2023

- Annual Solicitation of Projects
- Outreach, coordination, and consultation with communities, BAT, MassDOT, JTC, MPO, and stakeholders
- Communities and Consultants provide project updates and schedules at JTC and/or MPO meetings

January 2023 -March 2023

- Continued coordination and consultation with communities, BAT, MassDOT, JTC, MPO, and stakeholders
- MARPA - MassDOT Coordination Meeting and provision of Draft Financial Funding Targets (January)
- TIP Readiness Day (February) - Discussion of Projects by RPAs and MassDOT
- Equity Analysis and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Analysis of Projects
- Transportation Evaluation Criteria Analysis of Projects
- **Determination of Preferred Set of Projects by MPO (March)**

April 2023

- Continued coordination and consultation with communities, BAT, MassDOT, JTC, MPO, and stakeholders
- Staff Recommendation and Draft TIP Development
- **Draft TIP release to public review and comment period by MPO**

April 2023 – May 2023

- Continued coordination and consultation with communities, BAT, MassDOT, JTC, MPO, and stakeholders
- Public Review Period with communities, BAT, JTC, MPO, OCPC, and stakeholders
- Preparation of Revised Draft TIP
- **TIP Endorsement by MPO (May)**

May 2023 -June 2023

- Preparation of Draft STIP and Draft CIP (MassDOT)

September 2023

- Draft STIP review by FHWA, FTA, and DEP

C. 2050 Old Colony Long Range Transportation Plan

- **Development of Goals, Objectives, and Planning Scenarios**

Bill McNulty discussed the Goals, Objectives, and Planning Scenarios in the 2050 Old Colony Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

Old Colony Planning Council has begun development of the Old Colony Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan. As such, the following Goals of the Plan have been identified:

OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)

- **Safety:** A safe transportation system that minimizes risk of serious injury to motorized and vulnerable users of the system and helps the Region and Commonwealth move towards its Vision Zero goals

Transparency and Equity: An open and inclusive planning process that ensures representation and access to all persons

- **Economic Vitality:** A transportation network that fosters and supports a robust and diverse economy in the Old Colony Region
- **Security:** A transportation system that maintains security for physical infrastructure and the users of the system.
- **Accessibility:** A transportation system that ensures access and mobility for all motorized and vulnerable system users
- **A Clean Environment:** A transportation system that is not only protected but enhanced through energy conservation and smart, green practices
- **Resiliency:** A transportation system that is sustainable and resilient
- **State of Good Repair:** A planning process that prioritizes maintenance and keeping physical infrastructure in a state of good repair
- **Efficiency:** A transportation system that minimizes financial and environmental costs associated with congestion and delay

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 Hanover has requested a traffic study of Grove Street and surrounding area, to evaluate how recent changes to permitted traffic flow has affected these roadways and intersection. Data collection will commence in September, with analysis of data to follow.

Project Status Updates

Brockton

- DW Field Park Traffic Study
Data Collected, Analysis Underway

East Bridgewater

- Central Street Corridor Traffic Study
Data Collection Planned for Fall 2022

Hanover

- Grove Street Traffic Study

OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)

Data Collection Planned for Fall 2022

Kingston

- Pembroke Street (Route 27) at Lake Street Traffic Study
Data Collection Planned for Fall 2022

Plymouth

- Aerial Inventory of Multiple Locations (OCPC Drone Program)
Locations and Dates to be Finalized

Stoughton

- Pedestrian Safety and Walkability Audit of Pleasant Street (Route 139) and Lowe Avenue
Audit to be scheduled

Whitman

- Traffic Counts Auburn Street (Route 14)
Data to be collected upon completion of utility work

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.

Certificates

EEA #16577 – Easton Warehouse – Easton

The Certificate states that this project **DOES NOT** require an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

EEA #16578 – Owl Ridge Estates – Easton

The Certificate states that this project **REQUIRES** a Single Environmental Impact Report (SEIR).

C. Regional Concerns and Local Community Transportation Issues

Chairperson O’Toole asked if it would be okay if Bill McNulty would be able to provide the same presentation on the LRTP at the next JTC Meeting, so we can take our time with it since there is so much information.

9. Adjournment

OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)

The meeting adjourned at 1:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle Mowatt

Kyle Mowatt

Senior Transportation Planner

List of Documents for September 1, 2022 Old Colony JTC Meeting

- Minutes of the August 4, 2022 Old Colony JTC Meeting
- Staff Report for September 1, 2022, Old Colony JTC Meeting Agenda Items