

OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)

Meeting Minutes of the Old Colony Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) Held Virtually Via Zoom April 7, 2022 at 12:00 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

Abington	Bruce Hughes	MassDOT District 5	Barbara Lachance
Abington	John Stone	Mass Development	Mary Ellen DeFrias
Avon	Bill Fitzgerald	Transit Matters	Matthew Petersen
Brockton	Brady Winsten	BETA Group	Dan McCormack
Easton	David Field	VHB	Rob Cahoon
Hanson	Don Howard	Kittelson & Associates	Sean Laffey
Hanson	Jamison Shave	United Way, Greater Plymouth	Dennis Carman
Kingston	Valerie Massard	Tighe & Bond	Dan Murphy
Plymouth	James Downey	OCPC	Mary Waldron
Stoughton	John Charbonneau	OCPC	Charles Kilmer
Whitman	Noreen O'Toole	OCPC	Guoqiang Li
Whitman	Dan Salvucci	OCPC	Ray Guarino
BAT	Abigail Adams	OCPC	Bill McNulty
BAT	Linda Sacchetti	OCPC	Kyle Mowatt
BAT	Michael Lambert	OCPC	Shawn Bailey
MassDOT District 5	Pam Haznar		

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chairperson Noreen O'Toole 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

Matthew Petersen from Transit Matters touched base on the Old Colony Line Bottleneck in Dorchester and Quincy. Several Mayors, including Mayor Sullivan, have signed a letter urging the MBTA to address the bottleneck, specifically the single track section through Dorchester and Quincy that constrains service on the Middleborough, Old Colony, and Greenbush Lines. Matthew Petersen is urging everyone to write to MBTA to include this project. Emails can be sent to cipengagement@mbta.com.

3. Minutes of March 3, 2022 Meeting

Chairperson O'Toole asked if there is a motion to approve the March 3, 2022 Meeting Minutes. A motion was made by Dan Salvucci and seconded by Don Howard to approve the Meeting Minutes from March 3, 2022.

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The Old Colony JTC voted unanimously to approve the March 3, 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:

- **State Fiscal Year 2023 Community Transit Grant Program (CTGP) Application Training Announcement** – The two online trainings will take place on Thursday, April 21 (1-3pm) and Wednesday, April 27 (1-3pm)
- **Bay State Bike Month** – Bay State Bike Month is returning in May 2022!
- **Release of the 2022 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) NOFO** – Application deadline is April 14, 2022

5. Reports

A. Brockton Area Regional Transit Authority (BAT)

Michael Lambert reported on the following items:

- BAT workforce is happy, healthy and on the job
- BAT hit 6,000 trips on Monday, which is the first time that has happened in two years. Normal trip levels before Covid-19 were 8,000-10,000/day
- Michael Lambert echoed the announcement from Matthew Petersen from Transit Matters. This is a critical problem to be solved to bring regular train service to the Brockton area

Chairperson O'Toole congratulated BAT on generating 6,000 trips.

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

Shawn Bailey reported on the following items:

- In the Taunton service area there are now 4 electric buses as well as charging stations at their depot. GATRA is hoping to extend this to the Eastern part of their region near Plymouth and Kingston. This is reliant on acquiring an adequate sized depot as well as buses and charging stations that can operate in that area
- GATRA is continuing its search for the next Administrator
- GATRA's micro transit/flex service in South Plymouth continues to be successful. An additional vehicle has been added for this service

C. South Coast Rail Project

Shawn Bailey reported on the following:

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- In March 2022, work conducted involved continued fencing installation in six communities on Fall River and Middleborough Secondary Lines; utilizing Cotley Street in Berkley to access right-of-way (ROW) for various project activities; railroad work in Berkley (conduit, drainage, grubbing, and roadbed work); demolition of the railroad bridge at Pearce Street in Fall River; 24-hour track work adjacent to the Weaver's Cove Layover Site, and in Ashland and Lakeville; 24-hour culvert work in Berkley and Lakeville.
- 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 to the Freetown Station site and Weaver's Cove Layover Facility in Fall River as well as detours for various project activities.

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 2023 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).
 - Proposed for FFY 2024 in FFY 2023-2027 TIP.
 - Cost Estimate is \$2,135,071.

FFY 2025 PROJECTS:

- EASTON - CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS ON ROUTE 138 INCLUDING INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT ROUTE 138 (WASHINGTON STREET) AND ELM STREET (608195)
 - 25% Resubmission 1 Package received by MassDOT (2/25/2025).
 - Cost Estimate is \$5,754,468.

CURRENTLY UNPROGRAMMED:

- BROCKTON - INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS @ CRESCENT STREET (ROUTE 27)/ QUINCY STREET/ MASSASOIT BOULEVARD (606143)
 - Currently not programmed.
 - 25% Package received by MassDOT (as of 5/4/2015).
 - Proposed for FFY 2027 in FFY 2023-2027 TIP.
 - Cost Estimate is \$5,520,744.

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7. New Business

- A. Development of FFY 2023-2027 Old Colony Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**
 - Review and Comment on Scenarios and Preferred Set of Projects Selected by Old Colony MPO**

Charles Kilmer discussed the Development of FFY 2023-2027 Old Colony TIP.

At their meeting on March 15, 2022, the Old Colony MPO reviewed and considered two scenarios for the Draft FFY 2023-2027 TIP. After review and discussion, the MPO selected Scenario 2 as the Preferred Set of Projects. Staff will now prepare the Draft FFY 2023-2027 TIP, which the MPO, at their April 19, 2022 meeting, will potentially review and release to a public review and comment period. At their May 17, 2022 meeting, the MPO will hear public comments, consider any revisions, and then potentially endorse the FFY 2023-2027 TIP.

Charles Kilmer discussed the projects in Scenario 1 and 2. The Programming of projects in Scenario 1 and 2 are identical except for the year 2027. Those projects are as follows:

- 2023 – Stoughton – Intersection Improvements and Related Work at Central Street, Canton Street and Tosca Drive
- 2023 – Stoughton – Corridor Improvements on Route 138 AC Phase 1 of 2 (Total Cost is \$11,213,856 with FFY 2023 Cost of \$9,264,000 and FFY 2024 Cost of \$1,949,856)
- 2024 – Stoughton - Corridor Improvements on Route 138 AC Phase 1 of 2 (Total Cost is \$11,213,856 with FFY 2023 Cost of \$9,264,000 and FFY 2024 Cost of \$1,949,856)
- 2024 – Brockton – Route 123 (Centre Street) at Plymouth Street Signalization and Geometric Improvements
- 2025 – Brockton – Intersection Improvements at Lyman Street/Grove Street/Summer Street & Replacement of Grove Street Bridge, B-25-005, Over Salisbury Plain River
- 2025 – Easton – Corridor Improvements on Route 138 Including Intersection Improvements at Route 138 (Washington Street) and Elm Street
- 2026 – Abington – Intersection Improvements at Hancock Street and Chestnut Street
- 2026 – Duxbury – Signal Installation @ Route 3 (NB & SB) Ramps & Route 3A (Tremont Street)
- 2026 – 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 \$11,548,342 with FFY 2026 Cost of \$5,232,158 and 2027 Cost of \$6,316,184)
- Scenario 1: 2027 – Abington – Intersection Improvements, Randolph Street and Richard A Fitts Drive (Route 139) at Chestnut Street and Old Randolph Street
- Scenario 1: 2027 – Stoughton – Intersection Improvements at Canton Street (Route 27), School Street and Summer Street
- Scenario 2: 2027 – Brockton – Intersection Improvements @ Crescent Street (Route 27)/Quincy Street/Massasoit Boulevard
- Scenario 1 and 2: 2027 - 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 \$11,548,342 with FFY 2026 Cost of \$5,232,158 and 2027 Cost of \$6,316,184)

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B. Development of FFY 2023 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

▪ Discussion of Universe of Projects

Bill McNulty discussed the Development of the FFY 2023 UPWP.

The Draft Universe of Projects for Element 3000 is as follows:

1. Brockton – Route 27 (Reynolds Memorial Highway) Corridor Study
2. Duxbury – Route 14 Corridor Study from Pembroke Town Line to Route 3A
3. Plymouth – Long Pond Road Corridor Study from Obery Street to Drew Road
4. Regional – 2023 Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation (HST) Plan
5. Regional – 2024-2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)
6. Regional – Corridor Studies – Location(s) TBD as a result of the High Priority Corridor Screening Assessment
7. Regional – Road Safety Audits (RSAs) at Multiple Locations
8. Regional – Major Bottleneck Identification Study
9. Regional – Route 3 Safety and Mobility Study
10. Regional – Route 24 Safety and Mobility Study

C. Post Pandemic Traffic Volumes Update

▪ Discussion on Latest Regional Traffic Volumes and Trends

Shawn Bailey reported on the following Post Pandemic Traffic Volumes Update.

Traffic in the Old Colony Region reached near pre-pandemic levels during the second two-thirds of 2021, never being more than 5% less than the Average Daily Traffic (ADT) on a monthly basis. June 2021 was the closest at only 0.6% less ADT, which is the closest that the ADT has been since before the pandemic. November and December experienced their usual winter traffic declines, fortunately not to the steep levels that were observed in those same months in 2020. Even with the Delta and Omicron variants of COVID-19 spreading fast, no statewide mandates were reimplemented. The school mask mandate was still in effect and some local municipalities brought back mask mandates of varying degrees.

Traffic so far in 2022 has been surprising. January saw a deep decline in ADT, reaching levels not observed since February 2021 with a decline of roughly 70,000 vehicles. February's ADT experienced an increase of roughly 39,000 more vehicles than January and March's ADT increased by roughly 44,000 more vehicles than February (which was only 0.6% less than March 2019). There is hope that with Omicron cases significantly declining that traffic would continue its increasing trend. However, that is uncertain with the unexpected spike in gas prices in the last month. With the release of the fuel reserves over the next six months, it is hoped that gas prices will be reduced, which would help traffic volumes return to pre-pandemic levels.

Chairperson O'Toole stated that things are looking up and going in the right direction.

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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 recently completed an aerial survey of Billington Street in Plymouth using its drone to photo document this location before changes are made through a Complete Streets Project.

Project Status Updates

Brockton

- Level of service Analysis and Crash Rate Analysis of Three Belmont Street (Route 123) Intersections – Data collection and analysis underway

Stoughton

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

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 #16538 - Long Beach Mixed Sediment Nourishment – Plymouth

The proposed project is intended to enhance the coastal resiliency of a barrier beach which helps protect the mainland of downtown Plymouth from coastal storms, especially Nor'easters, and limits exposure to the high energy environment of Plymouth Bay. This project represents an improvement to the coastal environment of Long Beach and does pose a threat to public health. Project impacts will not negatively affect EJ populations within the designated geographic area, the project will in fact serve to enhance the EJ population area's protection from coastal storm damage. There are no existing unfair or inequitable environmental burdens or related health consequences related to this project.

Certificates

EEA # 16383 – Lincoln Park – West Bridgewater

The Certificate states that this project **Adequately and properly complies with MEPA.**

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Public Notices

Notice of Application and Issuance of a Draft Groundwater Discharge Permit – Kingston

This permit is for the discharge of 1,000,000 gallons of sanitary wastewater per day.

Notice of Application and Issuance of a Draft Groundwater Discharge Permit – Easton

This permit is for the discharge of 31,000 gallons of treated sanitary wastewater per day.

C. Regional Concerns and Local Community Transportation Issues

Chairperson O'Toole acknowledged and congratulated Bill McNulty for being with OCPC for 22 years.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle Mowatt

Kyle Mowatt

Senior Transportation Planner

List of Documents for April 7, 2022 Old Colony JTC Meeting

- Minutes of the March 3, 2022 Old Colony JTC Meeting
- Staff Report for April 7, 2022, Old Colony JTC Meeting Agenda Items