

OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)

Meeting Minutes of the Old Colony Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) Held Virtually Via Zoom April 4, 2024 at 12:00 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

Abington	Bruce Hughes	MassDOT	Raissah Kouame
Abington	John Stone	MBTA Advisory Board	Alan Castaline
Bridgewater	Sristhi Jain	Safe Route to School	Bonnie Roalsen
Bridgewater	Julianna Curry	National Grid	Gideon Katsh
Brockton	Rob May	Tighe & Bond	Greg Lucas
Brockton	Celia Canavan	BETA Group	Austin Pszeny
Hanson	Don Howard	Unknown	Dawn
Pembroke	Becky Coletta	Unknown	Sheila Lynch-Benttinen
Whitman	Dan Salvucci	OCPC	Mary Waldron
Whitman	Noreen O'Toole		Charles Kilmer
Whitman	Rosemary Connolly		Shawn Bailey
BAT	Michael Lambert		Guoqiang Li
BAT	Linda Sacchetti		Kyle Mowatt
BAT	Kelly Forrester		Bill McNulty
GATRA	Mary Ellen DeFrias		Ray Guarino
MassDOT District 5	Barbara Lachance		

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Noreen O'Toole called the meeting to order at 12:03 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 March 7, 2024 Meeting

Chairperson O'Toole asked if there is a motion to approve the March 7, 2024 Meeting Minutes. A motion was made by Dan Salvucci and seconded by Don Howard to approve the Meeting Minutes from March 7, 2024.

The Old Colony JTC voted to approve the March 7, 2024 Meeting Minutes.

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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:

- MassDOT Route 24 Over Canton Street Bridge Replacement Stage 1 Work Weekend
- Culver Replacement Municipal Assistance Grant Program - Division of Ecological Restoration (DER), Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game
- Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP) – Application must be submitted electronically through grants.gov no later than 11:59 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, on Monday, June 17, 2024
- Massachusetts Project Intake Tool (MaPIT) 5.0 Virtual Classroom – May 7 and May 16
- MassDOT Beyond Mobility Update – Announcement of Public Comment Period
- Federal Funds & Infrastructure Office

5. Reports

A. Brockton Area Regional Transit Authority (BAT)

Michael Lambert reported on the following items:

- Last month BAT had strong ridership. At about 20% over where BAT was in March, 2019 Pre-Covid.
- Provided 20,000 trips along the Stoughton Route.
- Bus Shelters - About to roll out a replacement plan. There will be new shelters in new locations. These come with solar lighting and signage.

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

Mary Ellen DeFrias reported on the following items:

- GATRA is continuing to roll out their Sunday service.
- There have been a shortage of drivers but GATRA is working through that.
- In process of looking at different parts of service area to see where we could reduce headways and potentially increase service hours

Mary Ellen DeFrias explained GATRA's service area. GATRA goes down to Wareham and up through Plymouth, Kingston, Bellingham, Taunton and Attleborough. There are 30 communities in GATRA's service area. Service hours are 6 AM – 7 PM.

C. South Coast Rail Project

Shawn Bailey reported on the following:

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In March 2024, work conducted involved fencing installation in six communities; daytime roadway sign installations near stations in Middleborough and Taunton; construction of a pedestrian bridge over Route 18 in New Bedford (night work and detours to resume week of April 7); return of Mass Coastal Railroad nighttime freight operations on the New Bedford Main and Fall River Secondary lines; daytime brush cutting and tree trimming along the railroad right-of-way in eight communities; and signal system installation and testing in seven communities.

Additional work done included daytime construction and signal work at station sites, layover sites, and along the right-of-way from Middleborough to New Bedford as well as from Berkley to Fall River. There was also transportation of soil by truck to designated project sites.

Chairperson O’Toole asked the timeframe. Shawn Bailey stated that SCR should be in service by late Summer/Early Fall of 2024.

6. Old Business

A. FFY 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Implementation ▪ **Informational Update on Adjustment 2**

Bill McNulty discussed Adjustment 2.

FFY 2024

ADD PROJECT

- **Statewide Wrong-Way Vehicle Detection (WWVD) System**

Location #	District	Town	MPO	Location
12	5	Plymouth	Old Colony	Route 3 North Exit 13
13	5	Plymouth	Old Colony	Route 3 South Exit 13

On March 19, 2024, the Old Colony Metropolitan Planning Organization endorsed the Old Colony FFY 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program as adjusted with Adjustment 2.

Rosemary Connolly asked for an update on Whitmans application for the TIP project on Auburn Street. Dan Salvucci stated that Bruce Martin submitted the application for that grant. The grant was received well over a year ago. Work on this project has not started yet.

Bill McNulty stated that this project was looked at for the 2029 TIP but it was a little high in cost. Rosemary asked if this project was rejected. Bill McNulty stated that it wasn’t rejected, it just wasn’t accepted as a project for this round of funding during the 5 year TIP cycle. This doesn’t mean a year from now this project can’t be accepted. Due to fiscal constraint we can only program a certain number of projects. Bill McNulty further discussed the project review process.

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Charles Kilmer stated that in terms of readiness, this project was just approved by the MassDOT Project Review Committee. This is very early in the design stage, so readiness was another factor. It's in the TIP itself but it is not in the current funding cycle. Keep pushing forward with the designer and we'll take it up in the next funding cycle.

7. New Business

A. Old Colony FFY 2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development – Review and Discussion of Preferred Set of Projects

Bill McNulty discussed the preferred set of projects for the FFY 2025-2029 TIP.

On March 19, 2024, the Old Colony Metropolitan Planning Organization selected a Preferred Set of Projects to be included in the development of the Draft Old Colony FFY 2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The Preferred Set of Projects includes \$164 million in highway and bridge investments and over \$64 million in transit investments across the Region.

The Draft Old Colony FFY 2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program is scheduled for release to a public review and comment period pending MPO approval on April 16, 2024.

<u>Current FFY</u> 2024-2028 TIP Year	<u>Proposed FFY</u> 2025-2029 TIP Year	<u>PROJECT ID#</u>	<u>PROJECT DESCRIPTION</u>
2024	2024	607403	STOUGHTON - CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS ON ROUTE 138 FROM 300 FEET NORTH OF CHARLES AVENUE TO LINCOLN STREET Phase 1
2024	2025	609052	BROCKTON - ROUTE 123 (CENTRE STREET) AT PLYMOUTH STREET SIGNALIZATION AND GEOMETRIC IMPROVEMENTS
2025	2026	607818	BROCKTON - INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT LYMAN STREET/GROVE STREET/SUMMER STREET & REPLACEMENT OF GROVE STREET BRIDGE, B-25-005, OVER SALISBURY PLAIN RIVER
2025	2025	608195	EASTON - CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS ON ROUTE 138 INCLUDING INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT ROUTE 138 (WASHINGTON STREET) AND ELM STREET
2026	2026	609440	ABINGTON - INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT HANCOCK STREET AND CHESTNUT STREET
2026	2027	606002	DUXBURY - SIGNAL INSTALLATION @ ROUTE 3 (NB & SB) RAMPS & ROUTE 3A (TREMONT STREET) (\$2,688,000)
-	2029	613599	HANOVER- INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT COLUMBIA ROAD (ROUTE 53/139) AND BROADWAY
2027	2027	612525	ABINGTON - INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS, RANDOLPH STREET AND RICHARD A FITTS DRIVE (ROUTE 139) AT CHESTNUT STREET AND OLD RANDOLPH STREET
2028	2028	612769	HANOVER - CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS ON ROUTE 139 (HANOVER STREET) AT MAIN STREET, CENTER STREET AND SILVER STREET
2028	2028	612262	BROCKTON - INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT ROUTE 123 (BELMONT STREET), PEARL STREET AND STONEHILL STREET
0	2029	611976	EAST BRIDGEWATER- INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT HIGHLAND STREET AND NORTH BEDFORD STREET (ROUTE 18)
-	2029	613277	STOUGHTON- INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT ROUTE 27 (PARK STREET) AND TURNPIKE STREET

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B. Development of FFY 2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

▪ Discussion of Universe of Projects

Charles Kilmer discussed the Universe of Projects.

The Old Colony Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) provides an overview and budgetary information for the transportation planning tasks and activities, which are to be conducted in the region during the upcoming federal fiscal year. The Old Colony UPWP is a federally required certification document, which is prepared and endorsed annually by the Old Colony Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

The Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC) has the responsibility of preparing and implementing the Old Colony UPWP. As such, the OCPC staff is developing the FFY 2025 Old Colony UPWP and is asking the Old Colony Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for suggestions and input on proposed activities, tasks, and projects.

ID	COMMUNITY	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	PROJECT TYPE
1	Avon	West Main Street from Brockton City Line to Route 28	Corridor
2	Bridgewater	Route 104 from Raynham Town Line to Bridgewater Central Square	Corridor
3	Bridgewater	Route 104 from Bridgewater Central Square to Halifax Town Line	Corridor
4	Bridgewater	Route 18 and Route 18/Route 28	Corridor
5	Brockton	Oak Street from North Pearl Street to Route 28	Corridor
6	Brockton	Route 27 from Main Street to Whitman Town Line	Corridor
7	Brockton	East Ashland Street	Corridor
8	Brockton	Main Street from Plain Street to Avon Town Line	Corridor
9	Brockton	Route 27 from Stoughton Town Line to Main Street	Corridor
10	Brockton	Route 28	Corridor
11	Brockton	Route 123 from Downtown to Abington Town Line	Corridor
12	East Bridgewater	Route 14	Corridor
12	East Bridgewater	Route 18 from Bridgewater Town Line to Whitman Town Line	Corridor
13	East Bridgewater	Pleasant Street/ North Central Street/ Central Street	Corridor
14	Kingston	Route 3A and Vicinity Transportation and Land Use Study	Corridor and Land Use

ID	COMMUNITY	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	PROJECT TYPE
15	Pembroke	Route 36 from Halifax Town Line to Route 14	Corridor
16	Plymouth	Route 3A	Corridor
17	Plymouth	Carver Road (Former Route 44) from Carver Town Line to Route 3A	Corridor
18	Plymouth	Long Pond Road from Route 3A (Herring Pond Road) to Route 3	Corridor
19	Stoughton	Route 27	Corridor
20	Stoughton	Route 139 from Stoughton Center to Randolph Town Line	Corridor
21	Whitman	Route 27	Corridor
22	Regional	Road Safety Audits (RSAs) at Multiple Locations	Intersections and Corridors
23	Regional	Major Bottleneck Identification Study	Corridor
24	Regional	Resilience Improvement Plan per 23 USC 176e	Network Wide

C. Old Colony Traffic Volumes Report, 1993-2023

▪ Presentation and Discussion

Kyle Mowatt presented and discussed the Traffic Volumes Report.

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The **Old Colony Traffic Volumes Report (1993-2023)** contains traffic information from the past 30 years from a variety of sources including Old Colony Planning Council, Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT), and various consulting and engineering firms.

During each count season the completed Automatic Traffic Recorder (ATR) counts are uploaded to the [Transportation Data Management System \(MS2\)](#). MS2 is a tool to organize traffic count data. It allows the ability to upload data from a traffic counter; view graphs, lists and reports of historic traffic count data; search for count data using either the database or the Google map; and print or export data to your desktop. The process of storing count data in MS2 involves collecting traffic count data, uploading count data, verifying count data quality, and assigning count data to count locations.

Chairperson O'Toole asked if there were any patterns seen while looking at the traffic patterns. Kyle Mowatt stated that with Covid there was definitely a drop in traffic volumes. There is usually a gradual increase of 1% in traffic. The numbers seem to be still off a bit with a lot of people still working from home.

Charles Kilmer provided an example in the Volumes Report of how the ADT has varied through the years. The historical nature of the count locations is a great resource.

Dan Murphy stated that this will be a great resource. He also commented on the great cover photo on the report in East Bridgewater.

8. Other Business and Public Comment

A. Community Local Technical Assistance Studies

Bill McNulty reported on the following items:

The Old Colony Planning Council completed a traffic study of High Street, Maple Avenue, and Vernon Street in Bridgewater. Traffic data and findings from this Study have been distributed to the Town.

Project Status Updates

[Duxbury / Kingston](#)

- Traffic Study of Landing Road / Loring Street / Parks Street Corridor
Data collection planned for May 2024.

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.

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Submitting Comments to MEPA

The Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) accepts written comments on projects currently under MEPA review. Comments may be submitted electronically, by mail, via fax, or by hand delivery. Comments submitted to MEPA are public records and should be sent to the following address:

Secretary Kathleen Theoharides
EEA, Attn: MEPA Office
[Analyst Name], EEA No. _____
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

New Projects

EEA # 16814 – 16 Town Wharf – Plymouth

Expanded Environmental Notification Form (EENF)

The project proposes to raze the existing restaurant which is need of improvements and construct a new restaurant.

Certificates

None

Public Notices

Notice of Submission of a Yearly Operational Plan – Abington, Avon, Bridgewater, Brockton, East Bridgewater, Easton, Halifax, Kingston, Plymouth, Plympton, Stoughton, West Bridgewater, Whitman

Applying herbicides on railroad rights-of-way.

Notice of Issuance of Draft Water Management Act Permits – Halifax, Hanson

In regards to irrigation of cranberry bogs in Halifax and Hanson

Notice of Comment Period Extension on Yearly Operating Plan – Abington, Kingston, Avon, Plymouth, Whitman, Duxbury, Brockton, Stoughton

In regards to applying herbicides along Eversource rights-of-way

Notice of Application for a 401 Water Quality Certificate – Plympton

In regards to the replacement of bridge over Winnetuxet Road over Winnetuxet River in the Town of Plympton.

Notice of Application for a Chapter 91 Waterways License - Kingston

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Performing ecological restoration activities at a retired 4-acre cranberry bog and to construct and maintain two pedestrian footbridges across the newly created stream channel off Winthrop Street.

C. Regional Concerns and Local Community Transportation Issues

Dan Salvucci reached out to Bruce Martin in Whitman regarding the Route 27 Project near the MBTA Station. Whitman did get the letter of approval, but they don't anticipate seeing any progress from the state for a while seeing as it's a \$14 Million Project.

Dan Salvucci inquired about the traffic on Forest Street in Brockton during school release. There is a lot of traffic and no police officers directing traffic. This should be looked at to determine if a police officer is needed during school release hours. Celia Canavan said that she will pass this along to the Mayor, and hopefully we can come up with a solution.

Bruce Hughes stated that Abington passed their MBTA Community Housing Issue at their Town Meeting.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle Mowatt

Kyle Mowatt

Senior Transportation Planner

List of Documents for April 4, 2024 Old Colony JTC Meeting

- Minutes of the March 7, 2024 Old Colony JTC Meeting
- Staff Report for April 4, 2024, Old Colony JTC Meeting Agenda Items

**A quorum is not necessary for any meeting of the JTC. However, if any JTC voting member feels that there is not adequate or appropriate representation of the group present to decide an issue, that member may advise the group and the Chairperson may postpone the issue until the next meeting.*

***Generally, matters will not be decided by vote. Exceptions to this rule are matters of Joint Transportation Committee internal business such as the election of a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Secretary, the approval of the minutes of a previous meeting and amendments to the By-laws. In such cases, the Chairperson shall direct a voice vote on the matter, and finding significant opposition shall re-open discussion of that matter until a consensus position is reached.*