

OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)

Meeting Minutes of the Old Colony Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) Held Virtually Via Zoom March 3, 2022 at 12:00 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

Abington	John Stone	MA House of Representatives	Rep. Michelle DuBois
Brockton	Brady Winsten	Office of Rep. DuBois	Anne Audette
Easton	Greg Swan	MassDOT	Jean Fox
Easton	Connor Read	BETA Group	Dan McCormack
Hanson	Jamison Shave	McMahon Associates	Phil Viveiros
Hanson	Don Howard	Stoughton Select Board	Debra Roberts
Pembroke	Becky Coletta	BAT	Abigail Adams
Plymouth	James Downey	Metro South Chamber	Chris Cooney
Stoughton	Joe Scardino	OCPC	Kyle Mowatt
Stoughton	Marc Tisdelle	OCPC	Shawn Bailey
Stoughton	John Charbonneau	OCPC	Bill McNulty
Whitman	Noreen O'Toole	OCPC	Charles Kilmer
Whitman	Dan Salvucci	OCPC	Mary Waldron
MassDOT District 5	Barbara Lachance	OCPC	Ray Guarino
BAT	Glenn Geiler	OCPC	Dottie Fulginiti
BAT	Linda Sacchetti	OCPC	Guoqiang Li
Mass Development	Mary Ellen DeFrias		

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 February 3, 2022 Meeting

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

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The Old Colony JTC voted unanimously to approve the February 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:

- **MassDOT Highway Initiating a Project – MaPIT: Please Start Preparing New Project Now**
- **MA Safe Routes to School Networking Call** – March 16, 2022, at 10:00 AM
- **WalkBoston Annual Meeting 2022** – March 30, 2022 at 5:00 PM
- **MassDOT Transportation Innovation Conference** – May 24-25, 2022
- **Release of the 2022 Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) NOFO** – The application deadline is April 14, 2022 at 5:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time (EDT)

5. Reports

A. Brockton Area Regional Transit Authority (BAT)

Glenn Geiler reported on the following items:

- February ridership was very strong. BAT is looking forward to a great Spring.
- Mask mandate was set to expire March 18. (Note: The United States Department of Transportation has since extended the mask mandate for public transportation to April 18, 2022) Face coverings are still required on all BAT vehicles.
- BAT recently had a visit from their bus manufacturer, GILLIG, and the staff at BAT were able to ride a fully electric bus.
- BAT applied for a Shared Streets Grant. The attention of this grant is to expand the current bus stop at the Westgate Mall /Market Basket area. There will be a mini mobility hub at this location.

Joe Scardino inquired what the range on the electric bus is. Glenn Geiler researched the answer then later reported to Mr. Scardino and the Committee.

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

Shawn Bailey stated that there is no update at this time.

C. South Coast Rail Project

Shawn Bailey reported on the following:

- In February 2022, work conducted involved continued fencing installation in six communities on the Fall River and Middleborough Secondary lines; utilizing Cotley Street in Berkley to access

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right-of-way (ROW) for various project activities; railroad work at Myricks Street in Berkley (conduit, drainage, grubbing, and roadbed work); bridge work at Pearce Street in Fall River, and track work adjacent to the Weaver's Cove Layover 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 and daytime transportation of soils to the Freetown Station site and Weaver's Cove Layover Facility in Fall River.

Jean Fox provided a presentation on the status of the South Coast Rail Project:

- SCR Phase 1 is on time, on budget, and fully funded
- The Fall River Line contract is on schedule at 40% completion
- The Middleborough Secondary/New Bedford Main Line/Signals contract is on schedule at 20% completion
- Construction is furthest along at the Fall River Depot and Freetown Stations: footings, station platform foundations, walls and bridges and culverts are visible
- SCR anticipates reaching the midpoint of construction in Spring 2022 and Revenue Service is anticipated for late 2023

Dan Salvucci asked if there are electric car parking spaces with chargers at Commuter Rail lots. Jean Fox stated that there will be electric car parking spaces with chargers.

Connor Read stated that Easton has been and remains strongly opposed to the full build proposal, and very supportive of the ongoing construction of the Middleborough alternative.

Joe Scardino inquired if the electric car chargers will be Tesla or regular car chargers. Jean Fox stated that she is not sure at this point. Joe Scardino also suggested that when the train pulls into Stoughton that it run on Diesel and then pick up electrification once leaving the station. This would be to preserve the Stoughton Downtown.

Representative DuBois asked why there was not a focus on buying American made train coaches. Jean Fox stated that they went to Hyundai due to the cost as well as to be consistent with existing rolling stock.

Chris Cooney stated that the Rail Vision Plan is wonderful.

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 2023 Projects

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- STOUGHTON – CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS ON ROUTE 138 (607403) AC PHASE 1 OF 2
 - Design Public Hearing held February 16, 2022

FFY 2024 Projects

- STOUGHTON – CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS ON ROUTE 138 (607403) AC PHASE 2 OF 2
 - Design Public Hearing held February 16, 2022

Currently Unprogrammed Projects

- EASTON – IMPROVEMENTS ON FOUNDRY STREET (ROUTE 106/123) (612269)
 - Pre-25% Design Meeting held March 1, 2022

Marc Tisdelle provided an update for the Stoughton Intersection Improvements at Canton Street (Route 27), School Street and Summer Street Project (611981). This project is currently unprogrammed. There is currently a contract with the design engineer for the 100% design plans in place. There was a kickoff meeting yesterday for this project.

Representative DuBois asked when the Brockton – Grove Street Bridge project was going to be starting. Bill McNulty stated that he will get back to her with the start date. With regard to Representative DuBois inquiry about the Summer/ Grove Street / Bridge Project, it is programmed in FFY 2025 of the FFY 2022-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). As such, at this point, the earliest construction would take place is calendar year 2025 in the late winter, early spring. The most recent design schedule that I saw noted a First quarter FFY advertisement date for construction bids (December 2024)

7. New Business

- A. *Old Colony Freight Management and Action Plan***
 - ***Project Update and Regional Freight Discussion***

Ray Guarino provided a project update on the Old Colony Freight Management and Action Plan.

The elements and process of the Freight Study include:

1. Freight Self-Assessment
 - Identify the key freight facilities and modes (truck, rail, port, air), industries, freight generators
 - Understand freight transportation needs (issues such as truck routes, bottlenecks/congestion, truck exclusions, physical constraints, crash locations and safety)
 - Identify the major freight players in the region
2. Identify action freight related strategies, policies, and projects specific to the region that could be implemented into the MPOs plans and programs
3. Integrate Freight Plan with the region's Long Range Transportation Plan

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Joe Scardino asked if tractor trailers are allowed to park in Wal-Mart parking lots. Ray Guarino stated that they are allowed to park there. Dan Salvucci stated that Weigh Stations should be left open for Tractor Trailer drivers to rest.

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 Stoughton has requested a traffic study for the area of Pleasant Street (Route 139) and Lowe Avenue, with specific regard to walkability and pedestrian safety between Route 139 and the Joseph R. Dawe Jr. Elementary School on Lowe Avenue. Old Colony Planning Council is working with the Town to schedule this study.

Project Status Updates

Brockton

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

Kingston

- Technical Assistance with Identifying Thickly Settled Residential Areas – Consultation with Town underway

Plymouth

- Survey of Billington Street via Drone Program – To be scheduled

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.

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Certificates

EEA # 16504 – Warehouse Facility – East Bridgewater

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

Public Notices

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

The Town of Kingston is applying for a Groundwater Discharge Permit for sanitary wastewater in the amount of 1,000,000 Gallons Per Day. The location of the facility is located on Cranberry Road.

Notice of Intent to Initiate an Eelgrass Restoration Project – Duxbury, Plymouth

The project consists of transplanting ½ acre of eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) in Duxbury Bay over a five-year period, beginning in spring 2022. The project shall result in an increase in storm damage prevention and the protection of fisheries as well as wildlife habitat.

Notice of Intent for Ecological Restoration at 127 Manomet Point Road – Plymouth

The proposed project includes wetland improvements, invasive plant management, maintenance of existing meadows & walking trails and the construction of an observation blind with boardwalk. The proposed project has been designed to improve wildlife habitat value throughout the site, provide an overall improvement to the natural capacity of the resource areas and to protect and sustain the interest identified in the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act.

C. Regional Concerns and Local Community Transportation Issues

There were no Regional Concerns or Local Community Transportation Issues at this time.

Chairperson O'Toole thanked Jean Fox for attending the JTC Meeting and provided an update on the South Coast Rail Project.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle Mowatt

Kyle Mowatt

Senior Transportation Planner

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List of Documents for March 3, 2022 Old Colony JTC Meeting

- Minutes of the February 3, 2022 Old Colony JTC Meeting
- Staff Report for March 3, 2022, Old Colony JTC Meeting Agenda Items
- South Coast Rail Presentation – March 2022