

# **OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)**

## **Meeting Minutes of the Old Colony Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) Held Virtually Via Zoom September 5, 2024 at 12:00 P.M.**

### **ATTENDANCE**

Abington	John Stone	GATRA	Mary Ellen DeFrias
Abington	Kevin Cogan	MassDOT District 5	Barbara Lachance
Avon	Richard Jordan	Safe Routes to School	Colleen Pekrul
Bridgewater	Shane O'Brien	United Way of Greater Plymouth County	Dennis Carman
Bridgewater	Greg Tansey	Howard Stein Hudson	Steve Findlen
Brockton	Celia Canavan	GPI	Sid Kashi
Easton	Greg Swan	Environmental Partners	Jim Fitzgerald
Easton	Dave Field	OCPC	Kyle Mowatt
Hanson	Don Howard	OCPC	Shawn Bailey
Kingston	Valerie Massard	OCPC	Charles Kilmer
Pembroke	Becky Coletta	OCPC	Bill McNulty
Whitman	Dan Salvucci	OCPC	Ray Guarino
Whitman	Noreen O'Toole	OCPC	Guoqiang Li
BAT	Kelly Forrester	OCPC	Mary Waldron
BAT	Michael Lambert		

### **1. Call to Order and Introductions**

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.

A moment of silence was held for former OCPC Executive Director Dan Crane, who passed away on August 9, 2024. Dan served the Old Colony Planning Council for 32 years during his career.

### **2. Public Comments**

There were no public comments at this time.

### **3. Minutes of June 6, 2024 Meeting**

Chairperson O'Toole asked if there is a motion to approve the June 6, 2024 Meeting Minutes. A motion was made by Dan Salvucci and seconded by Don Howard to approve the Meeting Minutes from June 6, 2024.

*The Old Colony JTC voted to approve the June 6, 2024 Meeting Minutes.*

# **OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)**

## **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:

- Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant – Application Deadline Extended to September 11, 2024.
- Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Program – Application Deadline is September 30, 2024.
- USDOT Public Engagement Workshop – September 9, 2024.
- Massachusetts Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Signs & Lines and Infrastructure Grant Program – Application periods will open on September 4, 2024.
- iWalk (International Walk, Bike, & Roll to School Day) – October 9, 2024.
- Federal Funds & Infrastructure Office (FFIO) – Next Federal Funds Partnership Meeting is scheduled for September 24, 2024.
- MassDOT Announces Application Schedule for Community Transit Program – Operating & Mobility Management Grants will open September 6 and Close on November 1. Accessible Vehicles Grants will open on October 15 and close on November 22.

## **5. Reports**

### ***A. Brockton Area Regional Transit Authority (BAT)***

Michael Lambert reported on the following items:

- BAT is continuing to experience record ridership during the free fare program, made possible through a grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. BAT provided 330,000 trips, which is a 20 year high. Two days earlier over 14,000 trips during the day were recorded.
- BAT is now providing Saturday service on the Rockland Micro Transit service.
- BAT is targeting mid-October for a ribbon cutting for electric buses, celebration of BAT 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and a customer appreciation event.

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

Mary Ellen DeFrias reported on the following items:

- GATRA is continuing to experience steady growth in ridership which has resulted in some capacity issues on the system.
- GATRA is conducting inventory of vehicles they have and how they can distribute the new vehicles coming in.
- GATRA is looking to expand hours on fixed route service and micro-transit service on October 1. It is still a struggle to find drivers.

# OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)

## C. South Coast Rail Project

Shawn Bailey reported on the following:

From June to August 2024, work conducted involved continued fencing installation in four communities; train testing to and from Middleborough, East Taunton, Freetown, Fall River, and New Bedford (with speeds of up to 79 miles per hour); overnight striping work at the Middleborough station; daytime curb and sidewalk work in New Bedford; daytime tree and vegetation trimming in Middleborough; overnight grade crossing striping at all railroad grade crossings from Middleborough to Fall River and New Bedford; continued construction of a pedestrian bridge over Route 18 in New Bedford; daytime roadway sign and marking installations in five communities; daytime utility work along Industrial Drive in Taunton; 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.

## 6. Old Business

### A. FFY 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Implementation

Bill McNulty discussed changes within the FFY 2024-2028 TIP.

#### FFY 2024 PROJECTS:

- BROCKTON - INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AND RELATED WORK AT CENTRE STREET (ROUTE 123), CARY STREET, AND LYMAN STREET (609410)
  - PS&E Resub 3 received by MassDOT 8/13/2024).
  - Cost Estimate is \$3,379,839.
  
- BROCKTON - ROUTE 123 (CENTRE STREET) AT PLYMOUTH STREET SIGNALIZATION AND GEOMETRIC IMPROVEMENTS (609052)
  - **Moved to FFY 2025 in Old Colony FFY 2025-2029 TIP**
  - 25% Package received by MassDOT (3/16/2023).
  - Cost Estimate is \$2,792,790.
  
- PLYMPTON - BRIDGE REPLACEMENT, WINNETUXET ROAD OVER WINNETUXET RIVER (609435)
  - Project has been advertised for construction bids 8/31/2024.
  - Cost Estimate is \$2,575,069.

# **OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)**

## **7. New Business**

### **A. *Stoughton Route 139 Corridor Study***

#### **▪ *Presentation and Discussion of Findings***

Guoqiang Li presented on the Stoughton Route 139 Corridor Study.

The Route 139 Corridor is approximately 3.4 center-line miles and classified as Principal Arterial and Urban Principal Arterial. A survey was sent out to stakeholders and 150 responses were gathered.

Transportation Modes and Demand Summary:

- Vehicle Volume Range – 5,605-19,279 per day
- Bicyclist Range – 1-8 at major intersection at peak hours
- 85% Speed Range – 35-45 MPH
- Heavy Vehicle % - 4.7-24.8%
- Intersections with Highest Pedestrian Counts – Route 139 & Washington Street (Route 138) – 124 at peak hours. Route 139 & Lincoln Street – 10 at peak hour.

Guoqiang then proceeded to summarize all the major intersections along the corridor and report on the preliminary findings.

Improvement Considerations:

- Traffic Calm Treatments
- Review, ensure enforcement of speed limit regulation for entire corridor.
- Consider signal maintenance, optimization and upgrades.
- Implement access management plan and design.
- Consider intersection geometric improvements.
- Enhance bicycling and walking safety and mobility.

The next steps are to send out a draft report and solicit comments and then release the final report by September 30, 2024.

Chairperson O'Toole asked if the 85<sup>th</sup>% speed range was seen along the whole corridor. Guoqiang Li stated that the speeding varies along the corridor as the speed limit is lower in the southern portion of the corridor vs. the north section where it is a higher speed limit.

Ray Guarino stated that when it opens up to 4 lanes when motorists then speed. Where it's more residential and 2 lanes the speeds are still high because motorists use it as a cut through. Discussion followed.

# **OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)**

## **B. Old Colony 2023 Commuter Origins Study**

- **Presentation of Final Report**

Shawn Bailey presented on the Old Colony 2023 Commuter Origins Study.

Within the Old Colony Congestion Management Process (CMP), utilization counts at MBTA Commuter Rail stations, the BAT Facility, and MassDOT Park & Ride lots are conducted on a biannual basis (April and October). We deliver the data results to the MBTA, MassDOT, and BAT after each data collection, which occurs in April and October of each year. Locations that are greater than or equal to 85% utilized are considered to be congested.

The Commuter Origins Study is a quadrennial project and is a part of the Old Colony CMP. For this data collection, we received assistance from the MBTA. Since all Commuter Rail Locations now have an app on which commuters pay for their parking, the MBTA collects license plates on a daily basis. The MBTA provided the Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC) with the license plates from the 15 Commuter Rail parking lots that OCPC visits for the utilization counts (OCPC collected license plates at the BAT Facility as well as the five MassDOT Park & Ride lots).

The Plymouth Commuter Rail station was closed after the October 2020 data collection and the Kingston Park & Ride lot was closed after the October 2021 data collection; neither location will be visited. MassDOT has stated in the past that they will be creating a new Park & Ride location in Pembroke in the future that will have an increased amount of parking over the previous Pembroke location. It is unknown if that MassDOT Park & Ride lot will be constructed with the change in commuting patterns and needs resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Just under 3,000 license plates were collected during the data collection for this study at all 20 locations. Since the 2019 Commuter Origins Study, there have been no congested locations (where at least an 85% utilization was yielded). Only one location during this count yielded a utilization rate higher than 50%, but Canton Junction has surpassed the 85% congested threshold in the two counts since. In total, 98.4% of the license plates that were collected from Commuter Rail and Park & Ride lots were matched, which is a 9.7% increase in matched plates from the 2019 Commuter Origins Study.

## **C. Old Colony 2023 Measures of Effectiveness (MOE) Report**

- **Presentation of Final Report**

Shawn Bailey presented on the Old Colony 2023 Measures of Effectiveness (MOE) Report.

Public Participation is a key ingredient in the Old Colony Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) transportation planning efforts. Public Participation not only leads to better projects, studies, and outcomes, but also helps spend limited funding in a manner in line with community and regional goals. In addition to helping develop better projects, public outreach fosters greater trust between citizens and Local, State, and the Federal Government and their representative entities like the Old Colony MPO.

## **OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)**

Lastly, the MPO is required by State and Federal partners to ensure it is including members of the public in the transportation planning process.

In order to ensure the Old Colony MPO is meeting its public participation requirements, measures are necessary to determine whether its Public Participation Plan (PPP) is accomplishing its goals. Through a series of data collection efforts that take place during outreach efforts, the MPO obtains the ability to see where the PPP is succeeding and where there are opportunities for greater participation. This report explores outreach efforts and measures their effectiveness in expanding public participation to members of the public and outside organizations in MPO planning activities.

In order to better understand how the MPO is meeting its commitment to fostering public engagement in all MPO planning activities, it is key to develop a series of measurements to understand the effectiveness of the public outreach efforts. It is through the tracking of public engagements, whether it be in person, via email, through social media or utilizing virtual public engagement, that the MPO can determine if its public outreach efforts are delivering the results that are desired and required.

The Old Colony MPO tracks all the outreach efforts it conducts. Public meeting attendance is recorded with additional attention given to attendees that are from Title VI protected classes. The MPO tracks the methods it employs in getting information to the public on upcoming meetings, the release of public documents, and the viewing and engagement of the public through its social media presence. Through the collection of this information the MPO gains greater clarity on where it is doing well and where there is a need to increase public engagement.

### **8. Other Business and Public Comment**

#### ***A. Community Local Technical Assistance Studies***

Bill McNulty reported on the following items:

The Old Colony Planning Council recently completed an addendum to the 2023 Kingston Landing Road Road Safety Audit that included updated traffic counts from 2024 and analysis on Landing Road, and expanded data collection and analysis of potentially affected roadways in South Duxbury. The updated Road Safety Audit with Addendum has been distributed to the Towns of Kingston and Duxbury.

A road safety audit of the intersection of Palmer Road (Route 58) and Center Street in Plympton has been completed. The final report has been distributed to the Town of Plympton and MassDOT.

The Old Colony Planning Council completed levels of service analyses and traffic signal warrants analyses for four intersections in the Town of Plymouth. Data and findings have been distributed to the Town. The Town of Halifax has requested speed zone analysis of the town's primary business district on Route 106. Data collection for this Study is scheduled for September 2024.

The Town of Avon has requested a road safety audit of Main Street (Route 28) between High Street and West Main Street. The Road Safety Audit will be conducted Fall 2024.

# OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)

## Project Status Updates

### Avon

- Main Street (Route 28) Road Safety Audit  
*Road Safety Audit to be completed Fall 2024.*

### Halifax

- Halifax Business District Speed Zoning Analysis  
*Data collection planned for September 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.

## **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 #11085R – South Weymouth Naval Air Station Redevelopment Project – Abington, Rockland, Weymouth**

*Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Report (SDEIR)*

### **EEA #16854 – Crescent View Farm Residential Subdivision – West Bridgewater**

*Environmental Notification Form (ENF)*

The project involves construction of three paved subdivision roadways (Fed Way, Henry Lane, and Jeffrey Drive) and associated clearing and grading, utilities, and stormwater management features on

# **OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)**

property located off Crescent Street and Old Crescent Street in West Bridgewater. The proposed subdivision roadways will provide access to 29 proposed house lots.

**EEA #16814 – 16 Town Wharf – Plymouth**  
*Single Environmental Impact Report (SEIR)*

## **Certificates**

**EEA #16819 – Proposed Mixed-Use Development - Bridgewater**  
*Environmental Notification Form (ENF)*

The certificate states that this project requires an Environmental Impact Report.

## **Public Notices**

### **Notice of Request for a Site Examination – Pembroke**

In regard to expanding a public water supply source to withdraw up to approximately 1 to 1.14 million gallons per day of water from the groundwater of the Taunton River Basin in Pembroke.

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

In regard to Queset Commons and the discharge of 150,000 gallons per day of sanitary wastewater.

### **Notice of Intent to Initiate an Ecological Restoration Project - Duxbury**

In regard to the Temple Street Dam Removal Project.

### ***C. Regional Concerns and Local Community Transportation Issues***

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

## **9. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Kyle Mowatt*

Kyle Mowatt

Senior Transportation Planner

## **List of Documents for September 5, 2024 Old Colony JTC Meeting**

- Minutes of the June 6, 2024 Old Colony JTC Meeting
- Presentation: Stoughton Route 139 Corridor Study



## ***OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)***

- Presentation: 2024 Commuter Origins Study
- Presentation: Old Colony 2023 Measures of Effectiveness (MOE) Report
- Staff Report for September 5, 2024, Old Colony JTC Meeting Agenda Items