

OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)

Meeting Minutes of the Old Colony Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) Held Virtually Via Zoom September 7, 2023 at 12:00 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

Abington	John Stone	BAT	Michael Lambert
Abington	Bruce Hughes	GATRA	Mary Ellen DeFrias
Bridgewater	Shane O'Brien	MBTA	Jim Nihan
Bridgewater	Michael Dutton	MassDOT District 5	Richard Bilski
Bridgewater	Srithi Jain	MassDOT District 5	Barbara Lachance
Brockton	Rob May	Senator Brady's Office	Karla Kahale
Brockton	Kamiya Parkin	United Way	Dennis Carman
Easton	David Field	TranSystems	Alan Castaline
Easton	Greg Swan	Environmental Partners	Jim Fitzgerald
Halifax	Jonathan Selig	OCPC	Charles Kilmer
Hanson	Don Howard	OCPC	Ray Guarino
Pembroke	Becky Coletta	OCPC	Kyle Mowatt
Plymouth	James Downey	OCPC	Guoqiang Li
Stoughton	William Roth	OCPC	Bill McNulty
Whitman	Dan Salvucci	OCPC	Shawn Bailey
BAT	Glenn Geiler		

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Vice Chairperson Dan Salvucci called the meeting to order at 12:00 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 3, 2023 Meeting

Vice Chairperson Salvucci asked if there is a motion to approve the August 3, 2023 Meeting Minutes. A motion was made by James Downey and seconded by William Roth to approve the Meeting Minutes from August 3, 2023.

The Old Colony JTC voted unanimously to approve the August 3, 2023 Meeting Minutes.

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4. Communications

Kyle Mowatt 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:

- The application periods for Safe Routes to School Signs and Lines Grant Program and Infrastructure Grant Program are Open!
- The application period for the Shared Streets and Spaces Grant Program is open – Applications are due October 31, 2023
- \$11.5 Million in Grants Available to Electrify Heavy-Duty Vehicles, Reduce Transportation Sector Emissions – Applications due by 5 p.m. September 26, 2023
- Webinar: FTA Competitive Grant Opportunity Encourages Affordable housing Through TOD Planning with New 100% Federal Share – Applications for grants due October 10, 2023
- Combined Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Open for RCN (Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Access and Equity) – Applications due September 28, 2023
- 2023 Moving Together Conference – October 4, 2023

5. Reports

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

Michael Lambert reported on the following items:

- The start of the school season has been good so far. BAT ridership has set post quarantine records for daily ridership on fixed route as well as Rockland Micro-Transit
- The Authority is making progress toward electrification of the system. They are working with National Grid to ensure a smooth implementation and infrastructure upgrade to support the buses.
- The Massachusetts Legislature has passed their annual budget. BAT is working closely with MassDOT to determine a system for allocation of new funding via the Fair Share Amendment. BAT will be targeting weekend service as well as second and third shift worker transportation with the first round of funding.

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

Mary Ellen DeFrias reported on the following items:

- GATRA will be rolling out Sunday service in limited communities starting October 15

Vice Chairperson Salvucci asked if GATRA is having an issue with finding bus drivers. Mary Ellen DeFrias stated that GATRA has an active recruiting program going on right now, and that finding bus drivers has been difficult.

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Michael Lambert stated that BAT is fully staffed at the moment.

C. South Coast Rail Project

Shawn Bailey reported on the following:

In August 2023, work conducted involved fencing installation in seven communities on the Middleborough Secondary and New Bedford Main Lines; construction of a pedestrian bridge over Route 18 in New Bedford; daytime traffic signal work at Route 140 and Taunton Depot Drive in Taunton; utilizing three streets in Berkley to access right-of-way (ROW) for various project activities; daytime and nighttime road, sidewalk, & curb work on Route 140 and Industrial Drive in Taunton; daytime railroad work in Berkley; daytime road and traffic signal work in Fall River and New Bedford; extended hours track work in four communities on the Middleborough Secondary Line through the summer; daytime roadwork on Route 28 in Middleborough; signal system installation and testing in seven communities on the Fall River & Middleborough Secondary and New Bedford Main Lines.

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 from Berkley to Fall River. There was also transportation of soil by truck to designated project sites.

Rob May stated that Brockton has been successful in getting a study of the railroad single-track bottleneck that affects Old Colony and Greenbush commuter rail lines included in the MassDOT Capital Investment Plan (CIP).

6. Old Business

A. FFY 2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Implementation

▪ Update on Endorsed Amendment 5

Bill McNulty stated that the Old Colony MPO released Amendment 5 to a 21-Day Public Review and Comment Period on July 18, 2023. The MPO Endorsed Amendment 5 on August 15, 2023.

Amendment 5 Includes the following changes:

FFY 2023

- BROCKTON AREA TRANSIT (BAT) PURCHASE OF MISCELLANEOUS POWER END ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT
 - Move to FFY 2024
- BROCKTON AREA TRANSIT (BAT) PURCHASE OF MISCELLANEOUS POWER END ELECTRICAL EQUIPEMENT
 - Total Project Cost is \$400,000

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7. New Business

- A. Vision 2050 Old Colony Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)**
 - **21-Day Public Review and Comment Period**

Bill McNulty provided an overview of the Vision 2050 Old Colony LRTP.

The LRTP is organized into eleven (11) chapters, including:

1. Introduction
2. Goals, Objectives, and Performance Measures
3. Planning Scenarios
4. Regional Profile
5. Highway
6. Transit
7. Vulnerable Roadway Users
8. Environment
9. Safety and Security
10. Financial Outlook and Fiscal Constraint
11. Conclusion and Recommendations

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 1 provides an introduction to the Long-Range Transportation Plan, the transportation planning process, and the functions of the Old Colony Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). The chapter also reviews the public participation and engagement process, and summarizes input received from the public during the development of the Plan.

Chapter 2: Goals, Objectives, and Performance Measures

Chapter 2 states the Goals and Objectives of the Plan. It also identifies Safety Performance Targets (PM1), System Preservation Targets (PM2), System Performance Targets (PM3), and Transit System Asset (TAM) Condition Performance Targets as adopted by the Old Colony Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

Chapter 3: Planning Scenarios

Chapter 3 outlines planning scenarios adopted by Old Colony for the Vision 2050 Long-Range Transportation Plan. These scenarios were first developed by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation in the development of their Beyond Mobility 2050 Transportation Plan. MassDOT had identified six areas that are currently impacting the Commonwealth and could continue to impact the Commonwealth through 2050. These areas (Climate Change, The Future of Work, Population Trends, Housing and Workplaces, Prosperity, and Technology). What current trends in these areas progress over time will affect policy and implementation changes through 2050.

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Chapter 4: Regional Profile

Chapter 4 contains a detailed analysis of the people and pace of the Old Colony region, and how residents here live and work. It also continues the SocioEconomic data (population, households, and employment) projections through 2050, as developed by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation and the University of Massachusetts Donahue Institute. These projections are used for the purpose of developing the regional and statewide travel demand models.

Chapter 5: Highway

Chapter 5 provides an overview of the regional highway network, with an existing conditions analysis of the Federal-Aid eligible surface transportation (roadways and bridges) system. It incorporates a travel demand model for scenario planning, and determination of system need.

Chapter 6: Transit

Chapter 6 provides an overview of the regional transit network, with a needs analysis for maintaining the system in a state of good repair and ensuring accessibility to the system and transit mobility.

Chapter 7: Vulnerable Roadway Users

Chapter 7 provides an overview of how vulnerable roadway users (pedestrians, bicyclists, mobility assistance device users, etc.) access and use the system. It identifies key activity centers throughout the region and prioritizes needs for assuring safe and accessible movement for vulnerable roadway users.

Chapter 8: Environment

Chapter 8 examines the balance between the natural environment and the transportation system. Hazards such as fresh water and coastal storm surge flooding that threaten the resiliency of the transportation network are identified. Likewise, strategies for protecting the natural environment from impacts from the transportation system are also identified.

Chapter 9: Safety and Security

Chapter 9 describes how Old Colony plans to work with Regional and State partners on achieving the targets identified in Safety Performance PM1. It also identifies strategies for keeping the transportation system secure from natural and man-caused threats.

Chapter 10: Financial Outlook and Fiscal Constraint

Chapter 10 contains projected available transportation funding and expected project and operational costs through the fiscal horizon year of 2044. Fiscal constraint is determined by comparing expected project and operational costs against projected available funding.

Chapter 11: Conclusion and Recommendations

Chapter 11 contains a synopsis of the recommendations presented in each chapter of the Plan.

Vice Chairperson Salvucci stated that he would like to see an increase in funding for Chapter 90.

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Vice Chairperson Salvucci asked if there is a motion to approve the Vision 2050 Old Colony LRTP. A motion was made by Don Howard and seconded by John Stone.

The Old Colony JTC voted unanimously to approve the Vision 2050 Old Colony LRTP.

B. 2023 Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan

▪ 21-Day Public Review and Comment Period

Shawn Bailey provided an update on the 2023 Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan.

The Coordinated Human Services Transportation (CHST) Plan is a document updated every four years (similar to the Public Participation Plan and Long-Range Transportation Plan) and is a vital document for any transit agency. The CHST Plan identifies the transportation needs of individuals with disabilities, older adults, and people with low incomes, and provides strategies for meeting these needs, and prioritizes transportation services for funding and implementation. The Plan also summarizes and addresses the needs of public transportation/ transit providers in the Old Colony Region, including fixed route bus service, paratransit service, commuter bus, and taxi companies.

The Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan focuses on three of the many available programs under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL):

- 5310 (Formula Grants for the Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities) – Mobility Management
 - Provides Mobility Management funding through a formula program to increase mobility for older adults, people with disabilities and special needs.
 - 80% federal funding/20% local matching
 - Yearly application process through MassDOT
- 5310 (Formula Grants for the Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with disabilities) – Operations
 - Provides Operational Program funding through a formula program to increase mobility for older adults, people with disabilities and special needs.
 - 50% federal funding/50% local matching
 - Yearly application process through MassDOT
- 5307 (Urbanized Area Formula Grants) and 5311 (Formula Grants for Rural Areas)
 - Provides capital and operating assistance for public transit systems.
 - 80% federal funding/20% local matching
 - Yearly application process through Massachusetts Executive Office of Transportation

The MassDOT Community Transit Grant (CTG) Program will also be added to the CHST Plan as providers in the Old Colony Region have and will continue to apply for funds through this Program. There are three types of eligible projects: operating, mobility management, and accessible vehicles. This grant requires

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a 50% local match for operating projects, and 20% for mobility management, vehicle, or other capital. The CTG Program awards two funding sources: the previously mentioned 5310 funding and the State Mobility Assistance Program (MAP) funding.

Dennis Carman mentioned the South Shore Community Action Council and asked if this used to be called the Taking People Places Program. Shawn Bailey stated that they both operate separately.

Vice Chairperson Salvucci asked for a motion to approve the 2023 Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan. A motion was made by Don Howard and seconded by James Downey.

The Old Colony JTC voted unanimously to approve the 2023 Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan.

C. Route 18 Corridor Transportation Planning Study

- **Findings and Recommendations**

Ray Guarino provided the findings and recommendations for the Route 18 Corridor Transportation Planning Study.

Corridor-Wide Findings and Recommendations:

1. Speeding. Straight linear layout introduces high speed.
2. Evaluate lighting in the corridor.
3. Discontinuous sidewalk connections, inconsistent sidewalk width, ADA compliance. Ghost paths were created that show demand for bicycle or walking activities.
4. Lack of corridor bicycling accommodations and discontinuous bicycle lanes
5. Consider Access Management police plan and best practices.
6. Transportation Management and Maintenance – Resurfacing and improvement of pavement conditions in coordination with pavement marking and geometrical improvements.
7. Traffic calming in dense areas. Better streetscape, make a more attractive aesthetic.

Jonathan Selig asked how many parking spaces would be lost if parking spots transitioned from angle to parallel spots. Ray Guarino stated that he doesn't know the exact number but knows that it's not a lot of space that would be lost.

8. Other Business and Public Comment

A. Community Local Technical Assistance Studies

Bill McNulty reported on the following items:

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Project Status Updates

Bridgewater

- Traffic Counts and HCVE Assistance with Multiple Roadways
Data Collection planned for Fall 2023 when local schools and BSU are in session.

Brockton

- Traffic Counts and Crash Analysis for Crescent Street (Route 27) at Massasoit Boulevard and Quincy Street
Data Collection planned for Fall 2023 when local schools and MCC are in session.

Duxbury

- Road Safety Audit of Halls Corner
Coordination with Community underway and RSA to be scheduled Fall 2023.

Plymouth

- Traffic Study of Wareham Road at River Run Way
Data to be collected Fall 2023

Stoughton

- Traffic Study and Road Safety Audit of Plain Street Corridor
Coordination with Community underway. RSA to be scheduled Fall 2023

Whitman

- Traffic Study for Auburn Street (Route 14)
Data to be collected Fall 2023

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

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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 #15957 – Duxbury Seawalls Phase I and Revetment Footing Protection – Duxbury Notice of Project Change (NPC)

The major change from the original submittal is that the proposed revetment seaward of the seawall is no longer proposed and the remaining 2,860 linear feet of existing seawall, not replaced under Phase I, will be replaced. The changes result in less permanent impact on Duxbury Beach.

Certificates

EEA #16721 – Sampson’s Brook Headwaters Restoration – Kingston

The certificate states that this project requires the submission of a mandatory EIR. The proponent submitted a request for a Waiver of the requirement to prepare an EIR. In a separate Draft Record of Decision (DROD), also issued today, a Waiver is granted regarding the EIR requirement.

EEA #16721 – Sampson’s Brook Headwaters Restoration (DROD) – Kingston

The certificate states that this project is granted a Waiver from the requirement to prepare an EIR.

Public Notices

Notice of Ecological Restoration Project under 301 CMR 11.01(2)(b)4. – Duxbury

The proposed project aims to remove the Temple Street Dam and replace it with a three-step riffle/pool fishway to restore ecological processes, natural hydrology, and fish passage while improving, or at least not worsening, downstream flood impacts to infrastructure.

Notice of Intent to Initiate an Aquatic Plant Management Program – Duxbury

This program takes place at Leedom Pond to manage dense growths of nuisance aquatic plants.

C. Regional Concerns and Local Community Transportation Issues

Don Howard thanked OCPC for the opportunity to present at last month’s meeting regarding detention and retention areas. Don Howard recently presented in front of the Hanson Board of Health regarding the same issues.

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9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle Mowatt

Kyle Mowatt

Senior Transportation Planner

List of Documents for September 7, 2023 Old Colony JTC Meeting

- Minutes of the August 3, 2023 Old Colony JTC Meeting
- Staff Report for September 7, 2023, Old Colony JTC Meeting Agenda Items
- Presentation: Old Colony Vision 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan
- Presentation: Old Colony 2023 Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan
- Presentation: Route 18 Corridor Study – Bridgewater and East Bridgewater