

OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)

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

ATTENDANCE

Abington	John Stone	VHB	Rob Cahoon
Abington	Bruce Hughes	Tighe & Bond	Greg Lucas
Bridgewater	Shane O'Brien	GPI	Sid Kashi
Brockton	Evan Sears	Environmental Partners	Jim Fitzgerald
Easton	Greg Swan	Environmental Partners	Benny Hung
Hanson	Don Howard	Transit Matters	Ethan Finlan
Kingston	Valerie Massard		Bonnie Roalsen
Whitman	Noreen O'Toole	OCPC	Charles Kilmer
BAT	Michael Lambert	OCPC	Mary Waldron
BAT	Glenn Geiler	OCPC	Megan Fournier
GATRA	Stacy Forte	OCPC	Guoqiang Li
MassDOT District 5	Barbara Lachance	OCPC	Ray Guarino
SRTS	Maggie Burke	OCPC	Bill McNulty
Senator Brady's Office	Al DeGirolamo	OCPC	Shawn Bailey
		OCPC	Kyle Mowatt

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 October 6, 2022 Meeting

Chairperson O'Toole asked if there is a motion to approve the October 6, 2022 Meeting Minutes. A motion was made and seconded by Don Howard to approve the Meeting Minutes from October 6, 2022.

The Old Colony JTC voted unanimously to approve the October 6, 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:

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- FHWA Publishes Vulnerable Road User Safety Assessment Guidance
- Virtual Design Public Hearing ADA Retrofits at Various Locations – Design Public Hearing – November 9, 2022 at 6 p.m.
- Bourne – Cape Cod Canal Bridges Program Virtual Public Information Meetings – November 15 & 17, 2022 at 6 p.m.
- Thriving Communities Program (TCP) Notice of Funding Opportunity

5. Reports

A. Brockton Area Regional Transit Authority (BAT)

- **Presentation: Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Goal**

Michael Lambert reported on the following items:

- Ridership has plateaued at 75% of pre-Covid numbers
- The transit platform at Market Basket has now been expanded with 4 shelters. More benches and other amenities will soon be added
- All 15 Regional Transit Authorities received a grant to provide free transit service from the day after Thanksgiving through New Year's Eve. This is to provide some financial relief to customers, entice new customers, and to help numerous small businesses across the area

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

Stacy Forte reported on the following items:

- The contract with GATRA's account management company is expiring and they're currently in the process of hiring a new company. The new company will be taking over in February
- New ADR system for new busses will be rolling out in February
- Temporary route cuts are still in place and new drivers are in the process of being hired

C. South Coast Rail Project

Shawn Bailey reported on the following:

In October 2022, work conducted involved continued fencing installation in eight communities on Fall River & Middleborough Secondary Lines and New Bedford Main Line; utilizing Cotley Street in Berkley to access right-of-way (ROW) for various project activities; 24-hour track work in New Bedford; 24-hour crossing work in Freetown; overnight crossing work in New Bedford; shoulder closure on Route 140 Southbound in Taunton for curb and sidewalk installation; daytime track work in Berkley, Lakeville, Middleborough, Raynham, and Taunton; overnight road work and lane closures for crossing work in Taunton; daytime and nighttime work at the Fall River Depot site; a detour in Fall River for bridge work; daytime and overnight roadwork on Route 105 in Middleborough, and improvements to the CSX Rail Yard in Middleborough.

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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 by truck to designated project sites as well as detours for various project activities.

6. Old Business

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

Bill McNulty reported on changes to projects within the TIP. They are as follows:

FFY 2023 Projects:

- DUXBURY – BRIDGE REPLACEMENT ROUTE 3 (PILGRIMS HIGHWAY) NB/SB OVER FRANKLIN STREET
 - 25% Package Received by MassDOT (2/22/2022)
 - Design Public Hearing held October 6, 2022.
 - Cost Estimate is \$30,575,483

7. New Business

A. TransitMatters: Regional Rail on the South Shore

Ethan Finlan provided a presentation on Regional Rail on the South Shore.

TransitMatters is dedicated to improving transit in and around Boston by offering new perspectives, uniting transit advocates, and informing the public. We utilize a high level of critical analysis to advocate for plans and policies that promote convenient, effective, and equitable transportation for everyone.

Their vision is to make a sustainable, equitable, and reliable public transportation system accessible to everyone in Metropolitan Boston by advancing proven best practices as well as high-impact, low-cost initiatives.

The five key steps to accomplishing this vision is as follows:

1. Electrification of Transit System
2. Building Accessible Platforms
3. Relieving key bottlenecks
4. Providing free transfers to bus and subway system
5. Building new stops where warranted and running more frequently

TransitMatters will be hosting an event at the Brockton Beer Company on November 16th at 6 p.m. They will be discussing improving rail on the South Shore.

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Chairperson O'Toole asked about the ridership on the Orange Line. Is TransitMatters involved in the public engagement process for this issue. Ethan Finlan stated that TransitMatters role would be to push for transparency and accountability. As the MBTA works through these issues more shut downs will be necessary. There needs to be clear communication on alternatives. Discussion followed.

B. Old Colony Congestion Management Process (CMP) Results of October 2022 Commuter Parking Utilization Study

Shawn Bailey provided an update on the Old Colony Congestion Management Process (CMP).

Between October 25th and 27th, members of Old Colony Planning Council's Transportation Department conducted its bi-annual Congestion Management Process (CMP) data collection at 15 MBTA Commuter Rail stations and five MassDOT Park & Ride lots. At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, utilization at the visited facilities was extremely low. Over time, the utilization has increased each and last month continued that trend. While overall utilization is between 40-50% of pre-pandemic levels, it is trending back in the direction of pre-pandemic levels and gives hope for the future.

All 15 Commuter Rail stations experienced an increase of utilization, ranging from 4% higher utilization at the Holbrook/Randolph station to 56% higher at the Abington station. Before the pandemic, all 15 stations yielded vehicle totals in the hundreds. The October 2021 data collection saw the return of triple digit counts at six of the stations, April 2022 yielded eight stations in the hundreds, and last month had 11 stations with over 100 vehicles. It was announced that the Plymouth station would reopen in July, however that did not occur, and it is uncertain if that station will ever be used again. Even with people working remotely or hybrid, there is a clear increase in workers utilizing the commuter rail.

The Park & Ride lots had a different result; there was only one increase in utilization from April at one location, and overall, there was a decrease from April's count. The lone increase was experienced at the Plymouth lot on Route 3, and a 10% increase was yielded. The West Bridgewater lot, which historically has been well utilized, had under 100 vehicles for the second time since the pandemic and had not been experienced before the pandemic (dating back to 2001). This is likely due to the change in provided bus service at this location. The previous service (Bloom bus) provided four morning and four afternoon peak trips, both inbound and outbound. The new service (Plymouth & Brockton) provides six inbound and six outbound trips spread throughout the day and is less ideal for commuters who need bus service at this lot for their work commute.

C. Old Colony 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan Draft Public Survey

Bill McNulty discussed the Old Colony 200 Long Range Transportation Plan Draft Public Survey.

As part of the public engagement component of the 2050 Old Colony Long Range Transportation Plan development, Old Colony Planning Council will be conducting a survey for transportation and environmental stakeholders and residents in the Old Colony region. The survey is being in conjunction with the concurrent Beyond Mobility survey as part of the Statewide Long Range Transportation Plan update. The questions mirror those in the statewide survey while adding questions to reflect local

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priorities. The results of the survey will guide us in the Plan development with a better understanding of the reimportation priorities of the public.

The questions in the survey will be as follows:

Q. Please rank the current aspects of the transportation system you would like to see improved or changed in your lifetime. Order them from most to least in need.

Q. Please rank the following in terms of importance to you in planning for the future of transportation in Greater Brockton and the South Shore?

Q. Imagine we have achieved a flawless transportation system for Massachusetts. What does a great transportation system do for you? Please choose all that apply

Q. Imagine that you have 100 tokens to spend on roadway-related transportation improvements. How many of these 100 tokens would you invest in each of the following priorities?

Q. Imagine that you have 100 tokens to spend on transit-related transportation improvements. How many of these 100 tokens would you invest in each of the following priorities?

Q. Imagine that you have 100 tokens to spend on other transportation system improvements. How many of these 100 tokens would you invest in each of the following priorities?

Q. How important are each of the three categories of improvements listed previously (Roadway elements, transit elements, and supportive transit elements)? How would you rank them? Assign them a rank of 1-3.

Q. Based on where you live, how satisfied are you with the transportation connections to the following locations? Select your level of satisfaction for each item below.

Q. Select the transportation modes you use in a typical week (select 1 or more modes)

Q. Do you consider yourself to have a disability that limits your mobility

Glenn Geiler stated she would like to see a location where respondents can input an open ended comment.

8. Other Business and Public Comment

A. Community Local Technical Assistance Studies

Bill McNulty reported on the following Community Local Technical Assistance Studies.

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Old Colony Planning Council has completed a traffic study of traffic within DW Field Park and abutting South Street in Avon for Wildlands Trust. This data and analysis have been distributed to Wildlands Trust and the communities of Brockton and Avon.

A traffic study of Route 139 at Grove Street in Hanover has been completed. This Study assessed impacts on surrounding roadways and intersections resulting from recent traffic control changes at Route 139 and Grove Street. This data and analysis have been distributed to the Town and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT).

A traffic study of Route 27 and Lake Street in Kingston has been completed. This data and analysis have been distributed to the Town.

The Town of Duxbury has requested Old Colony Planning Council prepare traffic studies for two intersections on Route 3A: Route 3A at Oak Street and Parks Street, and Route 3A at Elm Street and Soule Avenue. These traffic studies will be prepared this fall or winter.

The Town of Kingston has requested two traffic studies: a traffic study counting the number of vehicles using the Kingston Commuter Rail Station during the week (weekdays and weekends), and a Road Safety Audit of Landing Road. Traffic counts for the Commuter Rail Station Study will be conducted this Fall, and the Road Safety Audit will be scheduled for early winter.

Project Status Updates

Duxbury

- Traffic Study for Route 3A at Oak Street and Parks Avenue, and Route 3A at Elm Street and Soule Avenue
Data collection to be conducted Fall / Winter 2022-2023

East Bridgewater

- Central Street Corridor Traffic Study
Data analysis underway
- Plymouth Street (Route 106) at Bridge Street Traffic Study
Data collection underway

Kingston

- Traffic Study of Kingston Commuter Rail Station (Marion Drive)
Data collection underway
- Road Safety Audit of Landing Road
RSA to be scheduled

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Plymouth

- Aerial Inventory of Locations (OCPC Drone Program)
Drone flights to be scheduled

Stoughton

- Pedestrian Safety and Walkability Audit of Pleasant Street (Route 139) and Lowe Avenue
Audit to be scheduled November 2022

Whitman

- Traffic Counts Auburn Street (Route 14)
Data to be collected upon completion of utility work

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.

Environmental Impact Report (EIR)

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.

C. Regional Concerns and Local Community Transportation Issues

Don Howard brought about a concern regarding drainage on Spring Street in Hanson. There is a development going in consisting of 12 dwellings. Chairperson O'Toole asked if this project has gone before the Hanson Planning Board. Don Howard stated that it has gone before the Planning Board and the construction has started. Chairperson O'Toole stated that they would not have approved the project if the drainage was going to be an issue on Spring Street.

Shane O'Brien inquired about a traffic counter on South Street in Bridgewater. Barbara Lachance will look into why the traffic counter was installed.

9. Adjournment

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The meeting adjourned at 1:0 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle Mowatt

Kyle Mowatt

Senior Transportation Planner

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

- Minutes of the October 3, 2022 Old Colony JTC Meeting
- Staff Report for November 3, 2022, Old Colony JTC Meeting Agenda Items