

OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)

Meeting Minutes of the Old Colony Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) Held Virtually Via Zoom October 6, 2022 at 12:00 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

Abington	John Stone	South Coast Rail	Joe Sgroi
Abington	Bruce Hughes	FRA – USDOT	Norma Griffiths
Brockton	Chike Odunukwe	BETA Group	Dan McCormack
Brockton	Jay DeGrace	Tighe & Bond	Dan Murphy
Easton	David Field	Tighe & Bond	Greg Lucas
Easton	Greg Swan	CDM Smith	Lisa Sherman
Hanover	Rhonda Nyman	United Way	Dennis Carman
Pembroke	Becky Coletta	VHB	Rob Cahoon
Stoughton	Pamela McCarthy	GPI	Sid Kashi
Whitman	Dan Salvucci	OCPC	Kyle Mowatt
Whitman	Noreen O’Toole	OCPC	Bill McNulty
BAT	Glenn Geiler	OCPC	Guoqiang Li
MassDOT District 5	Barbara Lachance	OCPC	Mary Waldron
GATRA	Mary Ellen DeFrias	OCPC	Charles Kilmer
Senator Brady’s Office	Al DeGirolamo	OCPC	Megan Fournier
South Coast Rail	Jean Fox	OCPC	Ray Guarino

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Vice Chairperson Dan Salvucci 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

Vice Chairperson Salvucci asked for a moment of silence for the passing of a long time staff member of Old Colony Planning Council, Jim Watson.

3. Minutes of September 1, 2022 Meeting

Vice Chairperson Salvucci asked if there is a motion to approve the September 1, 2022 Meeting Minutes. A motion was made by Don Howard and seconded by John Stone to approve the Meeting Minutes from September 1, 2022.

The Old Colony JTC voted to approve the September 1, 2022 Meeting Minutes. Pamela McCarthy abstained from voting since she was not at the September 1, 2022 Meeting.

OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)

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:

- Virtual Design Public Hearing – Duxbury – Bridge Replacement, Route 3 (Pilgrim Highway) NB/SB over Franklin Street – October 6, 2022 at 6 p.m.
- SRTS Infrastructure Project Funding Program
- Beyond Mobility Virtual Public Meeting – October 20, 2022 at 6 p.m.
- FHWA Approves MassDOT Plan for EV Charging Stations on Major Highway Corridors in Massachusetts
- Meeting Announcement – Public Hearings on the Proposed Clean Energy and Climate Plan for 2060

Glenn Geiler asked if OCPC will be providing a summary on the charging infrastructure for the region. Kyle Mowatt stated that he will look into this and OCPC will be happy to provide a summary.

5. Reports

A. Brockton Area Regional Transit Authority (BAT)

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

Glenn reported on the following items:

- Ridership remains stable, and continues to watch closely as Boston continues to re-open
- BAT completed the first steps of the Westgate bus stop expansion project. This included paving along the Market Basket. Additional passenger amenities will include new bus shelters, seating, digital signage, wayfinding, planters, etc.
- BAT installed EV charging stations at the BAT parking facility
- Rockland Micro-Transit service will be rolling out in the next few weeks.

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

Mary Ellen DeFrias reported on the following items:

- Ridership numbers are staying stable.
- Service was reduced in the Attleboro/Taunton area to maintain driver numbers in the OCPC area. GATRA is actively recruiting new drivers.

C. South Coast Rail Project

Kyle Mowatt reported on the following:

OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)

In September 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 Assonet, Berkley, Lakeville, Middleborough, Raynham, and Taunton; 24-hour crossing work in Freetown and New Bedford; daytime and overnight track work in Lakeville, Middleborough, Raynham, and Taunton; daytime crossing work in New Bedford; daytime work at Fall River Depot and Freetown Station sites; a detour in Fall River for bridge work; daytime roadwork on Route 105 in Middleborough, and improvements to the CSX Rail Yard in Middleborough.

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. MBTA Right-of-Way and Grade Crossing Safety

- **Guest Speaker: Jean Fox, MassDOT South Coast Rail Director of Community Engagement**

Jean Fox provided a summary on the MBTA Right-of-Way and Grade Crossing Safety:

- How SCR will serve the region: Approximately a 90-minute, one-seat ride from Boston to New Bedford/Fall River, wifi and double stack cars; Anticipated three peak morning and evening trains in Fall River and New Bedford and six peak morning and evening trains in Middlebroough and Taunton; Revenue Service anticipated for the end of 2023
- With no Right-of-Way monitoring, recreational activities (ATVs, dog walking, running), crimes, arson, vandalism and tagging have been common, along with trash dumping
- Tracks and previously abandoned station sites are often used by homeless individuals, particularly in Fall River and New Bedford, due to high levels of homelessness

OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)

- Municipalities have concerns about the necessary resources required to contain the homelessness, trespassing and crime along the ROW
- Some sites have already been cleared due to the presence of local or nearby construction activities
- Environmental Police have fined ATV operators when there is staff to monitor local sites
- SCR is planning implementation of a Railroad Safety Program throughout the region. Currently conducting fire/life/safety meetings with Police and Fire Departments
- Fencing is placed to enhance safety and minimize trespassing on the railroad ROW
- Fall River has installed cameras to monitor grade crossings, which are major access points trespassers use to access the ROW

Vice Chairperson Salvucci stated that he noticed a new fence along the track along Route 135 in Framingham. Jean Fox stated this is a deterrent for people crossing the tracks.

Chairperson Noreen O'Toole asked how is SCR going to meet the needs of the school. Jean Fox stated that all this information will be sent out to schools as well as libraries and senior centers.

Charles Kilmer asked about bikes lanes in the ROW. Jean Fox stated that this has come up a lot. This has to be looked at by a case by case analysis. There are some areas where the ROW is too narrow, but there some areas where this can be done. Jean Fox stated that she will continue to push for bike lanes in the ROW.

B. Route 18 Corridor Study, Bridgewater and East Bridgewater

- **Project Introduction and Overview**

Ray Guarino provided an overview of the Route 18 Corridor Study in Bridgewater and East Bridgewater.

The study purpose is to study in-depth the Route 18 Corridor, approximately 9 miles, in the Towns of Bridgewater and East Bridgewater to develop short-term and long-term recommendations and strategies that focus on transportation equity, improved circulation and mobility, reduced congestion, and improvements in air quality for all transportation modes, including bicycle, pedestrian, and transit. The corridor study area includes Route 18 from the Whitman Town line with East Bridgewater and ends at the Bridgewater/Middleborough Town line.

Study Process

1. Inventory and Review of Peer Studies and Planned Improvements
2. Assess and Analyze Existing Conditions
3. Collect and/or compile daily traffic counts, speeds, and heavy vehicle percentages at the following locations in Bridgewater and East Bridgewater:
4. Collect and/or compile turning movement counts intersections in Bridgewater and East Bridgewater
5. Forecast and Analyze Future Conditions

OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)

6. Identify Current and Potential Deficiencies
7. Solutions
8. Develop Recommendations

Vice Chairperson Salvucci stated that the traffic on Route 18 is unbelievable. Route 18 was not built to deal with the traffic that we have today. When Route 18 goes from 2 lanes down to 1 lane and vice versa this causes huge backups.

C. Old Colony 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan

- **Development Schedule and Public Engagement Plan**

Bill McNulty discussed the Old Colony 2060 Long Range Transportation Plan.

The Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) is the policy and visioning document of the Metropolitan planning Organization (MPO). This document results from regional and statewide collaboration and consensus on a region's transportation system and serves as the defining vision for the region. The document also contains a financial plan or budget which guides and shapes the actions an MPO undertakes as they fulfill the region's visions and objectives. This 20-year transportation vision document is updated every four years by the MPO, and this update will provide a vision for the region through 2050.

Development of the P2050 Long Range Transportation Plan has begun. With Old Colony Planning Council actively working with other MPOs and MassDOT to develop socioeconomic data forecasts through 2050. This effort began in Spring 2022 and will carry through the Spring of 2023.

Old Colony Planning Council has also been actively developing and seeing input on Plan Goals, Objectives, and Planning Scenarios that will all guide the Plan's development.

Key Dates:

- Completed Draft: April 2023
- Release to Public Comment Period: May 16, 2023
- Plan Presented to Old Colony Planning Council: May 31, 2023
- Plan Presented to JTC: June 1, 2023
- Old Colony MPO Endorsement: June 20, 2023

Public Engagement Plan

- Public Survey
- Identify and engage stakeholders, community organizations, LEP, Traditionally Underserved, and Environmental Justice Populations, and environmental groups
- Report to Joint Transportation Committee and Metropolitan Planning Organization monthly (or as often as they convene)
- Virtual Webinars
- Old Colony Planning Council Open House

OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)

- Table Events at Brockton Area Transit
- Dedicated Plan Page on oldcolonyplanning.org website
- Traditional and Social Media Outreach

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 East Bridgewater has requested a traffic study of Plymouth Street (Route 106) in the area of Bridge Street. Data for this Study will be collected this Fall.

Project Status Updates

Brockton

- DW Field Park Traffic Study
Data Collected, Analysis Underway

East Bridgewater

- Central Street Corridor Traffic Study
Data Analysis Underway
- Plymouth Street (Route 106) at Bridge Street Traffic Study
Data Collection Planned for Fall 2022

Hanover

- Grove Street Traffic Study
Data Analysis Underway

Kingston

- Pembroke Street (Route 27) at Lake Street Traffic Study
Data Analysis Underway

Plymouth

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

Stoughton

- Pedestrian Safety and Walkability Audit of Pleasant Street (Route 139) and Lowe Avenue

OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)

Audit to be scheduled

Whitman

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

Don Howard asked if OCPC ever went to Hanson to look at the following two intersection: East Washington Street/West Washington and Spring Street and Liberty Street and East Washington. Bill McNulty stated that OCPC visited these sites in 2020 with the DPW and came up with some short term recommendations that the Town could try.

Rhonda Nyman from Hanover asked when the Grove Street counts will be available. Bill McNulty stated that they will be available next week.

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.

EIR

EEA #16104 – Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan - Kingston

With an increasing population and an increased demand for sewers and wastewater treatment, the Town of Kingston is currently constructing a WWTP expansion project which is scheduled to be substantially complete in late 2022.

EEA #16578 – Owl Ridge Estates – Easton

A six single-family lot residential subdivision is proposed on 3.6 acres in the northern and central portions of the site. The subdivision has been designed as a cluster – open space subdivision to leave most of the forested land on the site intact. This subdivision will include an access drive (Owl Ridge Road), utilities to be installed under the roadway, a stormwater management system, lawns and landscaped areas and individual Title 5 septic systems. The proposed location of Owl Ridge Estates is at 58 Mill Street which is located just south of Borderland State Park.

Public Notices

Notice of Public Hearing – Vegetation Management Plan

November 2, 2022, 11:00am-11:30am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86072082267?pwd=YUM2aVN5bGFsV3pxeTI4S3NnS2ZpZz09>

Abington, Avon, Bridgewater, Brockton, Duxbury, East Bridgewater, Halifax, Hanson, Kingston, Pembroke, Plymouth, Plympton, Stoughton, Whitman

C. Regional Concerns and Local Community Transportation Issues

OLD COLONY JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)

Vice Chairperson Salvucci asked for people to be patient while there's a lot of road construction going on right now by National Grid. There is a concern about a sidewalk going in on Route 14 in Whitman from Route 18 to the Brockton City Line. That is not in the plans for this area. To replace the sidewalk on one side of Route 14 would be well over \$1 Million.

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle Mowatt

Kyle Mowatt

Senior Transportation Planner

List of Documents for October 6, 2022 Old Colony JTC Meeting

- Minutes of the September 1, 2022 Old Colony JTC Meeting
- Staff Report for October 6, 2022, Old Colony JTC Meeting Agenda Items