



The
Old Colony
Planning Council

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**OLD COLONY
PLANNING COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT
1992 - 1993**

Area Agency on Aging
Metropolitan Planning Organization
Economic Development District

OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL

OFFICERS

President	James A. Kassos	Brockton
Secretary	John G. Mather	Halifax
Treasurer	Eldon F. Moreira	West Bridgewater

COMMUNITY

DELEGATES

ALTERNATES

Abington	A. Stanley Littlefield	John E. Walsh
Avon	John J. DeMarco	Timothy Daigle
Bridgewater	Anthony P. Anacki	
Brockton	James Kassos	
East Bridgewater	Robert W. Smith	David A. Johnson
Easton	Richard H. Chase	Jeanmarie Kent
Halifax	John Mather	John N. Mulready, Jr.
Hanson	Robert Overholtzer	Philip Lindquist
Kingston	Eugene Creedon	
Pembroke	Gerard W. Dempsey	
Plymouth	John F. Lenox	Lee Hartmann
Plympton	Roger Hall	Brian Miller
Stoughton	Joseph Landolfi	Mary Cunniff
West Bridgewater	Eldon F. Moreira	Nancy Bresciani
Whitman	Fred Gilmetti	John Yaney

THE COUNCIL STAFF

Daniel M. Crane	Executive Director
Pasquale Ciaramella	Trans. Planning Supervisor
Patricia M. Goggin	AAA Administrator
Bruce G. Hughes	Planner
Thomascyne King	Secretary
Timothy J. Kochan	Planner
Janet McGinty	Grants Monitor
Sheila Milanes	Community Nutritionist
Deborah Rosenthal	Asst. Ombudsman Program Director
Sue Ryan	Ombudsman Program Director
Alice C. Shepard	Fiscal Officer (Retired)
Jacqueline Surette	Fiscal Officer
Joanne Smith	Secretary
Norman Sorgman	Asst. Ombudsman Program Director
Mark Sullivan	Planner
James R. Watson	Comprehensive Planning Supervisor
Linda Wild	AAA Planner/Grants Manager

OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL SERVICE DISTRICT



AREA AGENCY ON AGING SERVICE AREA

OCPC PLANNING DISTRICT

ABOUT OCPC

The Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC) is a multi-faceted organization that was established under state statute in 1967 as a comprehensive regional agency to "prepare plans for the physical, social and economic development of the District". The Council was formed in response to a growing need of local communities to be able to address the multitude of problems that cross over local boundaries such as air and water pollution, transportation deficiencies and economic distress. These types of problems require cooperative action by affected local governments and the Old Colony Planning Council is the governmental mechanism available at the local level to effect municipal cooperation and coordination.

The Old Colony Planning Council is one of thirteen regional planning agencies in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for transportation and transit planning; is designated as an Economic Development District by the U. S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration; and is the Area Agency on Aging which administers and plans for elder service needs and requirements in a twenty-three community area of Southeastern Massachusetts. The Council is also the designated Regional Clearinghouse for the review of federal and state program applications.

The Council is administered by representatives of the fifteen member communities of the Council. The Council members establish policy, develop the program, employ the professional staff and determine the activities of the Council to be carried out by the staff.



Outgoing President John F. Lenox congratulates OCPC Officers for 1993-94 James A. Kassos, President; John G. Mather, Secretary; and Eldon F. Moreira, Treasurer.



Inspector General of the Commonwealth of Mass. Robert A. Cerasoli addresses OCPC 1993 Annual Dinner Meeting gathering.



OCPC President John F. Lenox welcomed attendees to the Area Agency on Aging Annual meeting in 1992.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am honored to have been elected President of the Old Colony Planning Council and I look forward to continuing the tradition of strong leadership at OCPC. My predecessor, Mr. John F. Lenox of Plymouth, is to be congratulated for the tremendous job that he did as President of the organization for the past two years. This annual report essentially highlights the activities of the Council in his last year in office and includes the many other things that he was able to accomplish in his tenure as OCPC President. I believe you will be impressed with these accomplishments.

I look forward to using my term as President of the Council to improve relations between the member communities of the Council and in particular with the City of Brockton. As the Delegate member of the Council from the City of Brockton for the past eleven years, I sincerely believe that the actions of the city have been misunderstood. I hope to correct any mis-impressions and misunderstandings that may exist and to facilitate a spirit of cooperation and improved working relationship between communities.

It is essential that communities work together cooperatively in these difficult economic times to effect cost savings and efficiencies in the delivery of governmental services. The Council and the other Regional Planning Agencies have facilitated these cooperative arrangements which have resulted in regional cooperative purchasing, sharing equipment and other efficiencies. The Council will continue to support these efforts.

These are difficult times and I know I can count on your support during my term as President of the Council for meeting the challenge ahead.

Sincerely,

James A. Kassos
President

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Council's Economic Development activity concentrates on ways to retain existing firms, to help other firms to expand and to attract economic activities which are suitable to the region's resources and manpower utilization needs. It involves working to make infrastructure improvements needed for optimum regional development. The program is supported by the Economic Development Administration of the U. S. Department of Commerce which has designated the region an Economic Development District. It is based on a work program approved and managed by the District's Overall Economic Development Program Committee.

Each year the Council prepares an Overall Economic Development Program (OEDP) report which provides an analysis of the economic conditions in the District; includes a listing of the region's ten priority projects; and, presents the District work program for the coming year. The OEDP is an important element in maintaining eligibility for federal financial assistance.

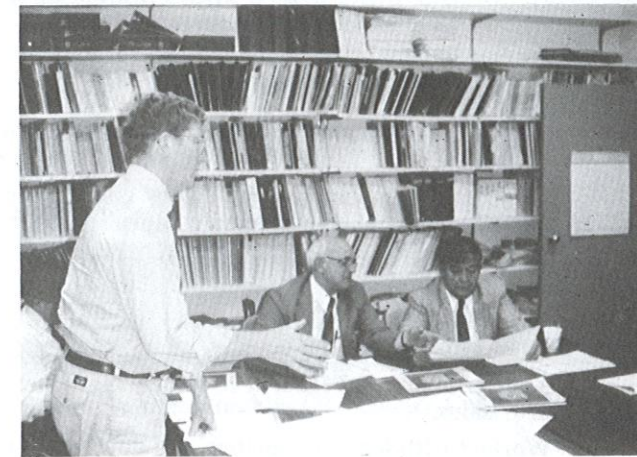
The past year's activities have included:

- Updating the Community Information and Data Report and providing social and economic data to firms and agencies interested in the region.
- Continuing to examine potential buildings, institutional arrangements and financing for the proposed industrial/commercial incubator building through the efforts of the Incubator Steering Committee. The City of Brockton has indicated its strong interest in having the Incubator Program project implemented by the new Brockton 21st Century Corporation.
- Preparing the annual Overall Economic Development Report stressing water supply, transportation and other infrastructure needs.
- Working with the Water Supply Task Force Advisory Board to encourage conservation, to explore short and long-term supply alternatives and to develop protective measures for Silver Lake in cooperation with Plymouth, Pembroke, Kingston, Halifax and Plympton.
- Updating the annual survey of Fair Market Rents for non-subsidized rental units in the Brockton area and maintaining a computer file of regional building permit activity.
- Continuing to work with the Massasoit Compact Group to prepare a draft Economic Development Strategy for the greater Southeastern Massachusetts region.
- Working with Avon and Brockton (under a Department of Environmental Protection grant) to retrofit storm drainage in the Avon Industrial Park in order to protect water flowing to the reinstated Avon Reservoir

- Preparing an Industrial Land Study recommending new areas for industrial growth in the Town of Easton.
- Exploring funding sources and possible sponsorship for the proposed Old Colony Economic Development District EDA Revolving Loan Fund.
- Serving on:

The Metro-South Chamber of Commerce's Business and Industrial Committee.

The Regional Employment Board and the Private Industry Council Board overseeing manpower training programs.



James Clark presents S. Weymouth NAS Plan to the OEDP Committee while Vice Chair. Joseph Landolfi and Chairman Joseph P. Joseph examine details.



OEDP Incubator Study Committee members Winthrop Sargent, Jack Wind, Jim Watson of OCPC and Jack Weisman talk to Mark Claff, about the building's potential for use as an incubator.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Each year the Council carries out a variety of Comprehensive Planning, Land Use/Development Control studies and Environmental Protection efforts. This past year the OCPC, in cooperation with fourteen area communities, applied for and received an Incentive Aid Grant from the Executive Office of Communities and Development to employ a Regional Public Administration Specialist to examine regionalizing certain public services, carrying out collective purchasing, sharing equipment and providing training.

In addition, the Council, along with the Martin Institute of Stonehill College and the McCormack Institute of U MASS Boston, sponsored a series of forums on Regionalism for local officials. The three forums presented the need for developing effective inter-municipal cooperation in providing governmental services and examined the various organizational models that are being considered.

In addition to these activities, the Council also carried out these tasks:

- Completed a vacant land inventory and build-out analysis for the Town of Easton as part of a long-term comprehensive planning effort.
- Continued an undeveloped land inventory and buildout analysis as part of a comprehensive planning effort in the Town of Avon.
- Assisted the Town of Plympton in extending its water supply protection zoning to protect Silver Lake.
- Assisted Avon and Halifax in improving water supply protection zoning provisions.
- Worked with local authorities and developers to ensure the most flexible and complete local circulation system between the Avon Merchants' Park and the proposed Stoughton Redevelopment Authority/Simeone Corp. Park in Stoughton.
- Prepared the Land Use portion of the new Regional Transportation Plan.
- Worked with the Abington Surplus Land Committee to determine the best mixture of housing and open space uses on a town-owned subdivision.
- Assisted communities with applications for state, federal and private fund sources.
- Assisted the Town of Kingston to resolve issues in a request for a Comprehensive Permit for affordable family housing.
- Participated in Massachusetts Environmental Protection Act (MEPA) reviews of Community and Industrial Project in Abington, Avon and Brockton.

- Served on:

- The South Shore Local Governance Committee of the Massachusetts Bays Program.
- The South Weymouth Naval Air Station Reuse Committee
- The South Shore Equipment Sharing Taskforce



Site of Future Montello Old Colony Commuter Rail Station.



MIFA bonds approved by OEPD for expansion of the UNO Foods - Brockton Plant.

TRANSPORTATION

The Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC) is responsible for carrying out the Comprehensive, Coordinated and Continuing Transportation Planning in the region under state and federal requirements.

During this year the OCPC Transportation staff in cooperation with the Joint Transportation Committee has developed a comprehensive intermodal Regional Transportation plan. The plan identifies transportation project needs in the OCPC Region for the next twenty-five years. It includes both short and long-range recommendations/improvements to highway, Mass Transit, rail, air and water transportation.

The plan recommends solutions to the transportation needs that are politically acceptable and cost effective and which are consistent with the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA), Clean Air Act (CAA) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The new Transportation Plan will: reduce congestion; improve mobility; encourage transit and other modes of transportation; preserve existing transportation systems; maximize accessibility; improve air-quality; coordinate land use and transportation plans; address future needs and projects in the OCPC Region; and, develop intermodal facilities.

In conjunction to this effort, the staff has also developed a regional transportation model utilizing the Quick Response System II (QRSII) computer program. The model will be used to forecast growth in the OCPC region to the year 2020.

In addition, the staff working closely with the JTC and member communities conducted a variety of activities such as:

- Updating the "Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Implementation Plan" for the Brockton Area Transit Authority (BAT).
- Provided Technical Assistance to BAT
- Conducted a "Fixed Route Ridership Analysis" for BAT
- Continuing to update the Road inventory file for the OCPC's communities
- Compiling and distributing Journey-To-Work data
- Provided speed and vehicle classification studies for member communities
- Reviewed traffic impact studies for various developments, in the OCPC region as part of the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) Process
- Prepared and processed Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments
- Collecting and maintaining regional traffic counts and other related statistics for Transportation Planning studies.
- Reviewing and supporting progress of the Old Colony Commuter Rail Restoration Project

- Monitoring regional air quality impact on federally funded transportation project in the FY 1993 TIP
- Provided technical assistance to OCPC's member communities on transportation related issues/concerns.



OCPC Joint Transportation Committee members consider the Transportation Improvement Program Priorities.



Pasquale Ciaramella, Transportation Planning Supervisor makes a point at a meeting to discuss the new federal Transportation Act with Arnie Soolman, CTPS Director and Dan Crane OCPC Director, and others.

ELDER SERVICES

In Fiscal Year 1993, the Area Agency funded the full range of elder services under the Older Americans Act. These included in-home and community-based health, mental health, transportation, legal and nutrition services. The services are directed primarily at the most frail elderly.

The Area Agency was involved in a variety of collaborative activities on behalf of elders in Fiscal Year 1993.

Highlights of these efforts included:

- As a member of the Alzheimer's Partnership servicing Bristol, Norfolk and Plymouth Counties, the Area Agency participated in the planning and execution of a major conference on Alzheimer's disease for community and institutional providers in August 1992.
- In conjunction with Old Colony Elderly Services and Jewish Family and Children's Service, the Area Agency launched an Elder Abuse Prevention initiative. Using Older Americans Act Title III-G funding, corporations and other agencies are provided with free information on eldercare resources that can assist employed caregivers in dealing with the pressures and demands of work and family. The rationale for this program is that caregivers who are more knowledgeable about and who use eldercare resources will be better able to handle the multiple stressors that could lead to abuse and neglect of their elderly relatives.
- In order to increase its emphasis on providing service to low-income minority, the elderly, the Area Agency coordinated a workshop on cultural diversity for grantee agencies and councils on aging. The workshop presenters focused on introducing diversity in agencies, implications on clients, boards and staff, and practical methods of reaching out to diverse groups of elders.



Members of the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Committee hear presentation on Nutritional Needs of the Elderly.

During Fiscal Year 1993, the Area Agency participated in a statewide elder needs assessment effort coordinated by the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. In cooperation with the Councils on Aging in the region, a random sample of 400 elders was selected to receive a mail survey. One hundred forty-seven elders completed the survey resulting in a 37% response rate.

The Executive Office of Elder Affairs published preliminary results for the state and for each Area Agency planning and service area. Some of the survey findings for elders in the Old Colony Area are as follows:

- Nearly half (45.8%) of the respondents reported that they did not need assistance with any of the thirty-five areas of service need listed on the survey.
- The remaining elders reported needing assistance with services in either one area (14.6%); two areas (8.6%); or three areas (29.5%).
- More than three quarters of those elders needing assistance were receiving the help they needed from various formal and informal sources; including, family, friends, agencies, etc.
- Nearly 25% of respondents reported that they were not receiving the help they needed because they did not know if services were available; because family and friends were unable to assist them; or, because the services they needed were unavailable, expensive or not of satisfactory quality.

The preliminary report contained other findings which will assist the Area Agency in developing the next Four Year Area Plan for the Fiscal Years 1994-1997.

In 1993, the Old Colony Planning Council Area Agency on Aging Nursing Home Ombudsman Program was the second largest in Massachusetts. The program provided services to over 4000 residents who reside in 54 nursing and rest homes in the area. Through the Nursing Home Ombudsman Program, the Area Agency seeks to improve the quality of care for frail elders residing in this environment. This is the most essential function of the Area Agency's Nursing Home Ombudsman Program. Certified staff and volunteer ombudspersons make weekly visits to residents in long term care facilities. In Fiscal Year 1993, approximately 850 concerns or complaints were received and investigated by ombudspersons in the Old Colony Area. Through their advocacy efforts, the majority of these issues were resolved satisfactorily and the quality of care for residents improved.

**AREA AGENCY ON AGING
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Marion Keville
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Winthrop Sargent
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MHD/ EOTC, BTP&D
BAT
DEP
FHWA
FTA
MBTA
EOTC
Brockton Traffic Commission

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David M. Luce
Mary Ann Milutis
Laurel Carlson
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Astrid Glyn
Lt. Peter Crone