



The
Old Colony
Planning Council

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**OLD COLONY
PLANNING COUNCIL**



ANNUAL REPORT

1993 - 1994

Area Agency on Aging • Metropolitan Planning Organization • Economic Development District

OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL

OFFICERS

President	John G. Mather	Halifax
Secretary	Eldon F. Moreira	West Bridgewater
Treasurer	Joseph Landolfi	Stoughton

COMMUNITY

Abington
Avon
Bridgewater
Brockton
East Bridgewater
Easton
Halifax
Hanson
Kingston
Pembroke
Plymouth
Plympton
Stoughton
West Bridgewater
Whitman
At - Large

DELEGATES

A. Stanley Littlefield
John J. DeMarco
Anthony P. Anacki
James Kassos (deceased)
David A. Johnson
Richard H. Chase
John Mather
Robert Overholtzer
Eugene Creedon
Gerard W. Dempsey
John F. Lenox
Roger Hall
Joseph Landolfi
Eldon F. Moreira
Frank Maheri
Matthew Striggles

ALTERNATES

Ann Reilly
Timothy Daigle
David Sheedy
Jeanmarie Kent
Troy E. Garron
Philip Lindquist
Lee Hartmann
Brian Miller
Mary Cunniff
Nancy Bresciani
John Yaney

THE COUNCIL STAFF

Daniel M. Crane	Executive Director
Pasquale Ciaramella	Trans. Planning Supervisor
Patricia M. Goggin	AAA Administrator
Hazel Gauley	Ombudsman Staff Supervisor
Patrick Hamilton	AAA Planner/Grants Manager
Bruce G. Hughes	Economic Development Specialist
Thomascyne King	Secretary
Janet McGinty	Grants Monitor
Sheila Milanes	Community Nutritionist
Sandra Gomes	Asst. Ombudsman Program Director
Katalin Parkas	Assistant Planner
Sue Ryan	Ombudsman Program Director
Norman Sorgman	Asst. Ombudsman Program Director
Jacqueline Surette	Fiscal Officer
Mark Sullivan	Planner
Daniel Tempesta	Planner
James R. Watson	Comprehensive Planning Supervisor

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 comprehensive regional planning organization established under state statute in 1967 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 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 Clearing-house 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.



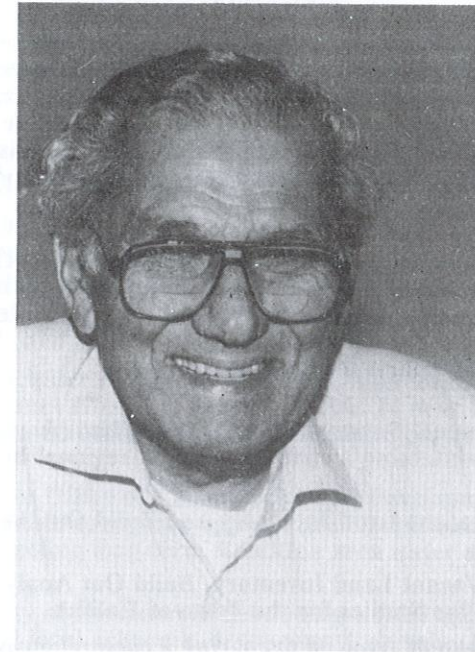
Randy Julius, Artist, Writer, Conservationist and Outdoorsman was the featured speaker at the 1994 Annual Dinner Meeting



OCPC Director Dan Crane is presented with the New England Leadership Award for his outstanding service to Regionalism by Stephen Boudreau, President of MARPA and James A. Kassos, OCPC President.



President John G. Mather addresses the 1994 Annual Meeting audience of the Fuller Museum of Art in Brockton



IN MEMORIAM JAMES A. KASSOS

This space is normally reserved for use by the President of the Council to report on the activities and events that transpired during the course of the program year. However, in May 1994 the Old Colony Planning Council was shocked and saddened by the sudden passing of James A. Kassos, Council President who had just completed his first year in office and was re-elected to serve a second term.

Much was accomplished by the Council in the past year under the stewardship of President James A. Kassos as will be evident from reading the contents of this report. I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Council to dedicate this report in his memory and to express my commitment to carry on the programs which he initiated.

John G. Mather
President

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

As a regional land use and transportation planning agency the Council carries out a variety of Comprehensive Planning, Land Use/Development Control studies. This year the Council continued to sponsor the Southeastern Regional Services Group supported by an Incentive Aid Grant from the Executive Office of Communities and Development, and staffed by a Regional Public Administration Specialist. This staff continues to assist communities in joint purchasing and other cooperative efforts.

More basically the Council began comprehensive planning efforts in the towns of Halifax and Avon and made progress in water supply protection as described below. Comprehensive planning efforts are particularly timely in the least-developed communities since they have the greatest range of choices left. In all, the Council's Community Development efforts included the following:

- Updating the annual Survey of Fair Market Rents for non-subsidized housing and maintaining a computer file on regional building permit activity.
- Completing a vacant Land Inventory and Build Out Analysis for the town of Avon.
- Completing a Vacant Land Inventory, Build Out Analysis and related First Phase Master Plan Studies for the Town of Halifax.
- Assisted the Town of Avon in preparing a comprehensive water supply protection bylaw (including protection of the watershed of Brockton's Avon Reservoir) and passing it at Town meeting.
- Continuing to work with town officials and local developers to allow the most flexible and complete circulation system between the Stoughton and Avon industrial and retail parks bracketed by the Rte. 24 interchanges with Harrison Blvd. and Rte. 139.
- Participated in Massachusetts Environmental Protection Act (MEPA) reviews and local responses to projects including Walmart stores in Abington, Avon, Halifax and Plymouth, the Kingston Commons Mall in Kingston and the proposed Westgate Pavilion and Northeast Recycling Services projects in Brockton.
- Assisting Brockton's Reclaim Our Community (ROC) Program in applying for comprehensive planning funds and recruiting/reviewing consultants.
- Gave technical assistance to developers, government agencies and community development corporations, industrial development commissions and others interested in development in the region.
- Under contract to the Lutheran Social Services Agency reviewed facility characteristics and local housing/human services needs and recommended reuses for the vacant Wales Home (for the elderly) in the Montello section of Brockton.
- Prepared an application for economic development Planning funds from the Executive Office of Communities and Development for the town of East Bridgewater.
- Prepared an application to the Executive Office of Communities Development for a Massachusetts Small Cities Program-funded Housing Rehabilitation in the town of Stoughton.
- Researched the regulation of communication towers for Avon. The results indicate a need for a regional plan accommodating the needs of cellular phone companies and other users with a minimum number of (shared) towers.
- Presented a forum, "Regional Water Supply Needs and Possibilities - a Stocktaking" at Bridgewater State College.
- Reviewed the possible effects of the controversial Rockland Landfill on the town of Hanson and adjacent communities, and communicated concerns to the Department of Environmental Protection.
- Updated local Utility Allowance standards for a consortium of local housing authorities.
- Informed the Massachusetts Highway Department on local drainage and water quality issues affecting repaving of Rte. 24 near the Avon Reservoir and advocated MHD adoption of extensive protective measures.
- Applied for Executive Office of Communities and Development Strategic Planning funds to explore appropriate institutional arrangements for meeting long-term Brockton area water supply needs.
- Worked with the City of Brockton in developing a final application for EDA Section 302 local economic development planning funds to staff the Brockton 21st Century Corporation.
- Serving on:
 - The South Shore Local Governance Committee of the Massachusetts Bay Program.
 - The three-town (Abington, Rockland and Weymouth) South Weymouth Naval Air Station Reuse Committee.

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 fit the region's resources and manpower. It includes activities to improve the region's infrastructure, especially water and sewer systems and to support manpower training programs. The program is supported by the Economic Development Administration of the U. S. Department of Commerce which has designated the Council an Economic Development District. The effort is overseen by an Overall Economic Development Program Committee. This is chaired by Joseph P. Joseph, Director of the Brockton Area Private Industry Council. The Committee approves the District's Annual work program and meets monthly to review efforts and exchange information.

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

The past year's efforts have included:

- Updating the Community Information and Data Report and providing social and economic data to firms and agencies in the District.
- Assisting the City of Brockton in successfully applying for designation as a State-sponsored Economic Target Area.
- Continuing to examine sources of local share for an EDA-supported Revolving Loan Program. The Brockton 21st Century Corporation has indicated an interest in establishing and operating such a program to assist area firms with financing needs.
- Preparing the 1994 Overall Economic Development Program Report focusing on water supply, industrial finance and transportation needs.
- Working with the Governor's Brockton/ Taunton Basin Water Supply Technical Group to develop short and long-term resolution of regional water supply shortages.
- Completing work with the Massasoit Compact Group to prepare an Economic Development Strategy for the Greater Southeastern Massachusetts region.
- Completing the US EPA/State Department of Environmental Protection-funded retrofitting of the stormwater detention ponds in the Avon Industrial Park to protect water flowing to Brockton's reinstated Avon Reservoir.
- Monitoring the supply of reusable buildings for the proposed Business Incubator.



OEDP Committee Chairman Joe Joseph and members of the committee listen to a development proposal.

- Identifying potential public works projects including:
 - Expansion of Plymouth's EDA-assisted Industrial Park.
 - Development of a town-sponsored industrial park in East Bridgewater from small inactive private park and adjacent town-owned land.
- Creation of a joint Redevelopment Authority/Simeone Corp. Industrial park in Stoughton.
- Reviewing Industrial Revenue Bonds including a \$15,905,000 bond for the Evanswood Nursing Home in Kingston.
- Serving on:
 - The Metro-South Chamber of Commerce's Business and Industrial Committee.
 - The Regional Employment Board and Private Industry Council overseeing and providing manpower training programs.
 - The Southeastern Economic Development Corporation (SEED).
 - The Massasoit Compact Steering Committee.

ELDER SERVICES

The Old Colony Planning Council is one of 23 designated Area Agencies on Aging in the State of Massachusetts. As a designated Area Agency on Aging, the Old Colony Planning Council is responsible for the planning, coordination and funding of elderly services in its twenty-three community service area. The Area Agency has focused its efforts on developing a comprehensive network of services that is responsive to the full spectrum of elder needs. In collaboration with local councils on aging and elder service providers, the Area Agency provided grant funding for the following services in Fiscal Year 1994:

- Senior Center and Outreach Programs
- Home Health and Respite Services
- In-Home Mental Health Services
- Services for Elders with Disabilities
- Transportation Services
- Legal Services
- Emergency Services
- Congregate and Home-Delivered Meals
- Nutritional Education and Counseling
- Services to Families and Caregivers

These services are available to elders throughout the service area. In FY 1994, over 40,000 units of service were provided to more than 11,000 elders in the region.

In addition to the services listed above, the Area Agency has also received funding under Title III-F of the Older Americans Act for the provision of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Services. The Area Agency has developed and funded a variety of programs and services under this new title of the Older Americans Act. These include:

- Community Health Education Presentations
- Expanded Mental Health Services
- Demonstration Fitness and Exercise at local Councils on Aging and Senior Centers



AAA Advisory Committee Chair Delores Kent addresses the 1993 AAA Annual Meeting in Middleboro.

The Area Agency is also responsible for the administration of the Nursing Home Ombudsman Program for the twenty-three community region. The focus of the Ombudsman Program is:

1. To receive, investigate and resolve complaints by or on behalf of residents of nursing and rest homes.
2. To protect resident's rights.
3. To provide information.
4. To advocate for positive changes to the Long Term Care system.

By providing these services, the certified staff and volunteers of the Ombudsman Program serve as advocates for the resident's of the 54 Nursing Home and Long-Term Care Facilities in the region and help to improve the quality of life for all institutionalized elders in the Region.

In Fiscal Year 1994, the Program conducted over 3000 facility visits and 183,000 patient interviews in over 900 complaint resolutions.

TRANSPORTATION

Through the "3C" (cooperative, continuing and comprehensive) transportation planning process, the Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC) monitors and evaluates the performance of the existing transportation network and identifies what the future transportation needs and problems will be.

This year under the federal Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) legislation, OCPC transportation Staff was mandated to prepare and update the Long Range Transportation Plan for the region. The staff in cooperation with the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) undertook this task. The Regional Transportation Plan Update comprehensively examines the existing transportation network in the region, identifies those issues and problems which either require or will require improvement, and outlines possible courses of action designed to facilitate these improvements. It considers virtually all forms of transportation in the region and is developed to be consistent with ISTEA, Clean Air Act (CAA) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

In addition ISTEA calls on state and local governments to take a different approach to the investments they make in transportation. It gives them more flexibility to invest in a broader range of eligible improvements, such as transit, freight, bikeways, and HOV Lanes, with greater emphasis on system efficiency and intermodal connection.

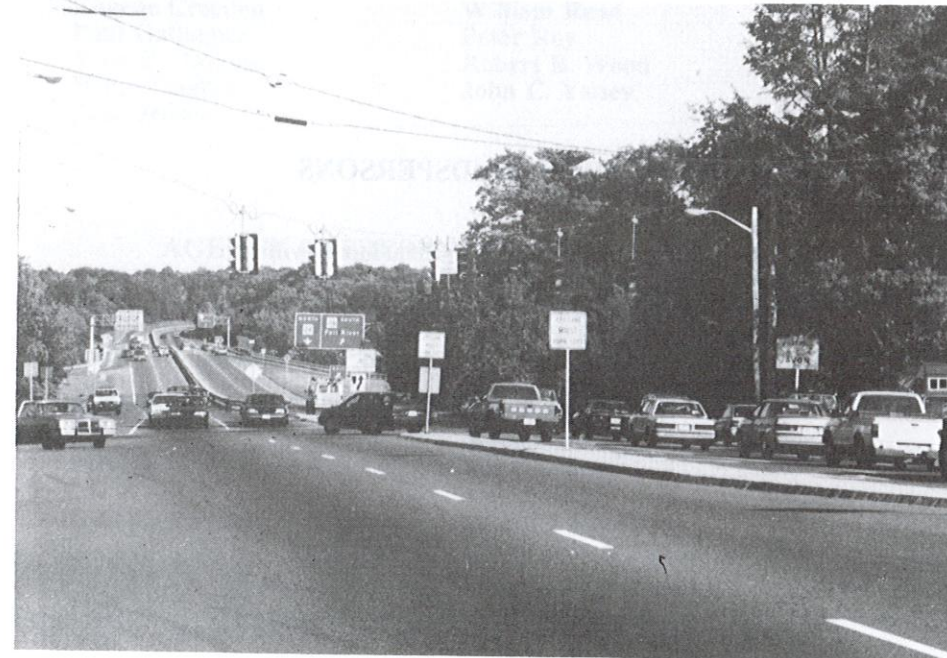
The passage of ISTEA in 1991 virtually mandated that Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) place much greater reliance on regional traffic models in conducting their transportation planning activities. During this year the staff's concentration was focused on updating, refining and calibrating the OCPC's Regional Transportation Model. The Model was used to estimate the traffic impacts caused by economic and population growth, identify congestion areas and estimate the Vehicle Miles Travel (VMT). The model was also used in making the Air Quality Conformity determination for the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the Regional Transportation Plan.

Additionally, the Transportation Staff working closely with the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) and member communities conducted a variety of activities such as:

- *Monitoring Brockton Area Transit Authority (BAT) system ridership.*
- *Updated BAT's "Americans with Disabilities ACT (ADA) Implementation Plan".*
- *Updating the "Title VI Study" for the Brockton Area Transit Authority.*
- *Provided Technical Assistance to BAT.*
- *Developed the region's FY 95 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).*
- *Updated the OCPC Regional Transportation Plan.*
- *Collecting and maintaining traffic counts and other relevant transportation statistics. Conducting traffic counts, speed and vehicle classification studies for member communities.*

- *Continue to support, monitor and participate in the Old Colony Commuter Rail Restoration Project.*
- *Developed OCPC's "Public Participation Plan".*
- *Provided highway/transit Technical Assistance to member communities.*
- *Reviewing traffic impact studies for various development proposals, in the OCPC region as part of the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) process.*

The region will face tremendous challenges in the coming decades as it strives to accommodate demographics, political and economic changes. A successful transportation future for the region requires us all to work together toward a common goal.



Traffic Improvements ease flow of traffic into Avon's Commerce Park - West.

**AREA AGENCY ON AGING
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Sandra Gomes, Asst. Dir.
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Yolanda DeSilva
Harry Hanson

Marion Keville
John Moccia
Marion Norris
Eugene Vogt
Halen Wolstenholm

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Mark Eagan

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Edward Nicholas

Alex Rysman
Winthrop Sargent
Michael V. Sikora
William Tedoldi
Jack Weisman

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FHWA
FTA
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EOTC
Brockton Traffic Commission

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