



The
Old Colony
Planning Council

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**OLD COLONY
PLANNING COUNCIL**



**ANNUAL REPORT
1994 - 1995**

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

OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL

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

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

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Carl Atwood	Transportation Specialist
Morine Capuano	Secretary
Pasquale Ciaramella	Transportation Planning Supervisor
Hazel Gauley	Ombudsman Staff Supervisor
Sandra Gomes	Ombudsman Program Director
Patrick Hamilton	AAA Assistant Administrator
Bruce Hughes	Economic Development Specialist
Anne McCormack	Planner
Janet McGinty	Grants Monitor
Sheila Milanes	Nutritionist
Anne Nicholas	Assistant Ombudsman Director
Cory Norris	Transportation Planner
Katalin Parkas	Transportation Planner
Norman Sorgman	Assistant Ombudsman Director
Jacqueline Surette	Fiscal Officer
Daniel R. Tempesta	Transportation 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 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.



Left. At-Large Delegate Matt Striggles discusses issues with Eldon F. Moreira, Secretary; John G. Mather, President and Joseph P. Landolfi, Treasurer.

Below. OCPC Members discuss State and Regional Transportation Plans.



Left. Officials of Bluestone Engineering discuss a Desalinization Proposal with OCPC members.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It was my privilege and pleasure to be elected to a second term as President of the Council. I look forward to the coming year and to the challenge it represents with great anticipation. In the coming months we expect that there will be great changes in the governmental system and in the way in which the federal government relates to state and local governments as it redefines its role. This will most assuredly have an impact on OCPC and how it will function in the future. OCPC relies very heavily on federal funding for its financial support and every indication is that there will be change in the years to come as State government assumes more responsibility for administering and directing programs. We expect that there will be difficult adjustments that will have to be made in the future.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the work of the members of the Council who serve without compensation and guide the efforts of the organization. In particular, I would like to pay tribute to Richard H. Chase, Delegate from the town of Easton who retired this year after serving on the Council for 25 years. In addition, I would like to commend all of the members of the Committees of the Council for their involvement. Finally, I would cite the work of the OCPC staff who deserve recognition for their high level of dedication and performance during the year. All of these individuals are listed in this report. To each of them I extend my sincere thanks on behalf of the organization for a job well.

I look forward to their continued support in the coming year.

Sincerely,

John G. Mather
 John G. Mather
 President

Comprehensive Planning and Community Development

As a regional land use planning agency the Council carries out a variety of comprehensive planning, land use and development control studies. This year the Council continued as a sponsor of the Southeastern Regional Services Group (SERSG) staffed by a Regional Public Administration Specialist. The SERSG staff assists communities in joint purchasing, training and other cooperative efforts.

In 1995 OCPC continued water supply protection efforts. These planning efforts were especially timely in the least-developed communities since those towns have the greatest range of choices left. Other Community Development efforts have included the following:

- * Updated the Community Information and Data Report and provided varied demographic, economic and social data to firms, agencies and individuals.
- * Began the second phase of the Halifax Master Plan.
- * Assisted Towns of Easton and Avon in Community Action Statement Preparation.
- * Researched regulations affecting mobile homes and trailer parks in OCPC region.
- * Assisted the Avon Police Department in successfully applying to the U.S. Department of Justice for COPS MORE program grant.
- * Researched Regional Landfill regulatory issues.
- * Completing an a EPA/DEP-funded groundwater protection project including:
 - Organizing the Poor Meadow Aquifer Protection Committee of Halifax, Hanson, and East Bridgewater.
 - Drafting Water Supply Protection zoning bylaws for East Bridgewater and Halifax
 - Surveying potentially hazardous uses and preparing a Water Supply Protection Plan for the town of Halifax.
 - Preparing a Draft Upper Taunton Basin Emergency Water Supply Plan.
 - Revising proposed Underground Storage Tank provisions.
- * Assisted the town of Stoughton in applying for further Executive Office of Communities and Development Small Cities housing rehabilitation funds.
- * Advising the towns of Kingston and Easton on updating their Open Space and Recreation plans.

* Maintaining and updating Council data on Brockton water supplies and the operation of the Water Bank.

* Revised a proposed Brockton water supply protection zoning ordinance and submitted it for City Council action.

* Continued to work with local officials and developers to provide for a flexible and complete circulation system between the adjacent Stoughton and Avon Industrial and retail parks located between the Rt. 24 interchanges with Rt. 139 and Harrison Blvd.

* Participation in Massachusetts Environmental Protection Act (MEPA) reviews and local responses to proposed projects.

* Worked with the Pilgrim Resource Conservation and Development Area Council, the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service and other groups to receive Section 319 Non-Point Source funds from EPA to lessen pollution of Plymouth's Billington Sea.

* Provided assistance to the town of Whitman in exploring funding sources to improve school and other public facilities.

* Provided assistance to the Town of East Bridgewater in applying for Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Watershed Management funds to restore Forge Pond.

* Provided assistance the town of Kingston in exploring strategies and funding sources for improving the town center retail area.

* Working with the Hanson/Halifax Alternative Sewerage Committee to explore responses to Monponsett Pond pollution.

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 chaired by Joseph Joseph, Director of the Brockton Area Private Industry Council job training program. The Committee approves the District's annual work program, and meets monthly to review efforts, to approve Massachusetts Industrial Finance Agency Bonds for consistency with local and regional plans, and to exchange information.

Each year the Council prepares an Overall Economic Development Program (OEDP) Report. This analyses economic conditions in the District, lists the region's high priority projects for potential EDA financing along with other important local projects, and presents the District's annual work program. The OEDP Report is an important tool in planning for regional economic recovery and is essential in maintaining eligibility for federal assistance.

The past year's Economic Development efforts have included:

- * Worked with the City of Brockton and the Brockton 21st Century Corporation to obtain an EDA Section 302 (a) grant to support economic development activities in the City of Brockton.
- * Worked with the Town of Bridgewater, the Brockton Redevelopment Authority and the Brockton 21st Century Corporation to prepare an application to the Massachusetts EOCD to provide local share for an EDA supported Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) for the OCPC region.
- * Prepared the 1995 Overall Economic Development Program Report focusing on water supply, industrial finance and transportation needs.
- * Assisted the Town of Abington in submitting an application for funding by Walmart Stores for a town-wide Economic Development Strategy.
- * Prepared the first phase of an Economic Development Plan for the town of East Bridgewater.
- * Began an EDA funded Aquaculture Feasibility Study in conjunction with the Plymouth Development and Industrial Corporation.
- * Reviewed \$,630,904 in Industrial Revenue Bonds for new developments in the District.
- * Conducted a Work Force Development Needs Survey for the Brockton Regional Employment Board.
- * Assisted the Massachusetts Department of Education in evaluating and approving applications for FY 1996 Adult Basic Education Grants.

* Worked with the Brockton Community Corporation (BCC) and the Reclaim Our Communities (ROC) organization in initiating a two-phase study of a proposed inner city supermarket in Brockton's Walnut-Turner neighborhood.

* Served on:

- The Metro-South Chamber of Commerce's Business and Industrial Committee.
- The Regional Employment Board/Private Industry Council overseeing and providing manpower training programs.
- The Southeastern Economic Development Corporation (SEED).
- The Tri-Town (Abington, Rockland and Weymouth) Airport Committee planning for the reuse of the South Weymouth Naval Air Station.



Above. Chairman, Joe Joseph and members of the OEDP Committee discuss the findings of the Workforce Analysis Study.

ELDER SERVICES

The Old Colony Planning Council Area Agency on Aging is responsible for the planning, coordination and funding of elderly services under Title III of the Older American Act in the 23 community region served by the program. The Area Agency, in conjunction with input from the 23 community Advisory Committee, has focused its efforts on developing a comprehensive network of services and programs which are responsive to the full spectrum of elder service needs. In collaboration with local councils on aging and elder service provider agencies, the Area Agency provided grant funding for the following services and programs in Fiscal Year 1995:

- * 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

In addition to providing the services listed above, the Area Agency also used funding under Title III-F of the Older Americans Act for the provision of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Programs and Services, for:

- * Community Health Education Presentations
- * Demonstration fitness and exercise programs at local Councils on Aging
- * Nutrition Education and Healthy Eating/Weight Loss Programs to almost 500 elders.

The services and programs above were available to elders throughout the region. In 1995, over 380,000 units of service were provided to more than 12,000 elders. These included: serving 836 elders with over 2000 trips under the Volunteer Transportation Program; approximately 2300 units of in-home mental health services to 430 elders; 1600 units of in-home personal care services; 3500 units of legal assistance services; and 250,000 congregate and home delivered meals.

The Area Agency also used funding awarded from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health for the provision of Prostate Cancer Awareness and Education presentations throughout the region. The Area Agency worked closely with councils on aging and other human service provider agencies to conduct these presentations at various locations. A total of 14 educational presentations were conducted, serving more than 320 elders.



Left. President John G. Mather, AAA Chairman Chris Schmbri and AAA Assistant Administrator Patrick Hamilton confer on Elder Service issues.

The OCPA Area Agency on Aging also administers the Nursing Home Ombudsman Program for the region. The goals of the Nursing Home Ombudsman program are to:

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

By providing these protective services, the certified staff and volunteers of the Nursing Home Ombudsman Program serve as advocates for the residents of the 55 Nursing and Rest Homes in the region and help to improve the quality of life for institutionalized elders in the region.

In Fiscal Year 1995, the Program conducted over 3300 facility visits, conducted over 200,000 patient interviews, and filed over 1300 records of concern.



Left. Sandra Gomes and members of the AAA Nursing Home Ombudsman Program meet at the Annual Luncheon.

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.

This year, the Old Colony Planning Council purchased Mapinfo, a Geographic Information System (GIS). GIS is a powerful tool in transportation planning; the system is used for numerous tasks, such as, the transportation model, the Pavement Management System (PMS) and generating a variety of maps for other studies.

The Transportation Staff is also conducting studies to develop, establish and implement the Pavement Management System (PMS) and Congestion Management System (CMS) as mandated by the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA). These management systems will provide information which may be used by local and state officials in preserving and improving the existing/future transportation facilities and systems.

In addition, the Transportation Staff in cooperation with the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) and the OCPC member communities conducted a wide variety of tasks which included the following:

- Developed the 1994-1995 Unified Work Program (UWP) for the OCPC region which describes all work to be accomplished by the Old Colony MPO.
- Continue to develop, review and refine the comprehensive Long Range Regional Transportation Plan.
- Develop and amend the FY1996 - 1998 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).
- Continue to support, monitor and participate in the Old Colony Commuter Rail Restoration Project.
- Conducted a "Fixed Route Ridership Analysis" for the Brockton Area Transit Authority (BAT).
- Collecting and maintaining regional traffic counts, accident data and other related statistics for Transportation Planning studies for member communities.
- Update the Transit Directory for the OCPC region to provide the public with information on available transportation alternatives.
- Monitoring regional air quality impact on federally funded transportation projects in the TIP.
- Provided technical assistance to Brockton Area Transit Authority (BAT).
- Solicit, review and rank potential Transportation Demand Management (TDM) projects in the OCPC region.
- Review Environmental Notification Forms (ENFs) and Environmental Impact Reports (EIRs) for projects in the OCPC Region.
- Provided technical assistance to OCPC's member communities on transportation related issues/concerns.

- Solicit, screen, evaluate and rank regional Transportation Enhancement projects.
- Develop and Implement the Congestion Management System (CMS) and Pavement Management System (PMS) mandated by ISTEA .
- OCPC Transportation Staff worked to continue refining and calibrating the Regional Transportation Model.
- OCPC Transportation Staff prepares, publishes and distributes a series of quarterly JTC Newsletters.
- Continue the development and utilization of a computerized Geographic Information System (GIS) for various work tasks.
- Prepared the "Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)" 1995 Paratransit Plan Update for the Brockton Area Transit Authority (BAT).
- Conducted Route 123 Traffic Study .
- Document OCPC's "Public Participation Process" for the 1994 Regional Transportation Plan Update.



Above. State Transportation Plans are presented to the Council Delegates, the JTC members and the General Public for comment.

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