



The
Old Colony
Planning Council

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**OLD COLONY
PLANNING COUNCIL**



**ANNUAL REPORT
1995 - 1996**

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

OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL

President
Secretary
Treasurer

COMMUNITY

Abington
Avon
Bridgewater
Brockton

East Bridgewater
Easton

Halifax
Hanson
Pembroke
Plymouth
Plympton
Stoughton
West Bridgewater
Whitman,
At-Large

OFFICERS

John G. Mather
Eldon F. Moreira
Joseph P. Landolfi

DELEGATE

A. Stanley Littlefield
John J. DeMarco
Anthony P. Anacki
Edward Duffy/
John T. Yunits, Jr.
David A. Johnson
Richard H. Chase/
Jeanmarie Kent
John G. Mather
Robert Overholtzer
Gerard W. Dempsey
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Roger Hall
Joseph Landolfi
Eldon F. Moreira
Frank Maher
Matthew Striggles

Halifax
West Bridgewater
Stoughton

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Lee Hartman
Brian Miller
Mary Cunniff
Nancy Bresciani
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James R. Watson

Executive Director/AAA Administrator
Transportation Specialist
AAA Planner
Secretary
Transportation Planning Supervisor
Septic Repair Loan Program Director
Ombudsman In-service Coordinator
Ombudsman Program Director
AAA Assistant Administrator
Economic Development Specialist
Transportation Planner
Grants Monitor
Nutritionist
Assistant Ombudsman Director
Transportation Planner
Nutritionist Assistant
Assistant Ombudsman Director
Fiscal Officer
Transportation Planner
Planner
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.

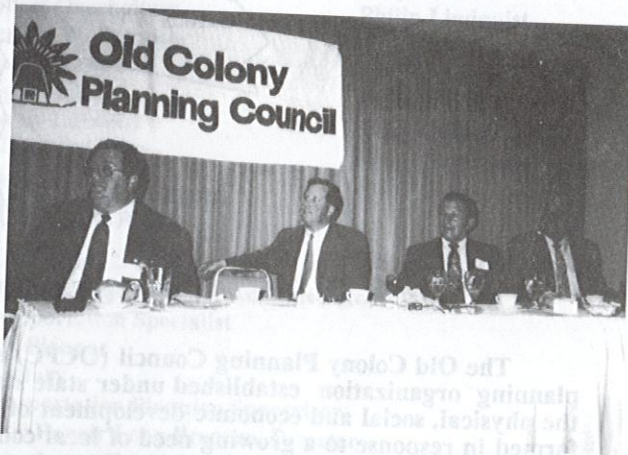
The Old Colony Planning Council is one of thirteen regional planning agencies in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and serves as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for transportation and transit planning; is designated as an Economic Development District by the U. S. Department of Commerce, Economic 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.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS



Left: OCPC President John G. Mather presents an award to Associate Justice Mark E. Lawton at the Annual Dinner Meeting.



Right: Annual Meeting Head Table: John G. Mather, Judge Mark E. Lawton, Eldon F. Moreira and Joseph P. Landolfi hear the report of the OCPC Nominating Committee Chair, Jeanmarie Kent-Joyce.



Left: OCPC Executive Director Daniel M. Crane assists Secretary Eldon F. Moreira who is presiding at a meeting of the Council.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This past year was a particularly productive one for the Council as will be noted from reading the contents of this report. Particularly satisfying to me as the Council President was our ability to meet the challenges of reduced federal funding; to comply with all of our rigorous contractual requirements; and, to initiate new programs of benefit to our member communities. All of this we were accomplished and the Council was still able to carry out an extremely comprehensive program of technical assistance to our member communities.

We must attribute a large part of our success to the work of the Council's professional staff. The staff under the direction of Dan Crane is highly motivated and dedicated to the proposition that regionalism makes sense.

I would also 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 commend all of the members of the Committees of the Council for their involvement and input. 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 done.

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 and transportation planning agency the Council works to guide development and protect the environment at a range of scales. This includes preparation of comprehensive town plans and open space plans, assisting communities in improving development controls and participating in the state's environmental review process.

Most specifically the Council is assisting Avon and Halifax in comprehensive planning as noted below. Such efforts are most timely in the least-developed communities since they have the greatest range of choices left. Recent and on-going activities include:

- o Beginning the second phase of the Avon Master Plan building on the previously completed undeveloped land inventory and build-out analysis.
- o Preparing to begin the recently voted Abington Master Plan project.
- o Participating in the Billington Sea/Jones River Non-point Source pollution control project by presenting workshops and serving on the project advisory committee.
- o Completing an Economic Development Plan for the Town of East Bridgewater. This reviewed present development patterns and potentials and recommended completion/expansion/sewering of one small industrial park
- o Completion of an extensive Open Space Plan for the Town of Easton. This built on initial work by the Conservation Commission and its staff.
- o Completion of much of the second phase of the Halifax Master Plan including review of residential, commercial and industrial development and open space issues.
- o Continuing to work with local interests to achieve the most flexible and complete circulation between the Stoughton and Avon Industrial and retail parks bracketed by Rt. 24's interchanges with Harrison Blvd. and Rt. 139. This has involved examining a potential interchange at Page St. improving access to both parks.
- o Participating in Massachusetts Environmental Protection Act (MEPA) review of projects including a BFI solid waste processing facility in Brockton near the West Bridgewater line and a Walmart store in West Bridgewater just south of Brockton.
- o Sponsoring and overseeing an Economic Development Administration- funded feasibility study of an inner city supermarket/small business incubator in Brockton's Walnut-Turner neighborhood.

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- o Updating Utility Allowance standards for assisted housing under contract to a consortium of local housing authorities.
- o Serving on the South Shore Local Governance Committee of the Massachusetts Bays Program.
- o Exploring the open space potential along Brockton's Salisbury Plain River, preparing a display illustrating these possibilities, and assisting City staff in applying to the state's Urban Self-Help Program.
- o Examining the feasibility/appropriateness of low-income elderly housing and various municipal and open space uses on a town-owned area of sand pits, hills and wetlands in Plympton.
- o Assisting the town of Stoughton in preparing a successful application to continue its EOCD-funded housing rehabilitation program.
- o Assisting the City of Brockton in completing and filing an application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to identify obstacles to redevelopment posed by contamination and make recommendations to facilitate "Brownfields" development.
- o Assisting the town of Avon in defining its expanded industrial zoning off of Bodwell St. Extension.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Council's economic development program is concerned with helping existing firms to remain or to expand, with attracting new economic activities which fit the region's resources and manpower, and with strengthening key infrastructure and manpower resources. Thus it includes activities to strengthen the region's water, sewer and transportation systems and to support manpower training. The effort is supported by the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) which has designated the Council as an Economic Development District.

Each Year the Council prepares or updates the Overall Economic Development Program Report. This analyzes District trends, resources and needs, reports on progress and lists the high priority projects for prospective EDA assistance

The past year's efforts have included:

- o Working with the Plymouth Area Aquaculture Steering Committee to identify and pursue opportunities to replace lost employment in commercial fishing. Possibilities include inter-tidal and shallow water shellfish raising, fin-fish culture in recirculating tanks, and specialty fish production in organic cranberry bogs. The effort is funded by an EDA Fisheries' Impact Grant through the Massachusetts Department of Economic Development.
- o Revising the EDA Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) proposal to reflect the scheduled closure of the South Weymouth Naval Air Station and achieving Brockton's commitment of \$50,000 in entitlement funds for the local share. The Fund would provide gap financing required in combination with larger loans from private lenders.
- o Preparing an application for the State's Ready Resources Fund to establish a Revolving Loan Fund in cooperation with the Lead Community, the Town of Bridgewater.
- o Assisting City agencies and the Brockton 21st Century Corporation to revise and resubmit an application for EDA Section 302(a) funds to help staff the Corporation.
- o Participating in the Technical Advisory Group for the Taunton River Diversion proposed to augment Brockton's Silver Lake supply system.
- o Gathering background material on water supply options for the newly established Brockton Water Commission.

- o Updating and expanding the Community Information and Data Report and providing social and economic information to inquiring firms, citizens and public agencies.

- o Preparing the 1996 Overall Economic Development Program Report in a concise update form. It focuses on water supply, industrial finance and infrastructure needs. Key high priority projects include:

- The Revolving Loan Fund
- The Brockton Freightyards/Foot Joy Industrial Park North-South Connector Road
- Upgrading/modernizing the Plymouth Fish Pier
- Infrastructure Improvements Needed to Optimize Reuse of the South Weymouth Naval Air Station

- o Participating in the Joint Staff Working Group of the South Weymouth Naval Air Station Planning Committee. Council staff assisted in issue definition, work program preparation, consultant selection and community involvement.

- o Working with the Brockton City Planner and the 21st Century Corporation to define the north-south industrial corridor project.

- o Continuing to represent the region on:

- The South Eastern Economic Development Corporation (SEED)
- The Brockton Area Regional Employment Board/Private Industry Council
- The Brockton Mayor's Economic Development Task Force
- The Plymouth County Development Council Board



Above: OEDP Committee Chairman Joe Joseph reviews Agenda items with Bruce Hughes, Economic Development Specialist.

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 1996:

- * 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
- * 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
- * Nutrition Counseling and Healthy Eating/Weight Loss

Programs to over 500 elders.

The services and programs above were available to elders throughout the region. In 1996, over 350,000 units of service were provided to more than 12,000 elders. These included: serving 552 elders with over 4000 trips under the Volunteer Transportation Program; approximately 6000 hours of mental health services to 1075 elders; 4136 hours of in-home personal care services; 4600 hours of legal assistance services; and 305,000 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 9 educational presentations were conducted, serving more than 340 elders.

The OCPC Area Agency on Aging also administers the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program for the region. The goals of the Long Term Care 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.

The staff and certified volunteers of the Long Term Ombudsman Program provide these services to over 4000 residents of long term care facilities and their families. On a weekly basis the Ombudsman advocate on behalf of these elders by providing these protective services, advocating for the residents of the 59 Nursing and Rest Homes in the region and to help to improve the quality of life for institutionalized elders in the region by monitoring compliance with federal and state regulations.

In Fiscal Year 1996, the Program conducted over 3200 facility visits, made over 220,000 resident contacts.



Above: OCPC Assistant AAA Administrator Patrick Hamilton with AAA Advisory Committee Chairman Christian Schembri at the AAA Annual Luncheon Meeting.

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 past year, major efforts were expended in updating the 1997 Regional Transportation Plan; a requirement of the 1991 Intermodal Surface Transportation efficiency Act (ISTEA), the 1990 Clean Air Act (CAA), and, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The update of the Regional Transportation Plan is due to be completed by the March 1997.

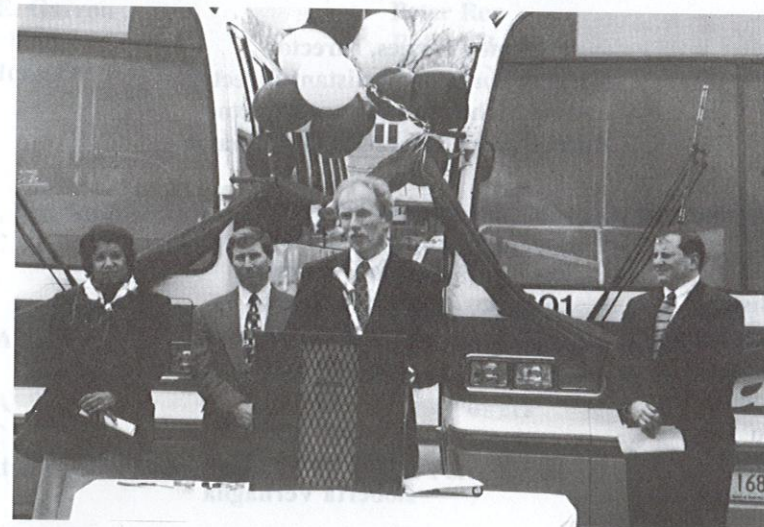
The Council is also updating, refining and calibrating the OCPC Regional Transportation Demand Model. The forecasting model will be updated to include new Journey-To-Work Data. The transportation model is an effective and comprehensive way to project transportation needs for the next 20 years in the OCPC Region. The Model enables OCPC to forecast traffic impacts caused by population and economic growth, identify congested growth areas on highways, impact on travel patterns and estimate Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT). The model is an invaluable transportation tool in analyzing the transportation network and evaluating alternative solutions to the transportation problems identified in the plan. The model also allows OCPC to fulfill forecasting requirements of ISTEA and the Clean Air Act (CAA).

The Council continued its work with the Pavement Management System (PMS) and Congestion Management System (CMS). These management systems will provide important data which may be used by local and state officials in preserving and improving the existing/future transportation facilities and systems.

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

- OCPC continue to support, monitor and participate in the Old Colony Commuter Rail Restoration Project.
- Developed the 1995-1996 Unified Work Program (UWP) for the OCPC region which describes all work to be accomplished by the Old Colony MPO.
- Develop the FY1997 - 1999 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).
- Conducted a "Fixed Route Ridership Analysis" for the Brockton Area Transit Authority (BAT).
- Provided technical assistance to Brockton Area Transit Authority (BAT).
- Prepared the "Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)" 1996 Para-transit Plan Update for (BAT).
- The transportation staff initiated work on the Brockton Downtown Intermodal Facility Study.

- Collecting and maintaining regional traffic counts, accident data and other related statistics for Transportation Planning studies for member communities.
- OCPC responded to numerous requests for traffic counts and other transportation related data.
- Monitoring regional air quality impact on federally funded transportation projects in the TIP.
- Solicit, screen, evaluate and rank potential Regional Transportation Enhancement (TE) and Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Projects.
- Review Environmental Notification Forms (ENFs) and Environmental Impact Reports (EIRs) for projects in the OCPC Region.
- OCPC responds to municipal request for technical assistance on transportation related traffic issues/problems/concerns.
- Prepared, published and distributed a series of quarterly JTC Newsletters.
- Continue the development and utilization of a computerized Geographic Information System (GIS) for various work tasks.



Above: Richard Doyle, FTA Region I Administrator, Toye Brown, Assistant Secretary of Transportation, MASS EOTC, Mayor John T. Yunits, Jr. and Reinald Ledoux, BAT Administrator dedicate new BAT busses.

AREA AGENCY ON AGING
1996 Advisory Committee Delegates

Christian Schembri, Chair	Mary Pellagi	Jean Tolland
James McSorley	Charlotte Frye	Mary Jane Kingsland
Chris Shepard	Earl Martin	Joan Murphy
Bob Martin	Doris Grindle	Catherine Harameth
Judy Murphy	Sarah Jigerjian	Shirley Martin
Dolores Kent	Kathy Sirrico	Audrey Ryan
Carrie Taylor	Helvi Lehto	Lena Britto
Lorraine Roach	David Cohen	Margaret Huska
Muriel Boyce	Sheila Donovan	Richard Hengst

LONG TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM
STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

Sandy Gomes, Director
Norman Sorgman, Assistant Director
Anne Nicholas, Assistant Director
Hazel Gauley, In-service Coordinator

Yolanda DeSilva	Marion Keville
Terry Santry	Teri Sullivan
Kay Derito	Rita LeFrancois
Sharmilla Biswas	Marion Norris
Helen Wolstenholm	Nora McCoubrey
Paula Alexander	Cindy Sweetser
Thomas Chamberlin	Michele Brait
Lois Romero	Nancy Consolazio
Carol Desmond	Diane Mitchell
Maureen Walker	Roberta Vernaglia

OVERALL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM (OEDP) COMMITTEE

Joseph P. Joseph, Chairman	Joseph Gusciora	Michael Sikora
Joseph P. Landolfi, Vice Chair.	Joseph McCarthy	Winthrop Sargent
Roberta Comacho	Linda McCone	Jack Weisman
Paul Carey	Donald Megathlin	William Tedoldi
Mark Eagan	Alex Rysman	

JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC)
COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

Stephen Baker, Chairman	Donald Newman
Noreen O'Toole, Vice Chair	Leighton Peck
Kenneth Carlson	Daniel Pessia
Eugene F. Creedon	William Reed
Troy E. Garron	Peter Roy
Roger Hall	Robert B. Wood
Alan Jensen	John C. Yaney

AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES

MHD, District 5	Bernard E. McCourt/Bill Dalton
EOTC	Timothy Kochan
BAT	Kathy Riddell
DEP	Leah Weiss
FHWA	Edward Silva/Chris Jolly
FTA	Donna Laidley
MBTA	John Powers
EOTC	Astrid Glyn
Brockton Traffic Commission	Lt. Peter Crone