



The
Old Colony
Planning Council

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**OLD COLONY
PLANNING COUNCIL**



**ANNUAL REPORT
1998**

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

OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL

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David A. Johnson
Joseph P. Landolfi

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East Bridgewater
Stoughton

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Pembroke
Plymouth
Plympton
Stoughton
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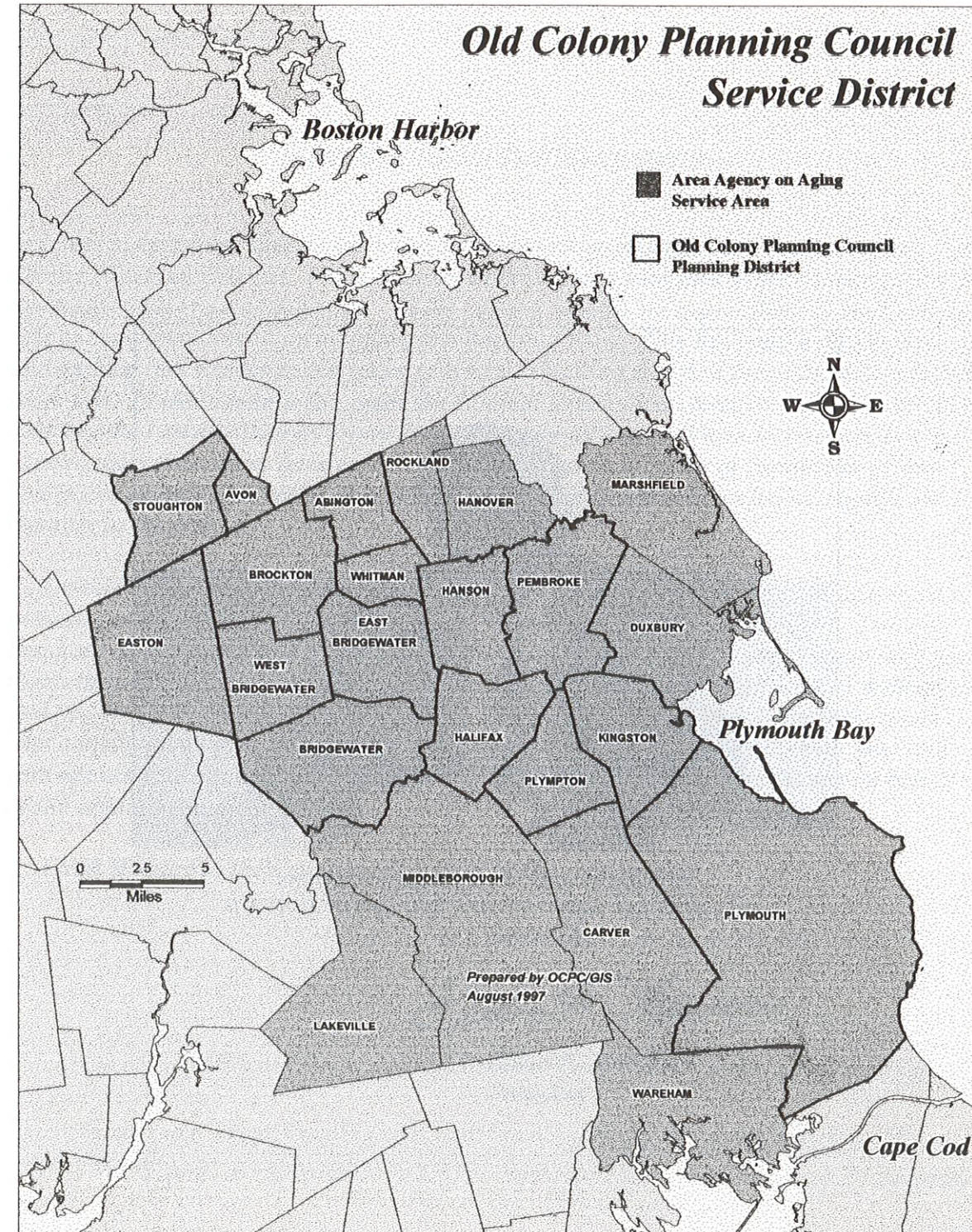
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AAA Planner
Planning Intern
Ombudsman Program Director
Planner
Transportation Planning Supervisor
Transportation Planner
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Assistant Ombudsman Director
AAA Administrator
Economic Development Specialist
Transportation Planner
Fiscal Officer
AAA Nutritionist
Ombudsman Program Assistant
Transportation Planner
Assistant Ombudsman Director
Planner
Fiscal Consultant
Receptionist
Senior Planner
Comprehensive Planning Supervisor





PRESIDENT ELDON F. MOREIRA PRESIDES
AT A REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It was my privilege and pleasure to be elected to a second term as President of the Old Colony Planning Council. I look forward to the coming year and to the challenge that it represents with great anticipation. In the coming months we expect that the staff will be able to complete its work on updating the Regional Plan. This has been a significant undertaking and has taken two years of effort. The Plan was first formulated twenty-five years ago. In those twenty-five years the Council District has changed dramatically. Not only has the Council District grown from ten communities to fifteen in number, but the communities themselves have experienced great change in terms of population growth and in community character. It is clear from present trends that we expect significant changes in the future.

I would like to recognize the contribution of the members of the Council who serve without compensation and guide the efforts of the organization. In addition, I wish to thank all of the members of Committees of the Council for their active participation and involvement. The OCPC staff also deserves recognition for their high level of dedication and performance during the year. Finally, I would like to thank all of the individuals who actively participated and supported the work of the Council over the past year and who are not 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,

Eldon F. Moreira
President

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

This year the Council has been working on growth management at the regional, multi-community and local scales. This is crucial given the region's continuing rapid growth and the increases which are following transportation improvements.

The Vision 20/20 Project for Southeastern Massachusetts is providing a framework to guide the future development of the region. Its purpose is to develop a broad-based consensus on growth related needs, opportunities, and goals; to communicate its findings to the greater community, and to adopt an overall action program. The effort involves a 50 person task force drawing on the business, academia, government, real estate, banking and the environmental communities. It is led by land use attorney Don Connors and staffed by the Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC), the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD) and consultants. It is expected that the work of the Vision 20/20 Task Force will conclude shortly after the start of the new calendar year with a series of recommendations for growth management.

The Regional Policy Plan is the Council's major planning effort this year. The purpose is to develop regionally consistent policies for use by all levels of government and the private sector in future development related decision making and investment. It will replace the currently dated Regional Plan with a greater emphasis on overall policies than on specific land use recommendations. The effort is in cooperation with a broadly based regional advisory committee. The Committee has adopted a draft statement of Goals and Objectives. These reflected continuing concerns of the original plan, other issues of rapid growth within the Council's jurisdiction, and recent influences such as commuter rail restoration and highway improvements. The effort includes initial steps toward updating regional land use information, calculating potential buildout on a community basis, projecting population, employment and land/ water consumption given present trends, and identifying more compact, varied traditional town development patterns which better suit the region's goals and objectives. The project is funded by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs and the Massachusetts Highway Department.

The Communities at Risk Project initiated this year is a related, more locally-focused effort identifying potential impacts and opportunities in the immediate vicinity of transportation improvements, especially commuter rail station stations, and then exploring appropriate development patterns and related regulatory methods. It is being done in cooperation with (MAPC) and (SERPEDD) and covers an arc of communities from Norwell to Lakeville. Council staff are exploring opportunities near the Kingston rail station while sharing ideas and findings with MAPC and SERPEDD staff studying the Scituate (Greenbush) and Middleboro/Lakeville station areas, respectively. The project is funded by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs and the Massachusetts Highway Department.

The Transportation-Induced Growth Study is examining the effects of transportation improvements on Kingston, Plymouth and Plympton through a contract with the firm of Parsons Brinckerhoff

Quade and Douglas. The purpose is to anticipate, predict and respond to transportation-induced growth impacts in these communities. Key tasks are analyzing the maximum growth possible in each community and developing a model relating changed migration and growth patterns to increased accessibility from various points. The effort is overseen by a committee of local officials and the Council, and funded by the Massachusetts Highway Department.

Completed work on the Abington Master Plan and the related Opens Space/Recreation Plan includes a review of past studies, a land use inventory and buildout analysis, and draft sections on the circulation, water and sewer systems. Staff are examining ways to balance expected residential growth with an increased non-residential tax base while preserving the town's amenities and character.

On the Avon Master Plan the Council has completed the review of past studies, the vacant land inventory and buildout analysis, and draft sections on housing, community facilities and circulation. Most recently staff have participated in a series of Planning Board workshops on community issues and needs. The workshops have involved Planning Board members, the Moderator, other town official and department heads, and interested citizens and land owners.

Work on the Halifax Master Plan is farthest along. Completed items include the review of past studies detailed small-area land use mapping and buildout analysis, draft goals and objectives, sections on housing, community facilities, commercial/industrial development, and the impacts of rail and retail improvement. The major recent product is a discussion of development regulations and recommendations including enhanced water resource protection and two approaches to cluster development.

Other activities :

- ♦ Support to Open Space planning efforts in Plympton and Halifax
- ♦ Assisting East Bridgewater in applying for state dam repair funds.
- ♦ Participation on the South Shore Local Governance Committee of the Massachusetts Bay Program developing activities to improve water quality.
- ♦ Assisting Brockton in exploring opportunities for open space/recreation opportunities along the Salisbury Brook and related historical/cultural activities.
- ♦ Close support to the town of Abington regarding South Weymouth Naval Air Station reuse planning including participation on the project's Technical Advisory Committee and preparation of the related Route 18 Corridor Study.
- ♦ Initial exploratory work on land use and circulation issues in the Easton/Brockton /West Bridgewater Coweaset Brook Business Area.
- ♦ Participation in citizen education activities of the Hanson Master Planning effort
- ♦ Participation on the Pilgrim Area Resource Conservation and Development Area Council planning natural resource, agricultural and community development projects
- ♦ Closely monitoring the proposed Pine Hill's development in Plymouth including participation in the MEPA review process.
- ♦ Participation on Congressman Delahunt's committee regarding a coastal bluff erosion threatening Plymouth's Nameloc Heights neighborhood.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Council's Economic Development Program is concerned with helping existing firms to remain or expand within the region, attracting new economic activities which fit the region's resources and labor force, strengthening key resources, including activities to improve the region's water, sewer and transportation systems, and supporting manpower training. This effort is supported by the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) which has designated the Council region an Economic Development District.

The past year's efforts have included:

- Prepared the Overall Economic Development Program Report (OEDP). The report analyzes District trends, resources and needs, reports on progress, and lists high priority projects for potential EDA assistance.
- Hosted bi-monthly meetings of the OEDP Committee. The Committee's basic activities include reviewing industrial finance bonds issued to businesses in the OCPC region by the Massachusetts Development Finance Agency. This year two bonds were approved, a \$665,000 bond for Thorsen, Inc. of Avon, MA, a precision metal fabricator and laser job shop to purchase new equipment a \$6,500,000 bond for Barbour Corporation, a shoe products and plastics manufacturer in Brockton to build a new plant and buy new machinery. Other activities include reviewing progress and annually revising the goals and objectives in the OEDP Report, updating the Report's high priority project list and initiating/overseeing special projects. More broadly, the Committee serves as an idea and information exchange for agencies, firms, officials and individuals concerned with economic development in the District.
- Implemented a Minority Business Enterprise Program, funded by the EDA. A Minority Business Development Specialist (MBDS) was hired by the Council. The MBDS provided technical assistance to 59 minority businesses in Brockton and compiled a complete list of minority-owned businesses in Brockton. OCPC co-sponsored a Minority Business networking dinner and several minority/woman owned business information forums.
- Completed the Plymouth Area Aquaculture Feasibility Study with a final report on pre-permitting of intertidal aquaculture sites and the possibility of enhancing the value of the dogfish catch with dockside cleaning and cooling facilities. It found that extensive restricted areas limited the benefits of pre-permitting, and that on-boat cooling was more important since dogfish were adequately cooled at the dock while an adequate cleaning/processing facility would require much space but only be useful seasonally.
- Served on the Joint Staff Committee of the South Weymouth Naval Air Station Planning Committee. The three towns involved (Abington, Rockland and South Weymouth) approved at Town Meetings held in Spring 1998 to approve a mixed (commercial, residential, industrial, recreation and open space) reuse plan and the creation of the South Shore Tri-Town Redevelopment Corporation, which will buy the base from the U.S. Navy and develop it.
- Continued to provide data, program information and other assistance to a wide variety of private firms and public agencies interested in the region.

TRANSPORTATION

This year, the Council's major transportation planning efforts were focused on initiating three major studies: the Kingston, Plymouth and Plympton Transportation Induce Growth impact Study; the Brockton Central Area Traffic (BCAT) Study; and, the Regional Comprehensive Land use/Transportation Policy Plan. The Council also continued its work with the regional transportation demand model, management system and public participation programs.

The Council relies upon the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) for input and direction on matters pertaining to transportation. The JTC Committee also advises the region's Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) whose members are the Executive Office of Transportation and Construction (EOTC), Massachusetts Highway Department (MHD), Brockton Area Transit Authority (BAT), and the Old Colony Planning Council. The principal function of the JTC Committee is to facilitate and enhance the public participation element of the transportation planning process. Under the Fiscal Year 1997/1998 Unified Work Program the Council conducted a variety of activities drawing on the JTC for advice and guidance. These included:

- OCPC initiate work the Regional Comprehensive Land use/Transportation Policy Plan.
 - The Council awarded a contract to *Rizzo Associates, Inc.* to conduct the Brockton Central Area Traffic (BCAT) Study.
- OCPC also awarded a contract to *Parsons Brinckerhoff Quade and Douglas, Inc.* to conduct the Kingston, Plymouth and Plympton Transportation Induce Growth Impact Study.
- Completed the 1998 Air Quality Addendum to the 1997 Long Range Regional Transportation Plan.
- Continued to support and implement the Public Participation Plan developed and adopted by OCPC in 1994, as required by federal planning regulations.
- Completed the 1997 Regional Pavement Management Report - Evaluation of Pavement Conditions and Maintenance requirements for Federal-Aid Eligible Surface transportation Projects.
- Completed the 1997 Congestion Management Report
- Staff continued work on the Pavement and Congestion Management Systems.
- Continued to monitor ridership and parking utilization on the Old Colony Commuter Rail Service.
- Developed the 1998-1999 Unified Work Program (UWP) for the OCPC region which describes all work to be accomplished by the Old Colony MPO.
- Developed and endorsed the FY 1998 - 2003 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).
- Developed the final draft FY 1999 - 2004 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).
- Conducted a ridership analysis for the Brockton Area Transit Authority (BAT).
- Provided transit technical assistance to BAT and GATRA.
- The transportation staff completed work on the Brockton Downtown Intermodal Facility Study.
- Collected and maintained regional traffic counts, accident data, and other related statistics for Transportation Planning studies for member communities.

612 Workshop
Needs Assessment



CONGRESSMAN J. JOSEPH MOAKLEY ADDRESSES
THE 1998 OCPC AAA ANNUAL LUNCHEON MEETING.



PATRICK HAMILTON, AAA ADMINISTRATOR IS SHOWN AT THE AAA LUNCHEON WITH
DR. HELEN EDELBERG ON HIS LEFT AND SHARMILA BISWAS, AAA PLANNER ON THE RIGHT.

ABOUT OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL

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 OCPC is the governmental mechanism available at the local level to effect municipal cooperation and coordination.

OCPC 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 Old Colony Planning Council is administered by representatives of its fifteen member communities. 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.

AREA AGENCY ON AGING

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Community

Abington
Avon
Bridgewater
Brockton

Carver
Duxbury
East Bridgewater
Easton
Halifax
Hanover
Hanson
Kingston
Lakeville
Marshfield
Middleborough
Pembroke
Plymouth

Plympton
Rockland
Stoughton
Wareham
West. Bridgewater
Whitman

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Margaret Huska

Alternate

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Lorraine Carozza

Ted Webber
Phyllis Kiessling
Henry Bosworth
Joan Reid
Lillian Weeks
George Malone
Emily Sparkman
Mary Shutt
Ted Lang
Mary Willis
Mary Ann Veiga

Shirley Martin

Rosemary Connolly
David Cohen

LONG TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM

STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

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Teri Sullivan
Sharmilla Biswas
Nora McCoubrey
Thomas Chamberlin
Nancy Consolazio
Maureen Walker

Lila Burgess, Director
Norman Sorgman, Assistant Director
Hazel Gauley, Assistant Director
Anne Nicholas, Program Assistant
Marion Kevil
Kay Derito
Marion Norris
Paula Alexander
Michele Brait
Carol Desmond
Roberta Vernaglia

Terry Santry
Rita LeFrancois
Helen Wolstenholm
Cindy Sweetser
Lois Romero
Diane Mitchell

OVERALL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (OEDP) COMMITTEE

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Joseph P. Landolfi, Vice Chair.
Roberta Camacho
Martha White
Christopher Cooney
Daniel Miles

Joseph Gusciora
Joseph McCarthy
Arthur Markos
Juliet Armstrong
Paul Andruchow

Winthrop Sargent
Nancy Stack-Savoie
William Tedoldi
Charles Selig
Patrick Apel

JOINT TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (JTC) COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

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

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Robert B. Wood, Vice Chairman
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Peter Roy
Roger Hill
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Noreen O'Toole, Vice Chair
Eugene Creedon
William Reed
Leighton Peck
H. Judson Terzian
Jeff Bird
Carin Klipp
Tom Green
John Yaney

AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES

MHD, District 5
MHD, District 5
MHD Planning
BAT
DEP
FHWA
FTA
MBTA
EOTC
Brockton Traffic Commission

Bill Dalton
Lionel LaBelle
David M. Luce
Kathy Riddell
Leah Weiss
Edward Silva/Wesley Blount
Donna Laidley/Andrew Motter
John Powers
Astrid Glyn
Lt. Peter Crone