

70 SCHOOL STREET BROCKTON, MA 02301-4097

BULK RATE
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 576
Brockton, MA

# OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL



# ANNUAL REPORT 2000

AREA AGENCY ON AGING • METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION • ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRIC

### OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL

Delegate

A. Stanley Littlefield

John J. DeMarco

Anthony P. Anacki

David A. Johnson

Robert Overholtzer

James E. Colman, Sr.

Gerard W. Dempsey

Jeanmarie Kent-Joyce

Joseph Faraca

John G. Mather

John F. Lenox

Joseph Landolfi

Eldon F. Moreira

**Matthew Striggles** 

Jeffery Bird

Frank Maher

President Secretary Treasurer

Community Abington Avon Bridgewater Brockton East Bridgewater Easton Halifax Hanson Kingston Pembroke

Plymouth Plympton Stoughton West Bridgewater Whitman At Large

Daniel M. Crane Lila Burgess John Charbonneau Pasquale Ciaramella Karen Fox Jane Linehares Hazel Gauley Patrick Hamilton **Bruce Hughes** Charles Kilmer Janet McGinty Sheila Milanes Anne Nicholas Katalin Parkas Norman Sorgman Jacqueline Surette Ruth Taylor James Walsh James R. Watson

Kristina Johnson

William McNulty

**Brendan Coughlin** 

Michael Mattos

Officers Eldon F. Moreira David A. Johnson Joseph P. Landolfi

Alternate Kevin Donovan Frederick Golden

West Bridgewater

East Bridgewater

Stoughton

Mary Waldron Richard O'Flaherty

Troy E. Garron Philip Lindquist

Lee Hartmann Brian Wick Joseph Guiscora Nancy Bresciani John Yaney

Council Staff **Executive Director** Ombudsman Program Director

Assistant Director/Transportation Planning Supervisor Transportation Planner **Grants Monitor** 

**Assistant Ombudsman Director AAA Administrator** 

**Economic Development Specialist** Transportation Planner

Fiscal Officer **AAA Nutritionist** 

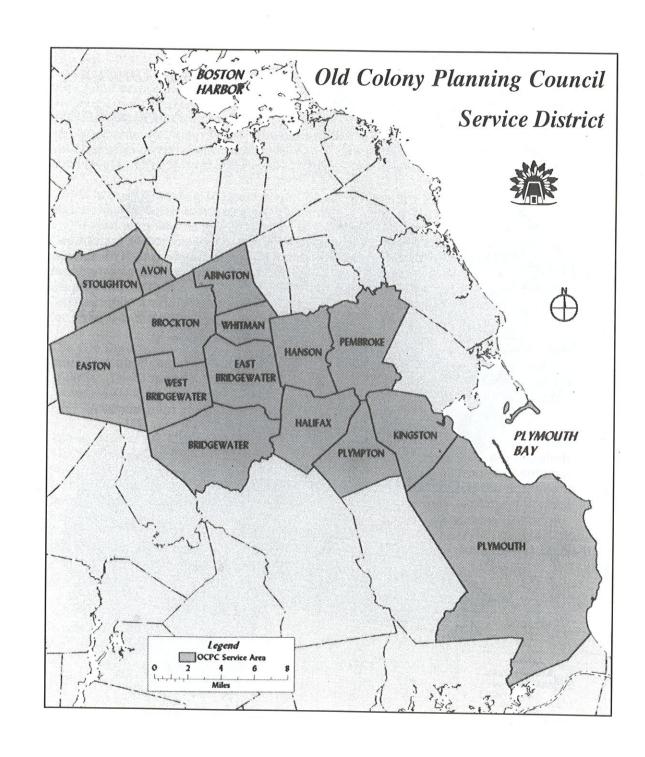
**Ombudsman Program Assistant** Transportation Planner

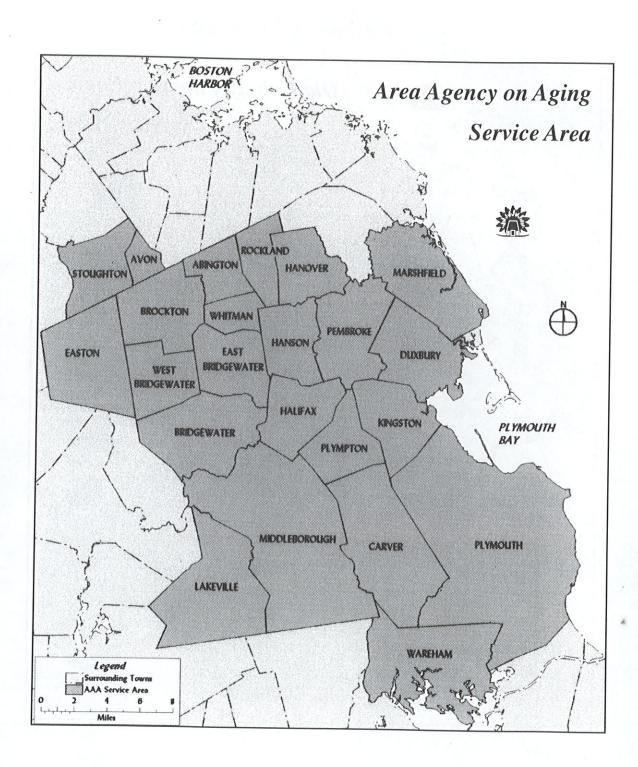
**Assistant Ombudsman Director Fiscal Consultant** 

Receptionist Senior Planner

Comprehensive Planning Supervisor

Planning Intern Planning Intern Planning Intern Planning Intern





#### 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 as a repository for federal home mortgage information for the region and as state data center for socio-economic information used extensively for federal and state program applications.

The Old Colony Planning Council is administered by the delegate representatives of its fifteen member communities and a representative of the minority community appointed at-large. 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 in the program year, which begins on July 1st and ends on June 30th each year.

The budget of the Council for fiscal year 1999 amounted to \$1,183,620, which included \$79,940 in local assessment funding from the member communities, the remainder being federal or state grant funds. Local assessments levied on member communities for the year was 22.5 cents per capita with the amount restricted by the limitations imposed by Proposition 2 1/2. The professional staff of the Council numbers eighteen full and part-time persons and is headed by Daniel M. Crane, Executive Director. Pasquale Ciaramella, serves as Assistant Director and Supervisor of Transportation Planning. Patrick Hamilton, is the Area Agency on Aging Administrator and James R. Watson is the Supervisor of Comprehensive Planning.



Old Colony Planning Council Executive Director, Daniel M. Crane, and President Eldon F. Moreira acknowledge the work of the OCPC staff.



The 1999 AAA Annual Meeting featured Congressman Barney Frank shown with Doris Grindle, Chair and Patrick Hamilton AAA Administrator.



Dr. John Mullin, Director of the University of Mass. Center for Economic Development speaks at the Council's Annual Meeting.

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I have been honored to serve as President of the Old Colony Planning Council for the past three years and to be elected by the members to guide the Council for another year. The Old Colony region has been the fastest growing area of the Commonwealth for many years. Our member communities face significant challenges as they are pressured to grow and develop. They must decide whether to continue to facilitate a low-density sprawl development pattern or break with convention and provide a range of choice in new housing developments and opportunity for locating new commercial and business enterprise. It will not be an easy decision for residential development does not generate sufficient tax revenues to pay for the cost of services required.

The Council's work for the immediate future will be to focus on the implementation of the Regional Plan recommendations that include providing for a range of development opportunities. Such choices should include areas of compact development, proximate to existing infrastructure that can be efficiently and economically provided with services. To implement the Plan, the Council must convince local officials that the Plan recommendations are sound and will preserve and protect the quality of life that makes this region such a special place. We know this will not be an easy task. Although many local officials may agree in principle with the regional plan recommendations, having the courage to implement these at the local level will be difficult. The Council will do its part in assisting our member communities to plan and develop more intelligently.

I would like to use this opportunity to recognize the contribution of the members of the Council and the Committees of the Council for their active participation and involvement. The OCPC staff is also recognized for their dedication and performance during the year. Finally, I would like to thank all of the individuals who actively participated and supported the works 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 done.

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 continued to concentrate on managing/guiding growth at the regional and local level. It is working to combat wasteful sprawl by accommodating probable growth in a way that builds on the best of our traditional communities and preserves significant natural and scenic resources. This is because continued large-lot residential development and extensive highway-oriented commercial growth are consuming land much faster than population growth, and leading to a characterless region with weak community centers with little open space or land to meet future needs, resulting in increased dependence on private auto transportation.

Combating such sprawl requires understanding the dynamics of growth on a regional scale, countering it through the limited actions, which are possible only at the local level, and seeking a cooperative regional approach to do things, which communities cannot do alone.

#### Specific activities include:

Continued active participation and leadership on the Vision 20/20 Taskforce. To build on last year's "An Agenda for the Future ", the Taskforce has drafted the "New Mayflower Compact" and is visiting each community to explain it and seek endorsement from local elected officials. The Agenda recommended specific approaches to land use management, economic development, natural resources and open space management, and better use of present infrastructure, to avoid the negative impacts of uncontrolled growth. The Compact reviews these concerns and commits the signers to "voluntarily join together to implement a growth management program that preserves the interest of each town and city and profits from unified regional actions".

<u>Build out Analyses</u> To help to understand the theoretical potential development under present local land use regulations and policies, the Council contracted with the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs to prepare build out analyses in the towns of Plympton, Kingston, Halifax and Bridgewater. Though hampered by a lack of soils information and a generalized approach, the analyses are helping localities to appreciate the need to plan their own futures, and hopefully to do so in a regional context.

The Regional Land Use and Transportation Policy Plan This is essentially complete. It points out the implications of present development trends, suggests a vision for a future consistent with the concerns of the Vision 20/20 Taskforce, and identifies polices to guide development-related decision-making by all levels of government and the private sector. It replaces the outdated 1968 Regional Plan, which stressed more specific land use recommendations. It was prepared in concert with the closely linked Regional Transportation Plan discussed below. The program was facilitated by a broadly based advisory committee chaired by Dr. Glenn Miller of the Bridgewater State College Geography Department and funded by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs and the Massachusetts Highway Department.

Independence Centre Master Plan – Transit-Oriented Development Plan for the Kingston, Massachusetts Commuter Rail Station Council staff examined many general and site-specific factors, and produced a plan and implementation program for a high-density mixed use (residential/commercial/industrial /institutional/open space) community on 130 acres at the Kingston MBTA rail station. The Plan drew on New Urbanism principles favoring high densities, a flexible, pedestrian friendly grid street system, and varied complementary uses. It would accommodate up to 404 housing units, up to 2,000,000 sq. ft. of non-residential space, the rail layover facility, and about 20 acres of open space and civic/recreation uses. It does so on land where present regulations allow only 1,100, 000 sq. ft. of non-residential space or 127 single family houses. Done under a given population ceiling, such an approach could save much land for other uses, reduce auto trips, and offer new life style alternatives. It was done with the cooperation of town officials especially the Town Planner, Thomas Bott.

# Assessment of Water Resource Protection Regulations in Plymouth, Plympton and Kingston.

This Department of Environmental Protection-funded study inventoried and analyzed water supply protection provisions including zoning, Board of Health regulations, local wetlands bylaws, subdivision rules and regulations, and Conservation Commission regulations in the three listed towns. It found extensive protection in every community, identified certain omissions, gaps or inconsistencies, and recommended appropriate revisions.

Completion of Abington Master Plan 
The completed Plan deals with questions of land use and density patterns and of balancing residential and non-residential development, along with opportunities for open space preservation, for more diverse housing; and for reconciling residential and commercial uses along Rte 18; with infrastructure needs and constraints, with the implications of South Weymouth Naval Air Station reuse, and with the future use of major open parcels north of Ames Nowell State Park, around the commuter rail station and elsewhere. The plan was done with the cooperation of town officials, especially the Planning Board chaired by Wayne Smith and the Open Space Plan Committee under Richard Yardley.

Abington Open Space Plan The completed Abington Open Space and Recreation Plan drew on the Master Plan and information from the Recreation Commission. It recommended preservation of a north-south Town Forest, protection of significant open land around Ames Nowell State Park such as the Pohorecky Farm and the industrially-zoned land north of Chestnut St., along with improvement/ expansion of various stream-oriented open spaces and expanded recreation facilities. It drew on the assistance of the Open Space Committee and the Recreation Commission and its Director, Mark Chirokas.

Avon Open Space Plan The recently completed Avon Open Space and Recreation Plan reviewed the town's needs and assets and recommended many specific improvement or modifications to meet changing needs. It particularly recommended working with the City of Brockton to protect potentially developable land abutting a

- Approved a \$773,000 revenue bond for Weis Sheet Metal, Inc. of Avon to purchase an existing 21,000 square foot building and new machinery in order to expand operations. As a result of the financing, 20 new jobs will be created.
- Approved a \$20,000,000 revenue bond for Tire Recyclers, Inc., a Virginia firm. They proposed to build a plant in Brockton to process and recycle waste tires. Fifty new jobs would be created in an Economic Target Area.
- Approved a \$3,700,000 revenue bond for the Old Colony YMCA of Brockton to assist in the renovation of the 35,000 square foot East Bridgewater Y facility, rehab the Y's Central Division in Brockton, renovate a facility in Middleboro and refinance mortgages on facilities in Fall River and Middleboro.
- Supported the redevelopment of the closed South Weymouth Naval Air Station by providing data to the South Shore Tri-Town Development Authority, the redevelopment entity for the base.
- Continued to provide data, program information and other assistance to a wide variety of individuals, private firms and public agencies interested in the region.
- Completion of the Workforce Needs Survey for the Brockton Area Regional Employment Board The Council updated its 1994 Workforce Needs Survey for the REB. This largely confirmed the earlier findings that employers are more concerned about basic literacy and mathematics skills than with specific technical skills, and that they prefer to train workers on site. It made recommendations for applying these findings.



CEDS Chairman, Joseph P. Joseph chairs a meeting of the committee.

#### **TRANSPORTATION**

During the past year, the major transportation planning efforts centered on completing the 2000 update to the Long Range Regional Transportation Plan, continuing work on the Comprehensive Transportation/ Land Use Policy Plan, and conducting a wide variety of activities outlined in the FY1999/2000 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). Following is a discussion of the JTC and MPO, the two major plans, and an outline of the UPWP activities completed in 2000.

#### **JTC and MPO**

The transportation advisory group of the Old Colony Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) serving the Plymouth/Brockton Urbanized Area is the Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC) Joint Transportation Committee (JTC). Members of the MPO include the Executive Office of Transportation and Construction (EOTC), the Massachusetts Highway Department (MHD), Brockton Area Transit (BAT), and the Old Colony Planning Council. Consisting of local elected officials or their designees, the JTC provides a valuable forum for citizen involvement in the in-depth and on-going process of selecting the proper combination and scheduling of local and regional transportation projects through the development of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), thereby ensuring the optimized utilization of financially limited resources. Thus, the Council relies on the JTC for input and guidance on matters pertaining to transportation.

#### 2000 Long Range Regional Transportation Plan

The Transportation Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (TEA-21) requires each MPO to update and endorse its Regional Transportation at least every three years. The plan identifies transportation and issues/ concerns and problems that require improvements now or are expected to need additional attention in the future, and outlines potential courses or actions designed to facilitate these improvements. Specifically, the Regional Highways Section of the 2000 Transportation Plan includes recommended major improvements to the existing road network. As the transportation system in the Old Colony region represents an irreplaceable asset that needs to be maintained, it is not always adequate. The region is constantly changing, placing new and greater needs on the existing transportation system. Thus, modifications are needed to address these ever increasing demands.

Projects that add to the existing system, unlike maintenance projects, are considered major capital improvements to the system. These projects tend to be large-scale construction projects geared to alleviating problems with the existing system. These projects also tend to have a direct effect on the air quality analysis for the region, whereas maintenance projects do not. The Council identified four projects that fit this category. The projects are as follows: Implementation of two-way traffic flow in the Downtown Brockton; Capacity enhancement to Route 106 from Route 138 in Easton to Route 28 in West Bridgewater; Route 24 Re-designation as Interstate and Capacity Enhancement by 2020; and, Capacity enhancement on Route 3 from Route 18 to Route 44.As part of the plan update, public meetings were conducted with the Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) and the Old Colony Planning Council that were the

basis for gaining input from citizens, the business community, special interest groups and local officials on transportation issues facing the region.

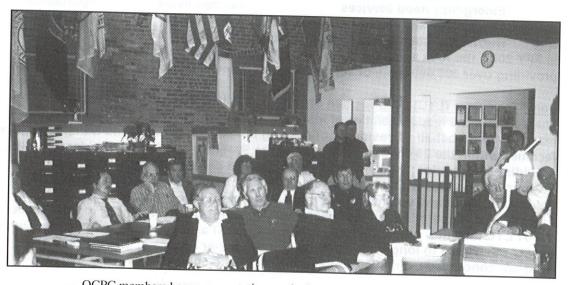
#### Regional Land Use and Transportation Policy Plan

This project began two years ago; the objective of this major planning effort was to develop a widely accepted policy plan that would guide the long-term physical development of the OCPC region, in accordance with specific goals and objectives. Thus the aim of initiating a long range planning process to encourage regional growth and development which complement the existing transportation network and integrate future transportation needs with sound land use policies was imperative. With the concept plan completed, the next step is to incorporate the build out analyses completed by EOEA and OCPC. Once completed in 2001, the final plan will be incorporated into the Regional Transportation Plan Update.

#### **UPWP Activities Completed in 2000**

- Continued to support and implement the Public Participation Plan that was developed and adopted in 1994, as required by federal planning regulations.
- Sponsored regular meetings of the Joint Transportation Committee in order to encourage public participation.
- Developed the 2000-2001 Unified Planning Work Program, which specifies planning activities and products of the OCPC MPO.
- Developed and distributed a series of quarterly JTC Newsletters.
- Developed and endorsed the FY 2000-2005 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).
- o Developed the FY 2001-20006 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).
- Assisted local communities and transit authorities in moving forward with the Access to Jobs Program.
- Prepared the year 2000 Fixed Route Rider-ship Analysis and the year 2000 Title IV Study Update for Brockton Area Transit.
- Prepared the Transportation Resource Directory, that includes a compilation of schedules for public transit options.
- o Participated with EOEA is preparing several build out analyses.
- Continued with the development and maintenance of comprehensive GIS highway planning data layers.
- o Provided MHD with updates to the Road Inventory File.
- Worked with member communities to increase network mileage by facilitating the acceptance of private roads.
- Continued to monitor rider-ship and parking utilization for the two Old Colony
   Commuter Rail Lines and the regional park and ride lots.
- Continued with the development of the Intersection Safety Improvement Program. Activities included processing accident data; calculating crash rates;
   and, collecting
- Collected and maintained regional traffic volume counts, turning movement counts, accident data, and other related transportation statistics for various planning studies for OCPC member communities. Responded to numerous traffic signal permit data for all the signalized intersections. local requests for traffic counts, speed studies, vehicles classification studies, level of service analyses, and other transportation related data.

- Responded to municipal requests for technical assistance on transportation related issues/problems/ and concerns.
- Continued to review and analyze demographic information and data to ensure that planning and programming analyses, and forecasting methods are consistent with current methodologies and information.
- Reviewed Environmental Notification Forms (ENFs) and Environmental Impact Reports (EIRs) for major projects located within the OCPC Region.
- Completed the 1999 OCPC Traffic Volumes Report, which contains over 3,000 traffic counts.
- Updated the 1998 Regional Pavement Management Report to reflect year 2000 pavement conditions.
- Determined Air Quality Analyses for several transportation improvement projects.
- Continued development, maintenance and application of the Regional Travel Demand Model in order to fulfill the forecasting requirements of TEA-21.
- Converted the Regional Travel Demand Model from TRIPS network to TransCAD network.
- Developed, updated and refined the housing and employment projections for the planning horizon years of 1997, 2003, 2010, 2020, and 2025.
- Assisted MHD-Planning in the preparation of statewide modeling efforts.



OCPC members hear a presentation on the Long Range Transportation Plan.

#### AREA AGENCY ON AGING

The Old Colony Planning Council serves as the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) for twenty-three communities of southeastern Massachusetts designated as Planning and Service area IV A by the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. The service area includes the fifteen member communities of the OCPC planning district and eight additional communities that together make up the AAA region. OCPC has the distinction of being the only regional planning agency in Massachusetts that is designated as an Area Agency on Aging. As the Area Agency on Aging, OCPC is responsible for the planning, coordinating and administering federal grant funds under the Older Americans Act and for the provision of services for elders in the region. The OCPC Area Agency on Aging is also responsible for the administration of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program for the region, and the administrative responsibilities of a Senior Aide employment program.

Older Americans Act: With assistance from representatives from the 23 communities who form the Advisory Committee, the OCPC AAA has provided grant funding to various community-based service agencies for the provision of the following types of programs and services in FFY 2000:

- \*Minority elder outreach and service programs
- \*Home health and respite services
- \*Services for disabled elders
- \*Transportation services
- \*Legal services
- \*Emergency need services
- \*Congregate and Home-Delivered meals
- \*Nutritional Counseling and Education

In FFY 2000, the AAA administered over \$900,000.00 in Older Americans Act funding, providing over 300,000 units of service to more than 5,000 unduplicated elders.

Long-Term Care (LTC) Ombudsman Program: The LTC Ombudsman Program is charged with the responsibilities of identifying, investigating, and resolving complaints made by, or on behalf of, residents of nursing homes, rest homes, and transitional care facilities within the 23 community region of the Program; protecting resident's rights: providing information; and advocating for positive changes to the LTC system. The Program is operated with a limited number of paid staff and numerous, dedicated volunteers. Staff and volunteers are trained and certified by the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. In carrying out their responsibilities, Program staff make regular visits to the 51 LTC facilities within the region. Program staff also conduct in-service training's on resident rights to long-term care facilities and other agencies. In FFY 2000, the Program conducted over 3,000 visits to facilities, and contacted over 195,000 residents.

Senior Aide Employment Program: The AAA has administrative responsibilities for a Senior Aide employment program that employs 23 elders in various community service positions within the region. Senior Aide's are placed at Councils on Aging, Housing Authorities, employment offices, and the LTC Ombudsman Program.

#### AREA AGENCY ON AGING

#### ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ADVISORY COMMITTEE		
COMMUNITY Abington Avon Bridgewater Brockton	DELEGATE Florence M. Severin Mary Pelaggi Lorraine LeClerc Robert Martin Ellen Duran Phyllis Hancock, Chair	ALTERNATE Mary Dolan Louis Pelaggi Lorraine Carrozza (COA Dir.)
Carver Duxbury East Bridgewater Easton Halifax Hanover Hanson Kingston Lakeville Marshfield Middleborough Pembroke Plymouth	Joseph Faraca Yvonne Young Marjorie McLean Mary Jane Kingsland (COA Dir.) Phyllis Kiessling Frank Ciavarra Caroline Taylor Doris Grindle Gladys Malone Jean Tolland Mary Ring Sarah Jigerjian Josephine Hatch, Vice Chair Christian Schembri (COA Dir.) Kathy Sirrico	Kristen Andrews (COA Dir.) Ted Webber Marie Healey John Mulready, Sr. Joan Reid (COA Dir.) Lillian Weeks George Malone Emily Sparkman Mary Shutt Ted Lang (COA Dir.) Mary Willis (COA Dir.)
Plympton Rockland Stoughton Wareham West. Bridgewater Whitman	Helvi Lehto Mary Ellis Gisele Woodward (COA Dir.) Diane Cunningham David Cohen Margaret Huska	Shirley Martin  Rosemary Connolly  Edna Thompson

## LONG TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM

#### STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

Lila Burgess, Director Hazel Gauley, Assistant Director Anne Nicholas, Assistant Director Norman Sorgman, Assistant Director

Sharmila Biswas, Volunteer Richard Blanchard, Volunteer Marion Norris, Volunteer Mary Benson, Senior Aide Nancy Allen, Senior Aide Larry King, Volunteer Marjorie Connolly, Volunteer David Cohen, Volunteer John Baker, Volunteer Tulsi Sharma, Volunteer Ruth Kauffman, Volunteer Maureen Drilling, Volunteer Beverly Carew, Volunteer Jean D'Amore, Volunteer

Bob Gagne, Volunteer
Marion Keville, Volunteer
Roberta Vernaglia, Volunteer
Ted Bronstein, Volunteer
Joyce Gunter, Volunteer
Elaine Daniels, Volunteer
Martha Morton, Volunteer
Joe Barnes, Volunteer
Hilda Lander, Volunteer
Susan Dunphy, Volunteer
Donna Richardson, Volunteer
Jennie Principe, Volunteer
Pauline Thomas, Volunteer

# OVERALL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (OEDP) COMMITTEE

Joseph P. Joseph, Chairman 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) COMMUNITYREPRESENTATIVES

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

Stephen Baker, Chairman **Bruce Hughes** John J. DeMarco Robert B. Wood, Vice Chairman **Robert Smith** Elaine Czaja Peter Roy Roger Hill Troy E. Garron Noreen O'Toole, Vice Chair James E. Colman, Sr William Reed Leighton Peck Joe Pine Jeff Bird Carin Klipp

#### AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES

Tom Green

John Yaney

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

Bernard McCourtl
Mark Carmichael
Tim Kochan
David M. Luce
Douglas Kelleher
Kathy Riddell
Leah Weiss
Edward Silva
Wesley Blount
Richard Marquis
Donna Laidley
Andrew Motter
Astrid Glyn
Lt. Peter Crone