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For Immediate Release:

Old Colony Planning Council Receives \$1,990,620 Prioritization Process Pilot Program Award from the Federal Highway Administration

BROCKTON, MA - Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC) has been awarded a Federal Highway Administration Award in the amount of \$1,990,620. This award is one of sixteen across the country and only one of two in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The funding will support the development and implementation of a transportation prioritization process for the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), and Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

The program aims to improve how transportation projects are planned, evaluated, and implemented within the Old Colony Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) region by promoting safety, environmental sustainability, equity, public participation, and workforce development.

Through continuous public feedback and engagement with residents and stakeholders within the region, and implementation of a data-drive approach, OCPC plans to develop and implement a publicly accessible, transparent prioritization process for the ranking and selection of projects for inclusion in short-range and long-range transportation plans.

OCPC is committed to public participation and transparency throughout the prioritization process and engaging stakeholders within our region.

Becky Coletta, President of Old Colony Planning Council, said, “Old Colony Planning Council’s staff took the initiative to apply for these funds and that speaks volumes about the care and compassion they have for our 17 communities. Under the leadership of Executive Director, Mary Waldron, Paul Umamo, Senior Grants Development Specialist, and Charles Kilmer, Deputy Director and Transportation Program Manager, took the lead and recognized the record investments and opportunities provided by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) to address the needs of our communities. On behalf of all of our Council members, we truly extend our gratitude to Senator Warren, Senator Markey, Congressman Lynch, and Congressman Keating, and their respective Congressional Offices for their continued support for our region.”

The project has also garnered strong support from federal and state representatives. **Senator Edward Markey** commented, “Old Colony Planning Council is planning for a brighter future for

all. This funding will support their ongoing efforts to set transportation priorities toward a safe and sustainable tomorrow that are driven by public participation. I was proud to advocate for this funding, and I'm glad to see it now awarded to OCPC."

"Modernized infrastructure keeps Massachusetts residents and their loved ones safe," **said Senator Warren**. "This grant will fund the Old Colony Planning Council's work to implement important adaptations to climate change and integrate safer transportation practices for everyone."

"This award marks a significant investment in building a safer, more sustainable, transportation future for our region. With nearly \$2 million in federal funding, OCPC will utilize innovative, data-driven strategies to prioritize projects that improve connectivity and quality of life for all residents," **said Congressman Bill Keating**. "Together, with the support of our federal, state, and local partners, Old Colony Planning Council Executive Director Mary Waldron and President Becky Coletta are laying the groundwork for transportation systems that truly serve the needs of our communities."

"I am proud to provide the Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC) with over \$1.99 million dollars of federal funding to improve transportation planning in our region," **said Congressman Steven Lynch**. "This program will allow the OCPC to better identify critical transportation projects within our communities and help develop a plan that promotes public safety, sustainability, and workforce development. I am grateful for the hard work of OCPC Executive Director Mary Waldron and President Becky Coletta, and for the partnership of my congressional colleagues so we can continue to ensure federal funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law goes right where it's needed most in our cities and towns."

For more information about the Old Colony MPO Prioritization Process Pilot Program, please visit www.oldcolonyplanning.org or contact Charles Kilmer at ckilmer@ocpcrpa.org.

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About Old Colony Planning Council (www.oldcolonyplanning.org)

Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC) assists cities and towns in planning for present and future needs, utilizing their local knowledge, technical expertise, and regional collaboration. Established in 1967, OCPC is the comprehensive planning agency for the region that today includes the 17 communities:

Abington, Avon, Bridgewater, Brockton, Duxbury, East Bridgewater, Easton, Halifax, Hanover, Hanson, Kingston, Pembroke, Plymouth, Plympton, Stoughton, West Bridgewater, Whitman

The agency was established in part to address local challenges that cross city and town boundaries, like air and water pollution, transportation deficiencies, and economic distress.