

OLD COLONY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)

Minutes of the Old Colony MPO Virtual Meeting, December 17, 2024 - 10:00 A.M., Held Via Zoom

Roll Call/Attendance

<u>Members/Designees</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Stephen Woelfel	Monica Tibbits-Nutt, Secretary, MassDOT	Present
Barbara Lachance	Jonathan Gulliver, Administrator, MassDOT Highway Division	Present
John Messia	Mayor Robert Sullivan, City of Brockton	Present
Lee Hartmann	Richard Quintal, Jr., Town of Plymouth	Present
Daniel Salvucci	Town of Whitman - Representing Abington, Bridgewater, Duxbury, Easton, Pembroke, Stoughton, and Whitman	Present
Michael Lambert	Brockton Area Transit (BAT)	Present
Mary Waldron	Rebecca Coletta, President, Old Colony Planning Council	Present

Ex-Officio Members

Joshua Barber	Joi Singh, FHWA	Present
Kirstie Tirandazi	Peter Butler, FTA Regional Administrator, Region 1	Present
Noreen O'Toole	Old Colony Joint Transportation Committee	Absent

Also Present

Richard Jordan	Avon
Linda Sacchetti	BAT
Karen Harraghy	Bridgewater State University (BSU)
Evan Costa	Cape Cod Commission
Allison Shane	Duxbury
Eric Gemperline	FHWA
Steve Findlen	Howard Stein Hudson
William Roth	Stoughton
Miranda Briseno	MassDOT
Chris Klem	MassDOT
Shawn Bailey	Old Colony Planning Council
Matt Dyer	Old Colony Planning Council
Ray Guarino	Old Colony Planning Council
Guoqiang Li	Old Colony Planning Council
Charles Kilmer	Old Colony Planning Council
Bill McNulty	Old Colony Planning Council
Kyle Mowatt	Old Colony Planning Council
Rob Cahoon	VHB
Michael Perez	West Bridgewater

OLD COLONY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chairperson Stephen Woelfel called the meeting to order at 10:02 A.M. Chairperson Woelfel read the meeting accessibility statement and the Title VI Notice of Protection Statement. Roll call was then conducted by Charles Kilmer.

Charles Kilmer recognized Michael Perez, Vice-Chair, West Bridgewater, Board of Selectmen, who concluded his Signatory Term on the MPO at the end of October. Staff and other members of the MPO extend their gratitude to Michael Perez for serving on the MPO.

2. Public Comments

There were no public comments at this time.

3. Minutes of the November 19, 2024 Meeting

A motion to approve the draft minutes of the November 19, 2024 meeting was made by Dan Salvucci and seconded by Lee Hartmann. Members voted as follows:

Stephen Woelfel	Aye
Barbara Lachance	Aye
John Messia	Aye
Lee Hartmann	Aye
Dan Salvucci	Aye
Michael Lambert	Aye
Mary Waldron	Aye

The motion passed.

4. Brockton Area Transit (BAT) Report

Michael Lambert reported on the following items:

- BAT's electric buses are now in revenue service
- Rockland Micro Transit service hit a new weekly high in the first week of December of 381 trips, including a 77 trip day which was a record
- BAT is starting their capital planning process
- BAT is working with GATRA to compliment South Coast Rail (SCR) when that opens. GATRA is also taking the lead on World Cup transportation planning for the southern region

5. Greater Attleboro Taunton Regional Transit Authority (GATRA) Report

There was no update from GATRA at this time.

6. MassDOT District 5 Update on Projects Under Design or Construction

OLD COLONY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)

Barbara Lachance provided updates on the following projects:

2025

- 608195 - Easton - Corridor Improvements on Route 138 Including Intersection Improvements at Route 138 (Washington Street) and Elm Street
 - Awaiting Plans, Specifications, & Estimates (PS&E) Submission
- 609052 - Brockton - Intersection Improvements at Centre Street (Route 123) and Plymouth Street
 - At 25% Design and Revised 25% due soon
- 613358 - Stoughton - Corridor Improvements on Route 138, From Canton T.L. to Charles Avenue (Phase 2)
 - Received the Plans, Specifications, & Estimates (PS&E) Revision 1 in December

2026

- 607818 - Brockton - Intersection Improvements at Lyman Street/Grove Street/Summer Street & Replacement of Grove Street Bridge, B-25-005, over Salisbury Plain River
 - At 25% Design and Revision 1 due end of January
- 609440 - Abington - Intersection Improvements at Hancock Street and Chestnut Street
 - At 75% Design and 100% Design submission anticipated in February
- 611979 - Avon - Intersection Improvements at Route 28, Spring Street and Harrison Boulevard
 - 25% Design submission reviewed in November. Need a comment resolution meeting prior to design public hearing

2027

- 606002 - Kingston & Duxbury - Intersection Improvements at Route 3 Ramps (NB/SB) and Route 3A (Tremont Street)
 - At Pre-25% Design
- 612006 - Duxbury - Bridge Replacement, D-14-003 (438), Powder Point Avenue over Duxbury Bay
 - In preliminary design phase. Bridge type study workbook is currently under review
- 612525 - Abington - Intersection Improvements, Randolph Street and Richard A Fitts Drive (Route 139) at Chestnut Street and Old Randolph Street
 - At Pre-25% Design. Public information meeting on January 22.

2028

- 608615 - Kingston - Bridge Replacement, K-01-014, Smiths Lane over Route 3 (Pilgrim Highway)
 - Intersection Control Evaluation (ICE) Stage 2 review over summer. Waiting for the 25% Design
- 611981 - Stoughton - Intersection Improvements at Canton Street (Route 27), School Street and Summer Street
 - At 25% Design. Comment Resolution meeting on January 17
- 612262 - Brockton - Intersection Improvements at Route 123 (Belmont Street), Pearl Street And Stonehill Street
 - In Intersection Control Evaluation (ICE) Phase. Expect ICE Stage 2 submission mid-January
- 612769 - Hanover - Corridor Improvements on Route 139 (Hanover Street) at Main Street, Center Street and Silver Street
 - Project information meeting held December 5, 2024. Expect 25% in July, 2025
- 612770 - Abington - Intersection Improvements at Route 18 (Bedford Street) and Route 123 (Brockton Avenue)
 - At less than 25%. Anticipate 25% Design Submission in Early February, 2025
- 613269 - Duxbury - Intersection Improvements at Route 53 and Franklin Street

OLD COLONY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)

- In Intersection Control Evaluation (ICE) Phase. Expect ICE Stage 2 to be submitted in late January. Pre 25% anticipated early Spring

7. FFY 2025-2029 Old Colony Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Adjustments and/ or Amendments

- **Amendment 1 (Add the following projects: S13132: Brockton - Downtown Transportation Technology Project (SMART); S13134: Brockton - Downtown Brockton Improvements (RAISE); S13135: Brockton - Safety Pilot At Three Intersections on North Main Street (SS4A); and S13133: Plymouth - Design and Construction of Two Culverts and Removal of One (Town Brook Stream; Culvert AOP)**
- **Public Comments and Potential Endorsement**

Bill McNulty summarized Amendment 1 and the public comments received during the public review and comment period.

FFY 2025

- BROCKTON - DOWNTOWN TRANSPORTATION TECHNOLOGY PROJECT (SMART) (S13132)
 - Add Project
 - Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Discretionary Grant
 - Total Project Cost is \$1,496,630
- BROCKTON - DOWNTOWN BROCKTON IMPROVEMENTS (RAISE) (S13134)
 - Add Project
 - Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Discretionary Grant
 - Total Project Cost with Match is \$9,804,688
- BROCKTON - SAFETY PILOT AT THREE INTERSECTIONS ON NORTH MAIN STREET (SS4A) (S13135)
 - Add Project
 - Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Discretionary Grant
 - Total Project Cost is \$235,600
- PLYMOUTH - DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF TWO CULVERTS AND REMOVAL OF ONE (TOWN BROOK STREAM; CULVERT AOP) (S13133)
 - Add Project
 - National Culvert Program Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Discretionary Grant
 - Award Amount is \$2,800,000

Public Comment Matrix

Date	Name	Representation	Comment or Comment Summary	Response
12/5/2024	Old Colony Joint Transportation Committee (JTC)	Old Colony Joint Transportation Committee (JTC)	The Old Colony Joint Transportation Committee approved Amendment 1 as presented by OCPC Staff.	Noted.

A motion to endorse Amendment 1 was made by Dan Salvucci and seconded by Lee Hartmann. Members voted

OLD COLONY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)

as follows:

Stephen Woelfel	Aye
Barbara Lachance	Aye
John Messia	Aye
Lee Hartmann	Aye
Dan Salvucci	Aye
Michael Lambert	Aye
Mary Waldron	Aye

The motion passed.

8. Old Colony Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) - Transportation Evaluation Criteria (TEC) and TIP Project Programming Process

Bill McNulty discussed the Transportation Evaluation Criteria and TIP Project Programming Process.

Following approval by MassDOT's Project Review Committee (PRC), TIP eligible projects are evaluated using Transportation Evaluation Criteria (TEC). During TIP development, current and proposed projects are evaluated using the TEC, available funding and readiness documented, and then scenarios are recommended to the Old Colony MPO for consideration and determination of a Preferred Set of Projects. After the MPO selects a Preferred Set of Projects, staff then develops a Draft TIP. The Old Colony MPO releases the Draft TIP for a 21-Day Public Review and Comment Period. Following the 21-Day Public Review and Comment Period, the Old Colony MPO considers the comments received, prepares a Revised Draft TIP, and then endorses said Revised Draft TIP if there are no significant changes.

The Transportation Evaluation Criteria utilizes a 100-point system that scores projects by specific defined criteria in the following categories:

- System Preservation - 30 Points
- Safety - 30 Points
- Mobility - 10 Points
- Economic Impact - 10 Points
- Environmental and Health Impact - 10 Points
- Community Support and Consistency with Policy - 10 Points

The Transportation Evaluation Criteria considers all modes of transportation and users in transportation projects. The Criteria also takes into consideration recent initiatives and policies, such as Complete Streets and MPO adopted Performance Targets.

9. Old Colony Congestion Management Process (CMP)

- **Overview of October 2024 Commuter Parking Utilization**

Shawn Bailey discussed the October 2024 Commuter Parking Utilization. Between October 22nd and 24th, members of Old Colony Planning Council's Transportation Department conducted its bi-annual Congestion Management Process (CMP) data collection at 15 MBTA Commuter Rail stations (including the BAT Centre's parking garage which provides parking for the Brockton station) and five MassDOT Park & Ride lots. At the

OLD COLONY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)

beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, utilization at the visited facilities was very low. Over time, the utilization has increased each data collection cycle (with one exception for Commuter Rail and Park & Ride). Overall, utilization is approximately 55% of pre-pandemic levels, and for the first time since October 2019, multiple locations exceeded the 85% utilized congested threshold.

Eight of the 15 Commuter Rail stations experienced an increase of utilization from the April 2024 count, ranging from 2.9% higher utilization at the Canton Junction station to 35.1% higher at the Kingston station. Before the pandemic, all 15 stations yielded vehicle totals in the hundreds. The April 2024 data collection saw only two stations that did not hit that threshold (Canton Center and Brockton (BAT Garage)). The Canton Junction station yielded 712 vehicles, making the lot 93.4% utilized and surpassed the 85% utilized threshold for being congested for the third consecutive count. Even with people working remotely or hybrid, there is a clear increase in people utilizing the commuter rail.

The Park & Ride lots experienced a different result; only two of the five lots experienced an increase and one of the decreases was by only seven vehicles (the Bridgewater lot). The West Bridgewater lot, which historically has been well utilized, had over 100 vehicles for the third consecutive count and sixth time since the beginning of the Covid pandemic. There have been multiple changes to the bus service for this lot since the pandemic, with Bloom, Plymouth & Brockton, and now Peter Pan (As of August 7, 2023). It is unclear if that is a factor in the increases and decreases in utilization.

Lee Hartmann asked if this document can be emailed to him. Shawn Bailey said he will email it. The presentation was posted to the meeting chat, along with the overall staff report which contains the presentation.

Kirstie Tirandazi asked what the secondary mode of transportation is from park and ride lots. Shawn Bailey stated that 4 of the 5 locations do have bus service.

10. Administrative Matters, Other Business, and Date and Time of Next Meetings(s)

Charles Kilmer reported on the following items:

- 2025 MassDOT Innovation Conference - May 6, 7, 2025
- Vulnerable Road User Systemic Safety Project: State-Owned Bus Stops - Virtual Public Information Meeting - December 18, 2024
- Old Colony Planning Council Receives Prioritization Process Pilot Program (PPPP) Grant Award
- Fiscal Years 2024-2026 Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Program NOFO
- FY 2025 RAISE Notice of Funding Availability (NOFO)
- Federal Funds & Infrastructure Office (FFIO) - Next meeting is January 28, 2025

Date and Time of Next Old Colony MPO Virtual Meeting(s)

The Old Colony MPO members are respectfully requested to confirm the dates and times of their next virtual meeting(s).

2025

- **January 21, 2025 at 10 AM**
- **February 18, 2025 at 10 AM**
- **March 18, 2025 at 10 AM**
- **April 15, 2025 at 10 AM**
- **May 20, 2025 at 10 AM**
- **June 17, 2025 at 10 AM**

OLD COLONY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)

Chris Klem stated that MassDOT’s Draft Public Participation Plan is available for Public Review and Comment through January 10. There is also a brief survey about experience during MassDOT public events.

11. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Dan Salvucci and seconded by Lee Hartmann. Members voted as follows:

Stephen Woelfel	Aye
Barbara Lachance	Aye
John Messia	Aye
Lee Hartmann	Aye
Dan Salvucci	Aye
Michael Lambert	Aye
Mary Waldron	Aye

The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:39 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle Mowatt

Kyle Mowatt, Senior Transportation Planner

List of Documents for the December 17, 2024 Old Colony MPO Meeting

- Minutes of November 19, 2024, Old Colony MPO Meeting
- Staff Report for December 17, 2024 Old Colony MPO Meeting Agenda Items