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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.

OCPC emphasizes its commitment to public participation and transparency throughout the prioritization process and engaging stakeholders within our region. 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.

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, Senior Grants Development Specialist Paul Umamo, and Deputy Director and Transportation Program Manager Charles Kilmer, they 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 our Congressional Delegation for their strong support.

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 for a safer and more sustainable tomorrow, 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 Elizabeth 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."

“Once again, I am happy and proud to partner with the Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC) to help secure almost \$2 million to improve transportation planning in our region,” said **Congressman Stephen F. Lynch**. “This program - funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law - will allow OCPC to better identify critical transportation projects within our communities and help develop a plan that promotes public safety, sustainability, and workforce development. Thank you to OCPC Executive Director Mary Waldron, OCPC President Becky Coletta, Senator Elizabeth Warren, Senator Ed Markey, and Congressman Bill Keating for their partnership in ensuring that federal funding goes directly to where it’s most needed 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, such as air and water pollution, transportation deficiencies, and economic distress.