

# ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE TOWN OF WEST BRIDGEWATER

**Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC)**



**OLD COLONY  
PLANNING COUNCIL**

[www.oldcolonyplanning.org](http://www.oldcolonyplanning.org)

**Michael Perez, Delegate**

## **REPORT OF THE OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL**

To the Honorable members of the Board of Selectmen and the residents of the Town of West Bridgewater. As your representative to the Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC), we are pleased to present this report on behalf of the Council for 2025.

The Old Colony Planning Council was established in 1967 by state statute and is authorized to prepare plans for the physical, social, and economic development of the seventeen-member district. OCPC is designated as; an Economic Development District by the U.S. Department of Commerce for the coordination of regional economic development activities, and the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) by the Executive Office of Aging & Independence (AGE) to plan, manage and coordinate elder services in a twenty-three-community service area. OCPC is the designated staff of the Old Colony Metropolitan Planning Organization (OCMPO) to plan and program transportation and transit improvements for the region. Learn more about OCPC in our [2024-2025 Annual Report here](#).

### **OCPC Area Agency on Aging Department Contributions:**

In 2025, the **Old Colony Area Agency on Aging (AAA)** with assistance and guidance from the Executive Office of Aging and Independence and our AAA Advisory committee members, continued ongoing administration of the Older Americans Act and other Federal and State funding for older adult services in our region. During that time, the AAA funded over \$2 million in services for adults aged 60 and over and adults with disabilities.

**OCPC's AAA completed our region's new *Area Plan on Aging***, which is a four-year blueprint of priorities for older adult services established by federal, state, and local authorities using current Needs Assessment responses from Older Adults and Caregivers in the region. The new Area Plan on Aging was published in September of 2025 and is available on our website.

In 2025, the **OCPC-AAA Ombudsman Program** provided advocacy for residents of 27 Nursing homes and over 60 Assisted Living Residences in our expanded region. Our staff and volunteers made over 500 visits and resolved more than 100 cases over the past year.

### **OCPC Transportation Department Contributions:**

The Transportation Department conducted and prepared numerous reports and studies to help identify needs within the town including:

- The **FFY 2026 Old Colony Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**: a one-year budget and planning document that lists the research projects, funds technical assistance, and other activities the transportation staff will undertake over the next federal fiscal year (FFY).
- The **FFY 2026-2030 Old Colony Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**: a prioritized listing of highway, bridge, and transit projects for implementation during the next five (5) federal fiscal years that reflect the needs of the regional transportation system.
- The Transportation Department and BETA Group prepared the Safe Street for All (SS4A) Regional Action Plan. The purpose of an Action Plan is to provide a holistic, well-defined strategy to prevent roadway injuries and serious injuries. Focusing on reducing and eliminating serious-injury and fatal crashes affecting all roadway users, the Action Plan utilizes data analysis to characterize roadway safety problems and strengthen a community's approach through projects and strategies that address the most significant safety risks. With the SS4A Regional Action Plan in place, communities can apply for Implementation Grants and also Planning and Demonstration Grants through the USDOT.

### **OCPC GIS Department Contributions:**

In contribution to the MassGIS Statewide Trails Initiative, staff reviewed and revised more than 10 miles of mapped trails. For our Regional Commercial & Industrial Site Inventory, GIS staff identified and compiled attributes about industrial parks and produced maps and data related to the Route 24 Tech Hub Corridor.

### **OCPC Comprehensive Planning and Sustainability Department Contributions:**

This past year, Comprehensive Planning & Sustainability (CP&S) Department worked with all 17 communities for regional initiatives such as:

- An **Economic Development Administration Regional Water Plan** for the Old Colony Economic Development District to develop a regional plan to address Old Colony's sustainable, economically resilient public water supplies. This plan will help ensure municipalities and the region have affordable, safe, plentiful, and ecologically sustainable water supplies for generations.
- A **Regional Food System Action Plan** in partnership with [Plymouth County](#) and the [Marion Institute](#), to strengthen the local food system. This project will help gain a deeper understanding of the region's food-related challenges and develop a comprehensive plan to address them.

### **OCPC Economic Development Department Contributions:**

- In the fall of 2025, OCPC received a \$100,000 grant from the "Mass Tech Collaborative" to designate the **Route 24 Corridor as a Tech Hub** and create a strategic plan for workforce, infrastructure, and business growth in advanced manufacturing. The Town of West Bridgewater is one of the six primary communities that will be collaborating with industries, municipalities, education, workforce and non-profit organizations.
- OCPC continued work towards a **\$500,000 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfield Site Assessment Grant** received in 2023. The grant includes brownfield site assessment and planning for future cleanup and redevelopment over a 4 year project schedule and is available region-wide to all OCPC communities.
- The **\$150,000 EDA Regional Commercial & Industrial Site Inventory Project** was completed and is providing the region and communities with potential sites for development, redevelopment and expansion potential designed to position sites/areas for future GIS staff identified and compiled attributes about industrial parks while the Communications Department developed the web design of the final product.
- OCPC received the third year of a 3 year funding cycle for the **EDA Annual Planning Grant** that provides economic development planning, project development, and other TA assistance to all the communities in the OCPC District. The grant allows OCPC to implement the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), the region's economic development plan benefiting all seventeen communities in the District.

One delegate and one alternate member represent each member community of the Council. The Council members establish policy, develop the work program, and employ and oversee the activities of the professional staff. The Council meets on the last Wednesday of each month at 6:00 PM in the OCPC offices located at 70 School Street, Brockton, MA. Our website is [www.oldcolonyplanning.org](http://www.oldcolonyplanning.org). In 2025, the Council elected Pembroke Delegate, Rebecca Coletta, as President; Whitman Delegate, Noreen O'Toole, as Vice President, and At-Large Delegate, Christine Joy, as Treasurer. Mary Waldron serves as Executive Director of the Council.

The Council recognizes the work of local boards and commissions, and the government agencies, public and private institutions, and individuals who assisted the Council in its efforts.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michael Perez, Delegate