

OLD COLONY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO)

Minutes of the Old Colony MPO Virtual Meeting, March 17, 2026 - 10:00 A.M., Held Via Zoom

Roll Call/Attendance

<u>Members/Designees</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Stephen Woelfel	Phillip Eng, Interim Secretary, MassDOT	Present
Shaun Handy	Jonathan Gulliver, Administrator, MassDOT Highway Division	Present
Nelson Fernandes	Mayor Moises Rodrigues, City of Brockton	Present
James Downey	David Goldern, Jr., Chair, Select Board ,Plymouth	Present
Daniel Salvucci	Town of Whitman - Representing Abington, Bridgewater, Duxbury, Easton, Pembroke, Stoughton, and Whitman	Present
Michael Lambert	Michael Lambert, Administrator, Brockton Area Transit (BAT)	Absent
Kimberley Emberg	Town of Kingston - Representing Avon, East Bridgewater, Halifax, Hanover, Hanson, Kingston, Plympton, and West Bridgewater	Present
Becky Coletta	President, Old Colony Planning Council	Present

Ex-Officio Members

Joi Singh	FHWA, Massachusetts Division	Absent
Peter Butler	FTA Regional Administrator, Region 1	Absent
Dan Salvucci	Vice Chairperson, Old Colony Joint Transportation Committee (JTC)	Present

Also, Present

Matthew Heins	Duxbury
Mary Ellen DeFrias	GATRA
Steven Findlen	Howard Stein Hudson
Barbara Lachance	MassDOT District 5
Christina Mendoza	MassDOT
Alan Castaline	MBTA Advisory Board, Brockton Representative
Pam Haznar	McClure
Sherry Holmes	Plymouth
Shawn Bailey	OCPC
Matt Dyer	OCPC
John Fay	OCPC
Charles Kilmer	OCPC
Guoqiang Li	OCPC
Bill McNulty	OCPC
Kyle Mowatt	OCPC
Mary Waldron	OCPC

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1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chairperson Stephen Woelfel called the meeting to order at 10:03 A.M. Chairperson Woelfel then read the meeting accessibility statement and the Title VI Notice of Protection Statement. Roll call was then conducted by Charles Kilmer.

2. Public Comments

There were no public comments at this time.

3. Minutes of the February 17, 2026 Meeting

A motion to approve the draft minutes of the February 17, 2026 meeting was made by Dan Salvucci and seconded by Nelson Fernandes. Members voted as follows:

Stephen Woelfel	Aye
Shaun Handy	Aye
Nelson Fernandes	Aye
Kimberley Emberg	Abstain
James Downey	Abstain
Dan Salvucci	Aye
Becky Coletta	Aye

The motion passed.

4. Brockton Area Transit (BAT) Report

There was no update from BAT at this time.

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

Mary Ellen DeFrias reported that GATRA is currently coordinating transportation planning for upcoming FIFA World Cup matches in the Boston region, including working with the MBTA and Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs) across Massachusetts to provide hotel shuttle loops and transportation services to the stadium for the seven matches. She emphasized that the effort highlights strong statewide collaboration among transit agencies, with RTAs sharing vehicles, staff, and other resources to support the event. She also noted that GATRA continues to focus on maintaining regular transit service and mentioned that the agency is actively seeking additional bus drivers

6. FFY 2026-2030 Old Colony Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Adjustments and/ or Amendments

- **Amendment 3: Revise Cost and Funding Source: Brockton – Intersection Improvements at Centre Street (Route 123) and Plymouth Street (609052)**
- **Review and Potential Release to Public Review and Comment Period**

Bill McNulty presented Amendment 3.

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Amendment 3 includes the following changes:

FFY 2026

- 609052: Brockton - Intersection Improvements at Centre Street (Route 123) and Plymouth Street
 - Revise Project Cost and Funding Sources
 - Former STBG Value: \$3,728, 293
 - New STBG Value: \$3,921,877
 - Variance: \$193,584
 - Former HPP Value: \$0
 - New HPP Value: \$634,786
 - Variance: \$634,786
 - Former Total Project Cost: \$3,728,293
 - New Total Project Cost: \$4,556,663
 - Variance: \$828,370

A motion to release Amendment 3 to a 21-day public review and comment period was made by Dan Salvucci and seconded by Becky Coletta. Members voted as follows:

Stephen Woelfel	Aye
Shaun Handy	Aye
Nelson Fernandes	Aye
Kimberley Emberg	Aye
James Downey	Aye
Dan Salvucci	Aye
Becky Coletta	Aye

The motion passed.

7. FFY 2027-2031 Old Colony Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Development - Review of Scenarios and Potential Determination of Preferred Set of Projects

Bill McNulty discussed the development of the FFY 2027–2031 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the challenges faced during this year’s programming cycle. The process was difficult due to project delays identified during TIP Readiness Days and significant project cost increases, which created a scenario where later TIP years (2029–2030) were overprogrammed and not financially constrained, while 2028 temporarily had no projects programmed. As a result, staff shifted their focus from adding new projects to preserving projects already programmed in the TIP to avoid the need to deprogram any existing commitments.

Bill McNulty presented “Scenario 2” as the recommended programming approach, which keeps projects in place while maintaining financial constraint. This includes projects in Brockton, Abington, Hanover, Kingston/Duxbury (Route 3/3A ramps), Stoughton, East Bridgewater, and Whitman, along with later intersection improvement projects scheduled for 2031. MassDOT also offered cost sharing for the Whitman South Avenue reconstruction project, which helped maintain financial balance in the TIP.

Bill McNulty emphasized that while no new projects could be added this cycle, the recommended scenario maintains a geographically balanced program and supports federal performance targets (PM1, PM2, PM3).

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Becky Coletta asked about the status of the Powder Point Bridge project and whether delays could risk losing federal funding. Bill McNulty explained that the project remains a high priority for both state and federal partners, and even if it cannot be advertised in 2027, it is still expected to move forward. Questions were also raised about a potential \$7 million funding gap in 2028; staff noted that this typically resolves through project cost adjustments or by identifying other eligible projects. If needed, the MPO could also flex funds to transit, such as supporting Brockton Area Transit electrification.

James Downey asked about the Route 3A Cedarville project, which ranked highly for new programming but cannot be added to the current TIP due to financial constraints and may be considered for the 2032 TIP cycle. Bill McNulty also clarified that Table 1 represents regional target funded projects, while Table 2 includes statewide projects funded by MassDOT. The Route 3A Cedarville project scored highly on the Transportation Evaluation Criteria Evaluation and remains a high priority.

A motion to approve Scenario 2 was made by Dan Salvucci and seconded by Nelson Fernandes. Members voted as follows:

Stephen Woelfel	Aye
Shaun Handy	Aye
Nelson Fernandes	Aye
Kimberley Emberg	Aye
James Downey	Aye
Dan Salvucci	Aye
Becky Coletta	Aye

The motion passed.

8. FFY 2027 Old Colony Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Development

▪ Development Schedule and Universe of Projects

Charles Kilmer presented an overview of the development of the FFY 2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), which outlines the scope of work and budget for transportation planning activities in the upcoming federal fiscal year. The presentation reviewed a list of approximately 36 planning studies (“universe projects”), many of which have already been completed and help guide decisions on which discretionary studies should be prioritized. Projects include regional planning efforts such as the ongoing 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan, as well as potential studies such as an Age-Friendly Transportation Plan, Bicycle And Pedestrian Connectivity Study, and Major Bottleneck Identification Study. Newly added proposed studies include Route 24 and Route 3/Route 44 interchange Ramp Studies, which would analyze crash data to identify safety issues and inform future Road Safety Audits. Staff also highlighted a 10-year trend of data collection and local assistance, including nearly 1,100 traffic counts, 451 turning-movement counts, and 152 local transportation studies conducted for member communities. Stephen Woelfel expressed no concerns and supported staff continuing to develop the draft UPWP framework.

9. 2026 Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan

Shawn Bailey discussed the 2026 CHST Plan. The Coordinated Human Services Transportation (CHST) Plan is a document updated every four years (Long Range Transportation Plan) and is a vital document for any transit

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agency. The CHST Plan summarizes and addresses the needs of any and all public transportation/ transit providers in the Old Colony Region, including fixed route bus service, paratransit service, commuter bus, and taxi companies.

The Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan focuses on four of the many available programs under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL):

- 5310 (Formula Grants for the Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities)
 - Traditional
 - Provides capital project funding through a formula program to increase mobility for older adults, people with disabilities and special needs.
 - 80% federal funding/20% local matching
 - Yearly application process through MassDOT
 - Non-Traditional
 - Provides capital/operational funding through a formula program to increase mobility for older adults, people with disabilities and special needs.
 - 50% federal funding/50% local matching
 - Yearly application process through MassDOT
- 5307 (Urbanized Area Formula Grants)
 - Provides technical transportation-related studies, capital for bus and bus-related activities, and capital for new/existing fixed guideway systems assistance for public transit systems.
 - Capital: 80% federal funding/20% local matching
 - Vehicles: 85% federal funding/15% local matching
 - Vehicle Equipment/Facilities: 90% federal funding/10% local matching
 - Yearly application process through MassDOT
- 5311 (Formula Grants for Rural Areas)
 - Provides capital, operating assistance, and ADA non-fixed route paratransit service assistance for public transit systems.
 - Capital: 80% federal funding/20% local matching
 - Operating Assistance: 50% federal funding/50% local matching
 - ADA Paratransit: 80% federal funding/20% local matching
 - Yearly application process through MassDOT
 - Community Transit Grant (CTG) Program
 - Provides operating, mobility management, and accessible vehicle funding for older adults and people with disabilities.
 - Operating: 50% MassDOT funding/50% local matching
 - Mobility Management: 80% MassDOT funding/20% local matching
 - Accessible Vehicles: 85% MassDOT funding/15% local matching
 - Yearly application process through MassDOT

The timeline for this Plan is to update internally and request updates/feedback externally from multiple transportation providers through the beginning of May, finalize a draft Plan ahead of the May MPO Meeting, put out the Plan for a public review and comment period, and finally endorse the Plan at the June MPO Meeting.

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

Charles Kilmer reported on the following items:

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- Duxbury - Intersection Improvements at Route 53 and Franklin Street - Public Informational Meeting - March 24, 2026 at 6 p.m.
- Duxbury - Route 3 Bridge Replacement - Public Informational Meeting - April 1, 2026 at 6 p.m.
- Culvert and Small Bridge Replacement and Training Site Initiative Grant Opportunity - Division of Ecological Restoration (DER) - Applications due by Friday, March 20, 2026 at 11:59 p.m.
- Federal Funds & Infrastructure Office (FFIO) - Next meeting is March 24, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

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

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

2026

- **April 21, 2026 at 10 a.m.**
- **May 19, 2026 at 10 a.m.**
- **June 16, 2026 at 10 a.m.**

11. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Dan Salvucci and seconded by Becky Coletta.

Members voted as follows:

Stephen Woelfel	Aye
Shaun Handy	Aye
Nelson Fernandes	Aye
Kimberley Emberg	Aye
James Downey	Aye
Dan Salvucci	Aye
Becky Coletta	Aye

The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kyle Mowatt

Kyle Mowatt, Senior Transportation Planner

List of Documents for the March 17, 2026 Old Colony MPO Meeting

- Minutes of February 17, 2026, Old Colony MPO Meeting
- Staff Report for March 17, 2026 Old Colony MPO Meeting Agenda Items