

Southeastern Massachusetts Commuter Rail Task Force

Minutes of April 9, 2008 at the Silver City Galleria in Taunton at 4:00 PM

Present:

John Bullard, Vision 2020	Robert Carney, Dartmouth
Dr. Susan Peterson, SRPEDD	Mark Rousseau, Easton
Peter Kortright, Fall River Chamber	Byron Holmes, Fall River
Robert Overholtzer, OCPC	William Roth, Jr., Fairhaven
Robert Mitchell, EOHEd	Linda Grubb, Lakeville
David Tibbetts, South Coast on Track	Ruth Geoffroy, Middleborough
Jason Sinclair, Sen. Scott Brown	Richard McCarthy, Raynham
Sean Toulon, Sen. Joan Menard	Lou Gitto, Stoughton
Mary Wasylyk, Sen. Marc Pacheco	Jim Sullivan, CARE
Eric Robbie, Rep. Patricia Haddad	Margaret Ishihara
Rep. Geraldine Creedon	Kyla Bennett, New England PEER
Priscilla Chapman, Mass Audubon	Robb Johnson, TNC
George Spatcher, Esq., Attleboro Chamber	Rachel Bain, EOT
Roland Hebert, for SRTA	Susan Jennings, UMD
Dr. Edgar Adams, Roger Williams Univ.	Garry Clayton, UMD
Alan Anacheka-Nasemann, U.S. Army COE	Liz Sorenson, DCR/ACEC
Shundreka Givan, FHWA	Karen Winger, OCPC
Stephen Smith, SRPEDD	Susan McGrath, OCPC
Greg Guimond, SRPEDD	Bruce Hughes, OCPC
Louise Daley, SRPEDD	Carolyn Lamarre, TRWA

1. Call to Order

Task Force Chair John Bullard called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

2. Minutes of Meeting, March 12, 2008

Kyla Bennett noted a correction is needed for the March 12, 2008 minutes distributed to the Task Force.

3. Updates from Kristina Egan, South Coast Rail Manager

Due to Kristina Egan's absence due to illness, Steve Smith gave an update on the project. He said that the Interagency Group made recommendations to Transportation Secretary Bernard Cohen of the options to go forward for MEPA/NEPA study. Mr. Smith said that Secretary Cohen would be coming to the region and giving a one-year update on the project's progress. More information will be forthcoming on this event which is scheduled to take place on April 22. Mr. Smith said he thinks the Secretary will announce the options going forward for full environmental study at that time. Kyla Bennett asked when the South Coast Rail website would be updated with the Interagency Group minutes. Mr. Smith said he did not know.

4. Facilitated Discussion, John Bullard, Task Force Chair

John Bullard opened the discussion of the adverse impacts of the South Coast Rail project, as the second half of a discussion that started two meetings ago, at which the benefits of the project were discussed. He asked what should be looked at and how might the impacts be avoided, reduced or mitigated. He referred to a draft list of negative impacts, possible mitigation and other enhancements generated by SRPEDD staff as a discussion starter. A list of impacts was generated by Task Force members.

5. Future Meetings

The next meeting is May 14, 2008 at the Buttonwood Park Zoo in New Bedford. The Task Force needs to complete the list of negative impacts. Mr. Smith suggested that the Task Force refine both the lists of negative impacts and benefits. Mr. Bullard suggested principles of mitigation to put forth to MBTA and EOT as a third topic of discussion. He noted there is a handout available with ideas on mitigation principles for discussion purposes. Mr. Smith said there is no equity of impacts. The goal is to try to recommend a set of ground rules for mitigation, establishing what has priority. Such principles would take a more regional approach than local. The June 11 meeting will also be at the Zoo in New Bedford.

6. Adjourn

Chairman Bullard adjourned the meeting at 6:00PM.