

Southeastern Massachusetts Commuter Rail Task Force

Minutes of June 11, 2008 at the Raynham Senior Center at 4:00 PM

Present:

John Bullard, Vision 2020	Mark Rousseau, Easton
Dr. Susan Peterson, SRPEDD	Linda Grubb, Lakeville
Robert Overholtzer, OCPC	Ruth Geoffroy, Middleborough
Mary Wasylyk, for Sen. Marc Pacheco	Jill Maclean, New Bedford
Melissa Costa, for Rep. John F. Quinn	Heather Graf, Norton
Jay Sinclair, for Sen. Scott Brown	Martin Newfield, Raynham
David Tibbetts, South Coast on Track	Lou Gitto, Stoughton
Carolyn Lamarre, TRWA	Kyla Bennett, New England PEER
Richard McCarthy, Raynham Planner	Robb Johnson, TNC
Kristina Egan, EOT	Bob Mitchell, EOHEd
Alan Anacheka-Nasemann, U.S. Army COE	William Kenney, Esq.
George Spatcher, Esq., Attleboro Chamber	Roland Hebert, for SRTA
Shundreka Givan, FHWA/SRPEDD	Louise Hardiman, SRPEDD
Stephen Smith, SRPEDD	Greg Guimond, SRPEDD
Nancy Durfee, SRPEDD	Don Sullivan, SRPEDD
Pat Ciaramella, OCPC	Charles Kilmer, OCPC
Larissa Brown, Goody Clancy	Karen Winger, OCPC
David Spillane, Goody Clancy	Amy Cohn, Goody Clancy
Matt Smith, Goody Clancy	Sue Moses

1. Call to Order

Task Force Chair John Bullard called the meeting to order at 4:10 PM.

2. Minutes of Meeting, May 14, 2008

Corrections were pointed out and agreed upon by the Task Force. The minutes of May 14 will reflect the corrections.

5. Other Business (taken out of order due to Ms. Egan running late)

Chairman Bullard said that he wants to restore the July 9 meeting, even though the Task Force previously said it would stop for summer, in order to discuss member roles and responsibilities. Up to now, the Task Force has operated in an informal way with no formal votes. Mr. Bullard asked members to think about membership if a vote happens. He thinks that municipalities on the Task Force should get a vote. The decision making process off municipalities is known and there is no overlap among these members. He noted that, as a representative from Vision 2020, he would not have a vote either. Other questions to discuss at the July 9 meeting include the geographic area for membership. Currently, there are 23 communities. This number needs to be expanded to cover the

different routes. In the meantime, Mr. Bullard said that comments can be communicated to Steve Smith, Kristina Egan or to him.

3. Updates from Kristina Egan, South Coast Rail Manager

Kristina Egan said there is a new schedule for the project with interim steps. The schedule will be online tomorrow. She said that the July 9 meeting would also include a discussion about station site selections. This selection process has the same kind of analysis as the alternatives. Stations will be ranked by criteria. There are no final recommendations yet. Ms. Egan wants the Task Force to weigh in on the discussion first. The project team is working on simulations and environmental field work this summer and CTPS is finishing the development of a ridership model. There will be smart growth charrettes this fall to tie into the station work.

4. “Issues and opportunities” charrette

Larissa Brown gave a brief update on the consultant team’s Corridor Plan work and discussed smart growth scenarios and rules of thumb. She said the work on the Plan is coordinated with the PPA and PDA work. She noted trends supporting new models of growth including walkable development. She listed circumstances that developers want in order to do walkable development. These include: increased certainty (in the permitting process and in the timeline for development), long range “patient” capital and flexible parking requirements.

At this point, Ms. Brown asked those present to break into smaller groups. She asked each group to identify the top five Sustainable Development principles to guide the land use planning process. She also asked each group member to place dots on a regional map identifying six PPAs and six PDAs. Mr. Bullard did not see the point of the latter exercise being done in 15 minutes time when SRPEDD is spending hours working with each community to identify these areas. Ms. Egan said his point was well taken. She said the Task Force role is growth management and members are to act as representatives of their communities. At some point, EOT will need official adoption of the Plan. She stated that she hopes the Task Force, as a regional body, can make a recommendation on what the State needs to do in order to prepare for the train, so that the State knows where to invest its grant programs. Sue Petersen suggested that the Task Force not do the dots; SRPEDD is better informed to do it. She asked how the State would weigh two sets of maps—one done in a comprehensive process, and one randomly done by the Task Force members. Carolyn Lamarre expressed concern for areas covered by OCPC in the PPA and PDA process. She also noted that the meeting is already running a half hour behind and questioned why would the Task Force do the exercise, rushed, if it is to be used in decision-making. Mr. Bullard suggested that the groups answer Ms. Brown’s questions or identify other things if they are important to a community.

6. Next Meeting

The next meeting is July 9, 2008 at a place to be determined.

7. Adjourn

Mr. Bullard adjourned the meeting at 6:20 PM.