

Joint Transportation Planning Group

Minutes of meeting held on February 11, 2009 at SRPEDD

In attendance were the following:

Robert Patneau, GPI	Zeb Arruda, City of New Bedford
Duarte Andrade, City of New Bedford	Byron Holmes, City of Fall River
Ruth Geoffroy, Town of Middleborough	Mark Slusarz, City of Taunton
Henry Young, Town of Acushnet	Tim Letton, GPI
Timothy Kochan, MHD District 5	Donna Kulpa, Town of Dighton
David Cabral, Town of Seekonk	Rachel Bain, EOT
Lee Azinheira, Town of Mansfield	Kevin Dumas, Mayor of Attleboro
Barry LaCasse, City of Attleboro	John Clover, City of Attleboro
Tom Fitzgerald, Town of Somerset	Bob Carney, Dartmouth Selectman
Steve Antonelli, Town of Swansea	Steve Smith, SRPEDD
Jim Hadfield, SRPEDD	Paul Mission, SRPEDD
Lilia Cabral, SRPEDD	Lisa Estrela-Pedro, SRPEDD
Elaine Cristoferi, SRPEDD	Suzanne Dagesse, SRPEDD
Jennifer Chaves, SRPEDD	Stacy Sousa, SRPEDD
Jacqueline Schmidt, SRPEDD	

Introductions were made.

1. **Call to Order** - The meeting was called to order at 2:10pm by Chairman Lee Azinheira.
2. **Approval of the Minutes, September 17, 2008** - A motion was made to approve the minutes of the JTPG meeting held on November 19, 2008 as submitted. The motion was seconded and approved UNANIMOUSLY.
3. **Discussion of TIP Amendments** – Mr. Hadfield discussed the changes made to the TIP to accommodate the potential economic stimulus funding. The changes are as follows:
 - The addition of Part 1C: Federal Aid Non-Target Stimulus Projects
 - Construction of New Route 24 Interchange – 8 ½ in Freetown/Fall River
 - Resurface Route 6 in Swansea
 - Resurface Route 6 in Westport
 - The addition of Section 5307 (Stimulus Projects) for SRTA
 - Purchase seven replacement fixed route buses
 - Construct New Fall River Downtown Bus Terminal
 - Purchase New Fareboxes with Support Equipment
 - Purchase Six Replacement Demand Response Vans
 - Replace NB Terminal Sidewalks, Ramps and Curbs
 - Building Improvements for Maintenance Facilities and Operations Offices
 - Security Gates for Maintenance Facilities
 - Transit Enhancements (Bus Shelters)
 - The addition of Section 5307 (Stimulus Projects) for GATRA
 - Purchase Four Replacement Medium Duty Buses
 - Purchase Replacement Minibus and/or DR Vans
 - Purchase Dispatch/Scheduling Software

- Purchase Smart Card Interoperability Equipment and Software
- Construct Improvements to Taunton Terminal & Maintenance Facility
- Repairs and Rehab to Attleboro Train Station
- Construct Platform Walkway at Attleboro Train Station

Mr. Hadfield also discussed the changes made to the FFY2009 year of the 2007-2010 Transportation Improvement Program. The changes are as follows:

- Increase total cost of Lakeville Relocation of Route 79 Project changed from \$3.3 million to 3.72 million.
- The addition of project descriptions under the Highway Safety Improvement Program for Engineering Design.
 - Four Route 6 Intersections in Fairhaven
 - Bridge Street at Alden Road in Fairhaven
 - Route 6 at Route 140 in New Bedford
 - Balance to Dartmouth/NB for Rockdale Avenue at Dartmouth Street Construction
- The addition of Section 5307 Carryover Spending for SRTA
 - Purchase Nine Replacement Fixed Route Buses
 - Transit Enhancements

These amendments were approved at a joint MPO/JTPG meeting on January, 29, 2009. There is a potential problem with the readiness of the New Route 24 Interchange Exit 8 ½ in Freetown/Fall River project which could block the project from being applicable for stimulus funding. A list of potential projects is being circulated and includes the following projects:

- Replacing or rehabilitating the railroad bridge over Coggeshall Street in New Bedford - \$12,377,500
 - Replacing or rehabilitating the railroad bridge over Deane Street in New Bedford - \$11,275,000
 - Replacing or rehabilitating the railroad bridge over Sawyer Street in New Bedford - \$10,172,500
 - Structural Improvements to the New Bedford State Pier - \$16,000,000
 - South Pier Expansion, Fall River State Pier - \$10,432,000
 - Improvements to the Buildings on the New Bedford State Pier - \$2,700,000
 - Maintenance on I-195 in Marion and Mattapoisett - \$10,684,000 *
 - Improvement to Dartmouth Street from Rockdale Ave. to Roger Street - \$3,000,000 *
 - Relocate Route 79 in Lakeville - \$3,720,000 *
 - Resurface Routes 18 & 28 in Middleborough north of the Rotary - \$2,800,870
 - Double Track the Middleboro Line from Braintree to Bridgewater - \$50,000,000
- * Already in the TIP, selecting a project that is already programmed would require that replacement projects are identified that can be advertised for construction during this Federal Fiscal Year.

Ms. Bain gave an overview of the measures being taken to handle the potential stimulus funding. The governor has set up six vertical task forces to deal with specific subject areas for economic such as transportation, economic development, school building, etc. There are also horizontal task forces to deal with things like procurement, staffing needs, etc. The transportation task force took all related agencies and met and submitted projects

that would be available within the 180 day target. The funding is still a moving target, so final figures are not available. Transit funding will be formula funded, with funding going directly to capital costs, with no funding for operating costs. Transportation projects were selected based on readiness, with most projects being of the quick hit variety, such as rehabilitation projects.

Mayor Dumas briefly explained procedures on the municipal task force. Once the list was created of approximately 4000 projects, projects that had already established funding sources were removed from the list. Municipalities will be asked to rank the top three projects.

Ms. Bain explained that the commonwealth will receive approximately 500 million dollars for highway projects. Of the 500 million dollars, 250 million in projects must be advertised in 90 days. If half of the money is not advertised within the 90 day period, the money must be sent back to the government to be redistributed to states that were able to advertise within 90 days. If the funding is handled well, there is a potential for the commonwealth to receive more funding. Ms. Bain emphasized that this money is above and beyond TIP funding and will not take away from any planned funding.

Discussion ensued regarding potential funding of projects. Ms. Bain explained that options for funding projects were being explored, with a potential for a Chapter 90 type funding.

Duarte Andrade made a suggestion to the group to send a letter to Mass Highway and the Governor to request that consideration be given to distributing stimulus funding through a Chapter 90 type channel. Ms Bain recommended the letter be sent to the Governor, as well as Secretary Aloisi, and copy to the Commissioner of Mass Highway

Mr. Andrade made a motion to send a letter expressing the JTPG's preference for having the money handled through a Chapter 90 type program. The motion was approved UNANIMOUSLY.

Questions were raised regarding readying projects for potential stimulus funding. Ms. Bain recommended working with Mass Highway to prepare the project, and to ensure the project is federal aid eligible. A suggestion was made to link guidelines for determining whether or not a road is federal aid eligible on the SPREDD website.

Ms. Geoffroy announced that Middleborough will be submitting to the Commonwealth a plan to disassemble improvements to the Middleborough Rotary into smaller pieces to attempt to speed up improvements. This effort would involve expanding Route 18/28 from Campanelli and Leona Drive to the Middleborough Rotary from two to four lanes, a right hand bypass onto Route 44 west of the rotary, and an interim double stripe of the rotary to increase capacity. Campanelli Companies through a Section 61 finding from 1995 construction of their industrial park is required to provide the 25% and 100% PSE plans. The Town of Middleborough has asked Campanelli for the above changes to be included in 25% design. Middleborough submitted the above potential changes to the group for consideration and will be working with Mass Highway on this effort.

A question was raised regarding whether funding could be directly assigned through Chapter 90 to the communities. Ms. Bain explained that to her knowledge the stimulus funding was from the federal government and that Chapter 90 funding was a state based program, therefore it may be complicated to directly apply federal money to a state program.

Clarification of the potential TIP project from the alternate list for the Double Tracking of the Middleborough/Lakeville Line for \$50 million was requested. Ms. Bain explained that the project is an MBTA project to widen the track from Bridgewater to South Station to resolve some time table issues and improve service. Mr. Smith further clarified that this project was not part of the South Coast Rail Project.

4. **Discussion of Streamlined Procurement Process for Cities & Towns** – Mr. Smith announced that SRPEDD is launching a regional cooperative purchasing program to assist cities and towns on cooperative purchasing items and regional services. SRPEDD has received money from the state for this effort, and intends to purchase a limited number of items as a test model. SRPEDD would negotiate contracts for the purchasing items based on the amount bought and would handle the paperwork, and individual cities and towns would enter into contracts with the providing companies. Mr. Smith explained that SRPEDD's Homeland Security staff has experience in this endeavor through purchasing done for Homeland Security purposes on a regional basis. SRPEDD expects that the most likely customers for cooperative purchasing are public works and highway departments.

Mr. Azinheira briefly explained an existing program through South Eastern Regional Services Group (SERSG) that provides cooperative purchasing services to Mansfield, Plainville, Norton, Raynham and Taunton. The town of Kingston also has a program for purchasing of office supply items that many communities participate in. Items of interest suggested by attendees included: salt, office supplies, and asphalt. A question was raised regarding whether or not SRPEDD will be doing cooperative purchasing of equipment. SRPEDD is not currently planning on purchasing equipment, but may look into it in the future. SRPEDD is intending to do an initial bid in the spring to meet July 1 fiscal year and a second bid in September. A public meeting will be held on March 3, 2009 at 10am at the Fairhaven Town Hall for all interested parties.

5. **Discussion of SRPEDD's PSAP Census Effort** – Mr. Mission briefly discussed the Participant Statistical Area Program (PSAP), which is a review of all the census block data which SPREDD uses for traffic demand modeling. Communities that could potentially be affected have been contacted and asked to review changes made to block group data. This process is important so that geography based funding is not affected. The deadline for comments was February 2, 2009, however comments can still be made and SRPEDD is waiting for data from 7 communities.

Interested parties can view the data by visiting www.srpedd.org and clicking on the PSAP Census Community Maps link under the What's New box.

6. **Discussion of Pictometry Distribution and Training** – Ms. Chaves announced that the 2008 aerials have arrived for Pictometry and the hard drives will be distributed at the trainings. Pictometry will be conducting two end user trainings and one advanced user training for the SRPEDD communities. End user training is a basic overview of the Electronic Field Study Program and the Advanced User training will cover more complex aspects of the program including GIS. Training sessions are as follows:

Tuesday, March 3, 2009
End User Training - 9:00am to 12:00pm
New Bedford Public Library
613 Pleasant Street, New Bedford, MA

Wednesday, March 4, 2009
End User Training – 9:00am to 12:00pm
Advanced User Training – 1:00pm to 4:00pm
Taunton Public Library
12 Pleasant Street, Taunton, MA

SRPEDD is asking attendees to please RSVP by phone (508-824-1367), fax (508-823-1803) or email (jchaves@srpedd.org) by February 18, 2009.

7. **Other Business** – There was no other business.
8. **Date, Time Place for Next Meeting** – The next JTPG meeting time and place are to be determined.
9. **Adjourn** – The meeting was adjourned at 3:10pm by Chairman Azinheira.