

Joint Transportation Planning Group

Minutes of the meeting held on
Wednesday, January 10, 2018 at SRPEDD, Taunton MA

In attendance were the following:

Lee Azinheira, Mansfield

Tabitha Harkin, Norton

Derek Krevat, MassDOT

Tim Kochan, MassDOT District 5

Mary Ellen DeFrias, Mass Development

Tim Barber, Dartmouth

John Woods, Carver

Mark Hollowell, North Attleboro

Brian Martin, Somerset

Shayne Trimbell, SRTA

Steven Findlen, McMahan Associates

Alan Slavin, Wareham

Stephanie Crampton, New Bedford

Manuel Silva, New Bedford

Jamie Pisano, VHB

Paul Mission, SRPEDD

Jeff Walker, SRPEDD

Lilia Cabral-Bernard, SRPEDD

Luis DeOliveira, SRPEDD

Kyle Richard, SRPEDD

- 1. Call to Order and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 2:10 PM by Chairman Lee Azinheira, after which meeting attendees introduced themselves.
- 2. Public Comments:** Chairman Lee Azinheira opened the floor to public comment for those wishing to address the JTPG, after which no such comments or addresses were made.
- 3. Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made to approve the minutes of the last JTPG meeting held on October 11th, 2017. The motion was seconded and approved UNANIMOUSLY.
- 4. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**
 - a. Project Readiness in FFY2018-2019 (MassDOT District 5):** Tim Kochan provided a status update for TIP projects programmed in FFY2018-2019 and they are as follows.

2018

- Dartmouth – Chase Road and Old Westport Road Intersection Improvements: project is currently at 100% design and PS&E are due by the end of March, 2018.
- Norton – East Main Street (Route 123) from Pine Street to I-495 Corridor Improvements: 75% design was received in October of 2017 and those submissions are currently under review.
- Wareham – Reconstruction of Route 6 & 28 from 500 ft. east of Tyler Avenue to east of Red Brook Road: PS&E in January of 2018 and is currently under review.

2019

Joint Transportation Planning Group

Minutes of the meeting held on
Wednesday, January 10, 2018 at SRPEDD, Taunton MA

- Middleborough - Intersection improvements & related work at Everett Square: Project is currently at 25% design and those submissions are under review.
 - Seekonk – Intersection improvements and related work at Fall River Avenue (Route 114A) and County Street: 25% design has been submitted and 75% design is due in February, 2018. A new schedule is required from GPI to reflect the delivery date for the 75% submissions.
 - New Bedford – Corridor improvements and related works on King’s Highway from Church Street to the King’s Highway Bridge over Route 140: 75% design is due in late February.
- b. Review of Projects in FFY2020-2022: Paul Mission reviewed TIP projects that are programmed for FFY2020-2022. He also requested that if any representative from communities where those projects are taking place were present to discuss any information that they might have on those projects in addition to the information that Mr. Mission presented at the meeting.

2020

- Attleboro – Intersection improvements at Route 1 (Washington Street) / Route 1A (Newport Avenue) and Route 123 (Highland Avenue): The project manager has set a department public hearing to take place in February.
- Taunton – Corridor improvements & related works on Broadway (Route 138) from Leonard Street northerly to Purchase Street (Phase I): A cost increase for the project has been anticipated.
- New Bedford – intersection improvements at Hathaway Road, Mount Pleasant Street and Nauset Street: 25% design was submitted on June 9th, 2017 and comments from MassDOT on that submission have been received by the city. A comment resolution meeting is to be scheduled in March of this year. A utility meeting is also to be scheduled for the project.
- Lakeville – Reconstruction and related work on Rhode Island Road (Route 79) from the Taunton city line to Clear Pond Road: The project is currently at 25% design and a cost increase for the project is highly possible given the scope of utility work needed for the project.

2021

- Taunton – Reconstruction of Route 44 (Dean Street) from Arlington Street to Route 104 (South Main Street): 25% design submissions are due in late March of 2018.

Joint Transportation Planning Group

Minutes of the meeting held on
Wednesday, January 10, 2018 at SRPEDD, Taunton MA

- Mattapoisett – Corridor improvements and related work on Main Street, Water Street, Beacon Street and Marion Road: a meeting between the town and the design engineer was held and a projected project cost has been established.
- New Bedford – Intersection improvements and related work at Rockdale Avenue and Allen Street: A pre-25% design memorandum is being prepared and should be submitted by the end of January.
- Raynham – Resurfacing and related work on Route 138: 25% design submissions are being prepared and are due in July.
- Dartmouth – Corridor improvements on Dartmouth Street and Prospect Street: project is currently at 10% and the town is coordinating with MassDOT.

2022

- New Bedford – Corridor improvements and related work on County Street from Nelson Street to Union Street: Pre-25% design memorandum was submitted in September of 2017 and comments from MassDOT are being received and reviewed.
- Wareham – Construction of bike lanes along Narrows Road and a shared use path adjacent to Minot Avenue including related work: The town administrator is currently working to establish an RFP for the project and is expected to progress as planned.
- Rehoboth – Intersection improvements & related work at Winthrop Street (Route 44) and Anawan Street (Route 118): A project designer has been established and a kickoff meeting has been held.
- Dartmouth – Realignment of Tucker Road to Route 6 and Hathaway Road including intersection signalization: The project is moving forward, however, there are some issues with securing right-of-way finding.

After these projects were reviewed, Mr. Mission listed projects programmed for FFY2021-2023, that are preliminary at this point in time and can be flexed out into FFY 2019/2020 or potentially into the future element depending on the status of the design and implementation process for those projects.

- c. Projects for Consideration for FFY2023: Mr. Mission announced projects to be considered for programming into the FFY2023 TIP year and are as follows and statuses for those projects were announced where available. They are as follows.

Joint Transportation Planning Group

Minutes of the meeting held on
Wednesday, January 10, 2018 at SRPEDD, Taunton MA

- Dartmouth – Reconstruction & related work on Faunce Corner Road from Old Fall River Road southerly to MassDOT owned Railroad Crossing: Project is currently in the early design stage.
- Plainville – Reconstruction of South Street (Route 1A) from Sharlene Lane to Everett Street and related work: the project is town sponsored and expected to be a full depth reconstruction.
- Taunton – Corridor improvements and related work on Broadway (Route 138) from Purchase Street to Jackson Street (Phase II).
- Plainville: Intersection improvements at Washington Street (Route 1) and George Street: MassDOT has been implementing interim safety improvements at the intersection.
- Mansfield – Reconstruction of Chauncy Street (Route 106).

Questions were raised regarding two projects and why they were not included on the TIP project lists provided for the meeting. These projects are the intersection improvement project at Route 140 and Route 106 in Mansfield and the Norton to Mansfield rail trail project. It was speculated that these projects were not included on the list provided because they were being funded through statewide CMAQ funds and not target funds.

After Mr. Mission announced these projects for consideration, he also mentioned two potential projects to be considered for the next TIP. One project is an intersection improvement project in Norton at the intersection of Route 123 and North / South Worcester Streets and the PNF and PIF forms have been submitted for the project. The other project is a complete streets project along Route 6 in Seekonk.

Mr. Mission also reminded the group that due to the TIP in FFY2023 being over programmed in its targeted funding, it is possible that some projects might get pushed further out to the future element. He also mentioned that there is still a need for lower cost and smaller scope projects to be brought forward in an effort to spend down remaining funds in any given TIP year. Tabitha Harkin of Norton inquired as to what amount of funding constitutes a smaller project, to which Mr. Mission replied, a smaller project might cost between one and four million dollars. Mr. Mission also stated that any inquiries about might smaller projects can be made to SRPEDD, particularly to Lisa Estrela-Pedro who manages the TIP.

Joint Transportation Planning Group

Minutes of the meeting held on
Wednesday, January 10, 2018 at SRPEDD, Taunton MA

Alan Slavin of Wareham inquired as to the funding status of the Middleborough Rotary, after which discussion ensued regarding what monies have been spent in an effort to initiate the project as well as what factors must be taken into account when putting a dollar amount on the total project.

Mr. Slavin also commented on traffic congestion issues being observed in the town of Wareham given the amount of commercial development that has been taking place recently, and subsequently, he will most likely be contacting SRPEDD for assistance in mitigating these issues.

Mr. Mission mentioned that SRPEDD will be undertaking its update of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) over the next year and could potentially take time away from conducting other studies. With this being the case, it will be hard for SRPEDD to commit to any other major studies until the revision of the Regional Transportation Plan is complete, however in the meantime, if there are any other major issues that come to light that might require assistance from SRPEDD, then they should still be brought forward so that they can be documented in the plan as needing to be addressed in the future.

- 5. Discussion of the MaPIT program:** Mr. Mission opened the floor to discussion regarding the MaPIT project intake tool and whether or not municipalities are experiencing difficulty using the tool to submit projects. No issues were discussed aside from one in Norton regarding difficulties logging into the tool itself. Tabitha Harkin of Norton had previously contacted SRPEDD for assistance on this matter and with their assistance, was able to resolve the issue. If any municipality is having difficulty using this tool, they may contact SRPEDD for assistance.
- 6. MassDOT Maintenance:** Mr. Mission opened the floor for discussion to any maintenance issues being observed along MassDOT owned and maintained roads by the attendees throughout the region that MassDOT has not addressed or might not be aware of. No issues or concerns were raised during the meeting. A form was prepared for submission to MassDOT that may be filled out by whoever may be observing these issues so that it can be brought to MassDOT's attention. This form was sent in the JTPG mailing and was made available at the meeting as well.
- 7. Other Business:** Chairman Lee Azinheira opened the floor for the discussion of any other business not listed on the meeting agenda. Mr. Mission took the opportunity to reiterate the point that SRPEDD will be undertaking its revision of its Regional Transportation Plan which will

Joint Transportation Planning Group

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commence in the spring beginning with initial data collection and public outreach. He also mentioned that performance based planning measures will be incorporated as part of the update to the plan which could either be established by SRPEDD staff or adopted from the statewide performance measure goals.

Mr. Mission also mentioned that MassDOT will be updating its Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) concurrently with SRPEDD's TIP, and subsequently, MassDOT will be seeking input from the metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) and regional planning agencies (RPAs) as well as municipalities and the general public over the next few months. The completed CIP is due in the summer of 2018. Derek Krevat of MassDOT's Office of Transportation Planning (OTP) also noted that there will be public outreach meetings held in May, however, there will be other opportunities before then to submit comments to MassDOT and if one so chooses, they may contact Nikki Tishler who is the Title VI and public outreach coordinator for MassDOT OTP to submit their input.

Aside from these topics, no other business was discussed.

- 8. Date, Time and Place for Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the JTPG is tentatively planned for February 14, 2018 at 2:00 PM and will be held at the SRPEDD office.
- 9. Vote to Adjourn:** After the announcement of the next meeting, a motion to adjourn was made. The motion was seconded and approved UNANIMOUSLY. The motion was made by Chairman Lee Azinheira at 3:06 PM.