

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE
Joint Transportation Planning Group (JTPG)
Wednesday February 13, 2019
Held at SRPEDD
88 Broadway, Taunton, MA 02780

The following JTPG Members were in attendance:

Alan Slavin, Town of Wareham	Alex Duggan, MassDOT
Ben Mueller, MassDOT	Franklin Moniz, Town of Lakeville
Joe Callahan, Town of Berkley	John Woods, Town of Carver
Deborah Melino-Wender, Chair SRPEDD	Paul Scott, Town of Plainville DPW
Ron Dubuc, City of Attleboro	Rebekah Rose, SRPEDD
Jamie Pisano, VHB	Manuel H. Silva, City of New Bedford
Charles Mills, SRPEDD	LeAnn Bradley, Town of Middleboro
Pamela Haznar, MassDOT	Jeffrey Walker, SRPEDD
Tim Kochan, MassDOT	Guoqiang Li, SRPEDD
Rich Olivera, MassDOT	Paul Mission, SRPEDD
Jackie Jones, SRPEDD	Lisa Estrela-Pedro, SRPEDD
Luis DeOliveira, SRPEDD	Lilia Cabral-Bernard, SRPEDD
Lee Azinheira, JTPG Chairperson	Jim Hartnett, Town of Westport
Tom Ferry, Town of Dighton	Ed Buckley, Town of Raynham

Handouts:

- I. SMMPO/SRPEDD TIP Evaluation Criteria
- II. FFY 2020-2023 Existing Project List
- III. FFY 2020-2024 Scenario 1 Project List
- IV. FFY 2020-2024 Scenario 2 Project List

1. **Call to Order and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 1:05 by Chairman Mr. Lee Azinheira, after which the attendees introduced themselves.
2. **Public Comments:** Chairman Mr. Lee Azinheira opened the floor to any members of the public that wished to address the JTPG. No public comments were made.
3. **Approval of Minutes – January 15, 2019:** A motion was made to approve the minutes of the last JTPG meeting held on January 15, 2019. The motion was seconded and approved, with one voter abstaining.
4. **Transportation Improvement Program (TIP):**
 - a. Status of FFY 2019-2023 Projects (MassDOT District 5) – Ms. Pamela Haznar of MassDOT District 5 gave an update on the Transportation Improvement Program. MassDOT just finished up their TIP Development Day and are beginning to prepare their

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recommendations in conjunction with the Boston office. One thing that was inherently clear when MassDOT went through the process was that a lot of the project schedules have not been updated with the municipalities and their design consultants. It is extremely important to have updated schedules so MassDOT knows that municipalities can meet their schedule for a specific TIP year. There were a lot of communities that need to get their contract status in-line in order to make the TIP. Ms. Haznar then went through TIP projects providing an update on their project status.

2019

- Wareham – Route 6 and Route 28 – Advertised, the bids opened on January 15, 2019.
- Seekonk – 114A and County Street – MassDOT just received the 100% design and it is on the FFY 2019-2023 TIP.
- Norton – Corridor Improvements on Route 123 – The PS&E is due in April.
- New Bedford and Kings Highway – MassDOT was expecting the 100% design at the end of January and did not receive them. They are overdue but should be in shortly, MassDOT is comfortable with keeping it in FY 2019 of the FFY 2019-2023 TIP.

2020

- Taunton – Corridor Improvements on Route 138 from Leonard Street to Purchase Street (Phase 1)– 75% design is under review.
- Lakeville – Reconstruction and Related Work on Rhode Island Road (Route 79) from the Taunton City Line to Clear Pond Road – MassDOT met with the town and their designer, there was concern with the town regarding the Right of Way Process. MassDOT is requesting a commitment letter from the town so they know that the town will commit to all of the takings.
- New Bedford – Intersection Improvements at Hathaway Road, Mount Pleasant Street and Nauset Street – 75% design is due in March.
- Middleborough – Intersection Improvements and Related Work at John Glass Square – 75% design is under review.

2021

- Raynham – Resurfacing and Related work on Route 138 – 25% design is under review and there is a comment resolution meeting this week. The cost has increased dramatically on the project so it needs to be revisited.

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- Attleboro – Intersection Improvements at Route 1 (Washington Street)/Route 1A (Newport Avenue) and Route 123 (Highland Avenue) – 75% design is due in May.
- Dartmouth – Corridor Improvements on Dartmouth Street and Prospect Street – 25% design was due in the Fall and MassDOT is now waiting on an updated schedule.
- Taunton – Reconstruction of Route 44 (Dean Street) from Arlington Street to Route 104 (South Main Street) – MassDOT provided comments on the 25% design. The next step is a comment resolution meeting.

2022

- Dartmouth – Realignment of Tucker Road to Route 6 and Hathaway Road, Including Intersection Signalization – MassDOT had the comment resolution meeting so the next step would be a utilities meeting and site walk. It has been some time since MassDOT moved with this project because they wanted to have the Complete Streets Engineer go through the project before it moved on.
- New Bedford – Intersection Improvements and Related Work at Rockdale Avenue and Allen Street – 25% design plans are under review.
- Mattapoisett – Corridor Improvements and Related Work on Main Street, Water Street, Beacon Street, and Marion Road – MassDOT reviewed a Concept Plan (10% Design) and provided comments. They are waiting to hear from the Project Manager and the town on those comments.
- Rehoboth – Intersection Improvements and Related Work at Winthrop Street (Route 44) and Anawan Street (Route 118) – MassDOT is expecting the 25% design in March.
- New Bedford – Corridor Improvements and Related Work on County Street from Nelson Street to Union Street – MassDOT is expecting 25% design by the end of April.

2023

- Wareham – Construction of Bike Lanes along Narrows Road and a shared use path adjacent to Minot Avenue including related work – The town just recently secured a designer and MassDOT has requested a schedule.
- Mansfield – Reconstruction on Chauncey Street (Route 106) – The project was approved by PRC and MassDOT is waiting on a schedule.

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- Taunton – Corridor Improvements and Related work on Broadway (Route 138), from Purchase Street to Jackson Street (Phase 2) – MassDOT is waiting for a schedule.
 - Plainville – Intersection Improvements at Washington Street (Route 1) and George Street – MassDOT had a meeting with the town and are meeting with their Design Consultant to look at concepts.
- b. Update on the Evaluation Criteria Working Group – Ms. Jackie Jones gave a brief update on the progress of the Evaluation Criteria Review Subcommittee. She discussed the process and edits made to the original criteria and the development of the TIP Evaluation Criteria Rubric, which transparently outlines how points are awarded to each criteria question. She explained that SRPEDD was looking for the JTPG’s vote to recommend the proposed TIP Evaluation Criteria Rubric to the SMMPO for approval.

Ms. Melino-Wender inquired about why some categories had more possible points identified than total points that could be awarded, specifically for question 3 under the Community Impact section. Ms. Jones replied that the rubric shows all the possible ways points can be awarded but that there are maximum point limits for each question. Ms. Haznar inquired about how drainage problems would be identified in advance, as with some projects problems are not identified until the design is underway. Ms. Jones replied that as long as the problem is documented at some point during the process, points will be awarded. Ms. Haznar inquired if the projects will only be scored once or if they will be updated. Ms. Jones replied that SRPEDD plans to update the scoring as part of the TIP process on an annual basis.

Mr. Muller had a comment about including transit along with bicycle and pedestrian facilities under air quality. Ms. Jones mentioned that they include transit in most of the questions that we have but can add it in. A motion was made to recommend as amended, the Evaluation Criteria to the SMMPO. The motion was seconded and APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

- c. Proposed Recommendations for consideration for FFY 2020-2024 – Ms. Lisa Estrela-Pedro stated that the handouts came from discussions with MassDOT in reviewing project costs that changed daily. Each sheet has a project list from the accompanying FFY. The existing list shows a list of the project with cost increases to give the JTPG Board some insight into what SRPEDD is dealing with when developing the TIP. Ms. Estrela-Pedro clarified that the board does not need to make any decisions but any feedback that could be provided is extremely helpful. Ms. Estrela-Pedro went through the existing TIP and the scenarios to move projects around due to project cost increases.

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Ms. Haznar clarified that the County Street project in FFY 2023; explaining that MassDOT is still waiting for the 25%'s, and they should be coming by the end of April. Mr. Azinheira asked if they could potentially breakup the first phase of the Mansfield/106 project and fit it on the TIP. Ms. Haznar explained that they will be advancing the projects separately and envisions having the town advance the Corridor with MassDOT advancing the intersection and if funding is available combine them at the 75% phase, similar to the Norton project.

Ms. Estrela-Pedro then explained Scenario 2 which provided different ideas to move projects around for the 2020-2024 TIP. Ms. Estrela-Pedro explained that in Scenario 2 in FFY 2024 a few projects would have to fall off due to the total exceeding available target funds. Ms. Estrela-Pedro requested some input on the best ways to develop projects for the new TIP. Mr. Slavin asked about the status of the Route 6, County Road study. Mr. Mission explained that they finished up the existing conditions and are now starting the future land use assessments. Mr. Mission is expecting SRPEDD to finish up the study by the summer of 2019. The preliminary discussions have a lot of the general public favoring bicycle and pedestrian accommodations.

Mr. Manny Silva raised a question about the project at Peckham Road. Ms. Estrela-Pedro explained that the way it looks right now there probably will not be any room to bring future projects onto the FFY 2020-2024 TIP. Mr. Silva asked if it was possible to move the project at County Street up 1-year to where it is currently programmed. He explained that he heard from his consultant that it will be ready for the first quarter of 2022. Ms. Estrela-Pedro clarified that due to its cost and status it was pushed out a year, she added that SRPEDD does not see the project schedules and SRPEDD will make it mandatory to see the schedules during the development of the next TIP or will not be considering the project. If huge projects are not ready SRPEDD has to scramble to try and get a project into that fiscal year, if they cannot find a project that can be advanced/ready we run the risk of losing our target funding. Mr. Silva explained that they are facing pressure to get the County Street project advertised. Ms. Haznar explained that they just got a schedule for that project. Ms. Haznar clarified that MassDOT has very rigid review times now and they try to turn around projects between 30 and 90 days. Keeping on the schedule is really key.

Ms. Estrela-Pedro clarified that they can look at the projects to see what can fit. She also explained that they look at readiness and the cost so that they do not have to push projects out completely. Mr. Mission noted that February is a bit early for TIP development but the sooner that comments can be made to Ms. Estrela-Pedro and Mr.

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Mission the better. The TIP does not need to be endorsed until May 2019. Mr. Mission asked about Chief Leavenworth's initiative to use different methodologies to get better cost estimates for projects. Ms. Haznar explained that they have a directive that provides some guidance but until it reaches 25% it is really difficult. Ms. Estrela-Pedro asked Mr. Azinheira if projects should not be in the TIP until they reach 25%. Mr. Azinheira explained that until projects get to 25% they need to recognize that the cost is subject to change. Mr. Mueller reiterated Ms. Haznar's point that even if you get the 25%'s in place if the contracts are not on board and projects have to wait because the standards change. Mr. Azinheira also noted that the comments from MassDOT and the public have an impact on if project costs change.

Ms. Estrela-Pedro asked Ms. Haznar to explain the review process for projects on the TIP. Ms. Haznar explained that you need to estimate around a year for ROW. At a minimum a year before a project is advertised you need approved ROW plans. ROW is the limiting part of the process and that cannot start until a lot of the design process is complete. MassDOT is trying not to advertise in the 4th quarter. ROW is not really set until 75% design is completed and sometimes there are changes. Ideally, the 75%'s are complete 2-years from the advertising date.

25% design should be submitted 4-years out. Sometimes MassDOT does not have all of the information until they do a site walk and the project is further developed. Ms. Estrela-Pedro clarified again that SRPEDD needs the project schedules so that we can figure out a way to realistically program these projects.

5. Regional Transportation Plan:

- a. Open House Meeting Schedules/Public Comments – Mr. Mission explained that the Regional Transportation Plan and the Open House listening sessions were scheduled for February 13, 2019 at SRPEDD and February 20, 2019 at the Southborough Public Library in Dartmouth.
- b. Overview of the Goals and Objectives of the Plan – Mr. Mission explained that The Regional Transportation Plan provides an assessment of the existing conditions of all modes of transportation. In conjunction we will provide future considerations and best ways to move forward with transportation in the region. SRPEDD takes into account the forecast models provided by the UMASS Donahue Center so that we can determine what the Transportation facilities will look like under the existing conditions and what they will look like under future considerations. Secretary Pollock has asked us to look at different scenarios as well and how that will affect transportation throughout the

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region. Mr. Bill Napolitano, of SRPEDD, has been studying the effects of climate change on the coastal cities for the past 20-years and has ample data of how the changing climate will affect our transportation.

- c. Discussion of Regional Issues from the Communities – Mr. Mission continued by explaining that SRPEDD is looking to gain input into issues that the communities may have with transportation and SRPEDD staff would love to talk to people one-on-one about it.
- d. Potential Studies for the Unified Planning Work Program – Mr. Mission informed the group that if people have issues with Transportation, the Regional Transportation Plan is the document that identifies the issues so that SRPEDD can receive funding to do studies on these issues. If there is an intersection, a corridor that communities feel there is a problem or needs to be changed in anyway it needs to be included in the Regional Transportation Plan. We are looking for ideas similar to the Route 6 Corridor Study, to potentially increase bicycle/pedestrian accommodations or transportation access in anyway.

6. Other Business:

- a. SRPEDD Transportation Employment Opportunities – Mr. Mission explained that SRPEDD is looking for summer interns to help out with data collection, bus riding and traffic counting. We are trying to secure the interns by March so they are ready to go for the summer. There is a job advertisement on our website, or they can get into contact with me or Lisa Estrela-Pedro.
- b. Capital Investment Plan (CIP) – Mr. Mueller explained that MassDOT tabled an RFP because MassDOT has decided to staff up in house to complete the CIP. This year will be similar to last year where MassDOT will be holding a series of public meetings across the state. MassDOT is working with Legislative Affairs to hammer out the dates for those meetings and will send them out as soon as they have been finalized. They will also be advertising on some of the billboards in order to relay the message. Mr. Mueller explained that the meetings will be fairly informal and MassDOT just wants to explain to the public the project development process. MassDOT is also changing the online format so that it can work better with machine translations. They will also be including a comment tool to so if constituents have a comment about a particular project MassDOT will collect and tabulate them at the end of the public process. Mr. Mission explained

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that similar to the Regional Transportation Plan the CIP is an annual process and is a way for the public to talk with MassDOT about specific transportation needs.

- c. MassDOT Innovation Conference – April 9th and 10th in Worcester at the DCU Center it is advertised through Bay State Roads and it talks about the innovative ideas in transportation that is being implemented by MassDOT and others.
- d. Mr. Mission explained how he heard on the news an interview by WBZ with Mayor Walsh and how adaptive signal controls will be tested at certain locations in Boston. They will be using a “Don’t Block the Box” technology this is interesting because it is a way to alleviate the traffic and congestion issues within the city streets. Ms. Haznar noted that this idea is used in the SRPEDD region at Faunce Corner Road. It will be interesting to see if this idea starts to spread if effective. Mr. Mission continued by explaining that a report released by T for Massachusetts, (Transportation for Massachusetts) saying that Massachusetts has the worst traffic in the nation, worse than Los Angeles. Ms. Haznar stated that the report was based on speed. Mr. Mission also heard on NACN news that the mayor from Hamden, Connecticut wants to implement red light running cameras for law enforcement but state legislation, like in Massachusetts, does not allow law enforcement to use red light running cameras to ticket violators. The mayor of Hamden had an interesting statement: “Even if it is not legal for law enforcement, he would like to see them be implemented for data collection on the amount of red light running.” With the data collected they may be able to make the case that red light running cameras may be more practical. Ironically, when NACN was filming, during an all red cycle, someone ran through a red light. Mr. Mission noted that it was an interesting statement from the mayor that may stimulate discussion on overturning this legislation in the future.

7. Date, Time, Place for Next Meeting:

- a. Mr. Azinheira noted that he will not be present at the next meeting, and that one of the Vice Chairs will need to lead the next meeting on Wednesday March 13, 2019 at 2:00 in SRPEDD

8. Adjourn:

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:00. The motion was seconded and APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

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