

Joint Transportation Planning Group

Minutes of the meeting held on
Wednesday, April 11, 2018 at SRPEDD, Taunton MA

In attendance were the following:

Lee Azinheira, Mansfield	Tim Kochan, MassDOT District 5
Robert Burgmann, Mattapoisett	J.R. Frey, Fall River
Shayne Trimbell, SRTA	Franklin Moniz, Lakeville
Jim Hartnett, Westport	Jamie Pisano, VHB
Lloyd Mendes, Member of the Public	Tim Barber, Dartmouth
Mary Ellen DeFrias, Mass Development	Brian Martin, Somerset
Stephanie Dupras, New Bedford	Lisa Estrela-Pedro, SRPEDD
Chris Peck, Middleborough	Paul Mission, SRPEDD
Manny Silva, New Bedford	Luis DeOliveira, SRPEDD
Bonne DeSousa, SCBA	Kyle Richard, SRPEDD
Derek Krevat MassDOT OTP (via voice conference call)	

- 1. Call to Order and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 2:05 PM by Chairman Lee Azinheira, after which the meeting attendees introduced themselves.
- 2. Public Comments:** Chairman Lee Azinheira opened the floor to any members of the public that wish to address the JTPG. Lloyd Mendes, speaking for himself, commented on scores for TIP projects. He stated that he would like a policy adopted to have weight given to projects that serve more people regionally and have a regional economic impact.
- 3. Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made to approve the minutes of the last JTPG meeting held on February 14, 2018. The motion was seconded and approved UNANIMOUSLY.
- 4. FFY2019/2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP):** Lisa Estrela-Pedro referred to handouts included for today's meeting, including the transit project lists for GATRA and SRTA that SRPEDD received yesterday. She reviewed existing TIP projects programmed in the FFY2019-2023 TIP including The Norton- Route 123 project being moved back into FFY2019 from FFY2018 and the Wareham project can be fully funded in FFY2018 instead of being split into two years. There is an amendment out for a 21-day public comment regarding this change. Also recommended for FFY2019 is New Bedford - King's Highway and Seekonk - Route 114 A at County Street. In FFY2020 is Middleborough- Everett Square pushed out from 2019 and Taunton corridor improvement on Route 138, phase 1; New Bedford- Hathaway Road, Mt. Pleasant Street and Nauset Street; and Lakeville- Route 79 project.

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Ms. Estrela –Pedro moved on to projects in FFY2021 which include Attleboro – Route 1 at Route 1A and Route 123; Taunton-Dean Street; and Dartmouth – corridor improvements on Dartmouth Street and Prospect Street; and in Raynham the resurfacing of Route 138. In FFY2022 is New Bedford-Rockdale Ave at Allen Street (moved back from FFY2021); Mattapoisett-Main, Water & Beacon Streets and Marion Road (moved back from FFY2021); New Bedford-County Street; Dartmouth- the realignment of Tucker Road; and Rehoboth - Winthrop Street (Route 44) & Anawan Street. In FFY2023 is the Wareham bike lanes along Narrows Road, pushed out from FFY2022; Taunton – Broadway (Route 138) phase 2; Mansfield- Chauncy Street; and Plainville – Washington at George Street.

The Future Element of the TIP is now called the Supplemental Projects List and those projects will be considered for inclusion in next year's TIP which is FFY2020-2024.

Paul Mission reminded the group that we are looking for a recommendation today to approve the recommended list of projects so it can recommend to the SMMPO on Tuesday to be released for a 21-day public comment period.

Mr. Azinheira asked for a motion to recommend the draft TIP as presented. The motion was seconded and approved UNANIMOUSLY.

Ms. Estrela-Pedro reminded the group where to find the TIP project list on SRPEDD's website from the link sent out and Mr. Mission reminded them that it is also linkable from the main page of the website. He asked that people review them electronically and ask us if you need a paper copy.

- 5. Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP):** Paul Mission started his presentation of the Draft FFY2019 UPWP by explaining that this document is the outline of transportation tasks and projects for the fiscal year from October 1, 2018 thru September 30, 2019. These tasks are separated into 4 elements and are completed through contracts with FHWA and FTA, as well as with GATRA and SRTA.

Mr. Mission continued by explaining the four major elements of the UPWP. The first element is Administrative and it supports tasks to help the JTPG, the SMMPO, managing our contracts, facilitating our Public Participation Program, Title VI and Environmental Justice, as well as the development of the UPWP and the TIP. The second element is Data Management and data collection which helps with studies and other work, and to maintain our regional model. It also

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supports the traffic count program which completes up to 140 traffic counts for the season, as well as conducting pavement management, performance measures, and community technical assistance. The third element covers the corridor studies and data research for studies and projects. The Regional Transportation Plan is due up this coming year and SRPEDD assess the regional transportation system and forecast needs for the next 25 years as part of this effort. This includes roads and bridges, transit, including SRTA and GATRA, as well as bicycle and pedestrian needs, and even airports in our region. The Management Systems task covers corridor studies including the upcoming Route 1 study in North Attleborough and Attleboro and the Route 6 study in Fairhaven, Mattapoisett, Marion and Wareham. We also have a task for bicycle and pedestrian planning, including Complete Streets and for ITS, Intermodal and Freight, and Flood Hazard Mitigation, which is environmental impacts, including climate change. We have a task for Mobility Management. The fourth element is Technical Assistance for the Regional Transit Authorities, GATRA and SRTA, including route analysis and transit data maintenance.

Mr. Mission concluded by stating that the handout and explanation is a condensed version of the entire UPWP and that this draft UPWP will be released for a 21-day comment period at the next SMMPO meeting. He then opened the floor for questions and comments.

Lloyd Mendes asked if regional transit studies were conducted only for GATRA and SRTA or for commuter bus services as well. Mr. Mission responded that we only study public transit service and commuter bus service is not considered public transit. Mr. Mendes inquired if we could possibly study private commuter bus service to Boston and Mr. Mission replied not at this time. Mr. Mission went on to explain that we do address the services provided by commuter bus in our region in the RTP.

Robert Burgmann asked why we did not study this since these commuter bus services were subsidized by MassDOT. Mr. Mission stated that we have not yet studied these services.

- 6. Southcoast Bikeway Alliance:** Bonne DeSousa of the Southcoast Bikeway Alliance thanked SRPEDD for technical assistance given to the Alliance over the last 8 years and how important that assistance has been. She continued to explain that the Alliance, which is an all-volunteer group, are bicycle advocates that work with local leaders to advocate to see the Bikeway built, especially working across communities. They are a non-profit organization.

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Ms. DeSousa had a presentation that displayed photos of the Quequechan River Rail Trail in downtown Fall River, depictions of the BayState Greenways, the SRPEDD regional Bike Plan and other bikeway highlights, including the Harbor Walk in New Bedford and the Mattapoissett Rail Trail. She identified locations in the South Coast where there are gaps in the bicycle system with a Strava heat map, included completed fragments and routes that are being considered since bikeway connections are very important. She explained that bicycling is important and the parts of the Southcoast bikeway has been designated an alternate route of the EastCoast Bikeway which runs from Key West, Florida to Maine. The Alliance is working on TIP projects as well as off-road projects such as at UMass Dartmouth for students and the Dartmouth community alike.

Two areas of concerns are a plan to disrupt the recently completed Quequechan Rail Trail in Fall River with a driveway that may be a hazard; and the South Watuppa Bike Path extension which is near the White's property which may be developed and expanded. We want to ensure that the bikeway is considered in this development. Ms. DeSousa announced their annual Southcoast Bikeway Alliance summit will be held on Thursday, May 3, 2018 at Fort Taber at 5:30 pm.

Lloyd Mendes commented on the Alliance's focus on regional bikers and scenic routes with a beautiful view which is a conflict to biking development for children in the town of Somerset and for economic development. Ms. DeSousa agreed with Mr. Mendes and stated that they did not have representatives from Somerset and Mr. Mendes added that they need reps from more towns and Ms. DeSousa agreed but added that connections between communities are also good for economic development.

- 7. Other Business:** Mr. Mission reminded the group that appointment sheets for JTPG members will be sent out next week and please remind appropriate parties concerning that. Next week will be the election of officers, including a Vice-Chair to replace Bill Roth, who left Fairhaven to become the city planner in Fall River and relinquished his JTPG spot.

Mr. Mission updated the group on the Road Inventory Files. We are still waiting for information from Quinn Malloy of MassDOT. It is a Geographic file that is used for communities and this is used for Chapter 90 apportionments and there are updates in the works and possibly an online service to submit updated information.

Mr. Mission informed the group about the April 24 & 25, 2018 Route 1 drop-in meetings, at the North Attleborough Library and the Coelho Middle School in Attleboro respectively. These

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meetings will allow people an opportunity to express their thoughts and wishes for the Route 1 corridor in North Attleborough and Attleboro.

- 8. Date, Time, Place for Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the JTPG is scheduled for Wednesday, May 9, 2018 at 2:00 PM at the SRPEDD office.
- 9. Adjournment:** After the announcement of the next meeting date and place, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made. The motion was seconded and approved UNANIMOUSLY. The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Lee Azinheira at 2:57 PM.