

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE
Joint Transportation Planning Group (JTPG)
Wednesday May 8, 2019, Held at SRPEDD
88 Broadway, Taunton, MA 02780

The following JTPG Members were in attendance:

Robert Burgmann, Town of Mattapoissett
Manuel H. Silva, City of New Bedford
Ben Muller, MassDOT OTP
Timothy Kochan, MassDOT – District 5
Paul DiGiuseppe, Town of Norton
Paul Foley, Town of Fairhaven
Ed Buckley, Town of Raynham
Paul Mission, SRPEDD
Lisa Estrela-Pedro, SRPEDD
Jackie Jones, SRPEDD
Charles Mills, SRPEDD

Alan Slavin, Town of Wareham
Jamie Pisano, VHB
Stephanie Crampton, City of New Bedford
Franklin Moniz, Town of Lakeville
Alex Bulhoes, McMahon Associates
Lee Azinheira, Town of Mansfield
Nancy Durfee, Town of Somerset
Luis De Oliveira, SRPEDD
Jen Chaves, SRPEDD
Guoqiang Li, SRPEDD
Angie Constantino, SRPEDD

Handouts:

1. Proposed FFY 2019-2023 TIP Amendments out to 21-day comment period
2. FFY 2020 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

1. **Call to order and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 2:06 PM, by Chairman Mr. Lee Azinheira, after which attendees introduced themselves.

2. **Public Comments:** Chairman Mr. 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 – April 16, 2019:** A motion was made to approve the minutes of the last JTPG meeting held on April 16, 2019. The motion was seconded and approved UNANIMOUSLY.

4. **JTPG Member Appointments:**

Mr. Paul Mission mentioned that Chief Elected Officials will receive an email with a JTPG Municipal Representative Appointment Form it is a 2-page document with an explanation of the appointment as well as all the materials that need to be filled out by the Mayor of each city or the Chair of the Board of Selectman. SRPEDD is looking to get this completed this month, so all JTPG Representatives need to talk with their Chief Elected Official and get this form back to SRPEDD as soon as possible. The document can be returned to Stacy Royer the office manager at SRPEDD by May 21, 2019. The document can be faxed, emailed, or

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send it through the mail. A list of the current members was listed on the back of the handout as well as a list of all position vacancies since the last appointments.

5. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP):

a. Draft FFY 2020-2024 TIP Presentation:

Ms. Lisa Estrela-Pedro presented the Draft FFY 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program and the steps that are needed to complete the document every year. Ms. Estrela-Pedro highlighted the Federal Metropolitan Planning Factors and explained that these factors outline what SRPEDD selected projects should be attempting to accomplish. She explained the Metropolitan Planning Factors to be to; support the economic vitality of the metropolitan area, especially by enabling global competitiveness, increase productivity and efficiency, increase the safety of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users, increase the security of the transportation system for motorized and non-motorized users, increase the accessibility and mobility of people and for freight, protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, improve the quality of life, and promote consistency between transportation improvements and state and local planned growth and economic development patterns, enhance the integration and connectivity of the transportation system, across and between modes, for people and freight, promote efficient system management and operation, emphasize the preservation of the existing transportation system. Ms. Estrela-Pedro explained that the following Planning Factors were established by Map-21 and the FAST Act adopted two additional planning factors that improve the resiliency and reliability of the transportation system and to reduce and mitigate storm water impacts as well as improve the transportation system to enhance travel and tourism.

Ms. Estrela-Pedro explained that when programming TIP projects SRPEDD's evaluation criteria takes into consideration the Federal Metropolitan Planning Factors.

Ms. Estrela-Pedro explained the performance measure goals that SRPEDD has adopted over the last few years. SRPEDD intends to maintain the existing highway infrastructure to a state of good repair, mitigate traffic congestion, reduce traffic fatalities, improve the reliability of the system, as well as sustain the environmental resources.

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Ms. Estrela-Pedro stated and explained the funding sources that gets distributed to the state, what MassDOT gets allocated, and what SRPEDD receives. Out of the available funding for MPOs, SRPEDD receives about 9% which in FFY2020 equates to about \$17 million once MassDOT put in their match SRPEDD will have a balance of about \$21.3 million to program projects.

Ms. Estrela-Pedro explained that on the transit side, over the next 5-years, FFY2020-FFY2024 GATRA has programmed about 48 million dollars for a number of projects. Most notably transit planning and the purchasing of new busses and vans. SRTA is programming about \$79 million which will be used to purchase support vehicles as well as purchase new busses.

Ms. Estrela-Pedro explained the Title VI and Environmental Justice Equity Analysis. She explained that it is completed on a 5-year cycle, the look back examines FFY2015-2019 TIP and the existing FFY2020-2024 TIP. For FFY2015-2019, there were 15 programmed projects and 10 of those projects fell within a Title VI or Environmental Justice area. SRPEDD spent about \$53.6 million serving these areas which equated to roughly 68% of the overall budget. In FFY2020-2024 there are 19 programmed projects and 11 of those projects fall within a Title VI or Environmental Justice area. SRPEDD is programmed to spend \$54.7 million serving these areas which equates to roughly 62% of the overall budget. There were a few larger scale projects in the lookback year particularly Route 6 and Route 28 that escalated the spending amount.

SRPEDD is required to perform a CMAQ analysis on all projects that show air quality improvements. This analysis is done for both the highway side and the transit side. The supplemental project list was provided in the handouts and Ms. Estrela-Pedro explained that it is projects that are waiting to get on the TIP. Finally, all of the projects that have been obligated will also be in the TIP.

The appendices are home to the Evaluation Criteria as well as the Title VI and Equity Analysis. Both are detailed thoroughly in the appendix section of the document.

Ms. Estrela-Pedro explained the TIP Development process and the schedule that is followed for completion. TIP Development and Highway project selection with the JTPG in December. JTPG recommended project selection to the MPO and approval in March. On April 16, 2019 the MPO released the FFY2020-2024 TIP to a 21-day public comment period. The public comment period will end on May 16, 2019 but SRPEDD will continue

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to take comments all the way up to endorsement. A public meeting was held on May 8, 2019 following the JTPG. SRPEDD is looking to have the TIP endorsed at the next SMMPO meeting on May 21, 2019.

Ms. Estrela-Pedro asked if there were any comments and explained the handouts to all members in attendance. She mentioned that the handouts included transit projects for GATRA and SRTA. As well as the proposed project list for the Highway Element for SRPEDD's Target Funds.

There were a few changes to the previous project list that occurred between the last JTPG and the SMMPO:

- In FFY 2020, the addition of the New Bedford Intersection Improvements on Acushnet Ave at Peckham Road and Sassaquin Avenue.
- In FFY 2022 the addition of the Swansea Route 6 at Gardners Neck Road project previously programmed on the statewide list.

There is currently a balance of \$3.6 million in 2020 as a result of Lakeville being pushed out a year because it needed more time. SRPEDD is working with MassDOT to see if there is a project in the works that can be advanced quickly.

Ms. Estrela-Pedro explained the informational handout on the statewide list and explained that it mostly funds bridge and pavement preservation projects.

The major projects on the Statewide list are:

- In FFY's 2021-2022 – Taunton Interchange Improvements at Routes 24 and 140
- In FFY's 2022-2024 – Fall River Corridor Improvements on Route 79 at Duval Street – The project will lower the highway to create a boulevard and promote Economic Development.
- In FFY 2023 – New Bedford superstructure replacement at I-195.

Mr. Paul Mission mentioned that the Route 79 project is tied into the South Coast Rail. He explained that South Coast Rail has recently received funding for Phase I of the project and a bulk of that construction will happen in the Triangle of track between Taunton, Fall River and New Bedford on the Fall River side from Battleship Cove to North Main Street. There will be a station located along the Boulevard. In addition, there is some integration with some transit projects that was not previously available.

A question was asked about the Taunton project that was not previously programmed and if it was previously involved with South Coast Rail.

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Mr. Mission explained that it is partially involved with South Coast Rail. Ms. Estrela-Pedro explained that it was a project that has been in the works for a while.

Ms. Estrela-Pedro explained the 2024 Supplemental Project List. If there is a project that has been missed Ms. Estrela-Pedro needs to be notified so it can be added to the list and be considered for funding in future TIP's.

A question was raised about the Norton project and why SRPEDD needs additional information.

Ms. Estrela-Pedro mentioned that they are trying to locate the PNF and PIF and have had trouble locating them. Since MassDOT have moved to an Online system it has been difficult to obtain PNFs and PIFs. Once they are approved they disappear.

Ms. Estrela-Pedro will contact MassDOT for assistance.

Ms. Estrela-Pedro asked if there was any questions or comments on the TIP Materials. There were none.

b. Proposed FFY 2019-2023 TIP Amendments out to 21-day comment period (**Materials Attached**)

Ms. Estrela-Pedro provided a handout for informational purposes about the amendments the SMMPO released for 21-day public comment period at the last meeting. There have been a few changes since the MPO meeting.

- Norton had a previous cost increase of about \$3 million it is now \$623,000
- New Bedford had a previous cost increase of about \$945,000 it is now \$1.8 million
- The Seekonk project remained the same and no longer has a cost increase.

Due to cost increases there was not enough target funds available to fund both projects. MassDOT has picked up \$168,000 with statewide funds to make up for the additional cost increase. These have already been released for public comment and were provided to the JTPG for informational purposes.

Ms. Estrela-Pedro stressed that it is crucial for accurate project costs. Unexpected cost increases can lead to projects being pushed out from the current year.

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c. Discussion of upcoming Mass. Project Intake Tool (MaPIT) Workshops

Mr. Paul Mission explained that the MaPIT tool is the online tool for initiating projects and getting them through the entire process. There are three workshops coming up hosted by Bay State Roads.

The MaPIT Schedule is as follows:

- May 14, 2019 in Barnstable at the Cape Cod Commission
- May 21, 2019 in Worcester at the Central Massachusetts Planning Commission
- May 30, 2019 in Brockton at the Old Colony Planning Commission

All of these workshops are open to the public and in order to attend you just need to fill out a registration form at Bay State Roads.

Mr. Mission mentioned that SRPEDD is willing to host a MaPIT workshop event in the Fall if there is enough interest. The workshops provide an opportunity for people to come in and understand the tool in more detail.

6. **FFY 2020 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)** – Presentation and discussion on SRPEDD work program for the Transportation Department (**Materials Attached**)

Mr. Mission explained that there is a short handout of the Draft version of the Unified Planning Work Program. The UPWP explains all of the things that SRPEDD does for transportation in the region. It is supported with Map-21 and the FAST Act. Mr. Mission explained the FAST Act and how it will be expiring next year and there have been internal discussions in Washington about a new FAST Act Bill. Mr. Mission went through the FAST Act and explained the funding sources saying that it is a combination of Federal Highway and Federal Transit funding sources.

The breakdown of funding:

- 80% - FHWA-PL Contract
- 100% - 5307 – GATRA and SRTA
- 20% - MassDOT Contract
- 80% - FTA 5303

The UPWP is developed to support the JTPG, MPO, MassDOT, RTA's like GATRA and SRTA.

There are four elements to the UPWP:

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- Management and Support – Having enough funds to support the transportation planning discussion and the programming that is done including the TIP and public outreach.
- Regional Data Collection – Provides the ability to collect the information to do regional modeling. The traffic count program comes out of this section and SRPEDD completes between 100 and 150 traffic counts per year as well as turning movement counts. This section also provides funding for Community Technical Assistance. An example of this was evident in the North of New Bedford when Manny requested a TMC at an intersection in Northern New Bedford to see if it warranted a signal.
- Transportation Planning Activities – This includes many of SRPEDD’s regional transit studies. It focuses on studies that are brought in specifically from the RTP. SRPEDD intends to support all other recommendations from the RTP. Management Systems is one of the sections where we look at traffic and safety management that are identified in the RTP. SRPEDD is on course to finish the Route 6 study. SRPEDD also participants in Road Safety Audits throughout the region. The Bicycle and Pedestrian section allows us to understand the East/West and North/South flow of off road bicycle facilities across the region. There is a section that looks at intermodal freight and ITS to solve traffic congestion with ITS. SRPEDD is continuing with Flood Mitigation, and SRPEDD has been collecting data on vulnerable areas for flooding.
- Technical Planning – SRPEDD supports GATRA and SRTA with transit planning. SRPEDD supports that through data collection with NTD as well as making recommendations for transit needs.

In general, this work program supports many of our transportation staff. Mr. Mission explained that the UPWP also supports the comprehensive planning department as well as other aspects of planning within the office. Mr. Mission then went around the room introducing all SRPEDD Staff members and their role in Planning Activities within the office.

The draft UPWP will be presented and released to a 21-day comment period on May 21, 2019 at the SMMPO meeting.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns please send your comments to Mr. Mission. Draft copies of the UPWP will be available after the MPO votes to release the document.

7. FFY 2020 Regional Transportation Plan – Presentation and Discussion of Chapters

Mr. Mission explained that SRPEDD is currently in the process of developing the Long Range Transportation Plan. Mr. Mission explained that one chapter in particular that is important for developing the RTP is the Trends section. It provides insight into the trends and

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understanding of travel patterns. Through the US Census and the ACS data we are seeing interesting, unsurprising trends. SRPEDD saw population growth between 2000 and 2010 increasing about 3% and through 2010 and 2015 population growth has increased about 1%. It seems that the recession in 2008 has kept SRPEDD in more of a recovery stage.

The top three communities for population growth are:

- Dartmouth
- Middleboro
- Wareham

There has been some housing growth that has followed a similar path. SRPEDD was able to look at the building permits from 2000-2005 and noticed that they were issuing about 2,000 building permits during that time frame. After the recession SRPEDD noticed that the building permits between 2008-2015 went down to less than 700/year. After 2008, the number of issued building permits has remained stagnant. Ultimately, the growth that occurred at the beginning of the decade seems to have significantly tapered off.

The employment sector was looked at as well and prior to 2008 Southeastern Massachusetts had strong employment. The recession in 2008 significantly decreased the amount of available employment, but SRPEDD is beginning to see that it is slowly creeping back at a slower pace.

The top three employment communities are:

- Dartmouth
- Raynham
- Wareham

The largest growth sector is the healthcare and social assistance sector. The second was retail and the third was manufacturing. By comparing population, housing and employment at one point, SRPEDD was looking at a 6% increase in housing but the more alarming figure is the <1% increase in the employment sector. Many of these changes are due to families being smaller in size, the baby boomers are retiring and looking to move to warmer states or New Hampshire. There is a smaller work force which results in a smaller employment sector.

About 31% of people live in the region and commute out of the region. About 54% live and work in the region. So at this point SRPEDD remains a bedroom region.

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Mr. Mission mentioned that the most alarming trend is commuters using Single Occupancy Vehicles (SOV). SRPEDD remains reliant on the SOV. SRPEDD has had many of the same problems for years and with the advent of South Coast Rail how will that promote residents to reduce the SOV and use a transit service like South Coast Rail. Mr. Mission mentioned that unless things change, traffic congestion to the North will continue.

A discussion ensued about future trends in transportation, and land use in the region, and across the state. Many points were made with ideas to develop neat and efficient ways to combat these issues. It was also noted that in order to combat these future trends developing policies that can focus on these issues is crucial to development throughout the region.

8. Other Business

Mr. Mission mentioned that the SRPEDD Annual Dinner will be held on May 22, 2019.

9. Date, Time, Place for Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday June 12, 2019 at 2:00 at SRPEDD. This meeting may consist of the SRPEDD JTPG Annual Picnic.

10. Adjourn

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:20 PM. The motion was seconded and APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.