

## *Joint Transportation Planning Group*

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Minutes of the meeting held on  
Wednesday, September 12, 2018 at SRPEDD, Taunton MA

### **In attendance were the following:**

The following JTPG Members were in attendance:

Lee Azinheira , Town of Mansfield	Pamela Haznar, MassDOT District 5
Deborah Melino-Wender, Town of Dartmouth	Alan Slavin, Town of Wareham
Jon Henry, Town of Marion	Jim Hartnett, Town of Westport
Shayne Trimbell, SRTA	Tim Kochan, MassDOT District 5
Stephanie Crampton, City of New Bedford	Manuel Silva, City of New Bedford
Dave Hickox, Town of Dartmouth	Jamie Pisano, VHB
Paul DiGuiseppe, Town of Norton	Brian Martin, Town of Somerset
Mary-Ellen DeFrias, Mass Development	Gloria McPherson, Town of Fairhaven
Leeann Bradley, Town of Middleborough	Dave Cabral, Town of Seekonk
Derek Krevat, MassDOT OTP	Ed Buckley, Town of Raynham
Paul Mission, SRPEDD	Joanne Haracz, McMahan Associates
Lisa Estrela-Pedro, SRPEDD	Lilia Cabral-Bernard, SRPEDD
Charlie Mills, SRPEDD	Guoqiang Li, SRPEDD
Kyle Richard, SRPEDD	

- 1. Call to Order and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 2:04 PM by Chairman Lee Azinheira, after which the attendees introduced themselves.
- 2. Public Comments:** Mr. Azinheira opened the floor to any members of the public that wish 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 June 19, 2018. The motion was seconded and approved UNANIMOUSLY.
- 4. Evaluation Criteria:** Before Lisa Estrela-Pedro began her presentation on the update of the TIP evaluation criteria, she read a comment received by Lloyd Mendes of Somerset stating that he believes that a project having regional significance should score higher than a local project. Ms. Estrela-Pedro's presentation outlined where additions or subtractions of attainable scoring points were made to the scoring criteria so that the highest attainable score was changed from 87 to 100. During the presentation, Deborah Melino-Wender raised a question in regards to why there are negative scores because she feels that giving a project a score of zero in a category is adequate. Ms. Estrela-Pedro replied that allowing for negative points under categories is intended to make it apparent to municipalities that there is an element of a project that is not being addressed and the municipality needs to do so. Various attendees then

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exchanged ideas and opinions both for and against the inclusion of negative values in scoring criteria and what this could potentially mean for a project in competition with others for priority in the TIP. Ms. Estrela-Pedro also mentioned these proposed changes are preliminary and are certainly subject to change or modification if anyone were to make such a suggestion.

After reviewing changes to the scoring criteria, Ms. Estrela-Pedro announced that if anyone has any questions, concerns or recommendations regarding the criteria that they are encouraged to contact her at SRPEDD. Mr. Mission announced that within the coming month, the JTPG will be asked to vote on the inclusion of this criteria with the Transportation Improvement Program prior to the programming of projects for the upcoming TIP, which begins between January and February.

### **5. Transportation Improvement Program:**

**b. Proposed Projects for Consideration in FFY2020-2024 TIP:** Ms. Estrela-Pedro announced that projects are now being considered for programming into the FFY2020-2024 TIP. A handout listing these projects was provided for the meeting. Aside from those projects listed on the handout, comments were received regarding two other potential projects that will be added to the those listed on the handout, specifically two resurfacing projects in both Seekonk / Rehoboth on Route 6 and in Lakeville on County Street. Lisa stated that if a community has a potential project that they would like to see programmed into the future element of the TIP that they can contact her regarding those projects. Lisa made a point that was reiterated later on in the meeting by Ms. Haznar stating that in order to get a project programmed, it is important that the project progresses quickly, particularly projects smaller in scale.

#### **a. Projects Advertised / Design Updates – An update on TIP projects from MassDOT**

**District 5:** This agenda item was inadvertently skipped over and Ms. Haznar gave the project update at this point in the meeting. Ms. Haznar began by pointing out that MassDOT is becoming more stringent on project readiness before inclusion in the TIP as well as looking to refrain from including projects that are advertised in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of the Federal Fiscal Year. Ms. Haznar also commented on a point raised by Mr. Mission previously in regards to what is entailed in a resurfacing project with regards to the inclusion of bicycle and pedestrian accommodations per MassDOT's requirements stating that resurfacing projects along roads other than limited access highways will no longer consist of simply resurfacing the roadway. At a minimum a project has to include the construction of bicycle and

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pedestrian accommodations as well as reviewing safety issues to address them in the project. The following project updates were provided.

### **FFY2018:**

- Wareham: Rte. 6 & 28 Reconstruction Project – scheduled to be advertised one week from September 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Seekonk / Rehoboth: I-195 Resurfacing Project – scheduled to be advertised.
- Norton / Taunton: Cable Barrier Installation along I-495 – has been advertised with bid opening in November.
- Attleboro to Norwood: Guide Sign Replacement along I-95: will be advertised on September 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Fall River: Safe Routes to School Project – has been advertised with bid opening in October.
- New Bedford: Safe Routes to School Project – has been advertised with bid opening in November.
- Mattapoisett: Construction of Shared Use Path – has been advertised with bid opening in January.

### **FFY2019:**

- Seekonk: Rte. 114A at County St. Intersection Improvements Project – 100% is due by the end of September.
- Norton: Rte. 123 Corridor Improvements Project – 100% was due but not received.
- New Bedford: Kings Highway Signalization and Improvements Project – 75% were received and are under review.
- Rehoboth: Rte. 44 Resurfacing Project – approaching 100% design.
- Middleborough: Pavement Preservation along I-495 – approaching 75% design.
- Fall River / Somerset: Stormwater Improvements along I-195 and Rte. 79 – at pre-25% design.
- Attleboro: Pavement Preservation along I-95 – approaching 100% design.
- Middleborough / Carver: Rte. 44 Resurfacing project – at 100% design.
- Acushnet: Hamlin Street Bridge Replacement Project – design public hearing to be held on September 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Wareham / Bourne: Rte. 25 Resurfacing Project – approaching 75% design.
- Fall River: Rte. 24 Resurfacing Project – approaching 100% design.

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- Southcoast Rail Early Action: Construction of Four Bridges – approaching 100% design.

### **FFY2020:**

- Taunton: Rte. 138 Reconstruction Project – at 25% design and design public hearing will be held on September 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Lakeville: Rte. 79 Reconstruction Project – at 25% design.
- New Bedford: Hathaway Rd. / Mt. Pleasant St. / Nauset St. Intersection Improvements – at 25% design and design public hearing will be scheduled soon.
- Middleborough: Everett Square Intersection Improvements – at 25% design.
- Fall River: Rte. 79 / Davol St. Corridor Improvements – kickoff meeting to be held in August, 2019.

After announcing updates for these projects, Ms. Haznar mentioned that a public information meeting for the Route 1, Route 1A and Route 123 project will be held tomorrow and also mentioned that 25% design submittals were received for the Raynham Rte. 138 project.

### **6. Southeastern Regional Transit Authority (SRTA) – Updates by SRTA Staff on the Following Projects:**

**a. New Bedford Terminal Relocation Study:** Shayne Trimbell of SRTA announced that SRTA will be conducting a terminal relocation study for their New Bedford terminal and to determine current federal interest in the project, as well as determining the feasibility of various other sites within downtown New Bedford for the construction of the new terminal and the costs associated with doing so. Advertisement of the study began on September 4<sup>th</sup> and a pre-proposal meeting will be held on September 18<sup>th</sup> at the SRTA offices at 10:00 AM. Proposals for the study will be due on October 23<sup>rd</sup> and a notice to proceed will be issued on or before November 20<sup>th</sup>. Final deliverables will be due by the end of January, 2020 and will require a presentation to the SRTA Advisory board. Mr. Mission inquired as to whether or not the same presentation could be made before the JTPG, to which Mr. Trimbell replied saying that a presentation could be made once a consultant has been secured to and can discuss the final scope of the study.

**b. Proposed Transit Signal Prioritization:** Mr. Trimbell also announced that SRTA will be conducting a study to establish the possibility of establishing a transit signal prioritization system between buses and the existing traffic signals. The system would effectively allow

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for an extended green light phase, within certain parameters, as an SRTA bus approaches the intersection allowing the bus to make more green lights and ultimately expediting the buses travel overall. Initially, 3 major intersections along the Route 6 corridor will be considered for the installation of such equipment in New Bedford and Dartmouth, namely Route 6 at Pleasant and Foster Streets (otherwise known as the 'Octopus'), Rockdale Avenue at Mill and Kempton Streets and Faunce Corner Road at Route 6. Ms. Haznar provided some clarification distinguishing this type of system being similar to an adaptive signal system from an Opticom emergency vehicle preemption system which changes lights to favor approaching emergency vehicles rather than maintaining an existing green light phase.

- 7. 2019 Regional Transportation Plan Update:** Mr. Mission announced that SRPEDD is about to begin the update of their Regional Transportation Plan, which must take place per the requirement of the federal government every 4 years. Lilia Cabral-Bernard then discussed how SRPEDD will be conducting their public outreach efforts as a part of this update of the plan. These efforts will consist of a public survey looking for transportation feedback. To get survey responses, there will be a distribution of posters in public places such as city and town halls and libraries, as well as bus terminals throughout the 27 communities that fall within SRPEDD's region. These posters will have both a web URL and QR code link to the survey that citizens can take as a part of the public outreach effort. Tri-fold pamphlets listing more detailed information about the plan and postcards in 4 languages will also be distributed throughout the region. communities. All materials contain a QR reader and a survey link and the translated postcards have links to Portuguese, Spanish and Haitian Creole versions of the survey.

Mr. Mission also mentioned that more news and information about the plan as well as SRPEDD in general can be found on SRPEDD's Facebook page, to which Ms. Cabral-Bernard added that if attendees were following SRPEDD's Facebook page, they would have seen the announcement that SRPEDD's Environmental Planner, Bill Napolitano, was being granted a lifetime achievement award by the EPA at Faneuil Hall for his efforts in environmental planning through his career. Derek Krevat inquired about beginning and ending dates for the online survey, to which Ms. Cabral-Bernard replied stating that the survey is currently live and the closing date is tentative.

- 8. Other Business:** Mr. Mission had prepared to discuss various other business items, one of which Ms. Cabral-Bernard address previously in regards to Bill Napolitano. Mr. Mission did announce that following the meeting of the JTPG, a task force meeting will be held regarding

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the Bus Stop Capital Improvement Plan and encouraged members of the JTPG to attend if they were interested in doing so. Mr. Mission also announced that he attended a meeting hosted by the Tri-Town Chamber of Commerce for the towns of Mansfield, Norton and Foxboro to discuss the current federal legislation regarding public-private partnerships in the maintenance of rest stops along interstate highways. This meeting was intended to discuss the possibility of changing legislation to allow these partnerships to lessen the burden on the state to maintain these rest areas given that a number of them are lacking in amenities. The improved maintenance of these locations would also allow for more opportunities for truck drivers to lay over before arriving at their destinations.

- 9. Date, Time, Place for Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the JTPG will be held on October 10, 2018 at 2:00 PM at SRPEDD
  
- 10. Adjournment:** After the announcement of the next meeting, a motion to adjourn was made. The motion was seconded and approved UNANIMOUSLY. The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Lee Azinheira at 2:59 PM.