

Joint Transportation Planning Group

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

The following JTPG Members were in attendance:

Lee Azinheira, Town of Mansfield	Derek Krevat, MassDOT OTP
Deborah Melino-Wender, Town of Dartmouth	Cassandra Bligh, MassDOT OTP
Alan Slavin, Town of Wareham	Tim Kochan, MassDOT District 5
Shayne Trimbell, SRTA	Paul DiGuseppe, Town of Norton
Manuel Silva, City of New Bedford	Jamie Pisano, VHB
Brian Martin, Town of Somerset	Robert Burgmann, Town of Mattapoisett
Mary-Ellen DeFrias, Mass Development	Gloria McPherson, Town of Fairhaven
Vinnie Furtado, Town of Fairhaven	Joe Callahan, Town of Berkley
Leeann Bradley, Town of Middleborough	JR Frey, City of Fall River
Lloyd Mendes, Somerset Resident	Paul Mission, SRPEDD
Lisa Estrela-Pedro, SRPEDD	Jackie Jones, SRPEDD
Charlie Mills, SRPEDD	Guoqiang Li, SRPEDD
Jennifer Chaves, 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 wished to address the JTPG. Lloyd Mendes, speaking as a member of the public, stated that he had a comment regarding the TIP. It was decided to have him speak during the agenda item #6 which addresses the TIP.
- 3. Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made to approve the minutes of the last JTPG meeting held on September 12, 2018. The motion was seconded and approved UNANIMOUSLY.
- 4. Safe Routes to School (SRTS):** Cassandra Bligh gave a program overview of the Safe Routes to School program. The federally funded program works with schools, communities, students, and families to increase active transportation among elementary and middle school students. The program offers funding to improve walking and biking conditions within a 2-mile radius of a public school. SRTS is in the state portion of the TIP, not the MPO portion, but SRTS projects would get programmed in the Regional TIP. The difference is that SRTS will pay for the design. To be eligible, a school has to be partnered with the SRTS program for at least six months. The application period will start in November with a new application format as part of the Massachusetts Project Intake Tool (MaPIT). Projects that are approved and have funding are

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anticipated to begin in late 2019 and continue into 2020. Schools that are not currently involved but would like to can contact the program director, Diane Hanson at diane.hanson@state.ma.us.

5. 2019 Regional Transportation Plan Update:

Paul Mission discussed SRPEDD's preparation for public outreach for the Regional Transportation Plan. SRPEDD staff has distributed flyers, pamphlets, postcards, as well as an online survey to SRPEDD's communities. Mr. Mission stated that SRPEDD would also like to leave Regional Transportation Plan materials at town meetings, forums, etc. and was open to any other suggestions on how to best reach the public. Various JTPG members supplied Mr. Mission with upcoming Town meeting dates and contact names.

6. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP):

Paul Mission stated that SRPEDD is in the process of assembling projects. SRPEDD is looking to update their evaluation criteria based on Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP2).

Lisa Estrela-Pedro discussed comments that were received after her presentation at the last JTPG meeting. Multiple comments regarding the point system were received. Ms. Estrela-Pedro suggested that a subcommittee be formed to discuss the point system. Various JTPG members volunteered. Ms. Estrela-Pedro will coordinate the subcommittee meetings and contact those that are interested.

7. Other Business:

Paul Mission stated that Quinn Molloy, MassDOT OTP, sent an email regarding a new Road Inventory Update process that will be debuted at 2018 Moving Together conference on November 1st. The Road Inventory Submission Application is a tool that allows local and/or regional governments the ability to submit changes to the Massachusetts Road Inventory File (RIF) using an online portal. This process will replace the traditional New Road Update Forms. Access to this portal will be via the GeoDOT website. To request a GeoDOT account you may do so via their website www.mass.gov/forms/request-a-geodot-account or contact Quinn at Quinn.molloy@dot.state.ma.us. Mr. Mission stated that SRPEDD has staff available to assist with GeoDOT submissions, whether it be for Road Inventory or the MaPIT program (Massachusetts Project Intake Tool).

Paul Mission announced that Jackie Jones will be presenting Regional Connectivity and the South Coast Bikeway at the annual Moving Together conference on November 1st at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel.

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Paul Mission informed the group about a recently attended meeting regarding the I-495 / I-90 interchange. He stated that the surrounding land consists of wetlands, therefore a flyover is being considered. Mr. Mission stated that it will be a similar process as was done in Fall River with the 'spaghetti ramps.' Mr. Mission indicated that the improved traffic flow in that area will hopefully improve freight movement in the SRPEDD I-495 area.

Tim Kochan stated that he has reviewed, scored, and moved forward the Complete Streets applications that were received. Awards may occur in November. Applications were as follows:

1. Dighton: sidewalk and intersection improvements on Center Street, Somerset Avenue, Pearl Street, and School Street and includes bike signage-\$400,000
2. New Bedford: sidewalk repairs and ADA compliant curb ramps, detectable warnings, and crosswalks on a segment of Purchase Street-\$112,000
3. Somerset: sidewalk improvements on segment of Riverside Avenue between Bourne Avenue and Marvel Street with raised intersection, new sidewalks, crosswalks, sharrows, and ADA compliant curb ramps-\$400,000

Tim Kochan provided the following updates:

- Norton/Mansfield Trail: design engineer response to MassDOT comments was received in late August.
- Wareham Routes 6 and 28: construction bid is opening on January 15th.

Paul Mission stated that the MassDOT is hosting a kick off meeting for the Route 79 Boulevard Project. It will be held on Monday, October 15th from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm at City Hall in the first floor Council Chambers room.

- 8. Date, Time, Place for Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the JTPG will be held on November 14, 2018 at 2:00 PM at SRPEDD
- 9. 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 2:56 PM.