

Minutes for the Meeting of the
Southeastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (SMMPO)
Tuesday, April 16, 2019
Held at SRPEDD, 88 Broadway, Taunton, MA

The following SMMPO Members were in attendance:

Bryan Pounds	Representing Stephanie Pollack, Chair, Secretary and CEO, MassDOT
J.R. Frey	Representing Jasiel F. Correia II, Mayor of the City of Fall River
Pamela Haznar	Representing Jonathan Gulliver, MassDOT Highway Div. Administrator
Shayne Trimbell	Representing Erik Rousseau, SRTA Administrator
Anthony Abreu	Representing Thomas Hoye, Mayor of the City of Taunton
Ron Morgan	Representing Frank Gay, GATRA Administrator
Manuel Silva	Representing Jon Mitchell, Mayor of the City of New Bedford
Deborah Melino-Wender	SRPEDD Commission Chair
Alan Slavin	Representing the Town of Wareham
Leilani Dalpe	Representing the Town of Middleborough

The following were also present:

Jeffrey Walker, SRPEDD	Timothy Kochan, MassDOT
Paul Mission, SRPEDD	Lee Azinheira, JTPG Chairman
Lisa Estrela-Pedro, SRPEDD	Lilia Cabral-Bernard, SRPEDD
Ben Muller, MassDOT	

Handouts:

1. Agenda
2. Proposed Amendments #2, #3 and Adjustment #4 FFY 2019-2023 TIP
3. Amendment #3 Performance Based Planning and Measures
4. Proposed FFY 2020-2024 draft TIP Table of Contents
5. Attachment #1 draft FFY 2020-2024 TIP Federal Highway list
6. Simplified draft FFY 2020-2024 TIP State Projects List
7. Simplified draft FFY 2020-2024 TIP Target Funding Project List
8. Attachment #4 draft FFY 2020-2024 GATRA project list
9. Attachment #5 draft FFY 2020-2024 SRTA project list
10. The draft 2020 Public Participation Program (PPP)
11. Performance Based Planning and Programming Agreement

1. **Call to Order and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM by Chairman Bryan Pounds, after which attendees introduced themselves.
2. **Public Comments:** Chairman Bryan Pounds stated that there were no members of the public present for public comment and moved to item 3 on the agenda.

3. Approval of Minutes - March 19, 2019:

Chairman Pounds asked for a motion and a second to accept the minutes of the March 19, 2019 meeting of the SMMPO into the record. The motion was made and Mr. Pounds asked if there were any questions and comments. There were none. The motion was APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. The FFY 2019-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) –

a. Amendments to the FFY 2019-2023 TIP Presented at the March 19th SMMPO

- i. Multi Use Path Design Project, Dighton (FLAP Grant)**
- ii. Repurposed earmark for the Demolition of MassDOT Maintenance Facility**

Ms. Estrela-Pedro began by explaining that these were the two amendments that were released for a 21-day public comment period at the last SMMPO meeting. She pointed out the appropriate handouts where to find these amendments which concern the multi-use path project in Dighton using FLAP grant funds and the repurposed earmark being used for the demolition of a MassDOT maintenance facility in Taunton. Ms. Estrela-Pedro explained that a public meeting was held on April 3, 2019 to receive comments but no comments were received.

Mr. Pounds asked for a motion to endorse these amendments the motion was then seconded. Mr. Pounds then asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none. Mr. Pounds asked the body to approve the motion by signifying “Aye.” The motion to endorse these amendments was APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

b. Amendments to the FFY 2019-2023 TIP for consideration-

- i. Route 123 Corridor, Norton – Cost Increase and Additional Funding Source**
- ii. Kings Highway Corridor Improvements, New Bedford – Cost Increase**
- iii. Fall River Ave. (Route 114A) at County St., Seekonk – Cost Increase**
- iv. Performance Based Planning (PM1, PM2, PM3 and TAM targets) language**

Ms. Estrela-Pedro explained that the first 3 amendments involved significant cost increases and this has caused us to exceed our targeted TIP funding so MassDOT is stepping in make up the difference with statewide funds. She pointed out the appropriate handouts and listed the cost increases as follows: for the Norton project, the cost went from \$7.2 million to \$10.3 million, the New Bedford project went from \$8.5 to \$9.4 million and the Seekonk project went from \$2.5 to \$3.5 million.

The fourth amendment involves performance based planning measures. Ms. Estrela-Pedro explained that in the FFY 2019-2023 TIP, we talk about performance measures for safety (PM1) 2018 targets. Since then the SMMPO has adopted the 2019 targets for PM1 on January 15 of this year. The SMMPO also adopted the targets for PM2 (bridge & pavement) and for reliability, congestion and emissions in October 2018. They also adopted the TAM plans from the Regional

Transit Agencies at the last meeting and all this updated language, including 2019 targets, has to be amended into our existing FFY 2019-2023 TIP, as well as into the draft FFY 2020-2024 TIP.

Mr. Pounds asked for a motion and a second to release these amendments for a 21-day public comment period before he opened the floor to comments and questions. A motion was made and seconded. Mr. Pounds explained that our federal partners are requiring the draft TIP document to be in compliance with performance based planning, and all MPO's need to do this. Mr. Pounds then asked for a vote. The motion to release these amendments for a 21- day comment period was APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

c. Administrative Adjustment to FFY 2019-2023 TIP – Route 24, Fall River – Cost Increase.

Ms. Estrela-Pedro explained that the Route 24 project in Fall River had a cost increase from \$10.6 to \$11 million dollars and she asked the MPO body to make this adjustment. Mr. Pounds wanted to verify that all information on the project was correct, including the project description. Ms. Haznar explained that the price increase was due to a storm water component being incorporated into the project. Mr. Pounds, Ms. Haznar and Ms. Estrela-Pedro then verified that all information was correct. Mr. Pounds asked for a motion and a second to approve this administrative adjustment. The motion to approve the administrative adjustment was APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. Presentation of the DRAFT FFY 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program -

Ms. Estrela-Pedro explained that the handouts for the presentation FFY 2020-2024 TIP include the Table of Contents and a listing of attachments and appendices for the entire for the TIP because the document is too large to print and because it is being updated constantly. The other handouts include Attachment #1 Federal Highway Project list for FFY 2020-2024, and two additional sheets that are a simplified listing of projects programmed with target funds and a listing of all statewide projects. She continued by explaining that that the projects programmed with statewide funds are those that were considered as the best scenario at the last SMMPO meeting. Ms. Estrela-Pedro also pointed out the appropriate handouts for all statewide projects including a new project for the Route 24 at Route 140 interchange project using statewide funds that was just added to the list and is not included in the handouts.

Ms. Estrela-Pedro informed the group that the draft TIP had been posted on the SRPEDD website and we are asking the body to release the draft for a 21-day public comment period. She then quickly reviewed the projects and equipment included in Attachments #4 and #5, GATRA's and SRTA's project lists. Ms. Leilani Dalpe complimented GATRA's service for a special event in Middleborough.

Mr. Pounds asked for a motion and a second to release the draft FFY 2020-2024 TIP for a 21-day public comment period and then open it up to questions. There were no questions. Mr. Pounds asked for a vote. The motion to release the draft for a 21-day public comment period was APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. Presentation of the 2020 Public Participation Plan (PPP) –

Ms. Cabral-Bernard explained that the Public Participation Program is traditionally updated on the same schedule as the Regional Transportation Plan. She explained that the last 2016 update was a major re-write so there were very few changes to this update, just some minor text additions. She referred to the handout, pointing out the additions made were highlighted in red text and the deletions were shown as strike-thrus in blue. She pointed out that the PPP is required to have a 45-day public comment period, and asked the body to release it. She continued by stating that the document had been posted on SRPEDD's website and widely distributed, including to nearly 80 e-mail contacts including social service agencies.

Mr. Pounds asked for a motion and a second to release the draft FFY 2020 Public Participation Program for a 45-day public comment period and then opened the floor up to comments questions. There were no questions. Mr. Pounds stated that this document would be endorsed in June and then asked for a vote. The motion to approve the release the PPP for a 45-day Public comment period was APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. Performance Measure Based Planning - Performance Based Planning Agreement between the SMMPO, MassDOT and the Massachusetts Regional Transit Agencies-

Mr. Mission explained that the Performance Based Planning Agreement is an agreement between the SMMPO, MassDOT and the Regional Transit Agencies (GATRA and SRTA) which signifies that all agencies will adopt these procedures as part of the MPO process. We have to decide if we are adopting this today. ALL MPO's and the RTA's also have to sign onto this agreement. The Secretary of Transportation, being the chair of all 13 MPOs within the state will sign on behalf of the MPOs.

Mr. Pounds clarified that this is a federally required document that MassDOT enters into an agreement with the MPO's, RTA's, public operators, etc. The document had incorporated guidance from RPA's and federal partners and we have most of the signatories that we need. All the MPO's are being asked to sign off this month.

Mr. Pounds asked the SMMPO to endorse this today. There was a motion and second to endorse the Performance Based Planning Agreement and the motion was APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. Other Business-

Mr. Mission explained that he had 3 items, the first was that materials for the upcoming MPO elections would be distributed to the appropriate communities the week of April 29. This is done annually to choose 2 Selectman to the MPO, each for a two-year term and Alan Slavin of Wareham and Leilani Dalpe of Middleborough are up for re-election for the term August 1, 2019 to July 31, 2021.

The second item is a Baystate Roads Workshop on the MassDOT Project Intake Tool for developing TIP projects. OCPC is hosting a workshop on May 30, 2019 at 9 AM and is a good opportunity to learn or to refresh the process.

The third item is important dates that are upcoming. On May 21st we'll be endorsing the FFY 2020-2024 TIP and releasing the draft FFY 2020 UPWP. June 18th is the endorsement of the UPWP and the endorsement of the FFY 2020 PPP, and also to release the FFY 2020 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) for a 21-day public comment period. On July 16th we'll be focused on the endorsement of the RTP.

May 22 is the SRPEDD Annual Dinner meeting at the Fireside Grill in Middleborough.

Leilani Dalpe brought up the issue of people attempting to cross Route 44 in Middleborough due to public events, visits and tourism and what could possibly be done. Mr. Pounds suggested keeping the lines of communication open with the MassDOT District 5 office to address these issues.

Mr. Pounds asked about the presentation of the RTP next month. Mr. Mission responded that we will have chapters to present, and 2/3 of the RTP will be done by the end of May. Mr. Pounds asked about a Preferred Projects List. Mr. Mission mentioned Route 24 at Route 140 is finally being funded but that the Fairhaven Bridge still needs to be addressed. Discussion ensued on these and other major projects on the TIP, including Rte. 79 / Davol Street in Fall River.

Mr. Pounds explained that we should not focus too much on the financial part of the RTP, but the vision and structure of the document is very important. The financial constraints and performance measures are the 'final filters' for the RTP.

Mr. Mission added that the infrastructure projects are the easy part, but it is other aspects, including the continuation of transit funding in our region and South Coast Rail, that are the concerns. A good deal of our public outreach efforts is taken up answering questions about the rail service. These discussions are what should we put in the plan as an outline for the future regardless of financial constraint.

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Ms. Melino-Wender stated that we should be sure that it is a transportation plan and not just a highway road plan.

9. Date, Time, Place for Next Meeting – As stated earlier in the meeting the next SMMPO meeting is scheduled for May 21, 2019 at 1 pm in the SRPEDD office.

10. Adjourn – There was a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY. The meeting adjourned at 1:33 PM.