

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE  
**Southeastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (SMMPO)**  
**Tuesday, April 17, 2018**

Held at SRPEDD  
88 Broadway, Taunton, MA

The following SMMPO Members were in attendance:

Steve Woelfel	Representing Stephanie Pollack, Secretary & CEO of MassDOT
Pamela Haznar	Representing Jonathan Gulliver, MassDOT Highway Div. Administrator
J.R. Frey	Representing Jasiel F. Correia II, Mayor of the City of Fall River
Manuel Silva	Representing John Mitchell, Mayor of the City of New Bedford
Shayne Trimbell	Representing Erik Rousseau, SRTA Administrator
Francis Gay	GATRA Administrator
Alan Slavin	Representing the Town of Wareham
Dave Hickox	Representing Deborah Melino-Wender, SRPEDD Commission Chair
Steve Ouellette	Representing the Town of Westport

The following were also present:

Lee Azinheira, JTPG	Timothy Kochan, MassDOT District 5
Paul Mission, SRPEDD	Derek Krevat, MassDOT OTP
Lisa Estrela-Pedro, SRPEDD	Amy Laura Cahn, CLF
Lilia Cabral-Bernard, SRPEDD	Jamie Ponte, City of New Bedford
Jeffrey Walker, SRPEDD	
Kyle Richard, SRPEDD	

Handouts:

1. April 17, 2018 MPO Agenda
2. FFY 2018-2022 Proposed TIP Amendment #2
3. FFY 2018-2022 Proposed TIP Amendment #3 & Adjustment #3
4. DRAFT FFY2019-2023 TIP Highway Project List
5. DRAFT GATRA FFY 2019-2023 Project List
6. SMMOP MOU DRAFT 2018
7. Route 1 Corridor Study Drop-In Meeting Flyer

- 1) Call to Order and Introductions** - The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM by Chairman Steve Woelfel and attendees introduced themselves.
- 2) Public Comments** - Chairman Woelfel opened the floor to give an opportunity for the public to address the SMMPO. No public comments were made.

**3) Approval of SMMPO MARCH 20, 2018 Minutes** – Chairman Woelfel asked if everyone had reviewed the minutes and if there were any comments or changes. Pamela Haznar pointed out that she was representing Jonathan Gulliver, but he was no longer the acting administrator for the MassDOT Highway Division, but the permanent administrator, and should be changed in the March 20 minutes to reflect this. No other comments were made regarding the minutes of the previous SMMPO meeting. A motion was made to accept the minutes of the MARCH 20, 2018 meeting of the SMMPO into the record. The motion was seconded and APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

**4) Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) –**

**a) Amendments to FFY2018- FFY2022 Presented to the SMMPO on March 20, 2018 (vote to approve)** -- Lisa Estrela-Pedro referred to handouts included for today's meeting which reflected the proposed amendments to the FFY2018-2022 TIP. These proposed amendments were previously released for a 21-day comment period and are as follows.

In FFY 2018, the Wareham reconstruction project along Route 6 & 28 will be fully funded in FFY2018 and as a result, the corridor improvement project along Route 123 in Norton be moved from FFY2018 to FFY2019. The addition projects in FFY2018 were also proposed; the River Rail Trail at Sweets Knolls project in Taunton; and the median cable barrier project along I-495 in Norton. A project cost decrease was proposed for the Seekonk-Rehoboth I-195 maintenance project from \$11,537,936 to \$10,025,772. A motion was made to approve these proposed amendments to the FFY2018-2022 TIP. The motion was seconded and approved UNANIMOUSLY.

Ms. Estrela-Pedro announced proposed amendments and adjustments for informational purposes to the FFY2018-2022 TIP, for which another handout was made available for the meeting. She continued by explaining that minor cost decreases were proposed for bridge replacement projects on Scadding Street over the Snake River in Taunton, Balcom Street over the Wading River in Mansfield and Reed Street over the Palmer River in Rehoboth. Also, a major cost decrease for the replacement of the Weaver Street Bridge over the Massachusetts Coastal Railroad in Taunton was proposed, lowering the project cost from \$5,165,552 to \$4,612,100. All of these bridge replacement projects are listed in FFY2019 of the TIP. In FFY2022, it was proposed that the superstructure replacement project along I-195 in New Bedford be moved from FFY2022 to FY2023. These proposed amendments / adjustments will be released for a 21-day comment period and voted on at the next meeting of the SMMPO pending the approval of the of the group. A motion was made to release this amendment (Amendment #3) for a 21-day comment period. The motion was seconded and approved UNANIMOUSLY.

**b) Presentation of the FFY 2019-2023 TIP (Vote to release for 21-day public comment)** -- Ms. Estrela-Pedro presented Highway and transit projects listed in the DRAFT FFY2019-2023 TIP, for which handouts were made available for today's meeting. Ms. Estrela-Pedro also mentioned that certain sections of the TIP are still being worked on, namely the greenhouse gas calculations for transit projects and the listing of obligated transit projects which she is working with the RTAs to obtain, and subsequently were not a part of the draft list at this point.

In FFY2019, three regionally prioritized projects are being proposed. These projects are corridor improvements along East Main Street (Route 123) in Norton, Corridor improvements along King's Highway in New Bedford and intersection improvements at Fall River Avenue (Route 114A) and County Street in Seekonk. MassDOT projects programmed into FFY2019 consist of the following: pavement preservation and related work along I-95 in Attleboro; pavement preservation and related work along I-495 in Middleborough; resurfacing and related work along Route 44 in Middleborough and Carver; related work along Route 24 in Fall River; storm water improvements along I-195 and Route 79 in Fall River and Somerset and multi-use path construction in Mattapoisett between Mattapoisett Neck Road and Depot Street. After Lisa made these announcements, J.R. Frey of Fall River inquired about the inclusion of a bridge within the city that is potentially structurally deficient, and thus eligible for off-system improvement funds. Pam Haznar advised Mr. Frey to forward this information to her so that she can look further into the matter and follow up with Mr. Frey.

In FFY2020, four regionally prioritized projects are programmed and are as follows: intersection improvements and related work at Everett Square in Middleborough; corridor improvements and related work along Broadway (Route 138) in Taunton; intersection improvements at Hathaway Road, Mount Pleasant Street and Nauset Street in New Bedford and the reconstruction and related work of Rhode Island Road (Route 79) in Lakeville. State projects programmed are as follows: systematic bridge preservation along I-95 in MassDOT District 5; pavement preservation and related work on I-495 in Middleborough; guide and traffic sign replacement along I-195 from Dartmouth to Raynham and corridor improvements along Route 79 / Davol Street in Fall River.

In FFY2021, there are four regionally prioritized projects programmed and they are as follows: intersection improvements at Washington Street (Route 1), Newport Avenue (Route 1A) and Highland Avenue (Route 123); reconstruction of Dean Street (Route 44) in Taunton; corridor improvements along Dartmouth Street and Prospect Street in Dartmouth and resurfacing and related work along Route 138 in Raynham. State bridge projects programmed for FFY2021 were previously mentioned for cost adjustments. State pavement projects programmed in FFY2021 are as follows: interstate maintenance and related works along I-295 in Attleboro; resurfacing and related work along Route 1 in Attleboro and North Attleborough; and the resurfacing and related work along Route 44 in Seekonk. Other state projects programmed in FFY2021 are as follows: storm water improvements along I-95 in Attleboro; traffic signal and safety improvements at three intersections on Route 6 in Swansea; intersection improvements at Route 140 and Chauncy Street (Route 106) in Mansfield; corridor improvements along Route 79 / Davol Street in Fall River; shared-use path construction in Marion; and the extension of the rail trail between Mansfield and Norton.

In FFY2022, the regionally prioritized projects being programmed are as follows: intersection improvements and related work at Rockdale Avenue and Allen Street in New Bedford; corridor improvements and related work along Main Street, Water Street, Beacon Street and Marion Road in Mattapoisett; realignment of Tucker Road, Route 6 and Hathaway Road in Dartmouth and intersection improvements and related work at Winthrop Street (Route 44) and Anawan

Street (Route 118) in Rehoboth. State projects programmed for FFY2022 are as follows: systematic bridge preservation along Route 24 in MassDOT District 5; storm water improvements along I-95 (part II) in Attleboro; guide and traffic sign replacement on I-295 in Attleboro and North Attleborough; and corridor improvements along Route 79 / Davol Street in Fall River.

In FFY2023, the regionally prioritized projects being programmed are as follows: construction of bike lanes along Narrows Road, a shared-use path adjacent to Minot Avenue and their related work in Wareham; corridor improvements along Broadway (Route 138) in Taunton (phase II); reconstruction of Chauncy Street in Mansfield and intersection improvements at Washington Street (Route 1) and George Street in Plainville. State projects being programmed for FFY2023 are as follows: superstructure replacement of I-295 ramps over Ten Mile River in Attleboro; superstructure replacement along I-195 in New Bedford (previously mentioned to be moved from (FFY2022 to FFY2023); systematic bridge preservation along the I-195 corridor in MassDOT District 5; storm water improvements along I-195 and Route 79 between Fall River and Somerset; intersection improvements at GAR Highway (Route 6) and Gardner's Neck Road in Swansea; and corridor improvements on Route 79 / Davol Street in Fall River.

In regards to transit projects being programmed for the FFY2019-2023 TIP, both Shayne Trimbell of SRTA and Francis Gay of GATRA commented stating that the majority of their projects pertain to the replacement of vehicles and related equipment and/or minor improvements to facilities.

Afterwards, Alan Slavin of Wareham raised a question regarding the Middleborough Rotary and its inclusion in the state's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), to which Chairman Woelfel replied stating that the CIP is currently under development and will be released in May, however, Mr. Woelfel could not comment on the projects status or inclusion until that point. A motion was made to release the draft FFY2029-2023 TIP for a 21-day public comment period. The motion was seconded and APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

## **5) Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) –**

- a) Amendment for Reallocation of Funds Between Tasks** -- Mr. Mission proposed the shift of \$25,800 (\$8,600 each) from the tasks of 1.4 UPWP, 2.7 Community Technical Assistance and 3.2 Support of Regional Studies in the Task 3.3 Management Systems. This will cover staff time in the development of the Route 6 Corridor Study. Originally, the request for the Route 6 study was thought to be covered under Task 2.7 Community Technical Assistance task, however, the scope of work expanded to include multiple communities including Fairhaven, Mattapoisett, Marion and Wareham. These additional funds will support the data collection efforts and the community outreach as part of Phase I of the study; assessment of existing conditions. Support for Regional Studies has been underused due to the lack of study for regionally significant projects. Many of the past studies by MassDOT that included SRPEDD staff are currently in design or programmed for construction funds.

Mr. Mission proposed a transfer of \$7,525 from Task 1.5 TIP to Task 1.2 Public Participation. This is necessary to cover staff time and support the anticipated public outreach effort for the Regional Transportation Plan.

Mr. Mission proposed a transfer of \$17,200 from Task 3.5 Intermodal Coordination and ITS to Task 2.1 Data Management and GIS (\$12,900) and Task 2.3 Regional Traffic Counting (\$4,300) to cover staff time and support the data collection needs for the Regional Transportation Plan. The ITS task has been underused due to the lack of ITS coordination meetings as well as waiting completion of the statewide freight plan and statewide rail plans. Staff anticipates study efforts on these subjects with the completion and subsequent years following the FFY2019 Regional Transportation Plan. A motion was made to release these proposed amendments for a 21-day comment period before being voted for approval at the next meeting of the SMMPO. The motion was seconded and APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

**b) Presentation of the FFY2019 UPWP** – Mr. Mission gave a brief overview of the four different elements that will comprise the FFY2019 UPWP. Those elements include the administration and support of the 3C Process, data management and data collection efforts, efforts towards the Regional Transportation Plan and various Corridor Studies and other planning tasks (GATRA NTD data collection, SRTA technical assistance etc.). Mr. Mission asked for a motion release the FFY2019 UPWP for public comment as presented. A motion was made to release the FFY2019 UPWP for a 21-day public comment period. The motion was seconded and APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

**6) SMMPO Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** – Mr. Mission announced that as a result of the findings and recommendations made by the federal certification board during SRPEDD’s federal certification review held last year, SRPEDD’s Memorandum of Understanding, which is an agreement between the agency and MassDOT, GATRA SRTA and communities within the SRPEDD region to conduct cooperative and comprehensive planning, is currently in need of an update. Provided at the meeting was a draft version of an updated memorandum prepared by Mr. Mission with major changes and updates to the document to be reviewed. Mr. Mission asked that the members of the SMMPO review the document and prepare any notations or comments for the next meeting of the group. Among the various elements that may need to be added to the document as of this update, Mr. Mission mentioned that the representation of selectmen at the SMMPO would be one of them. Stemming from this point, Mr. Mission also brought to the attention of the group that former selectman Steve McKinnon of Middleborough lost his bid for re-election as selectman and subsequently had to vacate his seat as a member of the SMMPO. Mr. Mission stated that he would bring the issue of filling this vacancy before the SRPEDD Commission at the upcoming commission meeting, specifically in regards to how they would like this position filled.

Another point of potential revision within SRPEDD’s MOU mentioned by Mr. Mission was in regards to designating representatives to stand-in for members of the SMMPO in the event that member cannot attend a meeting. It has been proposed by multiple MPO members that rather

than having to prepare a letter for each meeting that an MPO member cannot attend for their stand-in designee to attend in their place, that a single letter should be signed at the beginning of each year designating a stand-in representative for all meetings throughout the year in such an instance.

A question was raised in regards to the regional transit authorities using the public participation process facilitated through the SMMPO as their own public process will be effected. A reply was made stating that given that the SRTA and GATRA regions fall within the Boston urbanized area as well as the SMMPO and OCPC, that this agreement will cover that issue once it is endorsed. This issue will be looked into in the future to ensure that the UZA agreements will address the aforementioned topic in question.

Mr. Mission raised a question regarding the deadline for endorsement of the update to the UZA agreements between neighboring states and MPO's, to which Mr. Woelfel responded stating that he currently was unaware of when the specific deadline is, however he will look into the matter and determine this deadline.

- 7) Other Business-** Mr. Mission mentioned various other items of business, beginning with the announcement of the Southcoast Bikeway Alliance's annual Bike Summit Meeting which was postponed in March due to inclement weather. The meeting has been rescheduled and will be held on May 3, 2018 between 5:30PM and 7:30PM at Fort Taber/Fort Rodman in New Bedford. For those interested in attending the event, further information can be found at [www.southcoastbikeway.com](http://www.southcoastbikeway.com)

The next point that Mr. Mission brought up, which he briefly touched upon in the previous business item, was regarding former SMMPO member Steve McKinnon and the idea of sending him a letter on behalf of the SMMPO thanking him for his years of service with the group given that he had to vacate his seat. If the consensus of the group is that a letter would be appropriate, Mr. Mission stated that he would draft a letter to be presented at the next meeting of the SMMPO for approval by the members.

Mr. Mission then went on to mention that SRPEDD will be conducting public drop-in meetings for the Route 1 Corridor Study to be held Tuesday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at the Richards Memorial Library in North Attleborough as well as Wednesday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at the Coelho Middle School in Attleboro. Both meetings will be held between 4:00PM and 7:00PM. Similar meetings will be held in August for the Route 6 Corridor Study and more information on those meetings will be presented as August grows nearer.

Once Mr. Mission finished making his announcements, Steve Woelfel announced that public hearings for the Statewide Capital Improvement Plan are being planned for the month of May, one of which is to take place in New Bedford. Further information regarding the meetings will be passed along to SRPEDD staff and anyone else who is interested in attending should keep an eye out for this information as well.

- 8) **Date, Time and Place for Next Meeting** – The next meeting of the SMMPO was tentatively planned to be held on May 15, 2018 @ 1:00 PM at the SRPEDD office in Taunton.
- 9) **Adjourn** - Chairman Steve Woelfel asked for motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:40 PM. A motion was made. The motion was seconded and approved UNANIMOUSLY.