

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE
Southeastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (SMMPO)
June 18, 2019
Held at SRPEDD
88 Broadway Taunton, MA 02780

The following SMMPO Members were in attendance:

Steve Woelfel	Representing Stephanie Pollack, Chair, Secretary and CEO, MassDOT
J.R. Frey	Representing Jasiel F. Correia II, Mayor of the City of Fall River
Fred Cornaglia	Representing Thomas Hoyer, Mayor of the City of Taunton
Pamela Haznar	Representing Jonathan Gulliver, MassDOT Highway Div. Administrator
Frank Gay	GATRA Administrator
Manuel H. Silva	Representing Jon Mitchell, Mayor of the City of New Bedford
Steve Ouellette	Selectman Town of Westport
Shayne Trimbell	Representing Eric Rousseau, SRTA Administrator
Leilanni Dalpe	Selectman Town of Middleborough
Catherine Feenicle	City of Attleboro
Alan Slavin	Chairman of the SRPEDD Commission

The following were also present:

Jeffrey Walker, SRPEDD	Lisa Estrela-Pedro, SRPEDD
Paul Mission, SRPEDD	Jackie Jones, SRPEDD
Tim Kochan, MassDOT	Luis DeOliveira, SRPEDD
Brandon Wilcox, FHWA	Ben Muller, MassDOT

Handouts:

I. Proposed TIP Adjustment #5

1. **Call to Order and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM by Chairman Steve Woelfel, after which 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 Minutes:** Chairman Woelfel asked if everyone had reviewed the minutes from May 21, 2019. A motion was made to accept the minutes of the May 21, 2019 meeting of the SMMPO in the record. The motion was seconded and APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

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4. Discussion of the FFY 2020 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), (Vote to Approve):

Mr. Paul Mission explained that the Unified Planning Work Program was released for public comment last month. There was a public meeting that was held on June 5, 2019 that was attended by Mr. Michael Gambale a Mansfield resident and a representative of the South End Citizens Association.

Mr. Gambale requested that SRPEDD through the UPWP explore a conceptual idea for an off ramp from I-495 northbound to Route 140 southbound in Mansfield. He requested that SRPEDD study this new alternative as an amendment to the Route 140 Corridor Study that was completed in 2017. His concern is that a ramp as recommended within the study would require the taking of his home and land adjacent to the signalized intersection of Route 140, South Main Street, and on ramp to Route 140/I-495 northbound. Mr. Gambale is opposed to any ramp that would require the taking of his property and house which has been in his family for multiple generations.

SRPEDD staff discussed the recommendation for a new ramp, but also pointed out that the report indicated that opposition existed regarding any ramp from I-495 northbound to the intersection next to Mr. Gambale's house. Staff also said that in terms of project priorities, this is a project that MassDOT District 5 office is considering at this time. SRPEDD staff also stated that this alternative does not warrant an entirely new study, however, the concept should be reviewed by MassDOT engineers if and when a project is initiated.

Mr. Gambale provided copies of an engineer's drawing of the ramp alternative who he said was done by Bruce Campbell Associates, but this was not confirmed on the drawing. The concept does provide access from I-495 to Route 140 via the frontage road parallel to I-495.

After further discussion, SRPEDD staff would include this alternative as part of the public comments for the UPWP as well as for inclusion as public comments for the Regional Transportation Plan. Mr. Mission assured Mr. Gambale that the alternative would be presented at the Mansfield Master Plan Focus group meeting on Transportation as well as provided to MassDOT District 5 for future consideration.

MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning also provided comments to the UPWP. Mr. Mission discussed the comments and provided an explanation for them.

Page 12 – Please review the listing of total funding devoted to the study, support and implementation of projects for improvement. Consider estimating the proportion of tasks

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dedicated to the general planning work not related to viable improvement projects where feasible.

SRPEDD Response:

- Task 2.5 Pavement Management - \$35,000 (100% funding to projects support and evaluation)
- Task 2.7 Community Technical Assistance - \$35,000 (75% funding to study & development of projects, 25% to project support)
- Task 3.3 Management Systems - \$224,000 (80% funding to study & development of projects, 20% to project support)
- Task 3.4 Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning - \$45,000 (100% funding to projects support and evaluation)
- Task 3.5 Intermodal Coordination and ITS - \$25,000 (100% funding to projects support and evaluation)
- Task 4.1 Flood Hazard Mitigation - \$40,000 (50% funding to study & development of projects, 50% to project support)

Page 14 - Please add alternative text to the Full apportionment for FFY 2020 UPWP Table

SRPEDD Response:

Page 14 - Alt Text on Graphic: I requested and received the spreadsheet on the FTA apportionment for inclusion in the document. The graphics from the original PDF we received in January 2019 was poor quality. The graphic in the draft document was merely a placeholder until a better graphic or spreadsheet was received.

Page 80: Please update staff names and title where necessary.

SRPEDD Response:

Page 80 – Staff names: Corrected Angela Constantino. I also have to remove Rebekah Rose who was supposed to start full time, but was offered an environmental engineering job recently in Foxboro

Task Listing:

Task 1.3: Please clarify whether there will be a formal update to the Language Assistance Plan.

SRPEDD Response:

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Task 1.3 - Language Plan: The Language Plan was updated in December 2018, no update necessary.

Task 2.5: Funding for this task is significantly greater than in the FFY 2019 UPWP. Please describe any additional work going into this task that may contribute to the increased anticipated cost.

SRPEDD Response:

Task 2.5 - Performance Measures: You will notice a significant increase in many tasks as compared to our current UPWP. In our current UPWP, I took funds from various tasks to support the development of the LRTP. The increase is essentially a combination of shifting funds back to their respective tasks with no LRTP due next year and the fact that Performance Measures appears to be a task that will require greater attention especially with the development of projects and the TIP. It is not anything specific to the task as much as the task itself is growing with added responsibilities for reporting. However, we do want to begin an effort of evaluating completed projects or “as built” analysis to determine if in fact, the improvements are contributing to the goals of the performance measures (emission reductions, safety improvements, etc.)

Task 3.1: Please identify any specific special transit studies planned for FFY 2020.

SRPEDD Response:

Task 3.1 - Regional Transit Studies: Bus Stop Capital Plan, Signal Prioritization Plan (this was added and split with Task 3.2 - Management Systems)

Task 3.4: Please describe the anticipated product from ongoing Commuter Rail support efforts.

SRPEDD Response:

Task 3.4 – Commuter Rail Support – Work will likely be done in conjunction with any pending South Coast Rail Technical Support Grants as they are administered

Task 4.2: Please provide additional details on anticipated scope of service alternative analyses

SRPEDD Response:

Task 4.3 SRTA Tech Planning – “Upon request by SRTA Administration, provide technical analysis of existing transit service and develop service alternatives based on the

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findings. Service alternative analysis is based on ridership and demographic data collected under this task and in conjunction with Task 2.1 – Data Management and GIS.”

This was also changed for Task 4.1 regarding GATRA. Tasks in Element 4 are the FTA 5307 contracts with the RTAs to support their transit planning needs as issues come up as a result of their advisory board meetings and public requests on service.

Mr. Woelfel brought up an issue that arose at Old Colony Planning Council with how MassDOT will be dealing with the 5303 being merged with the PL funds.

Mr. Brandon Wilcox mentioned that this will be the first year that the funds will be combined in one contract.

Mr. Mission mentioned that in the introduction text he consolidated the PL and the 5303 funds as being 80% and 50% match from MassDOT as well as the two appropriations. A discussion ensued discussing the 5303 contract and its implementation into the Unified Planning Work Program.

A motion was made to approve the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). The motion was seconded and APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. Discussion of the 2020 Public Participation Plan (PPP):

Ms. Lisa Estrela-Pedro explained that the Public Participation Plan (PPP) was presented by Ms. Lilia Cabral-Bernard at the April SMMPO meeting. At this meeting the plan was sent out to a 45-day public comment period. Ms. Estrela-Pedro explained that the plan was posted on the SRPEDD website and emailed to over 80 organizations. A public meeting was held on May 8th and there were no public comments received.

A motion was made to approve the Public Participation Plan (PPP). The motion was seconded and APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. Presentation and Discussion of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP):

Mr. Paul Mission explained that for the past year Transportation staff have been working on the Regional Transportation Plan. The plan is on the website and available for review. Mr. Mission explained that the Regional Transportation Plan is a mechanism to plan for the future as well as address demands and conditions for improvement. It takes into account Transportation Performance Measures and helps improve congestion mitigation. Mr. Mission continued explaining the elements of the Regional Transportation Plan focusing on the transit element

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and the highway element. Mr. Mission outlined the regional trends and their similarities to 4 years ago. He explained that there has been some regional growth but only about 6%. The trends show that there has been a continued shift from the urban areas to the rural areas. The region continues to export more jobs than the import into the region. Mr. Mission stated that the means that people use to get to work has not changed, 85% of people continue to use a Single Occupancy Vehicle (SOV). There has been an increase in the travel time to work, fuel costs have been a factor but as it remains under \$3.00 it will remain affordable for users of a car. Mr. Mission continued to highlight the elements of the Regional Transportation Plan and discussed crucial regional projects that need to get addressed. Mr. Mission highlighted areas that are in need of improvement as well as prioritized bridges that are in need of repair. He continued the presentation by discussing the pavement conditions in the region. The Regional Transit Agencies suffer from limited frequency and there is a lack of multiple connections. There are about 60 miles of Bike facilities in the region. There is limited connectivity but it is slowly being addressed by the Bikeway Alliance. There is still a regional need for double track for freight and passenger use, there is still a need for truck staging routes as well as a need for truck rest areas. Mr. Mission continued to present the results of the Regional Transportation Plan, funding sources, and the regional budget. Mr. Mission provided explanations to the recommendations and provided a clarification into some of the regional projects.

Mr. Woelfel opened the floor for questions. None were made.

Mr. Mission thanked the SRPEDD Transportation staff and the SRPEDD Comprehensive staff in developing the Regional Transportation Plan. He also thanked the RTA's and MassDOT for their continued support.

A motion was made to release the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) to a 21-day Public Comment Period. The motion was seconded and APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. Proposed Adjustments to FFY2019 for GATRA of the FFY2019-2023 TIP

Ms. Lisa Estrela-Pedro explained that GATRA is looking to shift some funding and add additional funding that they have to their preventative maintenance line item. GATRA is looking to remove \$152,000 from the Miscellaneous Support Equipment and shift it to preventative maintenance. The total now becomes \$3.9 million in Preventative Maintenance.

A motion was made to approve the adjustment. The motion was seconded and APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

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8. Other Business

Mr. Mission mentioned that there is a classic car show on June 29, 2019 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Tremont Nail Factory. There will be a second show on July 13, 2019 from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM at the VFW in Onset.

9. **Date, Time, Place for the Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be held on July 26, 2019 at 1:00 PM at the SRPEDD Offices - 88 Broadway Taunton, MA.

10. **Adjourn:** There was a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY. The meeting adjourned at 1:36 PM