

MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE

Southeastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (SMMPO)

Tuesday, August 21, 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
Deborah Melino-Wender	SRPEDD Commission Chair
Jamie Ponte	Representing Jon Mitchell, Mayor of the City of New Bedford
Alan Slavin	Representing The Town of Wareham
Joanne LaFerrara	Representing Francis Gay, GATRA Administrator
Shayne Trimbell	Representing Erik Rousseau, SRTA Administrator
Steve Ouellette	Representing the Town of Westport
Fred Cornaglia	Representing Thomas Hoye, Mayor of the City of Taunton
J.R. Frey	Representing Jasiel F. Correia II, Mayor of the City of Fall River
Stephanie Davies	Representing Paul Heroux, Mayor of the City of Attleboro

The following were also present:

Paul Mission, SRPEDD	Lee Azinheira, JTPG Chairman
Lisa Estrela-Pedro, SRPEDD	Derek Krevat, MassDOT OTP
Lilia Cabral-Bernard, SRPEDD	Mary Ellen DeFrias, Mass Development
Angela Azevedo, SRPEDD	
Kyle Richard, SRPEDD	

Handouts:

1. Proposed RTP Amendment for Air Quality Conformity

- 1) Call to Order and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM by Chairman Steve Woelfel, after which the 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 July 17, 2018 Minutes:** Chairman Woelfel asked if everyone had reviewed the minutes of the July 17 meeting of the SMMPO and if there were any comments or changes. There were none. A motion was made to accept the minutes of the JUNE 19, 2018 meeting of the SMMPO into the record. The motion was seconded and APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.
- 4) 2016 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP):** Steve Woelfel briefly reviewed the proposed amendment to the 2016 Regional Transportation Plan regarding air quality conformity in light of

the ruling against the Federal Highway Administration and their air quality performance standards. This proposed amendment was announced at the previous meeting of the SMMPO and was released for a 21-day public comment period, after which no comments were received. A motion was made to approve the amendment to the 2016 RTP. The motion was seconded and APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

5) Transportation Improvement Program (TIP): Pamela Haznar provided project status updates for TIP projects programmed in FFY2018 & FFY2019 and are as follows.

For FFY2018

Wareham – Route 6 & 28 Major Reconstruction Project – 100% design, scheduled advertisement date is September 1st.

New Bedford / Dartmouth – Interstate Maintenance along I-195 – project has been advertised.

Seekonk / Rehoboth - Interstate Maintenance along I-195 – project has been advertised.

Norton / Taunton – Cable Barrier Installation along I-495 – 100% design and ready to be advertised.

Attleboro / Norwood – Guide Sign Replacement along I-95 – project will be advertised in weeks to come.

Fall River – Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Project – project has been advertised and bids will be opening in October, 2018.

New Bedford - Safe Routes to School (SRTS) ready to be advertised.

Mattapoisett – Rail Trail Project – At PS&E stage and scheduled to be advertised in September.

Southcoast Rail Early Action Items (4 Bridges) – project is ready to be advertised.

For FFY2019

Seekonk – Route 114A and County Street Intersection Improvements – project is at 75% design.

Norton – Route 123 Corridor Improvements from Pine St. to I-495 – project is at 75% design.

New Bedford – King’s Highway Corridor Improvements – project is at 75% design.

Rehoboth – Resurfacing along Route 44 – project is at 75% design.

Middleborough – I-495 Maintenance and Resurfacing – project progressing as expected.

Middleborough / Carver – Route 44 Maintenance and Resurfacing – project is progressing as expected.

Attleboro – I-95 Maintenance and Resurfacing – project is progressing as expected.

Acushnet – Hamlin Street Bridge Replacement over the Acushnet River – project is at 25% design.

Wareham – Route 25 Resurfacing Project – project is at 25% design.

Fall River – Route 24 Resurfacing Project – project is progressing as expected.

6) Presentation of the Coordinated Human Services Transportation (CHST) Plan for the SRPEDD Region: Angela Azevedo of SRPEDD made a presentation to the group outlining the update of SRPEDD’s Coordinated Human Service Transportation (CHST) Plan for the SRPEDD Region. The

plan should be finalized by December 2018 and ready for adoption by the SMMPO between December of 2018 and April of 2019. The adoption of this plan is required by the Federal Transit Administration. The Plan is intended to identify and prioritize transportation needs for people with disabilities, older adults, and low income individuals. Once Angela completed her presentation, questions were then asked regarding the plan. Derek Krevat inquired about what empathy interviews are and how many were conducted, to which Angela replied that the interviews are conducted one-on-one with participants to collect more specific data about how they use transportation and where they travel to. She added that interviews were conducted within the SERCCOT region and 12 of them were successfully completed. Shayne Trimbell inquired if any of the responses received during these interviews indicated that there was a need for riders to travel between Fall River and Providence, to which Angela replied that the interview did not entail specific origin-destination questions as such, but will be included in the Unmet Needs Survey, which is used to identify service gaps and the transportation needs of the public, and is also being conducted as a part of the update of this plan and will be released by the end of the week. Pamela Haznar inquired about what kinds of projects would be eligible for funding through the Community Transit Grant program. Angela explained that the Community Transit Grant Program is a competitive program which awards funding for transit providers to help meet the transit needs of seniors and people with disabilities and also stated that projects eligible for this type of funding could potentially be ones that are innovative and entail coordination between transit entities or potentially a project that requires funding only for startup costs but will be able to sustain itself afterwards such as GATRA's C.A.R. program.

- 7) **Other Business:** Mr. Mission announced the revamping of evaluation criteria for TIP projects. This will be discussed during the next meeting of the JTPG which will be on September 12th. Mr. Mission informed the group of a project meeting being held at the Raynham town at 7:00PM regarding the replacement of the Route 44 bridge over Route 24. Aside from this, no other business was discussed.
- 8) **Date, Time, Place for Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the SMMPO was scheduled to be held on September 18, 2018 @ 1:00 PM at the SRPEDD office in Taunton.
- 9) **Adjourn:** Chairman Steve Woelfel asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:19 PM. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and approved UNANIMOUSLY.