

# **Southeastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (SMMPO)**

Minutes of the Meeting held on **Tuesday, October 16, 2018**

at SRPEDD, 88 Broadway, Taunton, MA

The following SMMPO Members were in attendance:

David Mohler	Representing Stephanie Pollack, Secretary & CEO of MassDOT
Robert Wheeler	Representing Jonathan Gulliver, MassDOT Highway Div. Administrator
Lorri-Ann Miller	Representing 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
Ron Morgan	Representing Francis Gay, GATRA Administrator
Shayne Trimbell	Representing Erik Rousseau, SRTA Administrator
Steve Ouellette	Representing the Town of Westport
Fred Cornaglia	Representing Thomas Hoyer, Mayor of the City of Taunton
J.R. Frey	Representing Jasiel F. Correia II, Mayor of the City of Fall River
Leilani Dalpe	Representing the Town of Middleborough

The following were also present:

Paul Mission, SRPEDD	Ben Muller, MassDOT OTP
Lisa Estrela-Pedro, SRPEDD	Derek Krevat, MassDOT OTP
Lilia Cabral-Bernard, SRPEDD	Timothy Kochan, MassDOT
Jeffrey Walker, SRPEDD	Cassandra Gascon, Mass DOT
Jack Moran, MassDOT	

Handouts:

1. Boston UZA Memorandum of Understanding

- 1) Call to Order and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 1:07 PM by Chairman David Mohler, after which the attendees introduced themselves.
- 2) Public Comments:** Chairman Mohler opened the floor to give an opportunity for the public to address the SMMPO. No public comments were made.
- 3) Approval of August 21, 2018 SMMPO Minutes:** Chairman Mohler asked if everyone had reviewed the draft minutes of the August 21, 2018 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 August 21, 2018 meeting of the SMMPO into the record. The motion was seconded and APPROVED with one abstention.

#### **4) FFY2019 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)-**

Mr. Mission began by stating that there are 3 separate amendments to the FFY2019 UPWP on our Planning and FTA 5303 contracts, with first two being interconnected. The first amendment is the addition of a new work task called the US Census Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP), which is a GIS exercise to review Census tracts and blocks and make adjustments as appropriate to prepare for the 2020 Census. The US Census had requested assistance on this data and the costs associated with this task is \$37,000. This work will start in December and conclude in July and a possible extension for a month or two for follow-up. The second amendment is simply a shifting of funds from 8 different tasks in order to fund the \$37,000 for the PSAP.

Mr. Mission then asked the members to release these 2 amendments for a public comment period. A motion was made to release these two amendments for a 21-day comment period. The motion was seconded and approved UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Mission continued by explaining the third amendment which is a shift of funds in our FTA 5303 contract which starts in April and ends in March and there is a deficit in Mobility Management contract. In addition to the \$12,000 that would be shifted to Mobility Management there is \$19,000 being shifted into the Data, Management and GIS, as well as Regional Transit Studies task to support our Regional Transportation Plan effort. Mr. Mission then asked the members to release this amendment public comment period. A motion was made to release this amendment for a 21-day comment period. The motion was seconded and approved UNANIMOUSLY.

#### **5) Boston UZA memorandum of Understanding-**

Derek Krevat explained that as part of the last Federal Certification Review all MPO's are required to adopt a new MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) to address data sharing issues and new areas added to the UZA, including regions in Rhode Island and New Hampshire. He further explained that Mr. Mission has forwarded copies of the draft MOU to the members for review since it will be on the agenda for the next SMMPO meeting.

Mr. Mission went on to explain that the SMMPO will have the opportunity to sign off on the MOU as a body. The Chairman further explained that Secretary Pollack will sign off when all the MPO's have signed off on their MOU's to accept all of them at one time.

#### **6) Performance Measures-**

Jack Moran of MassDOT gave a presentation of the infrastructure asset conditions for the National Highway System including bridges and pavements (PM2) that include 2- and 4-year targets, 2020 and 2040. Federal performance measure quantifies conditions

based on the bridge area. There are 7 bridges in The SMMPO region. Bridges are broken up into 3 components: the sub-structure (columns and abutments), the super-structure (beams) and the deck itself, most commonly concrete. After inspection, the lowest scoring component defines the condition for that bridge. The object is to get a lower percentage of bridges in poor condition. The targets states that we cannot exceed 10% for 'structurally deficient' bridges or bridges in 'poor' condition.

Mr. Moran want to emphasize that pavement condition is looked at slightly different with federal regulation and is now broken down into 3 categories: ride, which is basically smoothness; cracking; and other physical distresses within the pavement including rutting. The state cannot exceed 5% poor conditions for pavement targets for interstate road conditions and we are nowhere near there. Non-interstate targets are 30%.

Mr. Mission wanted to let the members know that within our region, non-interstate NHS roads include Route 44, Route 6, Route 240 in Fairhaven and Route 123 in the Attleboro area.

The Chairman explained that the MPO can adopt the state measures or create our own. Mr. Mission added that we have no jurisdiction over these bridges and roads affected by these measure and targets for bridge improvements and NHS roads and they do not affect our TIP. The chairman added that both he and Mr. Mission were recommending that MassDOT's targets for performance measures be adopted as the SMMPO's.

A motion was made for the SMMPO to adopt MassDOT's targets for performance measures as their own as their own. The motion was seconded and approved UNANIMOUSLY.

Derek Krevat continued the presentation on performance measures with the system performance (PM3) measures (reliability, congestion, emissions) as required by FHWA. Mr. Krevat explained that reliability is a measure of travel time predictability, so if it's congested, it is still considered reliable. Congestion is the measure of delay, traveling much slower than the speed limit. We are measuring progress toward both of these.

To track these measures, cell phones are being used to create a data set and in the SMMPO region there is a 98% reliability rate for 180 miles of interstate roads and an 88% reliability rate for 355 miles for non-interstate roads. There are also required performance measures for truck travel, congestion (defined as traveling 20 mph or 60% of the speed limit), and single occupancy vehicle (SOV) travel. Mr. Krevat stated that adopting these measures is simply committing to helping MassDOT reach its performance measures target.

The Chairman opened the floor to question. Hearing none, he asked for a motion for the SMMPO to adopt MassDOT's targets for performance measures as their own.

A motion was made for the SMMPO to adopt MassDOT's targets for performance measures as their own. The motion was seconded and approved UNANIMOUSLY.

**7) Safe Routes to School (SRTS):**

Cassandra Gascon gave a program overview of the Safe Routes to School program and infrastructure funding opportunities from \$100,000 to \$1 million. The federally funded program works with schools, communities, students, and families to increase active transportation among elementary and middle school students and includes 6 "E's". These are Education, Encouragement, Enforcement, Evaluation, Equity and Engineering. 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 and only schools that are grades K-8 and only public schools are eligible, including charter schools. 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 anticipated to begin in late 2019 and continue into 2020. For more information, contact [Cassandra.Gascon@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:Cassandra.Gascon@dot.state.ma.us) or go to: <https://www.mass.gov/safe-routes-to-school>

**8) 2019 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP):**

Paul Mission discussed SRPEDD's public outreach efforts for the Regional Transportation Plan. SRPEDD staff is distributing flyers, pamphlets, postcards, as well as an online survey. He requested cooperation and permission of SRPEDD's communities to distribute public outreach materials at upcoming town meetings. Mr. Mission continued by informing the group that staff will be holding two RTP open house events by the end of January, one at the SRPEDD offices and one in the New Bedford/Fall River area. These open house events will be coordinated with MassDOT and the development of their Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

**9) Transportation Improvement Program (TIP):**

Lisa Estrela-Pedro explained the efforts to update the Transportation Evaluation Criteria based on a recommendation of the SHRP2 from a total score of 87 to a score of an even 100 points. She explained that multiple question and comments were received after her recent JTPG presentation concerning the negative points and point distribution. At Ms. Estrela-Pedro's suggestion, a task force is being formed to discuss these issues. Five JTPG members have volunteered and Ms.

Estrela-Pedro will coordinate this effort and hopes to finalize the update to the scoring by the December SMMPO meeting.

**10) Other Business:**

Paul Mission informed the group that the Coordinated Human Services Transportation (CHST) Plan will be presented at the JTPG meeting on November 14<sup>th</sup> and looking for endorsement in December at the SMMPO meeting. He asked the members if they could make an effort to attend the November 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, two days before Thanksgiving. He also asked the SMMPO to consider combining the JTPG and SMMPO meetings on December 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> to ensure a quorum, especially since it is during the Holiday season.

**11) Date, Time, Place for Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the SMMPO was scheduled to be held on November 20, 2018 @ 1:00 PM at the SRPEDD office in Taunton.

**12) Adjourn:** The Chairman asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:22 PM. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and approved UNANIMOUSLY.