

Southeastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (SMMPO)

Minutes of the Meeting held on **Tuesday, November 20, 2018**

at SRPEDD, 88 Broadway, Taunton, MA

The following SMMPO Members were in attendance:

Deborah Melino-Wender, SRPEDD Commission Chair

Alan Slavin	Representing the Town of Wareham
Ben Muller	Representing Stephanie Pollack, Secretary and CEO of MassDOT
Pamela Haznar	Representing Jonathan Gulliver, MassDOT Highway Div. Administrator
Manuel H. Silvia	Representing Jon Mitchell, Mayor of the City of New Bedford
Joanne Laferrara	Representing Francis Gay, GATRA Administrator
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

The following were also present:

Brandon Wilcox, FHWA	Timothy Kochan, MassDOT District 5
Jeffrey Walker, SRPEDD	Lisa Estrela-Pedro, SRPEDD
Angela Constantino, SRPEDD	Jacqueline Jones, SRPEDD

Handouts:

1. SMMPO Agenda November 20, 2018
2. FFY 2019-2023 TIP Proposed Adjustments

- 1) Call to Order and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 1:03 PM by Vice Chairman Alan Slavin, after which introductions were made.
- 2) Public Comments:** Chairman Slavin 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:** A motion was made to accept the minutes of the October 16, 2018 meeting of the SMMPO into the record. The motion was seconded and APPROVED with one abstention from Ms. Haznar.
- 4) Presentation of the Coordinated Human Services Transportation (CHST) Plan for the SRPEDD region:**
This presentation was taken out of order due to scheduling conflicts and occurred between items 3 and 4.

Ms. Constantino discussed the Coordinated Human Services (CHST) Plan update for the SRPEDD region and explained that the plan is federally mandated. She further explained that the purpose

of the plan is to identify unmet transportation needs in the region and discussed several methods and sources that were used to identify needs including but not limited to empathy interviews, agency and public surveys, data from SRTA and GATRA Comprehensive Service Assessments, search data from RIDEMATCH, and public meetings. She also discussed efforts with partners including South East Regional Coordinating Council on Transportation (SERCCOT) and Coastline and Bristol Elderly Services.

She discussed unmet needs identified in the plan including: Links between Gateway Cities, Service after 6pm, long distance medical trips (i.e. Boston), connections between RTA service areas, low-income youth access to medical and extracurricular activities, low-income access to job interviews, service to VA hospitals and other needs. She emphasized that medical and employment access were identified as the greatest needs.

A motion was made to release the CHST Plan for a 21-day public comment period. The motion was seconded and approved UNANIMOUSLY.

5) FFY2019 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP):

Ms. Estrela-Pedro discussed the following amendments to the FFY2019 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) that had been released to the public for a 21-day public comment period at the last SMMPO meeting:

- Amend to add a new work task called the US Census Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP), 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.
- Amend to shift funds from 8 different UPWP tasks in order to fund the \$37,000 for the PSAP task.
- Amend to shift funds in the FTA 5303 contract - \$31,240 from 3C Process to the following - \$11,825 to Mobility Management, \$4,302 to Regional Transit Studies and \$19,000 to Data, Management and GIS to support SRPEDD's Regional Transportation Plan efforts.

A motion was made to approve the amendments as presented. The motion was seconded and approved UNANIMOUSLY.

6) Boston UZA memorandum of Understanding:

Ms. Estrela-Pedro explained that at the last SMMPO meeting a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was presented to address data sharing issues within the Boston UZA and to include new areas added to the UZA, including regions in Rhode Island and New Hampshire.

She further explained that a draft version of the MOU was provided to members for review and asked for any comments on the draft from the body. No comments were discussed.

A motion was made to approve and authorize that the Secretary of Transportation sign the new Boston UZA Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the SMMPO. The motion was seconded and approved UNANIMOUSLY.

7) Transportation Improvement Program:

Ms. Estrela-Pedro discussed the following proposed adjustments to the FFY 2019-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP):

- Adjust the Middleborough/Carver Resurfacing and Related Work on Route 44 project in FFY 2019 to remove Carver from the description and reduce the cost by \$354,491.
- Adjust the Mattapoisett Multiuse Path Construction project to reflect a \$2 million decrease in cost and to add TAP as a funding source.

Ms. Haznar explained that the name change on the on the Middleborough/Carver Resurfacing project was a result of a small realignment of the project to contain the project in Middleborough and the cost decrease was due to the refinement of the cost moving from 100% design phase to the Project Specifications and Estimate (PS&E) phase. She also explained that the cost savings on the Mattapoisett Multi-Use Path project was a result of revising the design on the causeway on Goodspeed Island to remove sheeting and a retaining wall for a cost savings of over \$1 million.

A motion was made to approve the adjustments as presented. The motion was seconded and approved UNANIMOUSLY.

Ms. Jones discussed efforts to update the Transportation Evaluation Criteria by the Evaluation Criteria review committee. She explained that the committee had met twice and was making progress in reviewing and updating the criteria to reflect the priorities of the region. She explained that the group was ironing out details and that they hoped to present the updated criteria in December or January. She then invited committee members in attendance to comment on the process. Mr. Slavin discussed the complexities of the project and the difficulties with assigning weight to the criteria. Mr. Frey discussed how the body was adding weight to criteria related to drainage to reflect new MS4 regulations and the pressure on municipalities to address drainage concerns. Ms. Haznar discussed the impacts of time and cost and suggested that they be incorporated into the process, either through the evaluation criteria or another method. Discussion ensued regarding the importance of project readiness.

Mr. Kochan discussed MassDOT's project evaluation criteria and process to review, evaluation and approve projects and possible efforts to improve the criteria.

8) Other Business:

Ms. Estrela-Pedro discussed SRPEDD's Regional Transportation Survey response rate of 624 English, 20 Spanish and 7 Portuguese surveys. She thanked the group for their efforts to share the survey and encouraged them to keep spreading the word.

9) Date, Time, Place for Next Meeting: A combined meeting of the JTPG and SMMPO will be December 12, 2018 @ 12:00 PM at the SRPEDD office in Taunton. Refreshments will be served.

12) Adjourn: A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 1:27pm. The motion was seconded and approved UNANIMOUSLY.