

SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (SRPEDD)

DRAFT MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE Joint Transportation Planning Group (JTPG)

Wednesday February 12, 2020 at 88 Broadway Taunton, MA 02780

The following JTPG Members were in attendance:

Lee Azinheira, Chairman, JTPG	Nancy Durfee, Town of Somerset
Ken Buckland, Town of Wareham	Johnathan Church, McMahon Associates
Norman Hills, Town of Marion	Paul Foley, Town of Fairhaven
Ron Dubuc, Attleboro DPW	Ed Buckley, Town of Raynham
Robert Burgmann, Town of Mattapoisett	Jed Cornock, SRPEDD
Alan Slavin, Town of Wareham	Jeffrey Walker, SRPEDD
Thomas Ferry, Town of Dighton	Jackie Jones, SRPEDD
Cheryl-Ann Senior, MassDOT	Lizeth Gonzalez, SRPEDD
Ben Muller, MassDOT	Guoqiang Li, SRPEDD
Joe Callahan, Town of Berkley	Lilia Cabral-Bernard, SRPEDD
Jim Hartnett, Town of Westport	Lizeth Gonzalez, SRPEDD
Stephanie Crampton, City of New Bedford	Lisa Estrela-Pedro, SRPEDD
Manuel Silva, City of New Bedford	Luis De Oliveira, SRPEDD
Jamie Pisano, VHB	Paul Mission, SRPEDD
John Woods, Town of Carver	

Handouts:

TIP Existing FFY2021-2024
TIP FFY2021-2025 – TIP Day Recommendations
Milepost-Based Numbering Public Information Flyer

- 1. Call to Order and Introductions.** The meeting was called to order at 2:01PM by Lee Azinheira, Chairman.
- 2. Public Comments - Opportunity for the public to address the JTPG.** Chairman Azinheira opened the floor to any member of the public that wished to address the JTPG. No public comments were made.
- 3. Approval of Minutes – January 8, 2019 (Materials Attached).** A motion was made to approve the minutes of the last JTPG meeting held on January 8, 2020. The motion was seconded and APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.
- 4. Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs) Report.** Representatives from the regional RTA's were not present.
- 5. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Discussion**
 - a. Project Updates (MassDOT District 5)
Ms. Cheryl-Ann Senior presented information on the 2019 – 2024 TIP projects.

SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (SRPEDD)

Year	Project	Status
2019	Norton- Corridor Improvements & Related Work On East Main Street (Route 123), From Pine Street To I-495	Has been advertised and awaiting contract
2020	New Bedford- Intersection Improvements At Hathaway Road, Mount Pleasant Street And Nauset Street	100% and scheduled to be advertised at the end of the month
2020	Dighton- Taunton- Resurfacing And Related Work On Route 44	100%, MassDOT has received the PS&E and the project will be ready to be advertised on March 14, 2020
2020	Taunton- Corridor Improvements & Related Work On Broadway (Route 138), From Leonard Street Northerly To Purchase Street (Phase 1)	100%, MassDOT has received the PS&E and the project will be ready to be advertised on March 28, 2020
2020	Middleborough- Intersection Improvements & Related Work At John Glass Square	MassDOT anticipated the PS&E, but it has not arrived. MassDOT is awaiting a revised schedule.
2021	Raynham- Taunton- Resurfacing & Related Work On Route 138	At 75% with a 100% submission scheduled for May. The District is working with the Project Manager to keep t on track for 20201
2021	Lakeville- Reconstruction And Related Work On Rhode Island Road (Route 79), From The Taunton City Line To Clear Pond Road	Currently at 25% and presently on hold.
2021	New Bedford- Intersection Improvements And Related Work At Rockdale Avenue And Allen Street	Currently at 25%. The Design public meeting was held January 29, 2020. 75% is slated to come in early April.
2021	Rehoboth- Intersection Improvements & Related Work At Winthrop Street (Route 44) And Anawan Street (Route 118)	Currently at 25%. The Design public hearing was held January 28, 2020. The 75% is expected the end of March.
2022	New Bedford- Intersection Improvements On Acushnet Avenue At Peckham Road/Sassaquin Avenue	Less than 25% complete, which is due in May.
2022	Dartmouth- Corridor Improvements On Dartmouth Street And Prospect Street	At 25%, the 75% is expected in December.
2022	Taunton- Reconstruction Of Route 44 (Dean Street), From Arlington Street To Route 104 (South Main Street)	At 25% with a Design public hearing scheduled for this evening. The 75% is due in June
2022	Attleboro– Intersection Improvements At Route 1 (Washington Street)/Route 1a (Newport Avenue) And Route 123 (Highland Avenue)	At 25% though there was a slight delay. It is due by the end of March.
2023	New Bedford- Corridor Improvements And Related Work On County Street From Nelson Street To Union Street	Currently less than 25%, though it should be complete by the end of the week.
2023	Plainville- Intersection Improvements At Washington Street (Route 1) And George Street	Less than 25%, though it will be complete by next week.

SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (SRPEDD)

2023	Dartmouth- Realignment Of Tucker Road To Route 6 And Hathaway Road, Including Intersection Signalization	At 25% with the 75% submission due in December.
2023	Mattapoisett- Corridor Improvements And Related Work On Main Street, Water Street, Beacon Street And Marion Road.	Less than 25% with submission due in August
2024	Wareham- Construction Of Bike Lanes Along Narrows Road And A Shared Use Path Adjacent To Minot Avenue Including Related Work	Less than 25%. MassDOT anticipated submission by this month, which they have not received. Additionally, MassDOT has not received a revised schedule.
2024	Mansfield- Reconstruction On Chauncy Street (Route 106)	Less than 25% with submission due in May.
2024	Taunton- Corridor Improvements And Related Work On Broadway (Route 138), From Purchase Street To Jackson Street (Phase 2)	Less than 25% with submission due in April.

Discussion ensued regarding project clarifications and cost changes associated with the Raynham Route 138 Project. Mr. Lisa Estrela-Pedro offered to clarify the cost changes in the following agenda items.

b. Project Development

Ms. Estrela-Pedro reminded the group to consider forming smaller projects. If any cities or towns need assistance, reach out to SRPEDD. The next TIP Project Review Committee (PRC) meeting will take place in April.

c. Evaluation Criteria

Ms. Estrela-Pedro discussed the Evaluation Criteria, which Ms. Jackie Jones has been updating the scoring of projects. All projects are listed through 2024 and include those in the supplemental project list. If there are any questions, Ms. Estrela-Pedro encouraged reaching out to SRPEDD.

d. Budgets / Targets

The handouts refer to this information. The total regional funding target from 2021-2024 are staying, from 2022-2025 our targets have increased.

e. Project Programming FFY 2021-2025

Presently, all costs are up to date and all projects are currently programmed in the TIP. The second handout shows the recommendations made during meetings with MassDOT on TIP Day. This reflects the possible or anticipated changes to years in which projects will be programmed in the TIP. Ms. Estrela-Pedro clarified that this is not something which will be voted on, but is solely for consideration of the members. Ms. Estrela-Pedro highlighted the recommendations as follows:

In 2021, the only project recommended for the TIP in that year is New Bedford- Intersection Improvements and Related Work at Rockdale Avenue and Allen Street. All other projects in that year, Raynham, Lakeville and Rehoboth were

SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (SRPEDD)

recommended to be pushed out. Lakeville failed to gather support for the project due to right of way concerns, which resulted in the recommendation to remove it from the TIP altogether for now. This leads into the Raynham discussion. As we've discussed previously, the Raynham project was cut in half due to cost, but given the changes in the Lakeville project MassDOT has considered making Raynham whole again.

In 2022, only two projects were recommended to stay in that year, Taunton and Attleboro. New Bedford and Dartmouth were recommended to be pushed out.

In 2023, all the projects seem to be on track to stay in their year.

In 2024, all the projects seem to be on track. Two projects have also been recommended to be pushed up.

Ms. Estrela-Pedro clarified that the main reason for the number of delays is right-of-way, which often leads to lengthy delays. Ms. Estrela-Pedro also mentioned that she is looking for comments on this proposed schedule. Another concern that cities and towns should keep the funding element in mind. Ms. Estrela-Pedro highlighted the example of FFY22. If all four projects were programmed, we would not have enough money with a \$13 million deficit. The same goes for the following year.

Discussion ensued regarding the funding programmed for FFY2021 which may not be fully allocated. Mr. Ben Muller mentioned the right of way concerns that expanding Raynham entailed and potentially completing the project in phases to remain fiscally constrained. Chairman Azinheira and Mr. Ron Burgmann discussed the lack of logic in leaving money behind in FFY21 and to then experience a shortfall in later years.

Discussion also ensued regarding the potential to advertise projects in the fourth quarter, which MassDOT typically does not do, to make up for the juggling of projects and getting them advertised to stay in a fiscal year.

6. Route 6 Study Presentation

Mr. Jed Cornock presented on the findings of the Route 6 study that encompasses a 13-mile, four lane crossroad that traverses Marion, Mattapoisett, Fairhaven and Wareham. The Route 6 corridor presents distinct concerns, including high speeds, inconsistent sidewalks, drainage and intersection issues. Through public input in Phase 1, SRPEDD offered potential alternatives to the current Route 6 configuration that address a number of these concerns, including bike and pedestrian infrastructure. A majority of individuals who spoke to SRPEDD and attended the public meetings stated an interest in Alternative #2 which is a 4-lane highway with bike and pedestrian accommodations on a raised sidewalk. This would require expanding the right of way by 4 feet and land-taking. Alternative #4 was the next most popular, which uses the existing roadway and brings the curbs in, expanding the bicycle and pedestrian accommodations.

SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (SRPEDD)

Improvements were also recommended to signalize New Boston Road, Spring Street, and Swifts Beach Road. Additionally, making modifications to allow for a protected left turn lane at these locations.

Discussion ensued regarding the next steps for implementation of the study recommendations. Mr. Cornock clarified that the onus to begin this process falls on the towns to approach MassDOT directly about their respective sections. Scheduling of such a project is dependent on the types of improvements that each town would like to pursue. Mr. Mission discussed potential funding sources, including state-wide and federal funds, as well as inclusion to the TIP.

7. Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Development

a. FFY 2020 Work Task Updates

Mr. Paul Mission discussed the Unified Planning Work Program which defined the work transportation staff and SRPEDD staff generally complete. This runs from October 1 – September 30 which last year included the Route 6 Study, several community technical assistance, as well as smaller studies.

For community technical requests, we are working toward transitioning to an online form. Anything to be considered through the end of September 2020 please email Mr. Mission or Ms. Estrela-Pedro directly.

Some projects are on hold due to weather, such as traffic counting and data collection. This will jumpstart again in April and at that time we will also consider any new requests.

Management Systems will wrap up the Route 6 study and release it for public comment. Bus riding continues as scheduled given the NTD requirements for SRTA and GATRA

Staff is working on studying pre-timed signals, mainly in the cities of New Bedford and Fall River. The purpose is to look at potential improvements to air quality and efficiency. We hope to have presentations in future meetings.

Bike and Pedestrian projects are continuing and forthcoming with the Southcoast Bikeway Alliance and Taunton Bikeway Committee. We are also pursuing a feasibility study as part of a separate contract with Southcoast Bikeway. Mr. Mission highlighted the shared-use path pavement management analysis tool. Similar to pavement management, this tool would evaluate the pavement on existing bike paths to determine and prioritize resurfacing and improvements. Discussion ensued regarding whether signage would be considered.

With additional staff, SRPEDD hopes to conduct an as-built analysis comparing conditions prior to and after TIP improvements.

b. Schedule for Development, Public Comment & Endorsement

SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (SRPEDD)

Mr. Mission mentioned that we are in the process of developing the FFY2021 UPWP. As part of this, SRPEDD received additional guidance on data collection methodology, including asset management, resiliency, employment, and economic development. Additionally, guidance requests a top 100 list of dangerous intersections which will provide an update to our most recent list. A draft of the UPWP will be ready by April 21, 2020 and then endorsement will follow in May 19, 2020.

c. **Studies for Consideration in FFY 2021**

Mr. Mission requests cities and towns to approach SRPEDD regarding potential studies, though they will need to tie into the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). If they are not, this could be rectified through amendments to the RTP.

8. Other Business

a. **Milepost Based Exit Renumbering – Public Meeting New Bedford, March 10 (Materials Attached, Visit project website <https://www.newmassexits.com> for additional information)**

Mr. Mission explained that federal law requires renumbering of exits based on mile-postings. He announced that a public meeting will take place on March 10, 2020 in New Bedford to explain the process. Western Massachusetts will be the first to implement followed by other regions, with the Cape being the last. More information can be found on the flyer and at the public meeting.

b. **Update of Design Public Meetings/Hearings on Upcoming Projects**

Ms. Estrela-Pedro highlighted some of the meetings SRPEDD attended.

On January 22, 2020, staff attended the Raynham Route 138 project public hearing. On January 28, 2020, staff attended the Rehoboth Route 44 and 118 public hearing to discuss the roundabout project. While there were concerns about driveways and center of the roundabout, most people spoke in favor of the project.

On January 29, 2020, staff attended the New Bedford Design public hearing regarding Rockdale Ave and Allen Street. Concerns with drainage and business access during construction were discussed.

Tonight, staff will attend the public hearing for Dean Street at the Taunton temporary City Hall.

c. **Other**

9. Date, Time, Place for Next Meeting. The next meeting will take place on March 11, 2020 at 2PM in the SRPEDD offices.

10. Adjourn. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 3:04PM. The motion was seconded and APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.