

SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (SRPEDD)

SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (SRPEDD)

DRAFT MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE

Southeastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (SMMPO)

Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 1:00 PM

Held Remotely via Zoom due to the Covid-19 State of Emergency in Massachusetts

The following were in attendance:

David Mohler	Representing Stephanie Pollack, Secretary and CEO, MassDOT Chair
Alan Slavin	Chairman of the SRPEDD Commission and the Town of Wareham
Pam Haznar	Representing Jonathan Gulliver, MassDOT Highway Div. Administrator
Shayne Trimbell	Representing Eric Rousseau, Administrator SRTA
Mark Souza	Administrator GATRA
Jamie Ponte	Representing Jon Mitchell, Mayor of New Bedford
Holly McNamara	Town of Somerset
William Roth	City of Taunton
Leilani Dalpe	Town of Middleboro

The following were also present:

Paul Mission, SRPEDD
Lisa Estrela-Pedro, SRPEDD
Jackie Jones, SRPEDD
Lilia Cabral-Bernard, SRPEDD
Lizeth Gonzalez, SRPEDD
Gregory Guertin, SRPEDD
Paul Foley, Town of Fairhaven
Mary Ellen DeFrias, MassDevelopment
Ben Muller, MassDOT
Michelle Ho, MassDOT
Barbara Lachance, MassDOT
Bryan Pounds, MassDOT

Handouts:

SMMPO Draft Agenda June 16, 2020
FFY2020 UPWP Administrative Adjustments
FFY2020 UPWP Amendments
SMMPO Meeting Draft Minutes May 19, 2020

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Mohler welcomed attendees to the SMMPO meeting. Ms. Lilia Cabral-Bernard called the roll:

MassDOT Chair	Yes
City of New Bedford	Yes
MassDOT Administrator	Yes

Town of Somerset	Yes
Town of Middleborough	Yes
SRPEDD Commission Chair	Yes
SRTA	Yes
GATRA	Yes

2. Public Comments - Opportunity for the public to address the SMMPO

Chairman Mohler invited members of the public to make any comments. None were presented.

3. Approval of Minutes – May 19, 2020 (Materials Attached and Roll Call Vote needed):

Chairman Mohler called for a motion to approve minutes from the last SMMPO meeting. A motion was made and seconded. Ms. Cabral-Bernard called the roll:

MassDOT Chair	Yes
City of New Bedford	Yes
MassDOT Administrator	Abstain
Town of Westport	Yes
Town of Fairhaven	Yes
Town of Somerset	Yes
Town of Middleborough	Yes
SRPEDD Commission Chair	Yes
SRTA	Yes
GATRA	Yes

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

4. SMMPO Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs) Report – Opportunity for RTAs to address the SMMPO

Chairman Mohler invited attendees from SRTA and GATRA to provide comments and relevant updates.

Mr. Mark Sousa discussed the current operations at GATRA, which have been reduced due to COVID-19. GATRA is running on a modified schedule and is practicing social distancing measures on board buses for the safety of passengers and drivers alike. GATRA is currently not collecting fares.

Mr. Trimbell discussed the elevated schedule that SRTA is pursuing. Since March 25, 2020 SRTA has been running on a Saturday schedule, but starting this Monday SRTA will modify the schedule. Fall River will run on Saturday schedule and service will increase to the industrial park. Ridership to that site has not decreased. New Bedford will have more service, running a modified service between Saturday and Weekday schedule. Night service will not be offered, but daytime service is more frequent. SRTA continues to pause fair collection.

5. Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Paul Mission summarized the amendments that were presented in detail at the last SMMPO meeting. The three amendments do not change the existing budget of the UPWP for the remainder of the year. They respond directly to the impacts resulting from the COVID-19 public health emergency. The amendments were released at the last SMMPO meeting for public comment.

- a. Discussion on Public Comments regarding Amendment for FFY 2020 UPWP for proposed Covid-19 Outreach Study and reallocation of funds between tasks **(Materials Attached and Roll Call Vote to Approve)**

The SMMPO released the amendment for public comment, and received none. The amendment calls for a shift of \$18,300 from task 2.3 and \$6,100 from task 3.1 totaling \$24,400 to task 1.2 Public Participation. In addition to the funding shift, staff presented a scope of work to explore transportation related changes due to COVID-19.

Chairman Mohler requested a motion. A motion was made and seconded. Ms. Cabral-Bernard called the roll:

MassDOT Chair	Yes
City of New Bedford	Yes
City of Taunton	Yes
MassDOT Administrator	Yes
Town of Somerset	Yes
Town of Middleborough	Yes
SRPEDD Commission Chair	Yes
SRTA	Yes
GATRA	Yes

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

- b. Discussion on Public Comments regarding Amendment for FFY2020 UPWP for proposed Trails Mapping Study and reallocation of funds between tasks **(Materials Attached and Roll Call Vote to Approve)**

Mr. Mission briefly explained the amendment for those in attendance. At the last SMMPO meeting, staff proposed a shift of \$8,000 from 3.1 Regional transit planning and an additional \$40,000 from task 3.2 management systems for a total of \$48,000 for bicycle and pedestrian planning. This project will identify existing trails and perform field data collection to assess accessibility and condition of trails. This will directly support statewide efforts, promote tourism as well as health applications. The public meeting held on May 27, 2020 garnered no public comments.

Chairman Mohler requested a motion to approve the Trails Mapping Study and reallocate funds. A motion was made and seconded. Ms. Cabral-Bernard called the roll:

MassDOT Chair	Yes
City of New Bedford	Yes
City of Taunton	Yes
MassDOT Administrator	Yes
Town of Somerset	Yes
Town of Middleborough	Yes
SRPEDD Commission Chair	Yes
SRTA	Yes

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

- c. Discussion on Public Comments regarding Amendment for FFY 2020 UPWP for proposed Freight Action Plan (**Materials Attached and Roll Call Vote to Approve**)
Mr. Mission reiterated the goals of the Freight Action Plan which seeks to build upon previous work and innovate on new trends in the region. On May 19, 2020 the SMMPO released this for public comment, and was presented on May 27, 2020 to the public. No comments were provided then and none have been received. Chairman Mohler requested a motion. A motion was made and seconded. Ms. Cabral-Bernard called the roll:

MassDOT Chair	Yes
City of New Bedford	Yes
City of Taunton	Yes
MassDOT Administrator	Yes
Town of Somerset	Yes
Town of Middleborough	Yes
SRPEDD Commission Chair	Yes
SRTA	Yes
GATRA	Yes

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

- d. Administrative Adjustment to FFY 2020 UPWP on reallocation of funds between tasks for direct expenses (**Materials Attached and Roll Call Vote to Approve**)
Mr. Mission explained the adjustment to the UPWP which is a direct cost transfer of funds. This adjustment would transfer direct costs that cover travel expenses and conference memberships to alternative areas. \$2200 from task 1.1 3C with \$2000 going to Data management and GIS and the \$200 to task 3.3 to support travel costs for field work. We are also requesting \$2000 from 2.3 Mobility Management to task 3.3 Bicycle and Pedestrian planning for costs associated with the trails mapping. Chairman Mohler requested a motion to approve as presented. A motion was made and seconded. Ms. Cabral-Bernard called the roll:

MassDOT Chair	Yes
City of New Bedford	Yes
City of Taunton	Yes
MassDOT Administrator	Yes
Town of Somerset	Yes
Town of Middleborough	Yes
SRPEDD Commission Chair	Yes
SRTA	Yes
GATRA	Yes

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

- e. Presentation and discussion of public comments made on the FFY 2021 UPWP, (**Link to document, Roll Call Vote to Endorse**)
At the last SMMPO meeting, staff presented the Draft FFY2021 UPWP to be released for a 21-day comment period. A public meeting was held on May 27, 2020 at which comments were welcomed though no public comments were provided.

Chairman Mohler requested a motion to approve as presented. A motion was made and seconded. Ms. Cabral-Bernard called the roll:

MassDOT Chair	Yes
City of New Bedford	Yes
City of Taunton	Yes
MassDOT Administrator	Yes
Town of Somerset	Yes
Town of Middleborough	Yes
SRPEDD Commission Chair	Yes
SRTA	Yes
GATRA	Yes

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

6. Other Business

Mr. Mission highlighted the election held last week in Fairhaven. SMMPO Board member, Charlie Murphy, lost the election as a member of the Board of Selectmen and his replacement was sworn in last week. As such, Mr. Murphy will step down from his position on the SMMPO board. He provided SRPEDD with an email. Chairman Mohler requested clarification on the process to replace Mr. Murphy. Mr. Mission explained that there will an election of new MPO members at the next commission meeting for two vacancies, and eliminating Mr. Murphy's nomination, there are two nominations for the two positions. He went on to explain that this will possibly be the last SMMPO meeting before the next SMMPO members take on their new roles.

SRPEDD received notice of the Shared Streets and Public Spaces Funding, which was shared to all SMMPO and JTPG members. Mr. Mission welcomed Chairman Mohler to say a few words regarding the program. Chairman Mohler stated that though it is a quick turnaround, he encouraged cities and towns to apply. It is designed to make funding available for cities and towns to take an innovative approach to sharing streets and repurposing public space for the re-openings during the summer or fall.

Mr. Bill Roth inquired whether it would be possible to speak to someone at MassDOT prior to submitting an application. Chairman Mohler offered to connect Mr. Roth to the appropriate individuals to discuss Taunton's project further.

Mr. Mission thanked the members of the SMMPO for their attendance and attention during these unprecedented times of social distancing.

7. Place and Time for Next Meeting: Chairman Mohler stated the next SMMPO meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 21, 2020 and will take place virtually. SRPEDD staff will reach out with notification if the meeting is not necessary.

8. Adjourn: Chairman Mohler called for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made and seconded.