DRAFT Minutes of the Southeastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (SMMPO) Meeting Held on
Tuesday, November 17, 2020 at 1:00 PM
Held Remotely via Zoom due to the Covid-19 State of Emergency in Massachusetts

The following members were in attendance:

Steve Woelfel Representing Stephanie Pollack, MassDOT Secretary and CEO, Chair
Bob Wheeler Representing Jonathan Gulliver, MassDOT Highway Div. Administrator
Jamie Ponte Representing Jon Mitchell, Mayor of New Bedford
Bill Roth Representing Shaunna O’Connell, Mayor of Taunton
Shawn McDonald Town of Dartmouth
Julie Boyce Town of North Attleborough
Holly McNamara Town of Somerset
Alan Slavin SRPEDD Commission Chair
Shayne Trimbell Representing Erik Rousseau, Administrator, SRTA
Mark Sousa Administrator, GATRA

The following were also present:

Paul Mission, SRPEDD
Lisa Estrela-Pedro, SRPEDD
Lilia Cabral-Bernard, SRPEDD
Jackie Jones, SRPEDD
Cassie Ostrander, FHWA
Andrew Reovan, FHWA
Ben Muller, MassDOT
Barbara Lachance, MassDOT
Lee Azinheira, Town of Attleboro
Nancy Durfee, Town of Somerset
MaryEllen DeFrias, Mass Development
Barbara Stone, New Bedford Port Authority
Kevin Dumas, Town of Mansfield

Handouts:
SMMPO Meeting Draft Minutes October 20, 2020
FFY 2021 UPWP Amendment for Route 103 Corridor Study
FFY2020 UPWP Proposed Amendment for Route 6 Study
FFY2021-2025 Proposed TIP Amendments #1
AGENDA:

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**

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

   MassDOT Chair Yes
   MassDOT Administrator Yes
   City of New Bedford Yes
   City of Taunton Yes
   Town of North Attleborough Yes
   Town of Dartmouth 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 Woelfel invited members of the public to make any comments. None were presented.

3. **Approval of Minutes – October 20, 2020 (Materials Attached and Roll Call Vote needed)**

   Chairman Woelfel requested a motion to approve the minutes from the SMMPO meeting from October 20, 2020. The motion was made by Alan Slavin, the SRPEDD Commission Chair and seconded by Shawn McDonald of Dartmouth. Ms. Cabral-Bernard called the roll:

   MassDOT Chair Yes
   MassDOT Administrator Yes
   City of New Bedford Yes
   City of Taunton Yes
   Town of North Attleborough Yes
   Town of Dartmouth Yes
   Town of Somerset Yes
4. **SMMPO Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs) Report – Opportunity for RTAs to address the SMMPO**

Shayne Trimbell from SRTA stated that there was not too much to update from last month, and that they are doing what they’ve been doing, and it seems to be working.

Mark Sousa from GATRA stated that they are continuing to move forward with trying to see how they can be more efficient, and having their routes reviewed. He informed the group that they are starting a pilot program on December 1 with National Express for the Franklin area, it's a pilot program that they’re doing here and in Arizona. It’s a micro transit project.

5. **Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) –**
   
a. Discussion on proposed FFY 2021 UPWP Amendment for Route 103 Corridor Study *(Materials Attached and Roll Call Vote needed to approve)*

Paul Mission explained that there was amendment presented to the MPO at the last meeting that was released for 21-day public comment period in regards to a study of the Route 103 corridor for access management purposes. A public meeting was held remotely on November 10 and there were no comments as a result of the meeting or submitted during the 21-day public comment period. The study itself is to review safety issues associated with driveway access along the Route 103 corridor from the interchange with Lee's river Avenue easterly to Brayton Point Road. The study was requested by the town planner Nancy Durfee, of the town of Somerset, to help with some of their development needs.

Mr. Woelfel asked for a motion to accept this study into the FFY 2021 UPWP before entertaining any questions.

Nancy Durfee thanked SRPEDD and Holly McNamara thanked Nancy Durfee for her hard work.

Mr. Woelfel asked for a motion. Holly McNamara made the motion and it was seconded by Kevin Dumas of Mansfield.

Mr. Mission interrupted and stated that we needed clarification on who seconded the motion because Mr. Dumas is not a voting member of the SMMPO and cannot second a motion.
The Chair asked for another second to Holly McNamara’s motion and Alan Slavin seconded the motion. Ms. Cabral-Bernard called the roll:

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

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

b. Discussion on proposed FFY 2021 UPWP Amendment for Route 6 Corridor Study (Materials Attached and Roll Call Vote needed to release for public comment)

Mr. Mission explained that there was a proposed amendment to the FFY 2021 UPWP to the Management Systems task, which will not change the overall budget, concerning the Route 6 corridor in Westport and into Dartmouth to Cross Road. Attached in the materials distributed is a scope of work for inclusion with this task.

Mr. Mission continued by explaining that this is a safety study because there have been several fatalities along the Route 6 corridor and speed may be a factor. This will be a two-phase study beginning in the spring, and throughout the summer, and hopefully beyond the effects of the pandemic, to begin data collection efforts.

The second phase, which is an evaluation and future projections of possible traffic conditions will take place in the next work program, beginning October 1, and that would be for fiscal year 2022. It would include recommendations, work with the communities, and a public outreach effort.

Mr. Woelfel asked for a motion and a second to send the amendment out for public comment. A motion was made by Shawn McDonald of Dartmouth and was seconded by SRPEDD Commission Chair Alan Slavin. Mr. Woelfel asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, Ms. Cabral-Bernard called the roll:
MassDOT Chair  Yes  
MassDOT Administrator  Yes  
City of New Bedford  Yes  
City of Taunton  Yes  
Town of North Attleborough  Yes  
Town of Dartmouth  Yes  
Town of Somerset  Yes  
Town of Middleborough  Yes  
SRPEDD Commission Chair  Yes  
SRTA  Yes  
GATRA  Yes  

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY  

6.  **FFY2021-2025 TIP Proposed Amendment**  
    **(Materials Attached and Roll Call Vote needed to release for public comment)**  

Lisa Estrela-Pedro presented the FFY2021-2025 TIP amendment which includes both highway and transit amendments that will need a vote to release to a 21-day comment period. The highway amendment concerns the Taunton-Interchange Improvements at Routes 24 and 140. These funds were obligated earlier, due to a redistribution exercise conducted at the end of fiscal year 2020, which is triggering this amendment to remove the funds from federal fiscal year 2021.  

On the transit side for GATRA are three separate line items, one for a feasibility study for a parking garage at the TOD area at the Commuter Rail station, and the other two are for engineering and construction of a pedestrian walkway on Fourth Street. The proposed amendment for SRTA is for additional operating assistance.  

Mr. Woelfel asked for a motion and a second. The motion was made by Bill Roth of Taunton, and the motion was seconded by Shayne Trimbell of SRTA. Mr. Woefel asked the group if anyone had any questions. Hearing none, he asked Ms. Cabral-Bernard to call the roll:

MassDOT Chair  Yes  
MassDOT Administrator  Yes  
City of New Bedford  Yes  
City of Taunton  Yes  
Town of North Attleborough  Yes  
Town of Dartmouth  Yes  
Town of Somerset  Yes
Mr. Ben Muller presented the performance measures congestion emissions targets for the Boston urbanized area. He informed the group that these were presented in October for MPO consideration and today require a vote to adjust those into the Southeastern Mass TIP.

Mr. Muller continued by explaining that the performance measure in question is a percentage of non-single occupancy vehicle travel, and this is a four-year target that was set back in 2018. They’ve had the opportunity to revisit this target two years into it, and the new data shows that the targets are doing better than estimated. The projection that was made two years ago was 35.1% and the new data shows that the percent of non-single occupancy vehicle travel and the urbanized area is increasing faster than was predicted, and so a revision of the target was made, up to 35.8%. This may seem minor, but it’s covering the entire Boston urbanized area, and that 0.7% is somewhere between 12,000 and 15,000 additional people estimated to choose some method of getting to work other than a single occupancy vehicle. This data also includes telecommuting, which may rise as well.

The other target being looking at is the emissions reductions target, which covers emissions reductions by CMAQ funded projects in non-attainment, municipalities in the Commonwealth, but this particular target doesn’t impact southeastern Massachusetts.

The Chairman made a motion and a second to accept these new targets. A motion was made by Holly McNamara from Somerset, and a second was made by Jamie Ponte from New Bedford. Ms. Cabral-Bernard called the roll:
8. **Other Business**-

Mr. Mission informed the group of the Winter Shared Streets Program. It's essentially going to be an extension of the Shared Streets Program where MassDOT is going to be providing grants, as small as $5000, and as large as $500,000 to improve plazas, sidewalks, curbed streets and parking areas, and other public spaces to support public health, safety and mobility, and renewed commerce for municipalities.

Mr. Muller informed the group of the Cape Rail Study, with the first advisory group meeting on Thursday night at 5:30pm, hosted by the Cape Cod Commission, with information on their website at [https://capecodcommission.org/our-work/cape-rail-study](https://capecodcommission.org/our-work/cape-rail-study) with links to the meeting materials and to the way to log on. It’s just on a zoom platform like this call. There is representation from Middleborough and Wareham on the advisory group. And they welcome anyone who's interested in the survey service to show up and let your voice be heard.

Mr. Woelfel asked if anyone had attended the Moving Together conference that morning and if there was any feedback from attendees. Ms. Estrela-Pedro responded that there seemed to be some issues with each presenter having to bring up their own slides and it might be smoother for one person to run the slides for all the presenters.

9. **Place and Time for Next Meeting**

The time for the next meeting is to be December 9, at 1pm, for a joint JTPG and SMMPO meeting.

10. **Adjourn**

Mr. Woelfel asked for a motion and a second to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made and seconded. He asked for all in favor to say aye. All ayes were recorded. Mr. Woelfel asked for any opposed or any abstentions. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned at 1:37 PM.