

**Southeastern Regional Planning & Economic Development District (SRPEDD)
Joint Transportation Planning Group (JTPG) Meeting.**

DRAFT Minutes for the JTPG Meeting

Held on Wednesday, August 9, 2023 at 2:00 PM

**Held Hybrid via Zoom and SRPEDD Office in Accordance with Massachusetts Open
Meeting Law.**

The following members and alternates were in attendance:

- Alan Slavin, Vice-Chair.....Town of Wareham
- Joe Callahan.....Town of Berkley
- John Woods.....Town of Carver
- Tim Barber.....Town of Dartmouth
- Joshua Crabb.....Town of Fairhaven
- Daniel Aguiar.....City of Fall River
- Victoria Alfaro-Duran.....Town of Freetown
- Josh Reinke.....Town of Mansfield, alternate
- Norman Hills.....Town of Marion
- Robert Burgmann.....Town of Mattapoissett
- Leeann Bradley.....Town of Middleborough
- Nancy Durfee.....Town of Rochester
- David Cabral.....Town of Seekonk
- James HartnettTown of Westport
- Gloria Saddler.....At-Large, City of Fall River

The following members/alternates were NOT in attendance:

- City of Attleboro At-Large, City of Attleboro
- City of Taunton At-Large, City of New Bedford
- City of New Bedford At-Large, City of Taunton
- Town of Acushnet
- Town of Dighton
- Town of Lakeville
- Town of North Attleborough
- Town of Norton
- Town of Plainville
- Town of Raynham
- Town of Rehoboth
- Town of Somerset
- Town of Swansea

Also in Attendance:

- Shayne Trimbell.....SRTA
- Mary Ellen DeFrias.....GATRA
- Joshua Barber.....FHWA
- Raissah Kouame.....MassDOT
- Cheryll-Ann Senior.....MassDOT
- Derek Shooster.....MassDOT
- Derek Krevat.....MassDOT
- Paul Duarte.....Town of Dartmouth
- Lisa Estrela-Pedro.....SRPEDD
- Jackie Jones.....SRPEDD
- Andrea Duarte.....SRPEDD
- Sean Hilton.....SRPEDD
- Jon Gray.....SRPEDD
- Phil Viveiros.....McMahon & Associates

Handouts:

- JTPG Meeting Agenda for August 9, 2023
- DRAFT July 12, 2023 JTPG Meeting Minutes
- Proposed FFY2023-2027 TIP Adjustment 5

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Roll Call:

Vice-Chair Alan Slavin called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM. Ms. Duarte asked all JTPG members to unmute themselves so she could call the complete roll call of JTPG members, with the following being present at the time of the roll call:

- Joe Callahan..... Town of Berkley
- John Woods.....Town of Carver
- Tim Barber.....Town of Dartmouth
- Joshua Crabb.....Town of Fairhaven
- Daniel Aguiar.....City of Fall River
- Victoria Alfaro-Duran.....Town of Freetown
- Josh Reinke.....Town of Mansfield, alternate
- Norman Hills.....Town of Marion
- Robert Burgmann..... Town of Mattapoisett

Leeann Bradley.....Town of Middleborough
David Cabral..... Town of Seekonk
Alan Slavin.....Town of Wareham
Gloria Saddler..... At-Large, City of Fall River

2. Approval of Minutes – July 12, 2023 (Materials Attached & roll call vote needed)

Vice-Chair Slavin called for a motion to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2023 meeting. Robert Burgmann made the motion and Vice-Chair Slavin seconded the motion. Ms. Duarte then called the roll:

Town of Berkley.....Yes
Town of Carver.....Yes
Town of Dartmouth..... Yes
Town of Fairhaven..... Yes
City of Fall River.....Yes
Town of Freetown.....Yes
Town of Mansfield, alternate.....Yes
Town of Marion.....Yes
Town of Mattapoisett..... Yes
Town of Middleborough..... Yes
Town of Seekonk.....Yes
Town of Wareham.....Yes
Town of Westport.....Yes
At-Large, City of Fall RiverYes

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Public Comments – Opportunity for the Public to address the JTPG

There were no comments offered.

4. Draft Regional Transportation Plan (Roll Call Vote Need to Recommend to SMMPO for Release to a Minimum 21-day Public Comment Period)

Lisa Estrela-Pedro stated that the draft 2024 Regional Transportation Plan, Moving Forward 2050, is currently being formatted by staff and will be up on the SRPEDD website soon. She provided some additional financial highlights about the RTP. GATRA and SRTA receive funding for operations, maintenance, bus replacements, and capital improvements, but additional funding is still needed to help keep up with their bus replacement schedule and other capital and operation's needs. SRTA's capital needs include renovating and potentially relocating their former maintenance facility and replacing the New Bedford terminal. GATRA's capital needs include upgrading the Taunton terminal and maintenance facilities, some of which are currently underway. Beyond the existing FFY2024-2028

TIP, we are looking at having all community-initiated projects funded by 2030, but this does not factor in project increases and delays. MassDOT-initiated projects in the region could be completed by 2035 if these projects were programmed with regional target funding. Based on regional targets and forecasting out to year 2050, there are projected to be sufficient funds, although the process is lengthy.

Ms. Estrela-Pedro thanked all communities for individually meeting with SRPEDD staff and members of the public for participating in the listening sessions. A major theme from meetings with municipal officials was the challenge of funding, mostly for smaller projects. Limited staffing capacity to apply for and manage grant funding and meeting grant eligibility criteria were two of the largest barriers identified to completing transportation projects. One example is communities having bridges that are slightly over the required size to qualify for MassDOT’s Municipal Small Bridge Program, forcing these communities to apply for this funding through the TIP which escalates the design cost of the project. Many communities consistently expressed an urgent need for increased Chapter 90 funding, which is vital to an array of multimodal projects but still inadequate to meet communities’ existing needs.

Ms. Estrela-Pedro asked if there were questions and encouraged members to read through the plan and provide feedback. She asked the body for a vote to recommend that the SMMPO release the draft RTP to a minimum 21-day public comment period at its next meeting. The Chair asked for a motion and second to recommend the draft RTP for public release by the SMMPO. The motion was made by Daniel Aguiar and seconded by Joe Callahan. The Vice-Chair asked Ms. Duarte to read the roll as follows:

- Town of Berkley.....Yes
- Town of Carver.....Yes
- Town of Dartmouth..... Yes
- Town of Fairhaven..... Yes
- City of Fall River.....Yes
- Town of Freetown.....Yes
- Town of Mansfield, alternate.....Yes
- Town of Marion.....Yes
- Town of Mattapoisett..... Yes
- Town of Middleborough..... Yes
- Town of Seekonk.....Yes
- Town of Wareham.....Yes
- Town of Westport.....Yes
- At-Large, City of Fall RiverYes

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. Draft Regional Bicycle Plan Presentation (Roll Call Vote Need to Recommend to SMMPO for Release to a Minimum 21-day Public Comment Period)

SRPEDD Transportation Planner Jon Gray gave a presentation on the draft 2024 Regional Bicycle Plan. He discussed various benefits and considerations for investing in bicycling infrastructure in the SRPEDD region, including equity and accessibility, public health, emissions reductions, economic development, safety, and connectivity. The Regional Bicycle Plan public survey yielded 435 responses. Some of its major themes were concerns about lack of bicycling safety on roadways being a barrier for cycling and the need for increased connectivity between various locations and types of amenities. Norton, Swansea, and Middleborough had the highest response rates. Mr. Gray provided an overview of the region's existing and proposed bicycle network, including its various existing shared use paths. Mr. Gray answered several questions from attendees and discussion ensued about various concerns including: prioritizing on-road versus off-road bicycle facilities, designing roadways to accommodate all users from early project stages and not fitting them into car-centered design as an afterthought, the need for regulation of electric bike speeds, what is being done to increase bicycle parking while minimizing interference with local traffic, what are the considerations for bike safety barriers and delineators, concerns about safety inadequacies of painted bike lanes, plans for expanding bike share programs, mapping of existing off-road trails and open space properties, and prioritizing bicycle facility investments on state-owned roads versus other locations in a fiscally constrained climate. Derek Krevat encouraged the Plan to include consideration of shared bicycle, e-bike, e-scooter, and other micro-mobility transportation facilities in order for local communities to be eligible for federal aid to procure bike share facilities and their capital costs through Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding.

Mr. Gray asked the body for a vote to recommend that the SMMPO release the draft 2024 Regional Bicycle Plan to a minimum 21-day public comment period at its next meeting. The Chair asked for a motion and second to recommend the draft Regional Bicycle Plan for public release by the SMMPO. The motion was made by Victoria Alfaro-Duran and seconded by Daniel Aguiar. The Vice-Chair asked Ms. Duarte to read the roll as follows:

Town of Berkley.....Yes
Town of Carver.....Yes
Town of Dartmouth..... Yes
Town of Fairhaven..... Yes
City of Fall River.....Yes
Town of Freetown.....Yes
Town of Mansfield, alternate.....Yes
Town of Marion.....Yes
Town of Mattapoissett..... Yes
Town of Middleborough..... Yes
Town of Rochester.....Yes
Town of Seekonk.....Yes

Town of Wareham.....Yes
Town of Westport.....Yes
At-Large, City of Fall RiverYes

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. Proposed FFY2023-2027 TIP Adjustment #5 (Materials Attached, Roll Call Vote Needed to Endorse)

Ms. Estrela-Pedro informed the group that there is an adjustment to the FFY2023-27 TIP for GATRA due to two changes in funding sources. GATRA received a funding match to acquire mobile fare collection equipment and for the rehabilitation and renovation of their maintenance facility. Ms. Estrela-Pedro asked for the body to take a vote to include this adjustment on the FFY2023 – 2027 TIP. The Vice-Chair asked for a motion and second to endorse TIP Adjustment #5. The motion was made by Joe Callahan and seconded by Victoria Alfaro-Duran. The Vice-Chair asked Ms. Duarte to read the roll as follows:

Town of Berkley.....Yes
Town of Carver.....Yes
Town of Dartmouth..... Yes
Town of Fairhaven..... Yes
City of Fall River.....Yes
Town of Freetown.....Yes
Town of Mansfield, alternate.....Yes
Town of Marion.....Yes
Town of Mattapoisett..... Yes
Town of Middleborough..... Yes
Town of Rochester.....Yes
Town of Seekonk.....Yes
Town of Wareham.....Yes
Town of Westport.....Yes
At-Large, City of Fall RiverYes

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. Other Business

Ms. Estrela-Pedro announced that this year’s [MassDOT Moving Together conference](#) will be held on Wednesday, October 4, 2023 at the Sheraton Boston Hotel. She announced that [the Safe Routes to School \(SRTS\) Program](#) will be holding an informational webinar on August 23, which is the opening date of this year’s SRTS grant application period. The SRTS Signs and Lines grant program application

period will close on September 22nd and the SRTS Infrastructure Project grant application period will close on October 6th. There is a new version of MassDOT's MaPIT software to initiate projects going live, there will be two training sessions through UMTC for municipal users on August 29th and 31st; more info can be found at this [link](#). Lastly, MassDOT will hold a virtual public hearing to present the design for the proposed ADA retrofits at various project locations in District 5; more info can be found at this [link](#).

8. Date and Time for Next Meeting

Date and Time for next meeting is September 13, 2023, at 2:00 PM as a hybrid meeting, in which attendees can join at the SRPEDD office in Taunton or via Zoom.

9. Adjourn

The Vice-Chair asked for a motion to adjourn which was made by Robert Burgmann and seconded by Victoria Alfaro-Duran. Hearing no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 2:41 PM.