

Draft Minutes of the Southeastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (SMMPO) Meeting on Tuesday, October 17, 2023 at 1:00 PM - Held remotely via Zoom.

The following members were in attendance:

Stephen Woelfel-----Representing Monica Tibbits-Nutt, Acting MassDOT Secretary, **Chair**
Shaun Handy-----Representing Jonathan Gulliver, MassDOT Highway Div. Administrator
Cathleen DeSimone-----Mayor of Attleboro
Daniel Aguiar-----Representing Paul Coogan, Mayor of Fall River
Jamie Ponte----- Representing Jon Mitchell, Mayor of New Bedford
Kevin Dumas-----Town of Mansfield
Alan Slavin-----Town of Wareham
Shayne Trimbell-----Representing SRTA Administrator Erik Rousseau

The following were also in attendance:

Raissah Kouame-----MassDOT
Barbara Lachance-----MassDOT
Andrew Wang-----MassDOT
Colleen Pekrul-----MassDOT/Safe Routes to School
Bonnie Roalsen-----MassDOT/Safe Routes to School
David-----LakeCAM TV
Eli-----LakeCAM TV
Southcoast Bikeway Alliance Member
Lisa Estrela-Pedro-----SRPEDD
Jackie Jones-----SRPEDD
Andrea Duarte-----SRPEDD
Sean Hilton-----SRPEDD
Elijah Medeiros-----Member of the public

Handouts:

SMMPO Agenda October 17, 2023
SMMPO Draft Meeting Minutes September 19, 2023
FFY2024 UPWP Proposed Amendment 1

AGENDA:

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

Chairman Stephen Woelfel called the SMMPO meeting to order at 1:00 pm. Ms. Andrea Duarte asked all MPO members and designees to please unmute themselves so she could call the roll for attendance. She then called the complete roll of MPO members, with the following being present at the time of the roll call:

MassDOT Chair-----Yes
MassDOT Administrator-----Yes
City of Attleboro-----Yes
City of Fall River-----Yes
City of New Bedford-----Yes
Town of Mansfield-----Yes
Town of Wareham-----Yes
SRTA-----Yes

2. Approval of Minutes – September 19, 2023 (Materials Attached and Roll Call Vote Needed)

Chairman Woelfel requested a motion to approve the minutes from the September 19, 2023 SMMPO meeting. The motion was made by Alan Slavin and seconded by Daniel Aguiar. Ms. Duarte then called the roll:

MassDOT Chair-----Yes
MassDOT Administrator-----Yes
City of Attleboro-----Yes
City of Fall River-----Yes
City of New Bedford-----Yes
Town of Mansfield-----Yes
Town of Wareham-----Yes
SRTA-----Yes

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Public Comments

Chairman Woelfel invited members of the public to make comments. There were no comments presented.

4. Regional Transit Authorities Report – RTA Updates

Shayne Trimbell announced that SRTA is working on a plan to implement Sunday service starting in 2024 using additional funding received from the Fair Share Amendment. There is no specific date yet, SRTA is contending with the challenge of hiring drivers to get this done. SRTA just kicked off a study to examine the Fall River maintenance facility and locate a new site since

the RTA has outgrown this one. SRTA will need more space to store more buses if it will adopt zero emission vehicles.

5. FFY24-28 TIP Proposed Amendment #1 – Inclusion of New Bedford Raise Grant - (Roll Call Vote needed to Release to minimum 21-day Comment Period)

Lisa Estrela-Pedro informed the group that FFY24-28 TIP Proposed Amendment #1 is for inclusion of the \$1.7 million RAISE grant that the City of New Bedford received for the New Bedford Blue Lane Working Waterfront Connector. It funds planning, preliminary design and public outreach for the last gap in the north-south connection of the Cove Walk and Harbor Walk. It does not affect regional target funds but will allow New Bedford the opportunity to access the grant funds to begin conducting the aforementioned tasks. Ms. Estrela-Pedro asked the body to release the proposed TIP amendment to a 21-day comment period.

The Chair asked if there were any questions on the amendment and seeing none asked for a motion and second to release it to a 21-day comment period. The motion was made by Daniel Aguiar and seconded by Alan Slavin. The Chair asked Ms. Duarte to read the roll as follows:

MassDOT Chair-----Yes
MassDOT Administrator-----Yes
City of Attleboro-----Yes
City of Fall River-----Yes
City of New Bedford-----Yes
Town of Mansfield-----Yes
Town of Wareham-----Yes
SRTA-----Yes

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. FFY24 UPWP Proposed Amendment #1 - Inclusion of GATRA Contract/Scope of Services (Roll Call Vote needed to Release to minimum 21-day Comment Period)

Ms. Estrela-Pedro stated that SRPEDD’s FFY23 contract with GATRA still had a remaining balance of \$21,000 and GATRA is requesting SRPEDD extend the contract through May of 2024. Under this contract, SRPEDD will continue to provide technical assistance to GATRA. It needs to be amended into the UPWP so that SRPEDD can continue this work. Ms. Estrela-Pedro asked the body to release the proposed UPWP amendment to a 21-day comment period.

The Chair asked if there were any questions and seeing none asked the body for a motion and second to release the amendment to a 21-day comment period. The motion was made by

Daniel Aguiar and seconded by Alan Slavin. The Chair asked Ms. Duarte to read the roll as follows:

MassDOT Chair-----Yes
MassDOT Administrator-----Yes
City of Attleboro-----Yes
City of Fall River-----Yes
City of New Bedford-----Yes
Town of Mansfield-----Yes
Town of Wareham-----Yes
SRTA-----Yes

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. Other Business

Ms. Estrela-Pedro announced that MassDOT is holding a design public hearing on October 25 at 6:30 PM in New Bedford to discuss the Route 18 – I95 Interchange. It will be held at the Hayden- McFadden Elementary School. SRPEDD staff will follow up with an email after the meeting.

8. Date and Time for Next Meeting

The Chair announced that the next SMMPO meeting will be on November 21, 2023, at 1:00 pm, held virtually as of right now.

9. Adjourn

The Chair asked for a motion and second to adjourn. Daniel Aguiar made the motion and Alan Slavin seconded. The Chair asked that all in favor say aye. All ayes were heard. The Chair thanked everyone, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:11 PM.