

September 23, 2020
6:30 PM Regular Meeting
Virtual SRPEDD Commission Meeting
*to be convened online, allowing for remote participation via workstation, laptop,
smartphone, or landline (audio only)*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82426347313?pwd=M2l2OGJpbHAyNWlJM1VmNTZSRlVlZz09>

AGENDA

1. Call to Order, Introductions, and Welcome
2. **Q&A on Solar Siting with Zara Dowling, PhD**, Clean Energy Research Fellow, Center for Ag, Food and the Environment, UMass Amherst. Please view **webinar** before meeting at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4rOwzpzXxvc&feature=youtu.be> *
3. Approval of Minutes – July 22, 2020* (*Vote requested*)
4. Reports
 - a. Chair
 - b. Executive Director
5. Consent Agenda
 - a. Regional Reviews- none this month
 - b. Contracts* (*Vote to receive and place on file*)
6. Committee Reports
 - a. Finance Committee * (*Vote to receive report and place on file*)
 - b. Joint Transportation Planning Group/MPO* (*Vote to receive and place on file*)
7. Grant Awards, Funding Availability Notifications/Grant-Writing Authorizations, and Letter of Support Requests
 - a. EDA Somerset Water Infrastructure Improvement Funding Award *- \$646,559
8. Old Business
 - a. Technical Assistance* (*Vote to receive and place on file*)
 - b. 2020 MassWorks Applications from SRPEDD Region
9. New Business
10. Roundtable: Opportunity for Commissioners to provide updates on local topics, projects or matters of regional interest
11. Adjourn

FUTURE MEETINGS: October 28, 2020; December 2, 2020

NOTE: An Exec. Cmte Meeting will be convened in the absence of a Commission quorum.

*Attached

Solar Development Webinar Video



*Please be sure to view webinar before
9/23 Commission meeting in order to
take advantage of Question and
Answer session with Dr. Dowling!*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4rOwzzpXxvc&feature=youtu.be>

This webinar covers an overview of solar development in MA, explains the basics of the newly updated state solar incentive program (SMART), and discusses how the program interacts with municipal bylaws.

The presenter, Zara Dowling, is a research fellow with [UMass Clean Energy Extension](#). UMass Clean Energy Extension, in partnership with the [Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions](#) and others, is working to help towns develop their own solar bylaws.

Relevant resources can be found [here](#).

Zara Dowling, PhD



Research Fellow

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Associated Website(s): [Clean Energy Extension](#)

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Profile:

Zara joined Clean Energy Extension in 2017. She recently completed her PhD in the UMass Amherst Department of Environmental Conservation, as a fellow in the Offshore Wind Energy IGERT Program. Her PhD research focused on minimizing effects of offshore wind energy development on bats. She earned a BA in Biology from Bard College in 2007, and an MS in Environmental Science & Technology at the University of Maryland in 2011. She lives in New Salem, where she is a member of her town Energy Committee and Conservation Commission.

AGENDA ITEM: Minutes, # 3

 SRPEDD Commission Minutes- Draft
 July 22, 2020
 Virtual Meeting
Present:**Commissioners:**

H. Young, Acushnet	J. Callahan, Berkley	S. Leary, Berkley	B. Maki, Carver
J. Walsh, Carver	D. Wender, Dartmouth	K. Melo, Dartmouth	R. Espindola, Fairh.
R. Fleurent, Jr. Fairh.	B. Mancovsky, Lakeville	A. Horowitz, Mansfield	N. Hills, Marion
J. Robbins, Mattap.	L. Dalpe, Middleboro	L. Bradley, Middleboro	K. Bryan, New Bedford
L. Pirnie, No. Attle.	M. Clarner, No. Attle.	S. Ollerhead, Norton	C. Yarworth, Plainville
C. Sullivan, Raynham	W. Costa, Rehoboth	G. Hartley, Rochester	S. Starrett, Rochester
S. D'Amico, Seekonk	P. Dunn, Seekonk	L. Mendes, Somerset	G. Hovorka, Swansea
W. Roth, Taunton	A. Slavin, Wareham	M. King, Wareham	S. Ouellette, Westport
J. Whitin, Westport	R. Tith, F.R A/L	J. Pecinni, Taunton A/L	

Guests/Staff:

E. Arbeene, SRPEDD	G. King, SRPEDD	J. Walker, SRPEDD	K. Porter, SRPEDD
P. Mission, SRPEDD	S. Royer, SRPEDD		

Absent:

G. Ayrassian, Attleboro	J. Figueiredo, Dighton	W. Kenney, Fall River	J. Ferreira, Fall River
C. McKay, Freetown	D. DeManche, Freetown	M. Candito, Lakeville	R. Burgmann, Mattap.
J. Ponte, New Bedford	T. Harkin, New Bedford	S. Hornsby, Norton	M. Andrade, Raynham
G. Schwall, Rehub.	R. Fenstermaker, Som.	J. Hansen, Swansea	P. Sullivan, NB A/L

- 1. Call to Order:** The meeting was virtually called to order by Chairman Alan Slavin at 6:30 P.M. A roll call was taken by municipality. The meeting was recorded.
- 2. Presentation: David Lakeman,** Director of Government Affairs, Mass Cannabis Control Commission (CCC) with an update on the latest from the CCC, beginning with where the Commission currently stands on licensing. He mentioned at this point the Commission has 272 pending applications, which means that they have submitted all four parts of their application and are currently awaiting review by Commission staff. There are 103 provisionally approved applications which means that they have had a public hearing and they have been approved for a provisional license. He stated that there are 290 provisional licenses, and 152 final licenses. There are 221 marijuana retailers, 167 marijuana cultivators, 131 product manufacturers, 13 micro businesses, 6 testing labs, 5 transporters, 1 craft cooperative, and one third party marijuana transporter. He stated that the Commission is continuing to see a pretty big increase in the number of folks that were getting licensed.

He concluded his presentation with a brief Q&A session, providing his contact information for any who wished to get in touch with additional questions. For more information please visit the CCC website at: <https://mass-cannabis-control.com>.

- 3. Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made to approve the June 24, 2020 minutes with one abstention. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Reports:

- a. **Chair:** Chairman Slavin mentioned that he did not have much to report but we are still in phase three step one and last is phase four which is probably at least three weeks away. There seems to be a slight uptick COVID as far as actual deaths and actual cases. Massachusetts has really been holding pretty good with today's numbers but a little higher. Then we will see how August and September will be handled with school issues. Chairman Slavin stated that everybody who has anything to do with schools at the local level is that looking closely at the budget. He mentioned in Wareham for example, they are looking at a \$4 to \$8 million increase in costs, which from a practical standpoint is impossible.
- b. **Executive Director:** Mr. Walker reported that the agency has continued to ramp up in terms of its capacity to deliver technical economic development and recovery assistance, with an information packet regarding SRPEDD's receipt of a recent CARES grant scheduled to go out shortly, and an upcoming kick-off/information session for member municipalities to be held in conjunction with the quarterly Regional Economic Strategy Committee (RESC) meeting 8/19. Mr. Walker indicated that he has already had opportunity to speak with a number of Commissioners, and he and fellow staff will be reaching out to all 27 municipalities. All are cordially invited to attend the referenced RESC/information session to be held via Zoom on Wednesday, August 19 at 11:30 am.

5. Consent Agenda:

- a. **Regional Reviews:** Mr. King referred the Commissioner to the ENFs that were submitted.

ENFs SUBMITTED:

1. **Project Title/Location:** (Subdivision at) 46 Sconticut Neck Road
Address: 46 Sconticut Neck Road, Fairhaven, MA
Project Proponent: Alexander Grey Development, LLC
Project Description: "The Applicant, Alexander Grey Development proposes to construct an 8 single family home sub-division, access road, utilities, storm water facility, and mitigate for historic wetland impacts Identified by MassGIS 2005 Human Altered database. Currently a two family home is located on the property which will be razed to allow construction. DEP Water Quality requirements caused a design change; the project flipped the storm water basin to the south and mitigation to the north.

To gain access to the infiltration basin, the project will cross and impact an additional 1,401 square feet of degraded wetlands. The design of the access road is the minimal impact that supports DPW maintenance vehicles and DPW Fairhaven has approved road design. The total impact to wetlands is 10,445 square feet. To mitigate these impacts, the applicant will construct 10,671 square feet of forested wetlands. In addition to the proposed mitigation, the project proposes to preserve 22.7 acres of land by transferring ownership of the land to the Town of Fairhaven Conservation Commission.

In summary the proposed development will focus the development to the existing house lot and 3.7 acres previously disturbed. The wetland mitigation will restore lost headwater wetlands and the land transfer will preserve for perpetuity important marine, floodplain and wildlife resources."

Received by SRPEDD: June 24, 2020; SRPEDD did not submit comments for this project.

2. **Project Title/Location:** To License and Maintain Existing Pile Spud-Anchored Barge, Gangway, Solid Filled Pier, and to Rebuild Rock Revetment

Address: 2 Washburn Street, New Bedford, MA

Project Proponent: Ralph Packer

Project Description: “The project site currently includes an existing facility that includes fish offloading, processing, a retail fish market, and associated activities (at Kyler Seafood). The site also includes storage and staging area for contractors performing projects in the harbor and berthing for commercial fishing vessels. Portions of the site are within historic filled tidelands and the existing solid filled pier, spud-anchored barge, and stone rip rap are existing . . . The barge is registered as a vessel.”

Received by SRPEDD: June 24, 2020; SRPEDD did not submit comments for this project.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Regional Reviews. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

- b. **Contracts:** Chairman Slavin presented the two contracts below.

Be it resolved that the SRPEDD Commission authorizes the Chairman, Treasurer, Officers and Executive Director, as appropriate, to negotiate and execute the following contracts:

1. With the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) as part of the CARES ACT / COVID-19 Recovery Grant program, to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic by pursuing an expanded and enhanced portfolio of economic, workforce, and community development projects for an amount not to exceed \$400,000.
2. With Benjamin Menezes, incoming new Transportation Planning Intern, at the amounts of \$14.00 per hour, beginning July 1, 2020.

The motion was made and seconded to accept the two contracts as written above. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. **Committee Reports:**

- a. **Finance Committee:** Mr. Horowitz reported that the Finance Committee met on July 15, 2020 via Zoom. The June 17, 2020 Finance meeting minutes were approved. The Treasurer’s Report for June 2020 received, and a warrant for expenses in the amount of \$138,285.66 was approved.

The Committee reviewed the OPEB statements for May and June 2020 included in the packet, in addition to a Portfolio Review through June 30, as well as June 2020 month-end general journal entries.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Finance report and place on file. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

- b. **Joint Transportation Planning Group/MPO:** Mr. Mission reported that the JTPG and the SMMPO did not meet this month. He shared that staff was working on data collection around the region.

7. Grant Awards, Funding Availability Notifications/Grant-Writing Authorizations, and Letter of Support Requests

- a. **MARPA H4854 Economic Development Bond Bill Letter of Support:** Copy of draft letter on behalf 13 RPAs, included in agenda packet. Chances of requested items receiving funding uncertain, owing to state budget crisis.

8. Old Business: None

- a. **Technical Assistance:** Mr. King referred the Commission to the technical assistance page and mentioned that all projects have been moving forward.

The motion was made and seconded to approve the Technical Assistance report and placed on file. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

- b. **Regional Energy Planning Assistance (REPA), Housing Choice Community (HCC) program status updates:**

Mr. Arbeene updated Commission members on the Housing Choice Initiative (HCI). The HCI is part of the Baker-Polito Administration's efforts to encourage housing development throughout the Commonwealth. Communities can apply to become designated HCI communities in the following ways; either through a 5% increase in net new housing units over 2010 units, and/or increase of 500 or more units or 3% increase in net new housing units over 2010; or increase of 300 or more units and 7 out of 14 housing best practices. Once designated, communities have exclusive access to the Housing Choice Grant Program, which allows communities to apply for infrastructure improvements up to \$250,000. In June, seven communities in the SRPEDD region were designated as Housing Choice communities: Fall River, Mansfield, Middleborough, North Attleborough, Plainville, Seekonk, and Taunton.

Mr. Arbeene also noted that HCI has a Small Town Grant Program, which allows communities with a population under 7,000 to apply for Housing Choice grants, regardless if they have been designated a Housing Choice community. Like Housing Choice Grants, the Small Town Grants can be used infrastructure improvements but are capped at \$100K. Eric asked that if anyone had any questions about the Program to please contact him.

Mr. Whitin asked how much funding does the state allocate to this program on an annual basis. Eric responded that is approximately \$5 million, but that that may change, going forward, due to budget constraints.

- c. **Update on EDA-funded UMass-D Marine Sci and Technology Corridor Initiative:** Mr. Walker stated that many have been following the progress of the initiative, and had opportunity to attend the presentation of the year one data report at UMass Dartmouth and to see not only the attendance but the momentum that had been achieved. He mentioned that things are about a year and a half into the three year project designed not only to capitalize on existing innovative startups that we have in growing number across Southeast, from the Rhode Island border, all the way across the SRPEDD region onto Cape Cod and down the Woods Hole. The data in the report was collected by UMass Dartmouth researchers, part of the Public Policy Institute. Representatives of marine related employers had been very much excited about the attention being drawn to this industry sector and untapped potential only to then have COVID hit. He stated that UMass Dartmouth, along with

higher eds across the country during COVID have been faced with significant financial challenges, and UMass Dartmouth, moreover, has been undergoing some major turnover, with the loss of their Chancellor, closure of the Public Policy Institute, responsible for the data collection and report, and a project manager no longer affiliated with the university. He stated that he and staff, together with representatives of the Cape Cod Commission, fellow subrecipients of the grant, have been working with EDA to hopefully identify a way forward and not lose the excellent momentum and promise and potential of the initiative if UMass Dartmouth, for whatever reason, is no longer able to continue, due to financial difficulties/referenced chancellor and other transition, as the grantee.

- d. **Check out the new SRPEDD website:** Finally, Mr. Walker closed with a reminder to check out the new agency website, if folks have not yet had opportunity, that has recently been launched. Although it is not yet finished, a number of exciting features and interactive functionality are already on display and everyone has been excited about how it has been coming together. He and Mr. King asked that Commissioners please feel free get back to them with any questions, and share their comments about the new site.

9. New Business: None.

10. Roundtable: Opportunity for Commissioners to provide updates on local topics, projects or matters of regional interest:

11. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM. The next Commission meeting will be on Wednesday, September 23, 2020 at 6:30 P.M. and be held virtually via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice E. Robbins, Secretary

Date: 9/23/2020

There are no Regional Reviews to report this month.

AGENDA ITEM: Grant/Contract Approvals, # 5.b.

Be it resolved that the SRPEDD Commission authorizes the Chairman, Treasurer, Officers and Executive Director, as appropriate, to negotiate and execute the following contracts:

1. With Metropolitan Area Planning Council, on behalf of the Southeast Region Homeland Security Advisory Council (SRAC), for support of the FFY19 SRAC activities and projects for an amount not to exceed \$193,711.07.
2. With the town of Carver for assistance with the process of creating a Complete Streets Needs Assessment & Prioritization Plan for an amount not to exceed \$29,898.48.
3. With the town of Mansfield for assistance with Green Communities Designation & Grant Program administrative and technical assistance for an amount not to exceed \$9,000.
4. With the town of Somerset to provide additional technical assistance, administrative and project management services related to successfully fulfilling the establishment of a wastewater district (Component 1B) between the Town of Somerset and the neighboring Town of Swansea for an amount not to exceed \$10,000.
5. With the City of New Bedford to finalize the New Bedford TOD Study (Phase 2B) that will include developing zoning ordinance changes and design guidelines for enabling transit-oriented development surrounding the proposed Church Street (North New Bedford) and Whales Tooth (New Bedford) South Coast Rail train platforms for an amount not to exceed \$20,000.
6. With the Department of Conservation and Recreation's Mass Trails Grant Program, on behalf of the South Coast Bikeway Alliance (SCBA) for assistance with the process of completing Phase 2 of the *South Coast Bikeway Feasibility Study* for an amount not to exceed \$40,000.
7. With the town of North Attleborough for assistance with the development of a Master Plan and Housing Production Plan for an amount not to exceed \$70,000. The balance of resources [total Master Plan and Housing Production Plan project costs are approximately \$110,000] needed to complete the Master Plan and Housing Production Plan will be provided at no cost to the Town from SRPEDD's 2020 District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) award, the use of the Town's 80 hours of free FY20 and FY21 Municipal Assistance, and an anticipated 2021 DLTA award.

AGENDA ITEM: Finance Committee Report # 6.a.

The Finance Committee met on Sept. 16, 2020 via Zoom. The Aug. 19, 2020 Finance meeting minutes were approved, Treasurer's Report for August 2020 received, and a warrant for expenses in the amount of \$12,284.72 approved.

Cash & Funds: Aug. 1, 2020	\$ 628,002.59
Cash Receipts: Aug. 1 – 31, 2020	<u>\$ 195,468.56</u>
Total Cash Accounted for:	\$ 823,471.15

Disbursements: Aug. 1 – 31, 2020	\$ 302,821.71
Cash & Funds: Aug. 31, 2020	<u>\$ 520,649.44</u>
Total Cash Accounted for:	\$ 823,471.15

The Committee reviewed the OPEB statement for July 2020 included in the packet along with FY'20 Year-End and August 2020 month-end general journal entries, and received preliminary FY'20 financial statements, reflective of \$76,457 surplus, at 115% indirect rate.

The FY'20 annual audit is presently underway.

A report on the agency's OPEB Trust Fund performance was provided by Carl Begin of Bristol Wealth Group/Raymond James. He reported that the portfolio model is based on the SRPEDD Investment Policy Statement with target asset allocation of 60% U.S. equities and 40% Fixed Income. The portfolio of \$1,174,032, dated August 31, 2020, was shown to have performed well against the Custom Blended Benchmark.

AGENDA ITEM: Committee Reports- JTPG/SMMPO, # 6.b.

No JTPG and SMMPO meetings were held for the month of August.
The SMMPO met on 091520 (minutes below).

Southeastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (SMMPO)
Tuesday, September 15, 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
Pamela Haznar	Representing Jonathan Gulliver, MassDOT Highway Div. Administrator
Alan Slavin	Chairman of the SRPEDD Commission and the Town of Wareham
Shayne Trimbell	Representing Eric Rousseau, Administrator, SRTA
Mark Sousa	Administrator, GATRA
Jamie Ponte	Representing Jon Mitchell, Mayor of New Bedford
Shawn McDonald	Town of Dartmouth
Julie Boyce	Town of North Attleboro
Holly McNamara	Town of Somerset

The following were also present:

Jeffrey Walker, SRPEDD	Elizabeth Williams, MassDOT
Paul Mission, SRPEDD	Barbara Lachance, MassDOT
Lisa Estrela-Pedro, SRPEDD	Bob Campbell, MBTA
Jackie Jones, SRPEDD	Jennifer Tabakin, MBTA
Jennifer Chaves, SRPEDD	Kim Dobosz, MBTA
Lizeth Gonzalez, SRPEDD	Lee Azinheira, Town of Attleboro
Mary Ellen DeFrias, MassDevelopment	Jean Fox, MBTA
Ben Muller, MassDOT	Mike Fitzgerald, MBTA

Handouts:

FFY2020 UPWP Proposed Amendments
SMMPO Meeting Draft Minutes June 16, 2020

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Mohler welcomed attendees to the SMMPO meeting. Ms. Lisa Estrela-Pedro called the roll:

MassDOT Chair	Yes	SRPEDD Commission	Yes
MassDOT Administrator	Yes	Chair	
City of New Bedford	Yes	SRTA	Yes
Town of North Attleboro	Yes	GATRA	Yes
Town of Dartmouth	Yes		
Town of Somerset	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 – June 16, 2020 (Materials Attached and Roll Call Vote needed)

Chairman Mohler requested a motion to approve the minutes from the SMMPO meeting from June 16, 2020. The motion was made and seconded. Ms. Lisa Estrela-Pedro called the roll:

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

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

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

Mark Sousa explained that GATRA continues to offer a part of their normal full service. There has been one positive test, though it was unrelated to GATRA activities. Staff will begin working staggered schedules, reconfiguring the physical office space. Ridership has started to increase and GATRA continues to sanitize buses to maintain safety. Mr. Shayne Trimbell explained that SRTA has returned to a full schedule since August 24, 2020. School in Fall River will reopen on Thursday, and SRTA provides critical service to Durfee High School. SRTA will be hosting a virtual public meeting on Thursday September 17, 2020 to discuss changes made to the full-service schedule. These changes are meant to be temporary, but will reassess with public input. Ridership is at about 45-50% of annual ridership, which shows signs of recovery but nowhere near the expected. SRTA has been fortunate that no staff have been affected by the virus and vehicles continue to be sanitized daily.

5. Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Mr. Paul Mission took the time to introduce two new SRPEDD Commissioners, Julie Boyce from North Attleboro and Shawn McDonald, from Dartmouth. Mr. Mission opened up the floor to the new members.

Ms. Julie Boyce thanked the group for welcoming her.

Mr. Shawn McDonald explained this is his fourth term on the town council. He looks forward to participating in the SMMPO.

1. Discussion of FFY 2020 UPWP

Mr. Mission provided an update to the FY2020 UPWP. The pandemic forced a pause in certain activities, but opened the door to other opportunities. SRPEDD suspended all traffic counting activities, due to the potential for inaccurate data results. The traffic counting crew focused on the return to work volumes in specific areas over the course of the summer. This work will continue in the fall.

SRPEDD also continues pavement management activities. In addition, SRPEDD staff have started a new effort to map existing paths and trails in the region. It will contribute to a statewide database. Staff are also exploring a freight action plan, focusing on what improvements are necessary to support this activity. Pre-timed signal evaluations continue making progress. Staff collected information last fall and we were able to analyze the data over the summer. Looking at three pre-timed signal locations in Fall River and New Bedford that are prone to or contribute to poor air quality due to established signal times. The technical memorandums are in draft form and we will discuss with the respective cities to proceed with recommendations.

SRPEDD is also working on RTP Public Outreach. The RTP is updated every four years, but we have decided to start our outreach efforts well before the update is drafted. This gives us an opportunity to provide more information to communities, the SMMPO, JTPG and other partners.

All this work will continue into the new work program, including the development of the Top 100 Crash List. The list will consider high-crash locations in the region, working in conjunction with the statewide top 100 list. We also continue working on the traffic signal prioritization, which was delayed due to bus service disruptions. With some return to normalcy, we will return to these efforts and recommend solutions that improve on-time performance, physical improvements, and other strategies.

This current work program also considers flood hazard mitigation, in conjunction with other programs such as municipal vulnerability preparedness program. Altogether, this summarizes the FFY20 work program. Mr. Mission welcomed any questions, of which there were none.

2. Amendment for FFY2021 (Materials Attached and Roll Call Vote to release for 21-day public comment)

Mr. Mission discussed the FY2021 UPWP, which runs October 2020 to September 30, 2021. Much of what was already discussed will continue, with the ultimate goal of fixing and improving infrastructure. There is one amendment to add a study under the management system tasks to address a request from Somerset. The town requested an access management study along the Route 103 corridor, which is on the southern end of the town. SRPEDD received this request in the summer, which arose from haphazard curb cuts, wide open cuts, and parking in

close proximity to the edge of the road. The town is also slated for additional development. They would like to improve access management along the corridor to address safety and congestion issues. The study is within the Brayton Point area, which is an up and coming industrial area.

The study design identifies the study area as the 103 corridor from the interchange of 195 to Brayton Point Road. We are currently considering the public participation process. Previous studies in the area may assist in creating a fair assessment of pre-COVID data. We will also be counting on collecting additional data in the community. SRPEDD will conduct a traffic analysis, current and future forecasting for 10 to 20-year timeframe. The study will consider driveway layouts and how these impact current and future conditions. The study will develop improvement alternatives, which will then be shared with area residents and town leadership. Completion of this will enable the completion of the final report, which would be endorsed by this body and put on file with MassDOT. We are estimating a budget of about \$50,000.

Mr. Mission requested that this amendment be released for a 21-day public comment period.

Chairman Muller mentioned that the SMMPO may not be able to approve this because the federal government has not approved the FFY21 UPWP. The SMMPO can take questions at the moment, and table the vote until next month.

Ms. Holly McNamara thanked Mr. Mission for highlighting this project. It is an important corridor for Somerset and they are excited to see it move forward.

6. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Project Updates

Ms. Pamela Haznar provided updates to regional target projects.

2020

Taunton Interchange	Advertised and BID opening expected in October. This is a major regional project consisting of 3 bridges. This includes 2 rail bridges and the 140 bridge.
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2021

New Bedford - Intersection Improvements at Allen and Rockdale	75% This project is above the current TFPCC. The estimated cost is over the TIP estimates. In 2021, we will consider cost saving measures.
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Raynham - Resurfacing at Route 138	100% This project is above the current TFPCC. The estimated cost is over the TIP estimates. In 2021, we will consider cost saving measures.
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Seekonk – Route 44	This is on the NHS program, statewide funded, resurfacing project.
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Rehoboth – Bridge Project, Reed Street and Palmer River	100%
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Fall River – Bridge Project, Weaver Street over MassCoastal Railroad	75%
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Acushnet – Hamlin Street over Acushnet River	75% with a virtual design public hearing in July. MassDOT expects the 100% soon.
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Marion – Bridge Project, Marion Route 6 over Weeweeham River	75% is expected in the Winter.
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2022

New Bedford – Acushnet Ave at Peckham Road MassDOT has been working with City on preferred alignment for turning lanes and bike and pedestrian accommodations. Still pre-25%

Rehoboth – Roudnabout at Route 118 75%

Taunton – Route 44 Dean Street to Arlington 25%, MassDOT expects 75% next month

Attleboro – Route 1 and Route 1A 75% with a complete design

Swansea – Route 6 at Garners Neck Road Recent virtual public hearing, staewide funded.

Norton/Mansfield – Railtrail MassDOT expects 75% over the winter

2023

Dartmouth – Corridor Improvements Dartmouth and Prospect Street 25%
MassDOT looked at intersection by St. Mary Church

New Bedford- Corridor Improvements at County Street 25%

Dartmouth - Realignment at Tucker and Hathaway Road MassDOT considering other alternatives with the town. There are some right of way challenges, significant right of way to realign Tucker Road. VHB has been asked to revisit and see other, less impactful alternatives.

Plainville – Route 1 at George Street Meeting with the Board of Selectmen, MassDOT and Designer. We are in agreement to move forward with a preferred alternative.

2024

Mansfield – Chauncy Street Going back and forth with town and designer to fine tune plans.

Wareham – Narrows Road The entire project will be a shared use path, which is a major improvement. Currently at 25% though some revisions needed.

Wareham – Route 6 at Swift's Beach Road Pre-25%
the project is being started in house

Taunton – Route 138 Corridor Improvements Pre-25%

Ms. Julie Boyce asked whether Route 1 in North Attleboro, 1A and Elmwood would be on the list at all? Ms. Haznar responded, saying that this project is not on the list because it is not currently an official project. She mentioned she would be happy to discuss a potential project, given the complexity of the intersection. Ms. Haznar invited Ms. Boyce to reach out to her directly or SRPEDD staff.

7. Update on the Southcoast Rail Project

Ms. Jennifer Tabakin thanked everyone for their patience and pulled up the presentation for all to see. She went on to discuss that Southcoast Rail is being built in phases, currently focused on Phase 1 construction. The current line goes as far as Middleboro, where phase 1 will bring the line to East Taunton, and have one line to New Bedford and Fall River. The team was focused on bringing Phase 1 to construction in the past year.

This past August, FMCB the second package was approved for funding, including Middleboro and New Bedford main line. Prior to that, the first major construction package, including Fall River secondary, was issued notice to proceed. Southcoast Rail is underway with three contract packages on schedule for Summer and Fall completion. This includes 46 Culvert contract, 4 bridges, and 9 structures demolition, track material procurement. In the design phase, Southcoast Rail is focusing on traffic mitigation work. We are at 30% Design for the New Bedford pedestrian bridge. Ms. Tabakin discussed the new consultants, and the team which is based in Bridgewater, including Bob Campbell, Kim Debois, and Mike Fitzgerald as well as Jean Fox. We have a program manager, CM firm AECOM and the Design Team led by VHB and NTB. Start of service is expected in 2023, there is some overlap in the timeline with interfaced milestones. Further, she discussed the awarded contracts for each station and showed the four station renderings.

The station in Taunton is not part of the fully funded portion. Southcoast Rail is getting to the point where design is almost complete, which is funded, and then funding for construction will be pursued. Southcoast Rail service is expected to provide 3 peak morning and evening trains, at 90 minutes each way. For the Middleboro, Taunton routes, 6 morning and evening trains, at 90 minutes each way.

Mr. Mission requested that a copy of the slides be provided to the SMMPO and SRPEDD staff. Ms. Tabakin offered to provide these and continue to share and coordinate with the SMMPO and its partners.

Mr. Alan Slavin asked about the Cape Cod Flyer and whether this would be integrated into Phase 1. Ms. Tabakin mentioned that the Cape Cod Flyer is not included in the scope of the project, but there is an opportunity there. The design does not preclude a future connection. A study is expected to explore the Cape Cod service and Buzzard's Bay option. Ms. Jean Fox mentioned that they did do preliminary research of Cape Cod ridership. Mr. Benjamin Muller updated the SMMPO on the scope of work of the study, which focuses on Buzzard's Bay. The Cape Cod Commission is leading the public outreach. They will reach out to Wareham and Middleboro to sit on the stakeholder committee sometime this fall.

8. MassDOT Performance Measures 2022

Mr. Ben Muller began the presentation by stating that a few years ago MassDOT set 2- and 4-year performance measures for the Boston urbanized area. These targets are required due to the existence of several non-attainment areas. Today, MassDOT is able to revisit their targets and determine whether we are on track to meet them. MassDOT identified two that require assessment: single occupancy vehicles (SOV) and emissions reduction.

The graphic shows the targets and real, new data. Non-SOV data has increased more than MassDOT had expected. In light of this, MassDOT has set a new target of 35.8% non-SOV for the Boston urbanized area. The data show an increase in public transit ridership and other behaviors contribute to the target.

Emissions reductions target considers the emissions caused by CMAQ funded projects in the non-attainment areas of the commonwealth. There are no non-attainment areas in the southeast region. MassDOT is taking feedback and input to provide final data and targets to our federal partners.

Mr. Mission asked for clarification regarding whether the SMMPO would need to vote on this measure. Mr. Muller stated that this was not required because it is Boston-UZA-wide.

9. Mobility Dashboard

Ms. Elizabeth Williams from MassDOT joined the SMMPO to discuss the Mobility Dashboard. Prior to and during COVID, MassDOT received requests for common data. With that in mind, MassDOT decided to create this dashboard to centralize our data and lift the curtain on this process.

There are currently 14 indicators that show how people are traveling, what mode they are using, and where they are going. Generally, the site is updated just about weekly. The dashboard shows some COVID data so users can contextualize data. The data show the different trends going on across the state and overtime. The dashboard pulls in data from a variety of databases that together provide valuable insights regarding vehicle travel, ridership and mode. Currently, the dashboard only shows subway data, but the team will receive bus data very shortly.

Ms. Williams highlighted other dashboards that users might be interested. The data is largely available for download, but Ms. Williams invited users to reach out directly for any questions. They hope the dashboard will be hosted for the long term.

Mr. Mission asked about data-sharing given SRPEDD's recent acquisition of bicycle counters. Ms. Williams shared that they have 4 counters on trails, and they would love to have an opportunity to share data. Mr. Trimbell shared that RTA ridership data is updated quarterly, but it is broken down monthly.

10. Other Business

Mr. Mission reminded attendees of the MBTA and City of New Bedford listening session to discuss the Southcoast Rail Project. The meeting will take place Tuesday September 22, 2020 from 6pm-7:30PM. Additionally, SRTA will host a public hearing this Thursday at 5PM.

11. Adjourn

The next SMMPO meeting will take place Tuesday, October 20, 2020 at 1PM. The meeting is expected to take place virtually unless otherwise noted.

Chairman Mohler adjourned the meeting at 2:20PM.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE
NEWS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20230



**Economic
Development
Administration**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, September 9, 2020

Contact: **John Atwood**
JAtwood@eda.gov

U.S. Department of Commerce Invests \$646,559 to Make Critical Water Infrastructure Improvements Needed to Support Business Growth in Somerset, Massachusetts, Opportunity Zone

WASHINGTON – Today, the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Economic Development Administration (EDA) is awarding a \$646,559 grant to the town of Somerset, Massachusetts, to make water infrastructure improvements needed to support future business growth.

The EDA grant project, to be located in a [Tax Cuts and Jobs Act Opportunity Zone](#), will be matched with \$646,559 in local funds and is expected to generate \$650 million in private investment.

“In 2017, Somerset suffered major job and tax revenue losses due to the closure of the Brayton Point Power Plant,” said **Dana Gartzke, Performing the Delegated Duties of the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development**. “EDA is pleased to support Somerset’s efforts to upgrade its water infrastructure to meet the demands of future business growth, including in the energy sector, and the project’s Opportunity Zone designation will help drive new private investment to the region.”

This project was made possible by the regional planning efforts led by the [Southeastern Regional Planning & Economic Development District](#), which EDA funds to bring together the public and private sectors to create an economic development roadmap to strengthen the regional economy, support private capital investment, and create jobs. The funding announced today will serve one of Massachusetts’s 138 Opportunity Zones.

Created by President Donald J. Trump’s [Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017](#), [Opportunity Zones](#) are spurring economic development in economically-distressed communities nationwide. In June 2019, EDA added Opportunity Zones as an [Investment Priority](#), which increases the number of catalytic Opportunity Zone-related projects that EDA can fund to fuel greater public investment in these areas. To learn more about the Commerce Department’s work in Opportunity Zones, please visit EDA’s Opportunity Zones [webpage](#). To learn more about the Opportunity Zone program, see the Opportunity Now resources [webpage](#). To learn more about Opportunity Zone best practices, see the recently released White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council [Report](#) to President Trump.

About the U.S. Economic Development Administration (www.eda.gov)

The mission of the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) is to lead the federal economic development agenda by promoting competitiveness and preparing the nation's regions for growth and success in the worldwide economy. An agency within the U.S. Department of Commerce, EDA makes investments in economically distressed communities in order to create jobs for U.S. workers, promote American innovation, and accelerate long-term sustainable economic growth.

AGENDA ITEM: Technical Assistance Report, # 8.a.

Communities	Project Name	Status	Department	Project Leads	Funding
Attleboro	Green Communities Assistance	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Eric Arbeene	MA
Attleboro	Traffic Counts - Downing Drive	Pending	Transportation	Luis de Oliveira	MassDOT
Berkley	Master Plan	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Eric Arbeene	DLTA, CCC, local
Carver	TDR Project Technical Assistance	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Helen Zincavage	DLTA, MA
Carver	Pre-Application Business Park Development	Pending	Comprehensive	Don Sullivan	EDA
Carver	Complete Streets Prioritization Plan	New	Comprehensive	Jackie Jones	MassDOT
Dartmouth	Master Plan	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Helen Zincavage	DLTA, local, MA
Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Fall River, Wareham	Bike Path (Regional Plan) Assistance	Ongoing	Transportation	Jackie Jones	MassDOT
Dighton	Culvert Management Plan Phase 2	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Helen Zincavage	DLTA, MA
Dighton	Town-wide Speed Surveys	Completed	Transportation	Luis de Oliveira	MassDOT
Fall River	Middle at Broadway Safety Study	Delayed	Transportation	Lisa Estrela-Pedro	MassDOT
Fall River	TOD Market Study, Zoning, and Design Guidelines	Scoping	Comprehensive	Grant King	DLTA, MA
Fall River	Intersection and 2-way to 1-way Traffic Evaluation	Delayed	Transportation	Paul Mission	MassDOT
Fall River / New Bedford	Pretimed Signalized Intersection Study	Ongoing	Transportation	Guoqiang Li, Luis de Oliveria, Jackie Jones	MassDOT
Mansfield	Bicycle Planning Technical Assistance	Ongoing	Transportation	Jackie Jones	MassDOT
Mansfield	TOD Area Build-Out and Indicators	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Jed Cornock	DLTA, MA
Mansfield	Green Communities Assistance	New	Comprehensive	Eric Arbeene	DOER
Marion	Transit Study	Ongoing	Transportation	Angie Constantino	FTA
Marion	OSRD/Cluster Bylaw Updates	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Eric Arbeene	DLTA, local, MA
Mattapoissett	Master Plan and Housing Production Plan	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Grant King, Lizeth Gonzalez, Taylor Perez	DLTA, CCC, local, MA
Mattapoissett	Industrial Drive Infrastructure Improvement	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Don Sullivan, Bill Napolitano	local, EDA

Middleborough	40R Zoning	Completed	Comprehensive	Eric Arbeene, Jed Cornock	CCC
Middleborough	Historic/General Use District Bylaw Amendments	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Jed Cornock, Lizeth Gonzalez	MassDOT, SCR
Middleborough	S. Main St. at Mayflower St. Sight Distance Evaluation	Completed	Transportation	Luis de Oliveira	MassDOT
New Bedford	Marine Commerce Terminal	Pending	Comprehensive	Don Sullivan	EDA
New Bedford	North Terminal Phase 2 EDA Application	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Don Sullivan	EDA
New Bedford	Quest Center, Armory District	Pending	Comprehensive	Don Sullivan	EDA
New Bedford	TOD Market Study, Zoning, and Design Guidelines	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Jed Cornock	DLTA, SCR, City
New Bedford	OSRP Design and Civic Engagement	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Helen Zincavage	MassDOT
North Attleboro	Master Plan	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Eric Arbeene, Grant King	DLTA, CCC, local, MA
North Attleboro	Planning, Project Adm. ACC 1	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Don Sullivan	EDA
Norton	Bicycle Committee Technical Assistance	Ongoing	Transportation	Jackie Jones	MassDOT
Norton	Master Plan	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Grant King, Sara Brown, Lizeth Gonzalez	DLTA, CCC, local
Plainville	Complete Streets Prioritization Plan	Completed	Comprehensive	Eric Arbeene	MassDOT
Raynham	Master Plan	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Jed Cornock, Lizeth Gonzalez	DLTA, local
Rochester	Green Communities Assistance	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Eric Arbeene	DOER
Seekonk	Services and Facilities Master Plan Element	Final Draft	Comprehensive	Sara Brown	DLTA
Somerset	Green Communities Program Assistance	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Eric Arbeene	DOER
Somerset	Inflow & Infiltration EDA Application	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Don Sullivan	EDA
Somerset	Municipal Vulnerability Planning	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Bill Napolitano	EOEEA
Somerset, Swansea	Wastewater District Assistance	New	Comprehensive	Don Sullivan	EDA
Taunton	MSIP V- Business Park	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Don Sullivan	EDA
Taunton	Economic Development Marketing	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Grant King, Sara Brown	DLTA, MA
Wareham	Bicycle Committee Technical Assistance	Ongoing	Transportation	Jackie Jones	MassDOT
Wareham	Decas School Redevelopment Plan	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Grant King, Lizeth Gonzalez, Taylor Perez	DLTA, EDA, MA

Wareham	Tihonet Rd @ Cranberry Hwy (Rte 28) Signal Warrants Analysis	Completed	Transportation	Luis de Oliveira	MassDOT
Legislative	FEMA Flood Map Bylaw Update	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Jeff Walker, Bill Napolitano, Helen Zincavage	SRPEDD
Regional	CARES Act/COVID-19 U.S. EDA Technical Assistance	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Jeff Walker, Don Sullivan, Grant King	SRPEDD, U.S. EDA
Regional	South Coast Administrators Committee	Ongoing	Administrative	Jeff Walker	SRPEDD
Regional	Mass. Assn. of Regional Planning Commissions (MARPA)	Ongoing	Administrative	Jeff Walker	RPAs
Regional	South Coast Bikeway Planning	Ongoing	Transportation	Jackie Jones	MassDOT
Regional	Traffic Counting and Turning Movement Counts	Ongoing	Transportation	Luis de Oliveira	MassDOT
Regional	Pavement Management - Fed. Aid Road Network	Ongoing	Transportation	Luis de Oliveira	MassDOT
Regional	Bus Stop Capital Investment Plan	Ongoing	Transportation	Paul Mission	MassDOT
Regional	Agriculture Retention Workshops	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Bill Napolitano, Helen Zincavage	DLTA
Regional	Regional Housing Services Office Feasibility Study	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Eric Arbeene	DLTA, MassHousing
Regional	Rural Policy Advisory Council	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Helen Zincavage	DLTA, sister RPAs
Regional	Assawompset Ponds Flood Management Program	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Bill Napolitano, Helen Zincavage	DER
Regional	Cranberry Bog Program Technical Assistance	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Bill Napolitano, Helen Zincavage	DER
Regional	SE Marine Technology Corridor	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Don Sullivan, Jeff Walker	EDA
Regional	Taunton River Trail	Ongoing	Transportation	Bill Napolitano	MassDOT
Regional-SRTA	SRTA Public Hearing Assistance	Ongoing	SRPEDD	Angie Constantino, Jen Chaves, Lizeth Gonzalez	SRTA
Regional	Trails Mapping (Off Road)	Ongoing	Transportation	Greg Guertin, Jackie Jones, Karen Porter	MassDOT
Regional	Freight Action Plan	Ongoing	Transportation	Greg Guertin, Jackie Jones, Karen Porter	MassDOT
Regional	RTP Continuous Public Outreach	Ongoing	Transportation	Lisa Estrela-Pedro, Lilia	MassDOT

				Cabral, Lizeth Gonzalez	
Somerset	Route 103 Access Management Study	Pending	Transportation	Paul Mission	MassDOT
Regional - SRTA	Transit Signal Prioritization Study	Ongoing	Transportation	Guoqiang Li, Paul Mission	MassDOT

Document ID	Municipality	Category	\$ Requested	RPA	MassDOT Division	Housing Choice	MVP Community	Green Community	Gateway City	Rural, Small Town, or both?	EOHED Region
MWIP-2020-Fall River-00044	Fall River	Econ Dev	\$ 6,250,000	SRPEDD	District 5	HC	MVP		Gateway		Southeast
MWIP-2020-Mattapoisett-00157	Mattapoisett	STRAP	\$ 450,000	SRPEDD	District 5		MVP			Both	Southeast
MWIP-2020-New Bedford-00048	New Bedford	Housing	\$ 2,850,300	SRPEDD	District 5		MVP	Green	Gateway		Southeast
MWIP-2020-Plainville-00055	Plainville	Mixed-Use	\$ 4,950,000	SRPEDD	District 5	HC	MVP	Green			Southeast
MWIP-2020-Taunton-00120	Taunton	Housing	\$ 3,000,000	SRPEDD	District 5	HC	MVP		Gateway		Southeast
MWIP-2020-Wareham-00113	Wareham	Econ Dev	\$ 3,430,875	SRPEDD	District 5		MVP	Green			Southeast
MWIP-2020-Wareham-00143	Wareham	Econ Dev	\$ 1,953,481	SRPEDD	District 5		MVP	Green			Southeast

100
of applications

\$ 207,974,506
Total Requested

COLOR KEY: Mixed-Use Econ Development Housing STRAP
