

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

DRAFT Minutes for the Meeting Held on Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 2:00 PM

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

The following were in attendance:

Lee Azinheira, Chair,	Town of Mansfield
Paul Foley,	Town of Fairhaven
Manuel Silva,	City of New Bedford
Alan Slavin,	Town of Wareham
James Hartnett,	Town of Westport
Franklin Moniz,	Town of Lakeville
Richard LaCamera,	Town of Lakeville
Bill Roth,	City of Taunton
Nancy Durfee,	Town of Somerset
John Woods,	Carver
Stephanie Crampton,	City of New Bedford
Mark Hollowell,	Town of North Attleborough
Shayne Trimbell,	SRTA
Leah Sirmin,	FTA
Cassie Ostrander,	FHWA
Andrew Reovan,	FHWA
Mary Ellen DeFrias,	MassDevelopment
Barbara Lachance,	MassDOT
Benjamin Muller,	MassDOT
Pamela Haznar,	MassDOT
Matt Shute,	BETA Group
Greg Lucas,	BETA Group
Bill Kenney,	City of Fall River
Sid Kashi,	GPI
Phil Viveiros,	McMahon Associates
Jamie Pisano,	VHB
Lloyd Mendes,	Member of the Public
Paul Mission,	SRPEDD
Gregory Guertin,	SRPEDD
Guoqiang Li,	SRPEDD

Lisa Estrela-Pedro,	SRPEDD
Lilia Cabral-Bernard,	SRPEDD
Jackie Jones,	SRPEDD
Luis de Oliveira,	SRPEDD
Jen Chaves,	SRPEDD

Handouts:

DRAFT JTPG December 9, 2020 Minutes

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Roll Call:

Chairman Lee Azinheira called the meeting to order at 2:04 PM and asked for a roll call. Ms. Cabral-Bernard reminded the participants that if they are JTPG members to please unmute themselves and she would do the entire roll call to check attendance. Ms. Cabral-Bernard then called the roll.

Town of Carver,	Yes
Town of Fairhaven,	Yes
City of Fall River,	Yes
Town of Lakeville,	Yes
Town of Mansfield,	Yes
City of New Bedford,	Yes
Town of Somerset,	Yes
City of Taunton,	Yes
Town of Wareham,	Yes
Town of Westport,	Yes

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

Lloyd Mendes wanted to bring to the attention of the JTPG that Fall River has lost its Newport to Fall River bus commute route with Peter Pan bus company having eliminated that route from their schedule.

3. Approval of Minutes – December 9, 2020 (Materials Attached and Roll Call Vote needed)

Chairman Azinheira called for a motion to approve the minutes of December 9, 2020. The motion was made by Alan Slavin of Wareham and seconded by Jim Hartnett of Westport. Ms. Cabral-Bernard then called the roll:

Town of Carver,	No verbal response
Town of Fairhaven,	Yes
City of Fall River,	Yes
Town of Lakeville,	Yes
Town of Mansfield,	Yes
City of New Bedford,	Yes
Town of Somerset,	Yes
City of Taunton,	Abstain
Town of Wareham,	Yes
Town of Westport,	Yes

4. Regional Transit Authorities (RTA's) Report

Shayne Trimbell from SRTA reported that there are no significant changes, but that ridership is back up, especially in the mid-day. He also informed the group that SRTA was still mask mandated and still fare free, although they are anticipating to restore fares on March 1, with discounted fares that they will then readjust in September to the full fare, but these plans are still tentative.

5. New SRPEDD Website Interactive Maps & Dashboards Presentation- Jennifer Chaves (SRPEDD)

Ms. Jennifer Chaves presented interactive maps & dashboards on SRPEDD's website, all created using Esri and are cloud based. The maps include regional data for traffic counts, all signalized intersections, pavement management, as well as bicycle and pedestrian networks. Ms. Chaves demonstrated some of the Maps and dashboards as follows.

The traffic count map includes traffic count information including volumes, percentage of truck traffic, the 85th percentile speed, and historical counts. The signalized

intersection map includes signal equipment ownership, permit year and peak volumes. The pavement management dashboard and map display road pavement by community, miles surveyed and conditions. Users are also able to click on a segment of roadway to access data from the map. The data available for pavement conditions are just for the federal aid eligible roads in the region. Ms. Chaves continued with bicycle and pedestrian networks, explaining that the data is illustrated with a story map, and for those not familiar with story maps, these enable a ton of different data to be used, including graphics, dashboards, and text. It provides an interesting way to view a lot of information. On this particular page, anything that's underlined can be selected and it will bring you to an additional website and more information. The photo of the regional bicycle plan will link to the plan itself.

Ms. Chaves then informed the group that data such as congestion, Top 100 crash locations, lane departure crashes, and more would be added to the website as these maps and dashboards are developed. SRPEDD's goal is to provide as much data as possible to our communities and to the public. She encouraged the group to reach out if they would like to see additional information on any of the existing maps, or additional sets of data to be made available. Some examples include geocoding and creating a map for fire hydrants in the community for the fire department, or simply mapping all stop signs in a town. With the Esri platform, any similar data would be convenient and easy to access, and the information that you need will be at your fingertips.

Paul Mission added that additional data is available for bus stop locations and pavement markings and that data would be used to create additional maps and dashboards. He added that SRPEDD encourages all the communities to let them know if they have some ideas and would like to see them mapped, the staff would be more than happy to work with them.

6. FFY2022–2026 TIP Development, Presentation of Projects for Consideration & Discussion-

LAKEVILLE- RECONSTRUCTION AND RELATED WORK ON RHODE ISLAND ROAD (ROUTE 79), FROM THE TAUNTON CITY LINE TO CLEAR POND ROAD (606715)

Matt Shute of the Beta Group presented this project. He began by explaining that the town of Lakeville is the proponent, BETA Group is completing the design and MassDOT is responsible for administering the design process on this project and providing the engineering and construction. The project area of Route 79 spans 2.5 miles and includes two intersections, at Precinct Street (an unsignalized T intersection) and at Route 18 (signalized). The issues on this roadway include intersection and corridor safety, lack of bicycle and pedestrian accommodations, pavement deterioration and stormwater collection. The crash rate at the intersection of Route 79 and Route 18 does exceed the state crash rate.

The goals of the project are to improve intersection and corridor safety, bicycle and pedestrian access, provide new sidewalk and curb ramps, as well as crosswalks to meet ADA standards, geometry improvements to improve sight distance and to provide full depth reconstruction or reclamation which will improve the stormwater collection. Improvements at Precinct Street specifically include improvements to alignment, and at Route 18 include adding turn lanes.

NORTON - INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT WEST MAIN STREET (ROUTE 123), NORTH WORCESTER STREET AND SOUTH WORCESTER STREET (609193)

Greg Lucas of the Beta Group presented this project which presently includes an off-set intersection geometry and flashing beacons at North and South Worcester Streets. He explained that there have been 38 crashes over a 5-year period and the crash rate is over the statewide average. The pavement conditions also need work and there is limited pedestrian accommodations, no crosswalks and no sidewalks directly at the intersection. There was a study done by SRPEDD in 2016 and the signal warrants analysis indicated that warrants were met.

Mr. Lucas continued by telling the group that a roundabout was considered for this intersection, but was eliminated as it was not considered feasible. A signalized option would be two distinct offset legs under one traffic signal controller. Access to the adjacent plaza would be right-turn- in, right-turn-out with full access via South Worcester Street. The project aims to install a fully actuated traffic signal at the intersection that provides an exclusive left-turn lane for Route 123 westbound, a right-turn lane from South Worcester Street with an overlap phase with the westbound left turn, and split phasing

for the two North and South Worcester Street approaches. Also included would be sidewalks with ADA compliant curb ramps, providing an exclusive pedestrian phase with a crosswalk across Route 123. Mr. Lucas concluded by informing the group that the cost right now is at \$ 2.2 million, which is within the \$3.1 million that was approved by PRC.

FALL RIVER- BEDFORD STREET CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS (610929)

Phil Viveiros from McMahon Associates presented the design for this project on Bedford Street in Fall River. The project area contains four signalized intersections and four transit stops. The corridor connects to various residential neighborhoods to the north and business and commercial properties to the south. It is a central corridor within the city of Fall River. A major concern is safety since most of the corridor falls within HSIP clusters for pedestrian and bicycle crashes. There are also a number of intersections along the corridor, particularly the two signalized intersections at Troy Street/High Street, and at Third Street/Rock Street that are high crash locations, that have been identified in past years among the top 200 crash locations in the state. The corridor is very vehicle oriented in its design, and has very deficient pedestrian accommodations. The ADT is about 10,500 per day for the entire corridor. The design is proposing a bike lane throughout most of this corridor in early concepts, as well as providing opportunities where sidewalks can be widened.

Mr. Viveiros informed the group that the project would entail full depth reconstruction and that the PRC approval construction cost was for \$12 million. He added that they are very early on in the process, and are looking to work with the city on getting through to a 25% design in the near future.

WAREHAM-ROUTE 6 AT SWIFT'S BEACH ROAD

Ms. Pamela Haznar of MassDOT started the presentation by informing the group that this project is on the TIP programmed in federal fiscal year 2024 and at pre 25% design, being designed in house at MassDOT. The preliminary estimate is around \$4.3 million. This project was developed from a study that SRPEDD conducted, the route six corridor study. There was also a traffic signal warrant analysis performed on this intersection and it does meet intersection warrants. There have been a number of pedestrian crashes, and it's

very difficult to get in and out of the intersection. The project includes installation of a new traffic signal at Swift's Beach Road, updates to the signal at Shaw's and the consideration of a road diet, which will reduce the four lanes to 2 lanes with left-turning lanes at the intersections. There is also a shared use path included on the south side of the road, with reconstruction of the sidewalks on the north side. A 25% submission is expected this spring.

SEEKONK-ROUTE 44 (TAUNTON AVENUE) FROM THE RHODE ISLAND LINE TO PECK STREET

Ms. Pamela Haznar of MassDOT started the presentation by informing the group that this project is not yet programmed. This project includes two high crash intersections at Arcade Avenue and Route 114A, and has many nearby destinations, including the Senior Center, YMCA, high school, and town hall with minimal to no bicycle or pedestrian accommodations and no ADA compliance either. The length of the project is 1.3 miles long, both intersections will be reconstructed, adding dedicated turn lanes, and a shared use path on the north side.

7. SMMPO Federal Certification Update/Discussion

Ms. Cassie Ostrander informed the group that she was joined by Andrew Reovan and Leah Sirmin and they are the federal team leading the certification review for the SMMPO that is currently underway reviewing the transportation planning process for the MPO. This is a requirement for Federal Highway and Federal Transit and they last certified the SMMPO in April of 2017. The virtual onsite portion of the review is scheduled for later this month. The goal for this review is to serve as a catalyst to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the planning process. They will provide some recommendations for improvements on the process and some commendations on best practices, things that are working well, maybe that can be shared across the regions, states, or nationally. The goal is to enhance the quality of the transportation planning process.

Ms. Ostrander reminded the group of the public meeting following the SMMPO meeting next week, on the 19th and encouraged attendance to provide comments. They are accepting comments verbally, in writing, or by email until January 29. The virtual on-site review is being split into three separate sessions on January 26, 27, and 28 and they hope to have an open discussion about the planning process and just get a better understanding of what we are doing across the region. They will prepare a report and issue a certification letter by the end of April of this year. So again, if anyone has any

comments that you want to submit, you can share them with us today, or send them to us in writing.

Ms. Pamela Haznar introduced herself as the project development engineer at MassDOT District 5 and she wanted to say that the Route 6 in Wareham project in her presentation, that is advancing developed out of a SRPEDD study and they, at MassDOT, have a wonderful relationship with SRPEDD. There have been a number of projects that have been very, very successful, developed from SRPEDD studies over the years, with Route 6 being one of them. She also wanted to point out the Faunce Corner Road in Dartmouth project was a study that SRPEDD did quite a few years ago. Between MassDOT and the town of Dartmouth, there have been four projects, three that have been successfully designed and constructed, and one that is under design and programmed on the TIP right now in 2023. SRPEDD has brought these projects from study to fruition. There is a project that's under construction right now on King's Highway in New Bedford by Route 140 that is high crash and high congestion and and that was developed out of a SRPEDD study as well. She concluded by saying that she wanted to mention that and thank the SRPEDD region for all of their hard work.

8. Other Business

Other business included reiterating the dates and times for the upcoming JTPG meeting, which will be held on Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 2:00 pm.

9. Adjourn

Chairman Azinheira asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Alan Slavin of Wareham and was seconded by Jim Hartnett of Westport. With no objections, Chairman Azinheira adjourned the meeting at 3:38 PM.