

**Southeastern Regional Planning & Economic Development District (SRPEDD)
Joint Transportation Planning Group (JTPG) Meeting
DRAFT Minutes for the Meeting Held on Wednesday, February 10, 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
Manuel Silva.....City of New Bedford
Alan Slavin.....Town of Wareham
James HartnettTown of Westport
Franklin Moniz.....Town of Lakeville
Fred CornagliaCity of Taunton
Tim Barber.....Town of Dartmouth
Norman Hills.....Town of Marion
Leeann Bradley.....Town of Middleborough
Paul Scott.....Town of Plainville
Stephanie Crampton.....City of New Bedford
Shayne Trimbell.....SRTA
Mary Ellen DeFrias.....MassDevelopment
Barbara Lachance.....MassDOT
Pamela Haznar..... MassDOT
Chris Roy.....Beta Group
Paul Nelson..... HSH
Joe Wanat.....VHB
Rick Rhodes.....VHB
Lisa Sherman.....CDM Smith
Joe Federico.....BETA Group
Phil Viveiros.....McMahon Associates
Paul MissionSRPEDD
Lisa Estrela-Pedro.....SRPEDD
Lilia Cabral-Bernard..... SRPEDD
Jackie Jones.....SRPEDD
Luis de Oliveira.....SRPEDD

Handouts:

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Roll Call:

Chairman Lee Azinheira called the meeting to order at 2:03 PM and asked for a roll call of attendants. Ms. Lisa Estrela-Pedro called the roll.

Town of Carver.....Yes
Town of Dartmouth.....Yes
Town of Lakeville.....Yes
Town of Mansfield.....Yes
Town of Marion.....Yes
Town of Middleborough.....Yes
City of New Bedford.....Yes
Town of Plainville.....Yes
City of TauntonYes
Town of Wareham.....Yes
Town of Westport.....Yes

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

There were no comments offered.

3. Approval of Minutes – January 13, 2021 (Materials Attached & roll call vote needed)

Chairman Azinheira called for a motion to approve the minutes of January 13, 2021. The motion was made by Alan Slavin of Wareham and seconded by Manny Silva of New Bedford. Ms. Estrela-Pedro then called the roll:

Town of Carver.....Yes
Town of Dartmouth.....Yes
Town of Lakeville.....Yes
Town of Mansfield.....Yes

Town of Marion.....Yes
Town of Middleborough.....Abstain
City of New Bedford.....Yes
Town of Plainville.....Yes
City of Taunton.....Yes
Town of Wareham.....Yes
Town of Westport.....Yes

4. Regional Transit Authorities (RTA's) Report

Shayne Trimbell from SRTA reported that SRTA would begin to charge fares once again as of March 1, but at a discounted rate, with full fare rates returning on September 1.

5. FFY21-25 TIP Project Updates

Ms. Barbara LaChance of MassDOT gave the TIP projects updates as follows:

In FFY 2021-

New Bedford- Intersection Improvements and Related Work at Rockdale Ave. and Allen Street – The design is currently at 100%. PS&E are due this month.

Raynham- Taunton- Resurfacing & Related Work on Route 138 - At 100% submission. The PS&E are due this month.

In FFY 2022-

New Bedford- Intersection Improvements on Acushnet Avenue at Peckham Road / Sassaquin Ave - the 25% design is under review.

Rehoboth- Intersection Improvements & Related Work at Winthrop Street (Route 44) and Anawan Street (Route 118) - The 100% design is under review.

Taunton- Reconstruction of Route 44 (Dean Street), from Arlington Street to Route 104 (South Main Street) - a 75% Comment Resolution Meeting was held in November. The 100% design due in August.

Attleboro – Intersection Improvements at Route 1 (Washington Street)/Route 1A (Newport Avenue) and Route 123 (Highland Avenue) - The 100% design is under review.

Swansea- Route 6 at Gardener’s Neck Road - 75% design plans are under review.

In FFY 2023-

Dartmouth - Corridor Improvements on Dartmouth Street and Prospect Street – a Comment Resolution Meeting was held in November. The 25% design was received in December. Waiting for town concurrence on the design. A utility meeting and a design public hearing are next.

New Bedford - Corridor Improvements and Related Work on County Street from Nelson Street to Union Street - pending approval of a Design Exception Report. Once approved, a design public hearing can be held. A revised schedule for this project is needed.

Dartmouth – Corridor improvements on Route 6 from Faunce Corner Road to Hathaway Road – the 25% design is due in May.

In FFY 2024-

Wareham - Construction of Bike Lanes Along Narrows Road and A Shared Use Path Adjacent to Minot Avenue Including Related Work – the revised 25% design review is complete.

Mansfield - Reconstruction on Chauncy Street (Route 106) – The 25% plans are due in March.

Wareham – Route 6 at Swift’s Beach Road - The 25% design plans are due in June.

Taunton- Corridor Improvements and Related Work on Broadway (Route 138), from Purchase Street to Jackson Street (Phase 2) - the 25% design plans are due in April.

In FFY 2025-

Plainville - The Reconstruction of Route 1A (South Street) from Charlene Lane to Everett St – This is at 25% design, waiting on information from the designer.

Mattapoissett- Corridor Improvements and Related Work on Main Street, Water Street, Beacon Street and Marion Road – the 25% plans are due in March.

Ms. LaChance also reminded the group about the MassDOT Shared Winter Streets grant program is still taking applications until February 26 with a March 26 notification of awards.

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

Ms. Jackie Jones explained that as part of the annual development process, the project proponents or their designers are invited to present the new projects under consideration for placement in the TIP. This effort is to aid with decision-making regarding placing these projects in the TIP.

• NEW BEDFORD - INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS AT MOUNT PLEASANT STREET AND NASH ROAD (610798)

Ms. Lisa Sherman of CDM Smith presented this project for the City of New Bedford.

She began by explaining the location of this project is just north of Project 606718, which is the Hathaway triangle that's currently under construction, and just south of the King's Highway project, also under construction. This will provide for a nice smooth transition for the entire corridor to be upgraded in five years.

The existing conditions at the location include outdated traffic signal equipment, there are some exclusive turn lanes but there is no exclusive phasing and the existing ramps are Apex style with crosswalks. The hot mix asphalt on both legs of the overpasses are in poor condition. Based on crash data information, there's at least four collisions per year at this location and there was a pedestrian collision in 2013. They are planning a road safety audit for this fall.

As far as potential utility improvements, there may be some minor sewer improvements that need to be undertaken by the city before this TIP project. They are planning for improved traffic signal equipment and phasing, protected left turns as needed, improved sidewalks and pedestrian accommodations. The current estimate of the project is \$3.1 million.

Shayne Trimbell from SRTA explained that they have a pair of bus stops at the intersection with Newcomb Street that serves the Housing Authority, so they would like to be part of the design discussion to make sure that they are providing adequate transit accommodations at that site.

Ms. Sherman agreed to include Mr. Trimbell.

• PLAINVILLE - RECONSTRUCTION OF SOUTH STREET (ROUTE 1A), FROM SHARLENE LANE TO EVERETT STREET AND RELATED WORK (608750)

Chris Roy from Beta group presented the project on behalf of the town of Plainville

He explained that within the project, there's one signalized intersection at the East/West Bacon Street intersection. Bacon Street is Route 106 and connects to Route 1.

This is a very important route through Plainville with a mix of commercial and residential along this corridor including small shops and restaurants, a bank, post office, churches, as well as town offices, including the library, a newly constructed Town Hall and new public safety building, which houses both fire and police.

The project's main goal is to increase safety for all modes of transportation using the Complete Streets principles, increasing pedestrian and bicycle safety, also to upgrade pedestrian curb ramps and ensure that they meet all of the latest ADA standards.

Proposed improvements include improved traffic operations along the corridor and at intersection with East/West Bacon, including the installation of left-turn lanes, 5-foot minimum sidewalk, both sides, 5-foot bike lanes, separating the bike lanes from traffic where possible, drainage improvements, as well as ornamental streetlights and a section of underground utilities.

As a status update, the town submitted the 25% design back in December of 2018, with next steps to be resubmitting some plans and conducting utility fieldwork. And then shortly after that, hopefully design public hearing sometime this summer.

• DARTMOUTH - RECONSTRUCTION AND RELATED WORK OF FAUNCE CORNER ROAD, FROM OLD FALL RIVER ROAD SOUTHERLY TO THE MASSDOT OWNED RAILROAD CROSSING (606715)

Rick Rhodes from VHB presented this project for the Town of Dartmouth. He began by explaining that SRPEDD conducted a corridor study in 2006 that evaluated the potential improvements along the corridor. Several improvements have already been constructed, including interchange improvements at Route I-195, improvements along Faunce Corner Road from Route I-195 south to Route 6, and MassDOT is currently advancing the design improvements for Route 6 from Faunce Corner Road easterly towards Hathaway Road.

So this Faunce Corner Road Phase 3 three is really kind of the Keystone in that corridor study and it does connect New Bedford and Route I-195 to retail development along the corridor. It also provides direct access to the Hawthorn Medical Associates, the Bristol County Sheriff's Office, restaurants, and there is a slew of different parcels that have been slated for future development in the near future.

The town of Dartmouth intends to promote MassDOT's healthy initiative and reconstruct the roadway incorporating sidewalks and providing on-street bicycle accommodations with 5-foot bike lanes. They are still evaluating the ADT to determine if off-road accommodations are warranted or needed. They will provide turn lanes as necessary. Also, at the northern end of Old Fall River Road, the plan as of now is to put in a roundabout to act as a gateway to the community. The estimated project cost is about \$7 million.

Shayne Trimbell commented that SRTA has received numerous requests for bus stops in this part of Faunce Corner Road however, they haven't installed any stops because of the unsafe pedestrian conditions. Their route currently operates on a flag stop, and they'd like to move away from that by designating bus stops along the corridor and this would be an excellent opportunity to do so. He asked that SRTA be included in the design process so that they can identify those locations.

Mr. Rhodes agreed to do so.

- **DARTMOUTH- CROSS ROAD CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS (610699)**

Rick Rhodes from VHB also presented this project for the Town of Dartmouth, explaining the location of the project and how Cross Road connects UMass Dartmouth and Route I-195. This area provides direct access to retail development areas in employment such as the Dartmouth Mall, Walmart, Target and other restaurants and employers, with several residential properties, places of worship, schools and the senior living community.

Dartmouth is looking to promote MassDOTs Healthy Initiative with this project and reconstruct the roadway with sidewalks on both sides of the road with on-road bike accommodations. They will look at potential off-road bike accommodations, but this location has a little bit tighter right-of-way. This project is currently estimated at \$2.5 million dollars. The town intends to construct Cross Roads in three separate phases, with this being the first.

Ms. Jones asked if there had been any interaction with UMass about this project.

And the response was that they have coordinated with the town, but not with the university directly on this.

Ms. Pamela Haznar recommended a coordination meeting with MassDOT sometime in the near future. She explained that in the past, MassDOT had been the project development engineers, and generally the project managers up to 25% design, but they are changing that and having project managers assigned out of headquarters earlier in the process. She will contact headquarters and request a project manager to be assigned for Cross Road.

She then informed the group that MassDOT is updating the pre-25 scoping, so that when a project is advanced to 25% design most of the major issues have been worked out as far as the alignment and complete streets and things of that nature.

Ms. Jones then thanked all the consultants for their presentations.

7. Other Business

Mr. Mission thanked everyone who participated in the federal certification review, which took place the last week of January, with a public meeting during the MPO meeting on the 19th.

He informed the group that the Federal Certification team will have some preliminary findings, and a report developed during the month of April. SRPEDD staff will report to the MPO board on their findings and recommendations, and to the JTPG as well.

He again thanked everyone who participated, especially Lee Azinheira, who participated in the public meeting, and said some very nice words regarding the staff and the work that's going on at SRPEDD.

Mr. Mission announced the date and time for the next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 10 at 2pm, held virtually.

Pam Haznar then informed the group that she is the project manager for the New Bedford project at Mount Pleasant and Nash Road, and she will contact MassDOT headquarters and request a project manager and they will be in touch with CDM and the city to move ahead with that project.

She also informed the group that two projects were approved by PRC, the first is Westport, Route 77 at Tickle Road and Roberts Road and the second is Fall River, Bedford Street.

Lisa Sherman asked if the pre-25% guideline that Ms. Haznar mentioned was coming out as an engineering directive.

Ms. Haznar replied yes, it was, and it will be for all projects, bridge and roadway.

9. Adjourn

Chairman Azinheira asked for a motion to adjourn. There was a motion and a second and hearing no objections, Chairman Azinheira adjourned the meeting at 2:48 PM.