

**DRAFT Minutes of the Southeastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (SMMPO) Meeting Held on Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 1:00 PM
- Held Remotely via Zoom due to the Covid-19 State of Emergency in Massachusetts**

The following members were in attendance:

Steve Woelfel-----Representing Jamey Tesler, Acting MassDOT Secretary and CEO, Chair
Pamela Haznar-----Representing Jonathan Gulliver, MassDOT Highway Div. Administrator
Jamie Ponte-----Representing Jon Mitchell, Mayor of New Bedford
Bill Roth-----Representing Shaunna O’Connell, Mayor of Taunton
Nancy Durfee-----Representing Holly McNamara, Town of Somerset
Julie Boyce-----Town of North Attleborough
Shawn McDonald-----Town of Dartmouth
Alan Slavin-----SRPEDD Commission Chair

The following were also present:

Andrew Reovan-----FHWA
Ben Muller-----MassDOT
Barbara Lachance-----MassDOT
Bryan Pounds-----MassDOT
Lee Azinheira-----JTPG Chair
Fred Cornaglia-----Taunton DPW
Paul Mission-----SRPEDD
Lisa Estrela-Pedro-----SRPEDD
Lilia Cabral-Bernard-----SRPEDD
Jackie Jones-----SRPEDD

Handouts:

SMMPO Draft Meeting Minutes January 19, 2020
FFY 2021 UPWP Amendment for GATRA & SRTA
FFY2021-2025 Proposed TIP Amendments #2
FFY2021-2025 Proposed Adjustment #3
FFY2021-2025 Proposed TIP Amendments #3

AGENDA:

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

Chairman Woelfel opened the SMMPO meeting at 1:03 pm. Ms. Lilia Cabral-Bernard called the roll for attendance:

MassDOT Chair-----Yes
City of New Bedford-----Yes
City of Taunton-----Yes
MassDOT Administrator-----Yes
Town of Somerset-----Yes
Town of North Attleborough-----Yes
Town of Dartmouth-----Yes
SRPEDD Commission Chair -----Yes

2. Approval of Minutes – January 19, 2021 (Materials Attached and Roll Call Vote needed)

Chairman Woelfel requested a motion to approve the minutes from the SMMPO meeting from January 19, 2021. The motion was made by Alan Slavin, the SRPEDD Commission Chair and seconded by Jamie Ponte of New Bedford. Ms. Cabral-Bernard called the roll:

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

THE MOTION PASSED WITH TWO ABSTENTIONS.

3. Public Comments - Opportunity for the public to address the SMMPO-

Chairman Woelfel invited members of the public to make any comments. None were presented.

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

Since neither of the RTA's were present. Mr. Paul Mission informed the group that SRTA stated at the JTPG meeting held on February 10 that they would be starting the charging of fares again

on March 1 of this year. Ms. Cabral-Bernard informed the group that, according to an email she had received that morning concerning the SRTA board meeting, SRTA has pushed the start of fare collection back to April 1 of this year.

5. Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) - a. Discussion on proposed FFY 2021 UPWP Amendment (Materials Attached and Roll Call Vote needed to approve)

Mr. Mission reviewed the two amendments as follows: The first amendment, for GATRA, is the removal of Task 4.2 Transit Data Maintenance/NTD due to COVID-19. Those funds are transferred to fund Task 4.1 – GATRA Technical Planning Assistance with a reduction of \$34,000 reduced from \$115,000 to \$81,000. For SRTA, a change in the scope and proposed budget for Task 4.3 - SRTA Technical Planning Assistance, including specific studies, as well as a reduction in the budget from \$90,000 to \$75,286.82. The Chairman asked if anyone had any questions and hearing none, called for a motion and a second. Bill Roth of Taunton made a motion that was seconded by Julie Boyce of North Attleborough. Ms. Cabral-Bernard called the roll:

MassDOT Chair-----Yes
City of New Bedford-----Yes
City of Taunton-----Yes
MassDOT Administrator-----Yes
Town of Somerset-----Yes
Town of North Attleborough-----Yes
Town of Dartmouth-----Yes
SRPEDD Commission Chair -----Yes

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

b. FFY2022 Discussion

Mr. Mission informed the group that staff is looking to develop the UPWP for FFY2022. He explained that this was a multi-month process and staff will be entertaining ideas for studies for the work program, as long as they coincide with our Regional Transportation Plan which was completed in 2020. The schedule is to develop a draft by April or May to endorse at the MPO meeting in June.

6. FFY2021-2025 TIP Proposed Amendments & Adjustment -

a. Discussion on proposed FFY 2021 Highway Amendment (Materials Attached and Roll Call Vote needed to approve)

Ms. Estrela-Pedro explained that this amendment concerns the increase in cost for the New Bedford-Rockdale Ave. at Allen Street project, and the decrease in cost for the statewide Seekonk-Route 44 due to that project being split in to two portions.

The Chairman asked if anyone had any questions and hearing none, called for a motion and a second. Alan Slavin, the SRPEDD Commission Chair, made a motion that was seconded by Julie Boyce of North Attleborough. Ms. Cabral-Bernard called the roll:

MassDOT Chair-----Yes
City of New Bedford-----Yes
City of Taunton-----Yes
MassDOT Administrator-----Yes
Town of Somerset-----Yes
Town of North Attleborough-----Yes
Town of Dartmouth-----Yes
SRPEDD Commission Chair -----Yes

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

b. Discussion on proposed FFY 2021 Transit Adjustment (Materials Attached and Roll Call Vote needed to approve**)**

Ms. Estrela-Pedro explained to the group that this TIP adjustment concerned replacement buses for SRTA that was simply a transfer of funds being moved from federal funding to non-federal funding.

The Chairman asked if anyone had any questions and hearing none, called for a motion and a second. Alan Slavin, the SRPEDD Commission Chair, made a motion that was seconded by Julie Boyce of North Attleborough. Ms. Cabral-Bernard called the roll:

MassDOT Chair-----Yes
City of New Bedford-----Yes
City of Taunton-----Yes
MassDOT Administrator-----Yes
Town of Somerset-----Yes
Town of North Attleborough-----Yes
Town of Dartmouth-----Yes
SRPEDD Commission Chair -----Yes

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

c. Discussion on proposed FFY 2021 Transit Amendment (**Materials Attached and Roll Call Vote needed to release to 21-day comment period**)

Ms. Estrela-Pedro explained that this amendment concerns a new project programmed with 5339 program funds for GATRA for 5 replacement vans. She informed the group that we needed a vote to release for a 21-day comment period.

The Chairman asked if anyone had any questions and hearing none, called for a motion and a second. Alan Slavin, the SRPEDD Commission Chair, made a motion that was seconded by Julie Boyce of North Attleborough. Ms. Cabral-Bernard called the roll:

MassDOT Chair-----Yes
City of New Bedford-----Yes
City of Taunton-----Yes
MassDOT Administrator-----Yes
Town of Somerset-----Yes
Town of North Attleborough-----Yes
Town of Dartmouth-----Yes
SRPEDD Commission Chair -----Yes

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. FFY2022-2026 TIP Readiness Days Update

Ms. Estrela-Pedro informed the group that staff participated in TIP Readiness Day on February 9, where they met with the district office, Boston office, and all the departments that are involved in developing projects including right-of-way, environmental, etc. and got feedback to assist in programming projects accordingly. All existing TIP projects that are in FFY 2022 are ready to go, but the bad news is that there is only \$22.2 million in that year, and three of the projects have gone up in cost, so that year is not fiscally constrained. Staff will be looking at shifting some of those projects into a later year. The TIP targets are as follows: 2022 is at \$22.2 million; 2023 is at \$22.7 million; 2024 is at \$23 million; 2025 is at \$22.5 million; and 2026 is at \$21.9 million.

Staff will start to develop scenarios and present those at the next JTPG and SMMPO meetings, look to release the draft TIP in April with expected endorsement in May.

8. Other Business

Mr. Woelfel informed the group that MassDOT is holding an innovation conference this year, with the platform fully virtual, with targeted dates the 25th, 26th, and 27th of May, but dates have not been finalized.

9. Date and Time for Next Meeting

The next SMMPO meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 16 2021 at 1:00 PM via Zoom.

10. Adjourn

The Chair asked for a motion and a second to adjourn. A motion was made by Alan Slavin and seconded by Julie Boyce. All in favor said aye and there were no opposed and no abstentions. The meeting was adjourned at 1:22 PM.