

**Southeastern Regional Planning & Economic Development District (SRPEDD)
Joint Transportation Planning Group (JTPG) Meeting
DRAFT Minutes for the Meeting Held on Wednesday, April 14, 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
Franklin Moniz.....Town of Lakeville
Norman Hills.....Town of Marion
Leeann Bradley.....Town of Middleborough
Thomas Ferry.....Town of Dighton
Paul Foley.....Town of Fairhaven
Tim Barber.....Town of Dartmouth
Jim Hartnett.....Town of Westport
Nancy Durfee.....Town of Somerset
Chris Gallagher.....City of Fall River
Ed Buckley.....Town of Raynham
Janine Peccini.....City of Taunton At-Large
Stephanie Dupras.....City of New Bedford
Bryan Pounds.....MassDOT
Pamela Haznar.....MassDOT
Barbara Lachance.....MassDOT
Phil Viveiros.....McMahon Associates
Jamie Pisano.....VHB
Sid Kashi.....GPI
Christopher Keys.....Member of Public
Paul MissionSRPEDD
Lisa Estrela-Pedro.....SRPEDD
Lilia Cabral-Bernard..... SRPEDD
Jackie Jones.....SRPEDD
Guoqiang Li.....SRPEDD
Julianne Griffiths.....SRPEDD
Sean Hilton.....SRPEDD
Jennifer Chaves.....SRPEDD

Handouts:

- The JTPG Agenda April 14, 2021
- The DRAFT JTPG March 10, 2021 Minutes
- GATRA CIP Project List
- SRTA CIP Project List
- Highway Draft FFY 2022-26 TIP Projects

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Roll Call:

Chairman Lee Azinheira called the meeting to order at 2:04 PM. Ms. Cabral-Bernard called the complete roll call of JTPG members, with the following being present at the time of the roll call.

- Town of Dartmouth.....Yes
- Town of Dighton.....Yes
- Town of Fairhaven.....Yes
- Town of Lakeville.....Yes
- Town of Mansfield.....Yes
- Town of Marion.....Yes
- Town of Middleborough.....Yes
- City of New Bedford.....Yes
- Town of Wareham.....Yes
- Town of Westport.....Yes
- City of Taunton At-Large.....Yes

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

Chris Keys from Norton introduced himself and informed the group that he was recently retired and is doing what he can to advocate for biking in southeastern Massachusetts, including joining the SouthCoast Bikeway Alliance, as well as working with the town of Norton to help improve biking facilities in town, as well as in the region. He said he would be happy to help in any way that he can.

3. Approval of Minutes – March 10, 2021 (Materials Attached & roll call vote needed)

Chairman Azinheira called for a motion to approve the minutes of March 10, 2021. The motion was made by Alan Slavin of Wareham and seconded by Manny Silva of New Bedford. Ms. Cabral-Bernard then called the roll:

- Town of Dartmouth.....Yes
- Town of Dighton.....Yes
- Town of Fairhaven.....Yes
- Town of Lakeville.....Yes
- Town of Mansfield.....Yes
- Town of Marion.....Yes
- Town of Middleborough.....Yes
- City of New Bedford.....Yes
- Town of Wareham.....Yes
- Town of Westport.....Yes
- City of Taunton At-Large.....Yes

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Regional Transit Authorities (RTA’s) Report

No representatives of either RTA in attendance.

5. Discussion of FFY 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Mr. Paul Mission began the discussion by explaining that the unified planning work program is an outline of tasks over the course of the federal fiscal year, which runs from October 1, 2021 to September of next year. This includes activities such as the development of the TIP and UPWP, the public participation, EJ and Title VI efforts, as well as the 3C planning process. It also includes the data collection efforts for the traffic count program, the Top 100 Most Dangerous locations in Southeastern Mass, pavement management program as well as community technical assistance.

Within Management Systems, there is the Route 103 study, currently in progress, and the start of the Route 6 Westport / Dartmouth study, which is mainly a safety study. The data collection efforts will begin this summer. There was also a request from the city of Taunton, through their planning department, for a possible exploration and analysis of the Route 140

corridor from the Route 24 / 140 Interchange up to the center of Taunton. This is going to be more of a comprehensive study in terms of looking at the land use on the corridor, including redevelopment of the Silver City Galleria, the possible addition of a casino in the interchange area, as well as possible redevelopment of various areas along the route 140 corridor. The anticipated start of data collection for that effort is next summer, similar to what we're doing with Route 6 this year.

For the following Work Program, which would be actually FFY2023, the update of the regional bicycle plan will be included prior to the development of the 2024 Regional Transportation Plan.

Another effort will be a SRPEDD office-wide effort for the entire region, which is a Regional Resiliency Plan. Multiple departments will work to have a multi-year plan to assess the impacts from climate change and begin efforts to developing project, as well as policies, to help communities become more resilient with severe weather or natural disaster events.

Mr. Mission concluded by informing the group that there is still opportunity for assistance or studies for communities to be considered by our staff, so please send those requests or those ideas. The formal process of presenting a draft UPWP for release for public comment will begin in May, and then in June it is anticipated to be endorsed by the SMMPO.

6. Draft FFY 2022-2026 TIP Presentation & Discussion (Project Information Attached)

Ms. Lisa Estrela-Pedro presented the draft FFY2022-2026 by informing the group that the draft has been uploaded to SRPEDD's website, and will be discussed at the SMMPO meeting next Tuesday, April 20. At that time, it is anticipated that the group will be voting to release it to a minimum 21-day comment period. She continued by highlighting some new items in the document.

She referred to Table 10 that shows regional target projects relationship for every project that is programmed in the draft FFY2022-2026, to the long-range transportation plan, or as we like to call it, the RTP, and the regional or state modal plans, including the bike and ped plans, as well as if there was a corridor study, if there's been technical assistance, and if an RSA has been completed. The last column ties the project to both the SMMPO performance measures, as well as the additional federal performance measures, safety and the congestion primarily. Out of the 14 projects that are currently programmed in FFY2022-26,

four of them have been identified as both congestion and safety issues. Four projects are solely high crash locations, and two projects have been identified as having a high occurrence of bicycle or pedestrian crashes, and one project was a congested corridor. In addition, one project was developed as a result of a community technical assistance request, a signal warrants analysis, and the outlier is a system preservation project.

Another item new to this year's TIP is a description for transit projects. The transit project descriptions are now expanded, to not just solely provide the list. Staff worked with GATRA and SRTA on providing those descriptions, as well as system route maps that can now be found in the TIP.

As part of our Title VI and Environmental Justice Equity Analysis, we also looked at social equity this year, as well as the geographic equity and determined anticipated benefits and positive impacts as well as disproportionate burdens and adverse effects. We did that for the existing projects that are programmed in FFY2022 to 26, as well as the lookback projects which can be found in table 13 for years FFY2017 to 21.

At the SMMPO meeting on March 16, the body voted to pursue scenario #3. In this scenario Lakeville was programmed in FFY 2025, and the Dartmouth project at Prospect Street was shifted to the supplemental project list. There were additional shifts within as well for several projects.

Ms. Estrela-Pedro announced she was going to go through the TIP federal fiscal years, highlighting both target projects and statewide projects as follows:

In FFY 2022-

New Bedford- Intersection Improvements on Acushnet Avenue at Peckham Road

Taunton- Reconstruction of Route 44 (Dean Street), from Arlington Street to Route 104 (South Main Street)

Attleboro – Intersection Improvements at Route 1/Route 1A and Route 123

Statewide

Fall River- Corridor Improvements on Route 79/Davol Street

Taunton- Interchange Improvements at Routes 24 & 140

Norton- Mansfield- Rail Trail Extension (World War II Veterans Trail)

In FFY 2023-

Rehoboth- Intersection Improvements & Related Work at Winthrop Street (Route 44)

Dartmouth – Corridor improvements on Route 6 from Faunce Corner Road to Hathaway Road

New Bedford - Corridor Improvements and Related Work on County Street from Nelson Street to Union Street

Statewide

Mansfield- Bridge Replacement, Balcom Street over the Wading River

New Bedford- Superstructure Replacement

Attleboro- Bridge Replacement Interstate 295 Ramp over Ten Mile River

Attleboro- North Attleborough- Guide and Traffic Sign Replacement on Interstate 295

Somerset- Stormwater Improvements Along Route I-195 for Mount Hope Bay

Fall River- Corridor Improvements on Route 79/Davol Street

Fairhaven- Leroy Wood Elementary School Improvements (SRTS)

Marion- Shared Use Path Construction (Phase 1), From T.L. To Point Road

In FFY 2024-

Swansea- Route 6 at Gardener's Neck Road

Taunton- Corridor Improvements and Related Work on Broadway (Route 138), from Purchase Street to Jackson Street (Phase 2)

Mansfield - Reconstruction on Chauncy Street (Route 106)

Wareham – Route 6 at Swift's Beach Road

Statewide

Fall River- Corridor Improvements on Route 79/Davol Street

New Bedford- Route 18 Superstructure Replacement

Mansfield- Intersection & Signal Improvements at Route 140 & Chauncey Street

Dartmouth to Raynham- Guide and Traffic Sign Replacement on Sections of I-195 and I-495

Somerset- Stormwater Improvements Along Route 6, Route 138, and Route 103 for Taunton River

In FFY 2025-

Lakeville – Reconstruction and related work on Route 79

Wareham - Construction of Bike Lanes Along Narrows Road and A Shared Use Path Adjacent to Minot Avenue

Statewide

New Bedford- Superstructure Replacement

Taunton- Bridge Replacement Scadding Street over Snake River

Freetown to Taunton- Guide and Traffic Sign Replacement on A Section of Route 140

Fall River- Corridor Improvements on Route 79/Davol Street

Fall River- Mary Fonseca Elementary School (SRTS)

Swansea- Traffic Signal and Safety Improvements at Three Intersections on Route 6

In FFY 2026-

Mattapoisett - Corridor improvements on Main, Water, Beacon Streets and Marion Road

Plainville- Reconstruction of South Street (Route 1A)

Statewide

New Bedford - Superstructure replacement

Fall River - Bridge replacement Jefferson Street over Sucker Brook

Somerset and Swansea- Pavement preservation along I-195

New Bedford -Pavement preservation on Route 140

Fall River -Improvements along Route 79/Davol Streets.

Ms. Estrela-Pedro opened the floor to questions or comments and Pam Haznar raised her hand.

Ms. Haznar informed the group that in FFY2023 the Dartmouth-Route 6 at Faunce Corner Road to Hathaway Road project is the former relocation of Tucker Road project. The project is advancing, but Tucker Road will not be relocated at this time. There will be improvements

at Tucker Road and a new signal at Hathaway Road and improvements along Route 6. The project will be designed such that in the future, if the town does choose to relocate Tucker road, it will be available.

She also mentioned that Mansfield 106 corridor, a statewide project, and the Mansfield Route 140 at 106 project are anticipated to be merged and be advertised as one project.

Ms. Estrela-Pedro then continued with the TIP update for transit. For GATRA over the next five years, they'll be programming approximately \$50.5 million for fixed route operating assistance, miscellaneous support equipment, non-fixed route ADA paratransit, and preventative maintenance. Also, the purchase of an AVL system, and the renovation of the Attleboro commuter rail station. Also, the replacement of vans and 35-foot buses, short range planning and mobility management.

For SRTA, they have approximately \$117 million programmed to acquire ADP software and hardware, engineering and design for bus support equipment and facility, rehab and renovate support facility equipment, miscellaneous equipment, operating assistance, operations and maintenance support vehicles. They also plan to replace 35-foot buses, as well as vans. They have tire leases, as well as transit enhancements and short-range planning.

Ms. Estrela-Pedro reminded the group that the draft TIP will be released at the next SMMPO meeting. We will be holding a public meeting on May 4 and staff will also email the link out to every member for the Draft TIP so everyone can have an opportunity to review and comment.

She also announced that the latest version of the TIP Funding Guide is available for everyone to use on SRPEDD's website. This is a guide for communities on TIP project development and the MaPIT process. That link will also be shared via email shortly.

7. Other Business

Ms. Cabral-Bernard reminded the group that the term for JTPG members will be expiring on June 1 and appointment forms will be going out this week to Mayors, town Administrators, BOS Chairs, Town Council presidents and to current JTPG members as well. She asked that everyone reach out and remind any appropriate parties to quickly return these nomination forms because attendance at JTPG is important. She then thanked the members for their time and efforts.

Ms. Cabral-Bernard then reminded the group that SRPEDD was hosting a webinar the next day entitled Moving Forward 2045: Regional Biking & Pedestrian Infrastructure and how to register for this event.

Mr. Mission informed the group of MassDOT's Innovation Conference, being held on a virtual platform on May 25, 26, and 27 this year in half-day sessions.

8. Date and Time for Next Meeting

May 12, 2021 at 2:00 PM was set for the date and time of the next meeting which will be held remotely.

9. Adjourn

The Chairman moved to adjourn and hearing no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 2:41 PM.