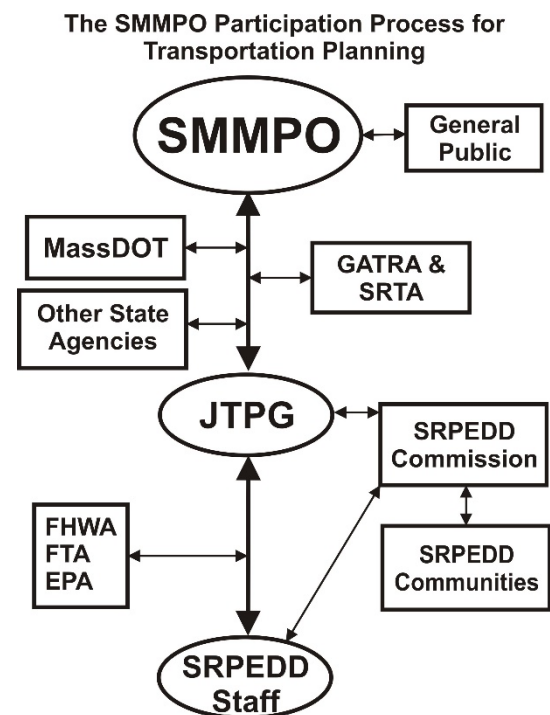


## A Brief Summary of the SMMPO

The Southeastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (SMMPO) is one of 13 regions in the State of Massachusetts with an MPO and a Regional Planning Agency (RPA) as staff to its MPO. Therefore, SRPEDD transportation staff is staff to the SMMPO and SRPEDD is the RPA serving 27 communities in Southeastern Massachusetts. The SRPEDD region consists of 27 communities; the cities of Attleboro, Fall River, New Bedford and Taunton and the towns of Acushnet, Berkley, Carver, Dartmouth, Dighton, Fairhaven, Freetown, Lakeville, Mansfield, Marion, Mattapoisett, Middleborough, North Attleborough, Norton, Plainville, Raynham, Rehoboth, Rochester, Seekonk, Somerset, Swansea, Wareham and Westport.

The MPOs are part of the public planning process responsible for initiating and implementing transportation improvements in every region in Massachusetts. An MPO is made up of representatives from local government and transportation agencies with authority and responsibility in metropolitan planning areas. Nationally, there are 385 MPOs throughout the United States.

The planning process that enables the initiation and implementation of transportation improvements for southeastern Massachusetts can be complicated and sometimes difficult to navigate. To begin, there are three key groups essential to the planning process for transportation improvements in our region; the **SMMPO**, the **Joint Transportation Planning Group (JTPG)**, and the **SRPEDD Commission**. The graphic to the right details the structure and roles of the SMMPO in relation to the other committees and agencies involved in this planning process.



The SRPEDD Transportation Planning Staff provides technical support and coordination services for the SMMPO. This includes public outreach, the preparation of required federal certification documents, transportation studies and reports, regional transportation modeling, and transit planning. The SRPEDD Transportation Staff also works with the JTPG, the advisory board to the SMMPO, to prepare key documents for presentation and review by the SMMPO board for endorsement. These documents include:

- **The Regional Transportation Plan** – Completed every 4 years, this is a 20-year financially constrained plan for the transportation system. The RTP is a comprehensive inventory and assessment of the region's existing and future highway and transit resources and needs, including air quality conformity.
- **The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)** – This is the official programming document for all transportation projects in the region by federal funding category, including roads, bridges, transit and alternative projects such as bicycle and pedestrian accommodations. Prepared annually, it includes projects for a 5-year period. All federally funded projects must be listed in the Annual Element of the TIP, with an assigned regional priority, before federal funds are authorized.
- **The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)** – This scope of work identifies, in a single document, all of the annual transportation planning activities, including all work and studies to be completed by the SRPEDD staff for the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) than runs from October 1 through September 30 in the SMMPO region.
- **The Public Participation Plan (PPP)** - The PPP establishes the process by which the MPO solicits public involvement and cooperative decision making as part of the transportation planning process guiding every issue, project, program or service. This plan's goal is to ensure that all persons, regardless of race, color, national origin, age, gender, gender identity or expression, disability, religion, ancestry or ethnicity, sexual orientation or veteran's status, have an equal opportunity to participate in the SMMPO's decision-making process.

The importance of having local elected officials represented on the SMMPO ensures that transportation funding is distributed in a fair and equitable manner and throughout the entire region. It also provides an opportunity for municipalities to assist in prioritizing transportation needs for the region and develop policies with the development of the Regional Transportation Plan.

The SMMPO typically meets, on average, six times per year at 1:00 PM on the third Tuesday of the month at the SRPEDD office in Taunton. (***During the declared state of emergency in Massachusetts, SMMPO meetings were being held remotely or as hybrid meetings as necessary.***) Additional meetings are possible if transportation issues need to be resolved.

The thirteen (13) members of the SMMPO consist of the following:

- The Secretary and CEO of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation;
- The Administrator of the MassDOT Highway Division;
- The Chair of the SRPEDD Commission;
- The Administrator of the Greater Attleboro-Taunton Regional Transit Authority;

- The Administrator of the Southeastern Regional Transit Authority;
- The Mayors of the Cities of Attleboro, Fall River, New Bedford, and Taunton; and
- Members of Select Boards representing four (4) towns in the SRPEDD region (2-3 towns representing Bristol County and 1-2 towns representing Plymouth and/or Norfolk County).

SMMPO members unable to attend a meeting may send a designee who is directly responsible and accountable to the SMMPO member. The designee may vote only with written and signed authorization from the SMMPO member provided before or at the time of the meeting. The SMMPO member can submit an authorization letter to be placed on file for the calendar year only if the same designee is chosen to represent that SMMPO member.

The SRPEDD Commission is authorized to elect the four (4) town representatives, with two (2) representatives elected each year for two-year terms. Each member of every local Board of Selectmen from member communities will be offered an opportunity to nominate themselves as a candidate for election to the SMMPO. Nominations will be referred to the SRPEDD Commission for a vote at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Commission in the month of June.

**SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (SMMPO)**  
**FY2022 SMMPO MEMBERS**

- Jamey Tesler, Acting MassDOT Secretary & CEO, Chair
- Alan Slavin, SRPEDD Commission Chairman, Vice-Chair
- Paul Heroux, Mayor of Attleboro
- Paul Coogan, Mayor of Fall River
- Jon Mitchell, Mayor of New Bedford
- Shaunna O’Connell, Mayor of Taunton
- Jonathan L. Gulliver, MassDOT Highway Division Administrator
- Shawn McDonald, Dartmouth (Term Expires 7-31-22)
- Dean Larabee, Berkley (Term Expires 7-31-22)
- Robert Espindola, Fairhaven (Term Expires 7-31-23)
- Mark Germain, Middleborough (Term Expires 7-31-23)
- Erik Rousseau, SRTA
- Mark Sousa, GATRA

Ex-officio, non-voting members:

- Jeff McEwen, FHWA Division Administrator
- Peter Butler, FTA Deputy Regional Administrator
- Lee Azinheira, Joint Transportation Planning Group Chairman