

**Southeastern Regional Planning & Economic Development District (SRPEDD)
Joint Transportation Planning Group (JTPG) Meeting.
Draft Minutes for the Meeting Held on Wednesday, May 11, 2022 at 2:00 PM
Held Remotely via Zoom due to the COVID-19 State of Emergency in Massachusetts.**

The following members and alternates were in attendance:

Lee Azinheira, Chair.....Town of Mansfield
Alan Slavin, Vice Chair.....Town of Wareham
Bob Araujo.....City of Attleboro
Joe Callahan.....Town of Berkley
John Woods.....Town of Carver
Tim Barber.....Town of Dartmouth
Paul Foley.....Town of Fairhaven
Franklin Moniz.....Town of Lakeville
Josh Reinke.....Town of Mansfield
Stephanie CramptonCity of New Bedford
Paul Scott.....Town of Plainville
Ed Buckley.....Town of Raynham
Fred Cornaglia.....City of Taunton
William Roth.....City of Taunton
Jim Hartnett.....Town of Westport

The following members/alternates were NOT in attendance:

Town of Acushnet
Town of Dighton
City of Fall River
Town of Freetown
Town of Marion
Town of Mattapoisett
Town of Middleborough
Town of North Attleborough
Town of Norton
Town of Rehoboth
Town of Rochester
Town of Seekonk
Town of Somerset
Town of Swansea
At-Large, City of Fall River

At-Large, City of New Bedford

At-Large, City of Taunton

Also in Attendance:

Angela Constantino.....GATRA

Shayne Trimbell.....SRTA

Barbara Lachance.....MassDOT

Raissah Kouame.....MassDOT

Derek Shooster.....MassDOT

Christopher Keys

Paul MissionSRPEDD

Lisa Estrela-Pedro.....SRPEDD

Lilia Cabral-Bernard..... SRPEDD

Jackie Jones.....SRPEDD

Sean Hilton.....SRPEDD

Julianne Griffiths.....SRPEDD

Sara Brown.....SRPEDD

Jennifer Chaves.....SRPEDD

Luis deOliveira.....SRPEDD

Gregory Guertin.....SRPEDD

Handouts:

The JTPG Agenda May 11, 2022

DRAFT JTPG April 13, 2022 Minutes

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Roll Call:

Chair Lee Azinheira called the meeting to order at 2:02 PM. Ms. Cabral-Bernard called the complete roll call of JTPG members, with the following being present at the time of the roll call.

Robert Araujo-----City of Attleboro

John Woods-----Town of Carver

Paul Foley-----Town of Fairhaven

Lee Azinheira-----Town of Mansfield

Josh Reinke-----Town of Mansfield

Stephanie Crampton-----City of New Bedford

Paul Scott-----Town of Plainville

Ed Buckley-----Town of Raynham
Fred Cornalia-----City of Taunton
Alan Slavin-----Town of Wareham
James Hartnett-----Town of Westport

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

Chris Keys shared with the group that he spent the winter in Orange County, California and that it has 1000 miles of Class 1 off-road and Class 2 on-road accommodations with clear striping and protections for bicyclists and that it's all interconnected. He also shared that ESS (electric) bicycle adoption is off the charts, with thousands of people riding these.

Mr. Keys then applauded the efforts of everybody in this group in trying to accommodate the needs of bicyclists, and to encouraged them to keep going because adoption rates are looking to be running close to 4% by the end of 2023. So, a town like Norton with 20,000 citizens could have 800 people riding conventional bikes or ESS bikes on the roads. He encouraged that for a multitude of reasons, not the least of which is safety. He then thanked the group for the opportunity to speak.

Paul Mission then added that he agreed with Mr. Keys and found the same in Irvine, California. He found that in Huntington Beach, and in Newport Beach, they have pretty much the same problems that we have here in the northeast, which are street networks that were built long ago, and with houses very close to the edge of the road, so it it would be nice to see how California has adapted to including bicycle and pedestrian accommodations with their street layouts. He then added that Massachusetts, has received recognition as the best bicycle state in the United States. Jackie Jones confirmed that it was the National Bike League of America that bestowed that award.

Alan Slavin then added that he was joining the meeting from Nevada where you can bicycle outside his backyard, to wherever you want to go. He shared that California also has a huge advantage as it developed much later than the East Coast and they are much more liberal in a lot of things that they do. Also, that electric bikes are becoming a real problem. Right now the maximum speed is now 28 miles an hour legally but they are selling some that do 50 miles an hour, and everybody should be prepared in your towns because you're going to have problems.

3. Approval of Minutes – April 13, 2022 (Materials Attached & roll call vote needed)

Chairperson Azinheira called for a motion to approve the minutes of April 13, 2022. The motion was made by Alan Slavin and seconded by Stephanie Crampton. Ms. Cabral-Bernard then called the roll:

City of Attleboro.....Yes
Town of Carver.....Yes
Town of Fairhaven.....Yes

Town of Mansfield.....Yes
City of New Bedford.....Yes
Town of Plainville.....Yes
Town of Raynham.....Yes
City of Taunton.....Yes
Town of Wareham.....Yes
City of Westport.....Yes

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Regional Transit Authorities (RTA's) Report

Shayne Trimbell shared that SRTA is continuing to work on the bus stop improvement plan and they will be doing our stakeholder engagement in the middle of June, about a month from now and everyone should be hearing from Eric Rousseau with an invitation to attend the meeting. He then encouraged the group to attend and learn about the project and provide some input.

Angela Constantino shared that GATRA is in the final stages of selecting a new administrator. They are also working on a new app to pay for fares on the bus. That will come out in the next couple of weeks.

5. Draft FFY2023 UPWP Discussion

Paul Mission explained that the UPWP covering work to be completed from Oct. 1, 2022 –Sept. 30, 2023, supports the 2020 Regional Transportation Plan, updates the 2024 Regional Transportation Plan, and outlines planning activities for SRPEDD.

He explained that the legislative guidance that is tied to the funding of the UPWP and includes monies that are filtered down from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) but also builds upon legislation and guidance from previous transportation bills which include FAST Act, MAP- 21. In general, all these bills support and strengthen America's highways, are designed to support the US D.O.T.'s aggressive safety agenda, promote alternative modes of transport, improve health, improve healthy and sustainable transportation, create jobs, support economic growth and address climate change and promote equity for all modes of transportation.

Mr. Mission continued with the funding sources that are tied to the UPWP. They come from the federal government and the State of Massachusetts. FHWA provides their planning money better known as PL, and the Federal Transit Administration provides funds out of the 5303 program. All combined, it's about 80% of the funding that we receive from the USDOT and MassDOT provides the 20% match so that we have full funding for our planning activities in the upcoming federal fiscal year. We also receive some monies from the 5307 grant program that's associated with regional transit agencies, and helps us provide a contract and provide technical assistance with GATRA.

The UPWP consists of four elements: 1. Management & Support of the Planning Process; 2. Regional Data Collection, Modeling & Analysis Activities; 3. Transportation Plan Activities & Studies; and 4. Additional Technical Planning Activities.

Element 1 has five tasks, including: Task 1.1, the 3C Process; Task 1.2, Public Participation; Task 1.3, Environmental Justice & Title VI; Task 1.4, the Unified Planning Work Program; and Task 1.5, the Transportation Improvement Program.

Element 2 has six tasks, including: Task 2.1, Data Management and GIS; Task 2.2, Regional Modeling; Task 2.3, Regional Traffic Counting; Task 2.4, Pavement Management; Task 2.5, Performance Measures; and Task 2.6, Community Technical Assistance.

Element 3 consists of six separate tasks, including: Task 3.1, Update of the Regional Transportation Plan; Task 3.2, Management Systems; Task 3.3, Bicycle & Pedestrian Planning; Task 3.4, Intermodal Project Coordination, Freight Movement & Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS); Task 3.5, Regional Resiliency; and Task 3.6, Mobility Management & Regional Transit Support.

Element 4 includes one task which is Task 4.1, GATRA Technical Planning Assistance.

Mr. Mission concluded with the timeline for the UPWP. The draft document is to be released for a 21- day public comment period next Tuesday, May 17 at the SMMPO meeting. The draft document is currently available for viewing and download through the SRPEDD website. Anyone can offer comment or ask questions. And we just ask that you submit those to either myself or to Lisa Estrela-Pedro.

6. Draft FFY2023-27 TIP Discussion

Ms. Estrela-Pedro informed the group that at the SMMPO meeting on April 9, the draft TIP was approved to be released to a 21-day comment period with all the projects this group recommended to the SMMPO voted to be released. The public meeting was held on May 4. Staff did not receive any comments at that meeting, but other comments were received. One in particular was from Sandra Medeiros from the South Coast bikeway group in reference to the New Bedford bicycle and pedestrian ramp construction on Route 6 westbound to MacArthur drive that's currently programmed in 2027. She asked if there was any opportunity for the project to be constructed sooner, but that is a MassDOT project, so any movement on that project would be based on funding availability. Staff also received comments from FHWA and from Mass DOT, and staff is making those recommended changes. Staff has also received new updated transit lists and they are in the process of incorporating those and doing all of the greenhouse gas emission analysis. Staff is hoping by the end of the week, they will send out a notice once that's available.

7. SRPEDD Project Updates

Sara Brown presented the Westport Complete Streets Prioritization Plan which started in September 2021. There was a kickoff meeting with the town and stakeholders in November, and input from the town on what they wanted to see happen. Data was collected on 85 miles of roadway in the town of

Westport. State roadways were not evaluated because they are not eligible for funding through this program. In February, an existing conditions meeting was held and following that meeting, an interactive map was released so that people could share what projects they wanted to see happen. Last month, a draft prioritization plan meeting was held, taking the input from the town stakeholder meeting, and from the public through our interactive map, resulting in 19 recommended projects. There was a story map created to display the projects and their description and staff also created a survey for people to rank projects. Staff is in the process of gathering input through the ranking survey, and through an additional comment card on the SRPEDD website. At the end of this month staff will create cost estimates and finalize the plan.

Ms. Brown then displayed a map from the Complete Streets funding program website displaying which communities in our region have completed a Prioritization Plan and which communities in our region have approved projects. She pointed out that Swansea just received funding for a project earlier this year, through projects that staff placed on their Prioritization Plan.

Ms. Brown next presented the Regional Resilience Plan which was officially launched in September 2021. It's a two-year, quarter billion-dollar project, funded through a state program, the Efficiency and Regionalization grant, and also through a federal grant through the Economic Development Administration. The project overview is to improve community resilience by identifying and proposing solutions to environmental, economic and societal vulnerabilities in our region.

Through this plan, there will be three principal efforts, with the first being data collection and analysis, including the identification of current data sources correlated with their best use cases, which will be a resource for communities in pursuing local projects. The second effort is resilience best practice recommendations for specific place-type "transect" categories. The third effort will result in a set of prioritized actions that SRPEDD will pursue to support regional resilience over the next ten-year period.

Accomplished thus far has been contact with member communities and regional non-profits and private sector stakeholders; development of place type typologies which are basic factors that define each typology and land use, land cover, impervious surface coverage, floor-area-ratio, landscape resilience factors; and analysis of 24 Certified Municipal Vulnerability Plans in our region.

8. Other Business

Lisa Estrela-Pedro reminded all JTPG members to respond to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill (BIL) Survey if they have not done so yet. The Massachusetts Association of Regional Planning Agencies (MARPA) put out the survey to help gauge communities needs in navigating BIL funding programs and opportunities.

She added that the most recent opportunity is a discretionary program “Safe Streets and Roads for All” that will provide \$5-6 billion in grants over the next 5 years. Funding supports regional, local, and Tribal initiatives through grants to prevent roadway deaths and serious injuries. The program supports the Department’s National Roadway Safety Strategy and a goal of zero deaths and serious injuries on our nation’s roadways. Eligible activities include the development or update a “Comprehensive Safety Action Plan” or Action Plan (e.g., Vision Zero plans), planning, design, and development activities in support of an Action Plan and carrying out projects and strategies identified in an Action Plan.

Ms. Estrela-Pedro also reminded the group that the MassDOT Innovation Conference May 24 & 25th at the DCU in Worcester, is closed for in-person attendance but people can still sign up to attend virtually, through May 23rd.

Also, that SRPEDD’s Annual Dinner is May 25th at White’s of Westport, with the Keynote Speaker being Secretary and CEO, Massachusetts Department of Transportation Jamey Tesler.

MassDOT’s Capital Investment Plan Meeting will be held virtually on June 1st at 6PM. Additional information is forthcoming.

Also, JTPG Appointment forms were distributed on May 3rd and are due Thursday, May 26, 2022. Next month, we will vote on a new Chair and 3 Vice Chairs from Bristol County/GATRA Area (Dave Cabral-Seekonk), Bristol County/SRTA Area (Paul Foley – Fairhaven) & Plymouth County Area (Alan Slavin-Wareham).

Ms. Estrela-Pedro concluded by taking the opportunity to thank everyone for attending today and a special thanks to Lee Azinheira for being the JTPG chair for the last 14 years as this is his last meeting.

9. Date and Time for Next Meeting

Paul Mission announced the date and time for the next meeting is June 13 or 14, 2022, which will be a joint JTPG/SMMPO meeting, possibly at the Taunton PAC club, which is an outdoor venue.

10. Adjourn

The Chair asked for a motion to adjourn which was made by John Woods and seconded by Paul Foley. Hearing no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 2:44 PM.