

January 25, 2023
6:30 PM Regular Meeting
Remote SRPEDD Commission Meeting via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87295877940?pwd=MFZ3STIyL3NDVG5RVHAWbzI0L05lQT09>

AGENDA

1. Call to Order, Introductions, and Welcome
2. Approval of Minutes – December 7, 2022 * *(Vote requested)*
3. Reports
 - a. Chair
 - b. Executive Director
4. Consent Agenda
 - a. Contracts * *(Vote to receive report and place on file)*
5. Committee Reports
 - a. Finance Committee * *(Vote to receive report and place on file)*
 - FY'23 Q2 Budget Update * *(Vote requested)*
 - FY'24 Annual Assessment Rate * *(Vote requested)*
 - b. Joint Transportation Planning Group/MPO* *(Vote receive place on file)*
6. Programs and Project Updates:
 - a. 2023 South Coast Rail Corridor Priority Area Planning Study
 - b. Annual [District Local Technical Assistance \(DLTA\)](#) Project and New DLTA-Augmentation Funding Technical Assistance Solicitation
 - c. Environmental Program Update and area [MEPA](#) projects * *(Vote place on file)*
 - Proposed new [Title V \(Septic\) Regulations](#) *
 - d. [Regional Economic Strategy Committee](#)
 - Next [Quarterly RESC Meeting](#): Wed, February 1 at 11:30 am
7. Old Business
 - a. Technical Assistance* *(Vote to receive and place on file)*
www.srpedd.org/MA or www.srpedd.org/Municipal-Assistance
8. New Business
9. Roundtable: Opportunity for Commissioners to provide updates on local topics, projects or matters of regional interest
10. Adjourn

FUTURE COMMISSION MEETINGS: February 22, 2023; March 22, 2023; April 26, 2023;
May 24, 2023 (Annual Mtg); June 28, 2023

NOTE: An Exec. Cmte Meeting will be convened in the absence of a Commission quorum

*Attached

AGENDA ITEM: Minutes, # 2

SRPEDD Commission Meeting- Draft
December 7, 2023
Remote meeting via Zoom

Present:**Commissioners:**

S. Leary, Berkley	C. Shea, Carver	T. Bott, Carver	C. O'Neil, Dartmouth
R. Espindola, Fairh.	D. Aguiar, Fall River	V. D'Antoni, Freetown	L. Carboni, Lakeville
A. Horowitz, Mansfield	R. Burgmann, Mattap.	L. Bradley, Middleb	M. Germain, Middleb.
A. Eaton, N.B. A/L	J. Carloni, New Bedford	M. Clarner, No. Attle.	L. Pirnie, No. Attle.
S. Ollerhead, Norton	R. Stefanelli, Norton (Alt.)	C. Sullivan, Raynham	N. Durfee, Rochester
P. Dunn, Seekonk	N. McDonald, Somerset	G. Hovorka, Swansea	M. Monteiro, Taunton
W. Roth, Taunton	A. Slavin, Wareham	S. Ouellette, Westport	J. Whitin, Westport

Guests/Staff:

S. Brown, SRPEDD	J. Jones, SRPEDD	G. King, SRPEDD	L. Estrela-Pedro, SRPEDD
K. Porter, SRPEDD	S. Royer, SRPEDD	J. Walker, SRPEDD	H. Zincavage, SRPEDD

Absent:

J. Kelley, Acushnet	D. Pimentel, Acushnet	C. Feerick, Attleboro A/L	G. Ayrassian, Attleboro
F. Uriot, Attleboro	C. Haddad, Dartmouth	M. Sweet Dart. (Alter.)	J. Carvalho, Dighton
J. Ferreira, Fall River	D. Braga, Fairhaven	D. Pettey, Freetown	N. Cline, Lakeville
J. Henry, Marion	N. Hills, Marion	J. Ponte, New Bedford	J. Artz, Norton
C. Yarworth, Plainv.	M. Andrade, Raynham	W. Costa, Rehoboth	L. Mills, Rehoboth
G. Hartley, Rochester	J. Kardel, Somerset	J. Hansen, Swansea	M. King, Wareham
J. Peccini, Taunton A/L	R. Tith, F.R A/L		

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Marie Clarner at 6:33 P.M. The meeting was recorded.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made to approve the October 26, 2022, meeting minutes with abstentions.
3. **Reports:**
 - a. **Vice Chair:** Vice Chair Clarner called the December 2022 meeting of the SRPEDD Commission to order, welcoming everyone attendance, and referencing that she was filling in for Chairman Slavin. She indicated that she did not have a report and turned things over to Mr. Walker.
 - b. **Executive Director:** Mr. Walker reported that the agency is continuing to grow and there are a presently a number of hiring needs, across multiple departments. He mentioned that currently there are eight positions being advertised, with announcements being advertised via the usual outlets and detailed descriptions on the SRPEDD website. He shared that despite the challenging hiring environment, interest has been strong, and that some very promising applications had been coming in, regarding which he hoped to have good news, upon completion of the interview process at the next upcoming meeting in January.

4. Consent Agenda:

- a. **Contracts:** Vice Chair Clarner referred the Commission to the contracts below and read the following for consideration.
1. With the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), on behalf of the Southeast Region Homeland Security Advisory Council (SRAC), for support of the FFY21 SRAC activities and projects for an amount not to exceed \$193,711.
 2. With the town of Westport to update its Housing Production Plan made possible through DLTA funding and Municipal Assistance (MA) hours.
 3. With MassDOT to carry out work detailed within the regional FFY2023 Unified Planning Work Program, for an amount not to exceed \$1,699,705.
 4. With the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), to provide professional services to undertake and perform all appropriate tasks to produce Massachusetts Regional Trail Map data, for an amount not to exceed \$5,000.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the contract listed above. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. Committee Reports:

- a. **Finance Committee:** Mr. Horowitz mentioned the Finance Committee met on Nov. 16, 2022, at the SRPEDD office and via Zoom. The Oct. 19, 2022, Finance meeting minutes were approved, the Treasurer's Report for October 2022 received, and a warrant for expenses authorized in the amount of \$121,639.30. The Committee also reviewed the OPEB statement for Sept. 2022 included in the packet along with October 2022 month-end general journal entries. In addition, the Committee received a briefing from Principal Alyssa Simard, CPA, of Melanson accounting on the completed FY'22 audit, and copy of final audit report. Still pending for subsequent completion are the agency's single audit and annual Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) submission for EDA.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Finance report. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

- b. **Personnel Committee:** Mr. Horowitz reported that the Personnel Committee also met on November 16, 2022. Mr. Walker briefed members on continuing agency growth and demand for services across the region owing not only to the unprecedented amount of funding that has been flowing from federal and state levels since the start of the pandemic, but also expanding capacity of the agency to respond to ever evolving community needs. The need and sustainable funding are there for eight additional positions across the organization, he reported, thanks to hard work and dedication on the part of the team. And positions are currently being advertised via traditional and creative new channels in light of the challenging hiring environment in which we all find ourselves with so many companies and organizations presently recruiting for candidates across the country. Despite the challenge of hiring, however, it is an exciting time for the agency, and testament to the wide-ranging and concerted efforts over the past five years, as SRPEDD continues to advance and extend its reach in service to its member municipalities.

In addition, Mr. Walker updated the Committee on the need for two “off-cycle”, e.g., calendar vs. fiscal year-end advancements, each with January 1 effective dates (the majority of promotions taking place at the conclusion of each fiscal year upon development of a new FY budget and completion of the annual performance evaluation process). The timing of the two advancements in this case: 1) Principal Planner Lizeth Gonzalez to Director of Economic Development, and 2) Principal Planner/Project Manager Robert Cabral to Director of Community Development and Housing, in response both to the vacancy in economic development, and planned-for upcoming further diversification of community development and housing related efforts.

A motioned was made and seconded to approve the Personnel report. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

- c. **Joint Transportation Planning Group/MPO:** Ms. Estrela-Pedro mentioned that the minutes from the last JTPG meeting are in the packet and the meeting was held on October 12. She mentioned that at the meeting the committee discussed the JTPG By-Laws which were approved. Ms. Estrela-Pedro mentioned the SMMPO meeting was held on November 15 and the minutes can be found in the packet. She mentioned at this meeting there was an adjustment to the current FFY23 to FFY27 TIP (addition of airport express bus service from the Mansfield MBTA Station to Logan) due to the fact that TIP wasn't approved by the Feds yet. She reported that the committee also discussed the Title VI report which is due at the end of the year and there was discussion that the FFY24 to FFY28 TIP would be shortly getting underway. She mentioned that staff will be soliciting projects in June for the Evaluation Criteria in the upcoming months. Ms. Estrela-Pedro mentioned that the FFY23 UPWP was discussed as well. She mentioned that they are wrapping up Technical Assistance projects, and that the traffic count program has been closed for the year. Lastly, the Transportation staff is working on the Route 140 project on behalf of the City of Taunton, in partnership with the Comprehensive Department.

Mr. Whitin asked if the Route 140 changes are from MassDOT and asked if they are anticipating working on the whole Route 6 corridor. Ms. Estrela-Pedro mentioned that yes, it used to be the Relocation of Tucker Road, but some of the scope of the project has changed along with the name.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Transportation report. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. Programs and Project Updates:

- a. **Westport and Dartmouth Route 6 Corridor Study:** Ms. Jones gave a presentation on the Westport/Dartmouth Route 6 Corridor Study. She explained that the study area for the project followed the corridor from the Westport/Fall River line to Cross Road in Dartmouth and that the study had a goal of making the corridor safer, more livable, and business friendly. She further explained that the corridor was oversized for the volume of vehicular travel that it currently handled, and that the transportation team had collected data, performed a variety of analyses, and sought input from the public, corridor stakeholders and MassDOT to develop improvement scenarios. The study is currently under review by stakeholders and will be released to the public for comment in conjunction with MassDOT's concept plan development.
- b. **District Local Assistance -Augmentation (DLTA-A) funding:** Mr. Walker referenced that although he had mentioned the possibility of the state making up to \$2 million in unallocated funds available to the RPAs for usage, similar to earlier CARES Act funding, in assisting member municipalities position themselves, apply for and secure available stimulus

and other funding for needed eligible projects, the details have now finally been worked out, and the monies are shortly going to be distributed via the RPAs similar to how we receive District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) funding, and that the contract paperwork should be forthcoming early in the new year (on behalf of approximately \$165,000 in SRPEDD's case).

- c. **MBTA Communities Compliance Model Released:** Mr. King referred the Commission to the page 20 of the packet. He discussed the MBTA Communities Compliance Model that has is now available for use. He hoped all had time to review the email and a detailed PowerPoint presentation included in the packet. Mr. King mentioned that this presentation was presented by the DHCD staff to roughly 15 member communities last month on November 14. He mentioned it includes a detailed summary of the main changes to the state's guidance that was issued this fall. Mr. King mentioned that if any members have any questions to please reach out to Ms. Perez, Mr. Cabral or himself for more information. He mentioned that he and his staff are happy to schedule an in-person, phone, or Zoom meeting.
- d. **Environmental Program Update and area MEPA projects:** Ms. Zinavage reported that the Environmental Department's biggest priority in coming months will be to launch a new Regional Open Space and Residence Bylaw initiative, also known as a Cluster Bylaw or a Conservation Subdivision Bylaw. She mentioned she and her staff have already been working with Dighton and Middleborough on the effort and that the aim for the upcoming region-wide initiative is to come up with a set of recommendations for how to take into consideration and factor in the broader region when undertaking such bylaw updates, and in doing so, help to make them more workable for everyone. Ms. Zinavage mentioned if any member would like more information to please reach out.

8. Old Business:

- a. **Technical Assistance:** Mr. King referred Commissioners to the traditional monthly update on projects contained in the packets, highlighting a number in further detail and referring Commissioners to the additional information on the SRPEDD website as well.

A motioned was made and seconded to approve the Technical Assistance report. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. New Business:

- a. **Healey-Driscoll Transition Committees:** Mr. Walker mentioned that the incoming new administration has been moving steadily toward formulating its plan for its initial 100 days in office and moving toward announcement of multiple secretary and other high profile appointments. Toward that end, he mentioned that Governor elect Healey, and Lieutenant Governor-elect Driscoll, had recently announced the formation of six transition committees comprised of diverse stakeholders and subject matter experts from around the Commonwealth, including Southeast Mass on such central issue areas as Housing and Transportation, the Economy, Safety & Health, Youth, and Climate Change, and that Mr. Walker was honored to have been appointed to the Transportation transition committee, a unique opportunity for SRPEDD and broader region to input. He referenced that he had had opportunity to participate in a kickoff meeting of the committee last week and was very much impressed with the organized and well-thought-out process for discussing the issues,

with staff support by MPA students from Harvard Kennedy School aimed at coming up with a series of realistic action items for implementation during the first 100 days.

b. Expression of Gratitude to Chairman Slavin

Vice Chair Clarner thanked Chairman Slavin for his years spent as an Elected Director of the Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) serving as MSA District 4 Representative, and all the information he has brought to the Commission.

10. Roundtable: Opportunity for Commissioners to provide updates on local topics, projects or

matters of regional interest: Ms. Carboni mentioned that the town of Lakeville recently had an incident that some may have seen in the newspaper involving safety of schools. She mentioned a parent had decided to test the school safety system and was able to enter the building. Ms. Carboni stated that the town's Safety Committee has been looking at the issue and would be interested in speaking with staff in regards to the presentation provided last meeting (Active Shooter & Hostile Event- ASHE plan development). Mr. King mentioned that SRPEDD Homeland Security Program Manager and Drone Pilot Kevin Ham, the presenter last meeting, was the one to speak to, and would have Mr. Ham and Mr. Castro, also with the SRPEDD Homeland Security program reach out to Ms. Carboni to discuss the matter in further detail.

11. Adjourn: Vice Chair Clarner wished all Happy Holidays. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM. The next Commission meeting will be on Wednesday, January 25, 2023, at 6:30 P.M., to be held remotely via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Norman Hills, Secretary

Date: 1/25/2023

AGENDA ITEM: Grant/Contract Approvals, # 4.a.

Be it resolved that the SRPEDD Commission authorizes the Chairman, Treasurer, Officers and Executive Director, as appropriate, to negotiate and execute the following contracts:

1. With the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) under the 2023 District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) and DLTA Augmentation (DLTA-A) work program for an amount not to exceed \$248,495.
2. With the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) under the 2023 DLTA Augmentation (DLTA-A) work program for an amount not to exceed \$165,663.
3. With Andrea Duarte, incoming new Transportation Outreach Planner, at the amount of \$57,000 per year, beginning December 30, 2022.
4. With Rhiannon Duggan, incoming new Senior Environmental Planner, at the amount of \$61,400 per year, beginning January 3, 2023.
5. With Jonathan Gray, incoming new Transportation Planner, at the amount of \$57,000 per year, beginning January 17, 2023.
6. With Maria Jones, incoming new Public Engagement and Communication Planner, at the amount of \$60,000 per year, beginning January 23, 2023.
7. With Danyel Kenis, incoming new Urban Design Planner, at the amount of \$57,000 per year, beginning February 1, 2023.
8. With Chris Welch, incoming new Senior Comprehensive Planner, at the amount of \$61,400 per year, beginning February 1, 2023.

AGENDA ITEM: Finance Committee Report # 5.a.

The Finance Committee met on Dec. 14, 2022, at 12.05 pm at Stoneforge in Raynham, MA. The Nov. 16, 2022 Finance meeting minutes were approved, the Treasurer's Report for November 2022 received, and a warrant for expenses authorized in the amount of \$121,639.30.

Cash & Funds: Nov. 1, 2022	\$1,317,178.91
Cash Receipts: Nov. 1 – 30, 2022	<u>\$ 74,122.87</u>
Total Cash Accounted for:	\$1,391,301.78

Disbursements: Nov. 1 – 30, 2022	\$ 277,057.06
Cash & Funds: Nov. 30, 2022	<u>\$ 1,114,244.72</u>
Total Cash Accounted for:	\$1,391,301.78

The Committee also reviewed the OPEB statement for October 2022 included in the packet along with November 2022 month-end general journal entries.

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The Finance Committee also met on Jan. 18, 2023 at the SRPEDD office and via Zoom. The Dec. 18, 2022 Finance meeting minutes were approved, the Treasurer's Report for December 2022 received, and a warrant for expenses authorized in the amount of \$108,782.29.

Cash & Funds: Dec. 1, 2022	\$ 1,114,244.72
Cash Receipts: Dec. 1 – 31, 2022	<u>\$ 266,739.05</u>
Total Cash Accounted for:	\$ 1,380,983.77

Disbursements: Dec. 1 – 31, 2022	\$ 200,655.55
Cash & Funds: Dec. 31, 2022	<u>\$ 1,180,328.22</u>
Total Cash Accounted for:	\$ 1,380,983.77

The Committee reviewed the OPEB statement for November 2022 included in the packet along with December 2022 month-end general journal entries.

The Committee also reviewed, considered, and voted in favor of recommending to the full Commission at their upcoming next meeting that the FY'2024 Assessment rate be set at \$0.2068 per capita, 2.5% increase over FY'23 based on 2020 population.

Lastly, Mr. Walker presented the Committee with the Draft FY'23 Q2 Budget Update, reporting that in addition to a series of multi-year grants which had been received since the Q1 update this past October, excellent progress had been made on the hiring front, with six new staff members across multiple departments having recently either started or soon to be commencing work with the agency, following completion of interviews, with openings for two more planners remaining to be filled. All told, he referenced that revenues were continuing to grow along with the need for additional personnel and that the organization's finances at the midpoint of the fiscal year were looking good.



FISCAL YEAR 2023 Draft Q2 Budget Update				SUMMARY Pg. 1	
PROPOSED: 1/18/23					
REVENUE		FY 2023 APP 10/2022	FY 2023 PROP. 1/2023	CHANGE: 10/2022 to 1/2023	PERCENT CHANGE
1. FEDERAL & STATE GRANTS					
a.	MASSDOT.-3C*	1,591,746	1,588,594	-3,152	-0.20%
b.	SRTA-SEC.5307*	0	0		0.00%
c.	GATRA-SEC.5307*	64,446	55,598	-8,848	-13.73%
d.	EDA*	70,000	70,000		0.00%
e.	NPS TNVRV*	240,000	240,000		0.00%
f.	HOMELAND SEC/EOPSS*	193,000	193,000		0.00%
g.	DLTA (2022)*	124,247	124,247		0.00%
h.	DLTA (2023)	124,247	124,247		0.00%
Sub-total		2,407,686	2,395,686	-12,000	-0.50%
2. ASSESSMENTS		131,592	131,592	0	0.00%
3. MUNICIPAL & LOCAL					
a.	ARPA APC	12500	54,220	41,720	333.76%
b.	Brownfields	162,712	162,712	0	
c.	CARES Act ext	100,226	100,226	0	
d.	Carver Green Communities	1,339	0	-1,339	-100.00%
e.	Dartmouth OSRP	17,392	17,392	0	0.00%
f.	DLTA-A Allocation		54,669		
g.	EDA Fall River Mothers Brook	30,607	30,607	0	0.00%
h.	Lakeville HPP	15,000	15,000	0	
i.	MAAdb Dart & Wareham climate TA	8,585	8,585	0	
j.	Marion OSRP Implementation	8,000	8,000	0	
k.	Mattapoisett MP	3,440	0	-3,440	-100.00%
l.	SCR PDA-PPA Update	161,760	64,704	-97,056	
m.	MHP MBTA Webinar series	16,000	16,000	0	
n.	Middleborough HPP (HCI)	25,000	12,500	-12,500	
o.	Middleborough OSRP	6,408	0	-6,408	
p.	N Attle MP	9,258	0	-9,258	-100.00%
q.	RRP EDA- Federal	138,295	138,295	0	0.00%
r.	RRP Eff and Regionalization- State	66,492	66,492	0	0.00%
s.	Regional Energy Planning TA '21	49,550	49,550	0	0.00%
t.	Regional Energy Planning TA '22	12,000	12,000	0	
u.	Resilient Taunton Circuit Rider		25,000		
v.	Seekonk HPP		0		
w.	SNEP Community Resilience Building TA	10,194	0	-10,194	
x.	Somerset EDA III	16,423	0	-16,423	-100.00%
y.	Swansea MP, OSRP	135,294	135,294	0	0.00%
z.	Taunton ASHE plan	141,000	141,000	0	
aa.	Taunton OSRP	3,050	0	-3,050	-100.00%
bb.	Viva Fall River		0		
cc.	Westport HPP		0		
Sub-total		1,150,525	1,112,245	-38,280	-3.33%
4. MISCELLANEOUS					
	Interest	1,000	5,000	4,000	400.00%
Sub-total		1,000	5,000	4,000	0.00%
TOTAL REVENUES		\$3,690,803	\$3,644,523	-46,280	-1.25%



FISCAL YEAR 2023 Draft Q2 Budget Update				SUMMARY Pg. 2	
PROPOSED: 1/18/23					
EXPENDITURES		FY 2023 APP 10/2022	FY 2023 PROP. 1/2023	CHANGE: 10/2022 to 1/2023	PERCENT CHANGE
1	SALARIES	2,209,486	2,176,200	-33,286	-1.5%
2	FRINGE BENEFITS	345,019	345,019	0	0.0%
3	TRAVEL	1,250	1,250	0	0.0%
4	BANK CHARGES	110	110	0	0.0%
5	PRINTING	500	500	0	0.0%
6	SUPPLIES	16,500	16,500	0	0.0%
7	ACCOUNTING & LEGAL	16,716	16,716	0	0.0%
8	COMPUTERS	60,237	60,237	0	0.0%
9	DUES & SUBSCRIP.	6,900	6,900	0	0.0%
10	EQUIP. LEASE	7,165	7,165	0	0.0%
11	INSURANCE	21,000	21,000	0	0.0%
12	MEETINGS & CONF.	4,000	4,000	0	0.0%
13	ADVERTISING	1,500	1,500	0	0.0%
14	POSTAGE & TELEPHONE	6,348	6,348	0	0.0%
15	SERVICES (GMS & IT)	17,440	17,440	0	0.0%
16	BUILDING COSTS	41,840	41,840	0	0.0%
17	TRAFFIC COUNT VEHICLE	472	472	0	0.0%
18	EQUIP. SERV.& REPAIR	1,500	1,500	0	0.0%
19	EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS	2,000	2,000	0	0.0%
20	CONSULTANTS/PASS THRU	230,000	230,000	0	0.0%
21	DIRECT COSTS	76,195	70,570	-5,625	-7.4%
22	LOCAL COST/INVEST.ACCT.	17,111	17,111	0	0.0%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		3,083,289	3,044,378	-38,911	-1.3%
TOTAL REVENUES		3,690,803	3,644,523	-46,280	-1.3%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		3,083,289	3,044,378	-38,911	-1.3%
EXCESS REV. OVER EXPEND.		607,514	600,145	-7,369	-1.2%

			<i>Prospective</i>		
			FY'2024		
	2020	FY'2022	Amount with	Amount	
	Population	Assessment	2.5% increase	Increase	
Acushnet	10,599	2,137.82	2,191.87	54.05	
Attleboro	46,461	9,371.18	9,608.13	236.95	
Berkley	6,764	1,364.30	1,398.80	34.50	
Carver	11,645	2,348.80	2,408.19	59.39	
Dartmouth	33,783	6,814.04	6,986.32	172.28	
Dighton	8,101	1,633.97	1,675.29	41.32	
Fairhaven	15,924	3,211.88	3,293.08	81.20	
Fall River	94,000	18,959.80	19,439.20	479.40	
Freetown	9,206	1,856.85	1,903.80	46.95	
Lakeville	11,523	2,324.20	2,382.96	58.76	
Mansfield	23,860	4,812.57	4,934.25	121.68	
Marion	5,347	1,078.50	1,105.76	27.26	
Mattapoisett	6,508	1,312.66	1,345.85	33.19	
Middleborough	24,245	4,890.22	5,013.87	123.65	
New Bedford	101,079	20,387.64	20,903.14	515.49	
No. Attleboro	30,834	6,219.22	6,376.47	157.25	
Norton	19,202	3,873.05	3,970.97	97.92	
Plainville	9,945	2,005.91	2,056.63	50.72	
Raynham	15,142	3,054.15	3,131.37	77.21	
Rehoboth	12,502	2,521.66	2,585.41	63.75	
Rochester	5,717	1,153.13	1,182.28	29.15	
Seekonk	15,531	3,132.60	3,211.81	79.21	
Somerset	18,303	3,691.72	3,785.06	93.35	
Swansea	17,144	3,457.94	3,545.38	87.43	
Taunton	59,408	11,982.59	12,285.57	302.98	
Wareham	23,303	4,700.22	4,819.06	118.85	
Westport	16,339	3,295.59	3,378.91	83.32	
<hr/>					
Total	652,415	131,592.21	134,919.41	3,327.19	
	=====	=====	=====	=====	
The Assessment for FY'2024 is based on 2020 population census.					
A rate for FY'24 of 20.68 cents per capita, a 2.5% increase from FY'2023 rate					
			^would be		

DRAFT Minutes for the JTPG Meeting**Held on Wednesday, December 14, 2022 at 2:00 PM****Held Remotely via Zoom in Accordance with Massachusetts Open Meeting Law.****The following members and alternates were in attendance:**

Stephanie Crampton, Chair.....City of New Bedford
 Mike Tyler.....City of Attleboro
 Tim Barber.....Town of Dartmouth
 Tom Ferry.....Town of Dighton
 Dan Aguiar.....City of Fall River
 Josh Crabb.....Town of Fairhaven, alternate (pending)
 Victoria D'Antoni.....Town of Freetown, alternate
 Kevin Dumas.....Town of Mansfield
 Michael Borg.....Town of North Attleborough
 Dennis Morton.....Town of Plainville
 Ed Buckley.....Town of Raynham
 David Cabral.....Town of Seekonk
 Bill Roth.....City of Taunton
 Alan Slavin.....Town of Wareham
 James Hartnett.....Town of Westport

The following members/alternates were NOT in attendance:

Town of Acushnet	Town of Raynham
Town of Berkley	Town of Rehoboth
Town of Carver	Town of Rochester
Town of Lakeville	Town of Somerset
Town of Marion	Town of Swansea
Town of Mattapoissett	At-Large, City of Fall River
Town of Middleborough	At-Large, City of Taunton
Town of Norton	

Also in Attendance:

Raissah Kouame.....MassDOT	Jennifer Chaves.....SRPEDD
Cassandra Gascon.....MassDOT	Luis De Oliveira.....SRPEDD
Barbara Lachance.....MassDOT	Sean Hilton.....SRPEDD
Ken Buckland.....Town of Wareham	Jamie Pisano.....VHB
Lisa Estrela-Pedro.....SRPEDD	Sid Kashi.....GPI
Lilia Cabral-Bernard.....SRPEDD	Lisa Sherman.....CDM Smith
Jackie Jones.....SRPEDD	

Handouts:

The JTPG Agenda December 14, 2022
 DRAFT JTPG October 12, 2022 Minutes

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Roll Call:

Chair Stephanie Crampton called the meeting to order at 2:02 PM. Ms. Cabral-Bernard asked all JTPG members to unmute themselves so she could call the complete roll call of JTPG members, with the following being present at the time of the roll call:

Mike Tyler.....City of Attleboro
Tim Barber.....Town of Dartmouth
Tom Ferry.....Town of Dighton
Dan Aguiar.....City of Fall River
Josh Crabb.....Town of Fairhaven, alternate (pending)
Victoria D’Antoni.....Town of Freetown, alternate
Stephanie Crampton, Chair.....City of New Bedford
Michael Borg.....Town of North Attleborough
Dennis Morton.....Town of Plainville
Ed Buckley.....Town of Raynham
David Cabral.....Town of Seekonk
Bill Roth.....City of Taunton
Alan Slavin.....Town of Wareham
James Hartnett.....Town of Westport

2. Approval of Minutes – October 12, 2022 (Materials Attached & roll call vote needed)

Chair Crampton called for a motion to approve the minutes of October 12, 2022. The motion was made by Alan Slavin and seconded by Victoria D’Antoni. Ms. Cabral-Bernard then called the roll:

City of Attleboro.....Abstain
Town of Dartmouth.....Yes
Town of Dighton.....Yes
City of Fall River.....Yes
Town of Fairhaven, alternate (pending).....Yes
Town of Freetown, alternate.....Yes
City of New Bedford.....Yes
Town of North Attleborough.....Abstain
Town of Plainville.....Yes
Town of Raynham.....Yes
Town of Seekonk.....Abstain
City of Taunton.....Yes
Town of Wareham.....Yes
Town of Westport.....Yes

THE MOTION PASSED WITH THREE ABSTENTIONS.

3. Public Comments – Opportunity for the Public to address the JTPG -

There were no comments offered.

4. Presentation of MassDOT Funding Grants –

Cassandra Gascon, the community grants program administrator in the highway division of MassDOT, informed the group of MassDOT's highway municipal funding programs that are available, as well as a new tool that Microsoft just released called the State Aid Reimbursable Programs Estimating Tool (SARPET). Ms. Gascon oversees programs including Chapter 90, Complete Streets, Local Bottleneck Reduction Program, Municipal Pavement Program, Municipal Small Bridge Program, Shared Streets and Spaces Program, and Winter Recovery Assistance Program (WRAP).

She began by explaining SARPET, which is an excel document that provides municipal staff with a reliable and easy method to develop cost estimates for their transportation projects, for smaller projects, up to \$2 million dollars. There is currently no statewide cost estimation tool available for transportation projects and developing cost estimates for projects, big or small, can be difficult, and take a lot of time and expertise, and also can be pretty expensive.

Cost estimates are usually required for our funding programs as a part of the application process, so it's very important to have an easy and reliable way to develop cost estimates, which is why MassDOT created this. SARPET calculates project costs for various types of projects with various components, including roadway multimodal traffic control like signals, and a wide variety of pavement elements as well. Elements include everything from pavement resurfacing, to bicycle racks to lighting and also lets the user add in miscellaneous items as needed.

This can be used for applications submitted for Chapter 90, Complete Streets, Safe Streets to School, Shared Streets and Spaces, but it really it can be used for any transportation project, regardless of funding source. So it could certainly be used for a project that's advancing through other state funding programs or new local funding sources.

The SARPET Excel document has multiple tabs where users can input data based on project scope, including general project components, materials, measurements etc. Based on inputs, the tool uses predetermined background calculations to develop a cost estimate for each item. Savvy users can edit background assumptions if desired, if the user knows the exact price of per ton of asphalt, they can completely customize the tool beyond what's readily available. MassDOT does update the tool every three to four months and uploads a new version to the website. So it's really important to always download the latest version available off the SARPET website before starting trying to calculate costs. However, there are some costs and assumptions that cannot be made by the tool including environmental mitigation, landscaping, permitting, stormwater quality measures, sedimentation and erosion control measures. That is because those are some elements that really vary widely from project to project and from area to area. The same goes for bridges and structural retaining walls over four feet. Anything larger than that, unfortunately, the tool is just not advanced enough at this point to include that.

Finally, survey costs actually are included in the tool, but it uses an average base price. It's recommended that a user would not solely rely on that and that they would get a survey quote from a qualified company, and then adjust that cost in the tool accordingly. She then explained the finer points of the outputs of the SARPET tool, including project summary, before she shared a link to the tool for the group, and to a video tutorial for these finer points.

She then continued with funding programs, starting with Chapter 90, which entitles cities and towns to reimbursements on transportation projects. It's a Formula-based apportionments determined by lane miles, population, and employment. A new guidance document was released in 2021, with new and clarified information all in one place that supports local decision-making and investment planning with new tools including a Quick-Start Guide and a Planning Toolkit.

Complete Streets funding encourages communities to incorporate Complete Streets principles into regular local planning and design practices for safe and accessible travel for all roadway users regardless of age or ability. Projects include sidewalks, bike lanes, paths, curb extensions, and more.

The Local Bottleneck Reduction Program funds solutions to address local congestion bottlenecks to improve traffic flow and safety. The competitive application program provides up to \$500,000 in construction funding and project design is completed at no cost by a MassDOT-led consultant. Eligible project types include: the addition of turn/through/auxiliary lanes; geometric changes to the roadway; improved pavement markings or signage; and new signal equipment or improvements such as coordination. The next grant round opens January 3rd, 2023.

The Municipal Pavement Program seeks to improve the condition of municipally-owned state numbered routes. Projects include resurfacing, mill and overlay, and similar treatments. This is **not** a competitive application program and MassDOT selects roadway segments based on: pavement condition data; locally owned state route mileage in a municipality; and geographic equity. MassDOT funds as many segments as possible in a given year, and the project value depends on necessary roadway treatments. Design and construction is managed by MassDOT and its contractor in coordination with the community. Fiscal Year 2024 projects are anticipated to be selected this winter.

Shared Street and Spaces program include quick-build projects that support public health, safe mobility, and renewed commerce. It was first launched as a response to COVID-19 then continued due to local success. This is a competitive application program and eligible projects include permanent or pilot: sidewalks; paths; bicycle facilities; outdoor dining/programming equipment; traffic calming; and bus lane or bus stop improvements. Grant limits vary between \$200K and \$500K.

The Winter Recovery Assistance Program (WRAP) was approved in April 2022 by Governor Baker for \$100M in funding and it is distributed to every community via a formula based on a municipality's share of locally owned roadway mileage, but funds must be spent by June 30, 2023. Eligible project types: rehabilitation; reconstruction; and resurfacing or preservation of roadways and appurtenances. It includes sidewalks and bike lanes/paths, repair or replacement of traffic control devices, signage, guardrails, and storm grates, as well as road striping or painting.

Ms. Gascon concluded by providing links to each of these programs, seen below.

[Chapter 90 Program - www.mass.gov/chapter-90-program](https://www.mass.gov/chapter-90-program)

[Complete Streets Funding Program - gis.massdot.state.ma.us/completestreets/](https://gis.massdot.state.ma.us/completestreets/)

[Local Bottleneck Reduction Program - www.mass.gov/local-bottleneck-reduction-program](https://www.mass.gov/local-bottleneck-reduction-program)

[Municipal Pavement Program - www.mass.gov/municipal-pavement-program](https://www.mass.gov/municipal-pavement-program)

[Municipal Small Bridge Program - www.mass.gov/municipal-small-bridge-program](https://www.mass.gov/municipal-small-bridge-program)

[Shared Streets & Spaces - www.mass.gov/shared-streets-and-spaces-grant-program](https://www.mass.gov/shared-streets-and-spaces-grant-program)

[WRAP - www.mass.gov/winter-recovery-assistance-program-wrap](https://www.mass.gov/winter-recovery-assistance-program-wrap)

5. FFY24-28 TIP Development Update

Ms. Jackie Jones began her update on the TIP development by explaining that there are 5 main phases of the TIP. The first, that we are presently in, is the data collection phase. Staff does a lot of data collection for TIP projects between October and December, including project schedules and more detailed information about the project, and then they meet with MassDOT District 5 to talk about things on their end to get a good idea of where the projects are. For the next phase, staff moves on to evaluating the projects, attending Readiness Day at MassDOT for right-of-way input and environmental permitting input. Staff then presents the information to the JTPG and SMMPO to inform decision making. March is generally decision time when the JTPG selects the Final Project lists and makes their recommendation to the SMMPO. The TIP is then released for a public comment period. Any feedback is incorporated and the TIP is generally endorsed in May.

6. UPWP Development Update

Ms. Jones also updated the group on the development of the fiscal year 2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and staff is looking for ideas from the communities. For those who are not familiar, the UPWP is the document that lists and plans out the work of the transportation department at SRPEDD. The UPWP runs on the federal fiscal year from October 1 to September 31. The upcoming UPWP program would start in October of 2023. If communities have any study requests, or ideas or things that you think SRPEDD staff need to look at or focus on, please let us know. Staff is always open to ideas, and have had a couple of requests come in already, but we are very much looking for any additional input. Staff would like to get an early jump on it, so please reach out to Lisa or Jackie on with any requests.

7. Regional Transportation Plan Update

Lisa Estrela-Pedro began the update by announcing that staff requested and has received an extension on the endorsement of our RTP. Previously, we were slated to endorse in July, and we are now looking at a date of September for endorsement. As staff is still awaiting necessary data, this is helpful. Staff is continuing to promote our survey, distributing to libraries, city and town halls, Councils on Aging, as well as other locations and neighborhoods. Staff is also continuing to update our travel demand model with new traffic data, as well as putting together a congestion and safety plan that'll help identify specific problems and areas of concern. Staff is reviewing our Regional Transit Authorities' Comprehensive Regional Transit Plans and meeting with them to validate their identified needs. Staff has met with the New Bedford Airport to discuss their future plans and needs and still attempting to connect with others. And staff is continuing to make an effort to reach out to all of our communities to host a meeting with department heads, as well as additional staff members and parties that are interested to discuss priorities and specific needs. Staff is hoping to meet with the four cities first, and then follow up with the towns. So right now, staff has invitations out to our four cities, and to Dartmouth, Fairhaven and Mansfield. Right now, on the calendar, all we have is Fall River. Staff is hoping to get more people involved in those meetings. That would be a great time to discuss, you know, any needs that anyone may have for the development of the RTP and the UPWP.

8. Other Business - Road Inventory, etc.

Ms. Jennifer Chaves began by informing the group she would be conducting a quick demo of the Road Inventory Editor which is a public facing tool that anybody can use, you don't have to be signed in to Mass Geo Dot. It allows users to either update existing roads or add new roads. Users can find this within the MAS Geo Dot page. Right now, it's listed under featured applications, but this is always changing. So right now, it's nice and easy. But if it's not here, go down to the gallery, and it's in the roadways gallery.

When a user clicks it, it opens up to a state of Massachusetts map, similar to a Google map, and the user

can type in an address, or just scroll through. The instructions are here and it's pretty simple. Ms. Chaves went through the process, showing the layers that are color coordinated for the status of a road. Those that are the dashed purple indicate the road has been submitted for review. The four little squares shown at the top are base maps, if a user wanted to see aerial images, they could do that.

If a user clicks on the road, it will highlight it and then give the user some information. A user can also click 'Report issue' and a form pops up. The user has to select what type of issue, and this could be to add an attribute or fix any of the attributes, including "geometry, missing or new", and the user could then fill in that info. A user could also actually add the road or change a street name if needed.

Ms. Chaves went on to demonstrate how the color of the roads change color depending on the status, so for instance if the roadway updates have been assigned to somebody at MassDOT to update, the color of the roadway would change to blue. Users can add or correct any road information in their community and submit to MassDOT. Once submitted, the road would change to a purple dashed color.

Ms. Chaves encouraged staff in our communities to update roads that have changed or been added. If they have the information, but are hesitant and need help, SRPEDD staff would be more than happy to help with any updates or additions. Simply reach out to staff for assistance.

Lisa Estrela-Pedro then announced that there is design public hearing tonight for the Taunton - Broadway phase II project at 6:30, held virtually. If you hop onto the Mass DOT website, you can sign up to attend that meeting if interested.

9. Date and Time for Next Meeting

The Chair announced the date and time for the next meeting is tentatively set for Wednesday, January 11, 2023 held remotely.

10. Adjourn

The Chair asked for a motion to adjourn which was made by Alan Slavin and seconded by Jim Hartnett. Hearing no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 2:58 PM.

**Draft Minutes of the Southeastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (SMMPO) Meeting
on Tuesday, December 20, 2022 at 1:00 PM - Held remotely via Zoom.**

The following members were in attendance:

Steve Woelfel-----Representing Jamey Tesler, MassDOT Secretary and CEO, **Chair**
Pamela Haznar-----Representing Jonathan Gulliver, MassDOT Highway Div. Administrator
Daniel Aguiar-----Representing Paul Coogan, Mayor of Fall River
Bill Roth-----Representing Shaunna O’Connell, Mayor of Taunton
Robert Espindola-----Town of Fairhaven
Alan Slavin-----SRPEDD Commission Chair
Mary Ellen DeFrias----- Administrator, GATRA

The following members were absent:

Paul Heroux-----Mayor of Attleboro
Jon Mitchell----- Mayor of New Bedford
Mark Germain-----Town of Middleborough
Jacob Vaught.....Town of Somerset
Kevin Dumas-----Town of Mansfield
Erik Rousseau-----SRTA

The following were also in attendance:

Andrew Reovan-----FHWA
Derek Krevat-----MassDOT
Raissah Kouame-----MassDOT
Barbara Lachance-----MassDOT
Andrew Wang-----MassDOT
Lisa Estrela-Pedro-----SRPEDD
Lilia Cabral-Bernard-----SRPEDD
Sean Hilton-----SRPEDD
Jackie Jones-----SRPEDD
Joseph Osbourne-----SRPEDD

Handouts:

SMMPO Agenda December 20, 2022
SMMPO Draft Meeting Minutes November 15, 2022
FFY2023-2027 TIP Proposed Adjustment #2

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order and Roll Call-

Chairman Woelfel called the SMMPO meeting to order at 1:01 pm. Ms. Lilia Cabral-Bernard asked all MPO members and designees to please unmute themselves so she could call the roll for attendance. She then called the complete roll of MPO members, with the following being present at the time of the roll call:

MassDOT Chair-----Yes
City of Fall River-----Yes
City of Taunton-----Yes
MassDOT Administrator-----Yes
Town of Fairhaven-----Yes
SRPEDD Commission Chair-----Yes

GATRA-----Yes

2. Approval of Minutes – November 15, 2022 (Materials Attached and Roll Call Vote Needed)

Chairman Woelfel requested a motion to approve the minutes from the SMMPO meeting from November 15, 2022. The motion was made by Alan Slavin and seconded by Bill Roth. Ms. Cabral-Bernard then called the roll:

MassDOT Chair-----Yes
City of Fall River-----Yes
City of Taunton-----Yes
MassDOT Administrator-----Yes
Town of Fairhaven-----Yes
SRPEDD Commission Chair-----Yes
GATRA-----Yes

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

Chairman Woelfel invited members of the public to make comments. There were no comments presented.

4. Regional Transit Authorities (RTA) Report – RTA

Mary Ellen DeFrias informed the group that GATRA is in the middle of their free transit campaign across the state where all 15 of our RTAs have been running free transit service on fixed route, and complimentary ADA service since last Friday and that will continue through December 31.

5. Proposed FFY2023-2027 TIP Proposed Adjustment #2 (Materials Attached, Roll Call Vote Needed)

Lisa Estrela-Pedro informed the group that the proposed adjustment Number 2 is to the current 2023 to 2027 TIP and is for two cost increases which are being programmed with target funding. There is enough of a balance to cover these increases. This is for SRTA to purchase 6 hybrid electric buses. It's gone from \$4.5 million to \$4.975 million. For GATRA it's the replacement of 2 35-foot buses, and that has increased from \$1.8 million to \$1.9 million. She asked the body to approve this adjustment in Federal Fiscal Year 23.

The Chair asked for a motion and a second to approve the adjustment just described by Lisa. Alan Slavin made the motion and Bill Roth seconded it. The Chair asked if there were any questions or comments.

Bob Espindola asked if there was any grant money involved in these purchases. Lisa responded that these are being funded with a flex of surface transportation funding.

Andrew Reovan then asked if these funds had already been flexed to transit and Derek Krevat responded that they will request the transfer of funds after they've been endorsed.

Seeing nor hearing any additional questions, the Chair asked Lilia to call the roll call vote as follows:

MassDOT Chair-----Yes	Town of Fairhaven-----Yes
City of Fall River-----Yes	SRPEDD Commission Chair-----Yes
City of Taunton-----Yes	GATRA-----Yes
MassDOT Administrator-----Yes	

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. Regional Transportation Plan (RTP Update) –

Lisa Estrela-Pedro began her update on our Regional Transportation Plan. Staff requested and received an extension on the RTP. It was scheduled to be endorsed in July but received an extension through the end of September that was approved by MassDOT and Federal Highway. Staff is continuing to promote our survey, distributing to community libraries, city halls, Councils on Aging, as well as other locations and neighborhoods. We're continuing to update our travel demand model with updated traffic counts, and also putting together a standalone congestion and safety plan as previously, they were included as appendices in the RTP, but staff is going to create those as standalone documents prior to composing the RTP. Staff is reviewing the Regional Transit Authorities' Comprehensive Regional Transit Plans, and meeting with them to validate their needs. Staff has already met with GATRA and are planning on meeting with SRTA. Staff has met with the New Bedford Airport to discuss their future plans and needs, and staff is still attempting to contact others. Staff is making efforts to reach out to all of our communities to host meetings with department heads, as well as additional parties to discuss their priorities and specific needs. Staff is hoping to meet with the four cities first, we had a great conversation with the city of Fall River yesterday, and then we're extending that invitation out to the rest of our communities. Staff has reached out to started Dartmouth, Fairhaven and Mansfield, and we'll be moving on from there.

7. Route 6 Dartmouth/Westport Study Presentation

Jackie Jones presented the Route 6 Dartmouth/Westport Study Presentation. The study was initiated at the request of MassDOT and the towns of Westport & Dartmouth, and in response to several serious injury crashes and fatalities that have been happening out there. The study area is from the Fall River/Westport town line, through Westport, and then to Cross Road in Dartmouth. Staff conducted a great deal of public engagement, including stakeholder meetings. Westport business group meetings, the distribution of flyers at every business and a majority of the residences along the corridor, door to door, handing out flyers. Staff reached out to advocacy and community organizations in the area, distributed a survey, and used a crowdsourcing map that allowed residents to pinpoint problem areas and needs, and staff held 3 public workshops.

Staff also conducted a large amount of data collection, followed up by analysis. The results were that the road is oversized for both the current and future traffic volumes, more so in Westport than in Dartmouth. It's a superhighway that is supposed to act like an economic development commercial corridor, and it's just it's very big for the traffic volume it carries.

There are two travel lanes in each direction, which are 11 feet, and in Westport, there's a shoulder, and a little bit of sidewalk, but there are lots of gaps in that network. Dartmouth is even wider at six feet of width. And there is a median separating travel on both sides which also lends to the overall width. Vehicles tend to speed on the roadway.

Recommendations include a reallocation of space to improve safety and to better serve all uses on the road and to promote economic development. Staff is recommending reducing the roadway down to two lanes, while still providing shoulder space to for emergency access and for people to pull over when needed. Also reducing the median width, but also using it for dedicated turning lanes, as well as allocating space for bicycles and pedestrians, either with fully separated facilities between bikes and pedestrians or shared space. Our preference is a little bit on the shared use side because that allows for better transit access that allows room for transit pull outs and also to accommodate landing spaces for transit users.

There are several options in the recommendation, including 4-lanes options, and staff is also recommending some interim improvements, especially at high crash locations along the corridor, including

the curve up near the Fall River end, and also at a section where MassDOT recently put in a sidewalk, where there were two pedestrian fatalities. The lack of pedestrian and bicycle facilities is a concern. There are also issues regarding the lack of adequate lighting, and the recommendation for more frequent crosswalks to tie in with generators along the road. The public engagement process highlighted the concern over the safety of median openings along the corridor that are used for turning, and there were a number of crashes related to them, as well.

8. Other Business -

There was no other business brought up for discussion.

9. Date and Time for Next Meeting -

The Chair announced that the next SMMPO meeting will be on January 17, 2023 at 1pm held virtually.

10. Adjourn -

The Chair asked for a motion and second to adjourn. Alan Slavin made the motion and Bill Roth seconded. The Chair asked that all in favor say aye. All ayes were heard. The Chair thanked everyone and the meeting was adjourned at 1:21 PM.

AGENDA ITEM: Environmental Program Report, # 6.a.

Environmental Program Update Brief**January – February Departmental Priorities**

- Brownfields Community Assessment Grant project: RFP issued and responses due Feb. 1st and contract awardee notification by Feb 22nd.
- Working to launch a Master Plan contract with Rochester
- Open space plans – current status:
 - Marion (final edits to appendices)
 - Taunton (concluded – submitted to the state!)
 - Dartmouth (draft finalized, last Steering Committee meeting)
 - Middleborough (drafts in final review)
 - Carver (plan writing)
 - Swansea (plan writing)
- Launching the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program Circuit Rider Project
- Assisting communities to develop MVP Action Grant applications (see upcoming newsletter article)
- Digesting and summarizing two new key state reports, the Resilient Land Initiative Vision and Strategy Report and the State Healthy Soils Action Plan Report; and new BioMap data iteration.

Of Note and Interest*Trainings and Events*

- MVP Program Webinars (see Environmental Program webpage for details)

Project Community Meetings

- Dartmouth OSRP Steering Committee Meeting
- Swansea OSRP Steering Committee Meeting

MEPA REPORT – PROJECTS OF REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE**Reports Under Consideration or Development**

Project	Town	Comments Due	RPA Review Components	Site Visit Details (Indicate if Remote Meeting)
None at this time.				

Reports Submitted

None at this time.

Environmental Program Update Brief

January – February Departmental Priorities

- Brownfields Community Assessment Grant project: RFP issued and responses due Feb. 1st and contract awardee notification by Feb 22nd.
- Working to launch a Master Plan contract with Rochester
- Open space plans – current status:
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Of Note and Interest

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MEPA REPORT – PROJECTS OF REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

Reports Under Consideration or Development

Project	Town	Comments Due	RPA Review Components	Site Visit Details (Indicate if Remote Meeting)
None at this time.				

Reports Submitted

None at this time.

TITLE 5 REGULATION UPDATE:

NATURAL RESOURCE AREA NITROGEN SENSITIVE AREA (NSA) DESIGNATION

Major Take-Aways

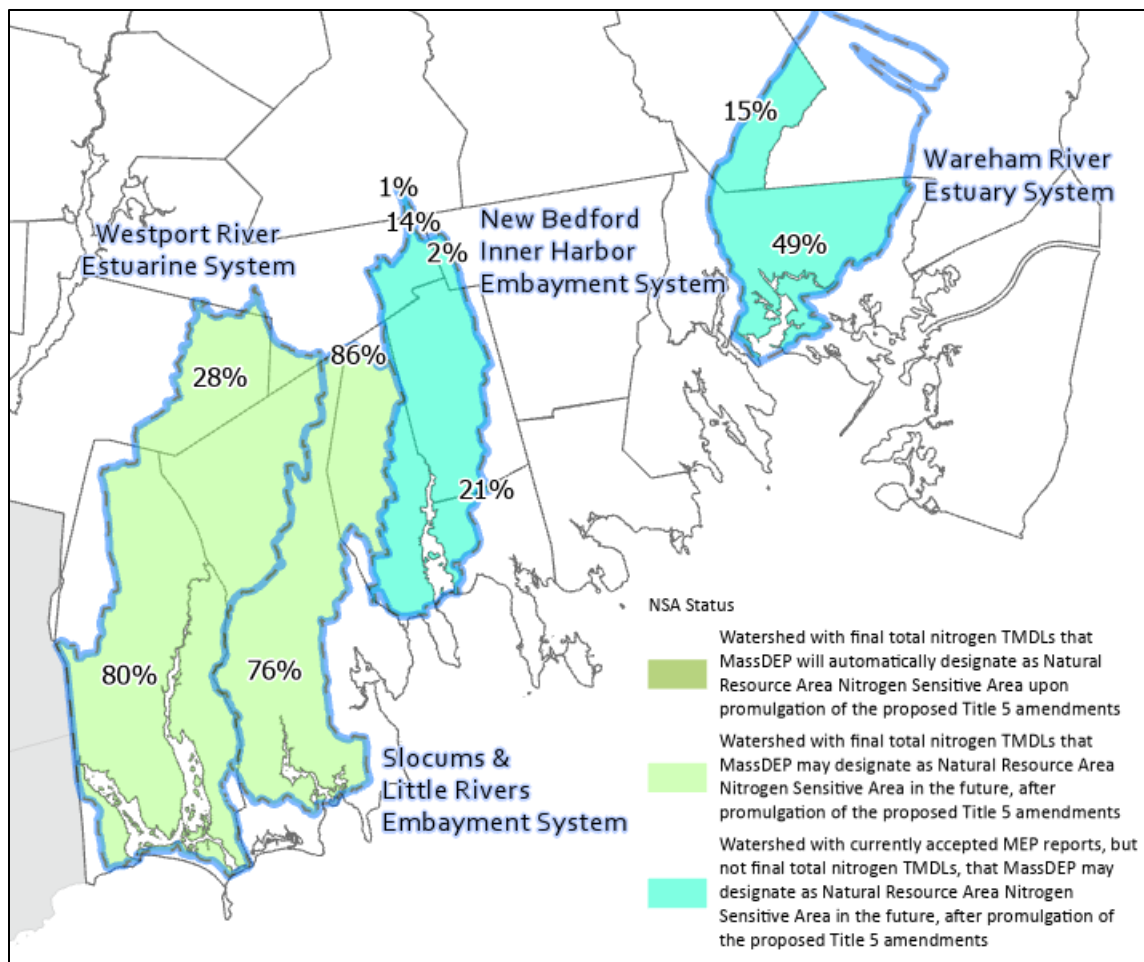
1. DEP has established a new regulatory geography for reducing overall watershed nitrogen loads in watersheds where those loads have been quantified and hit a level that prompts DEP to categorize the watershed as nitrogen sensitive;
2. Municipalities have a choice to make for compliance:
3. Either individual homeowners within the Natural Resource Area NSA all (existing and new construction) upgrade their septic systems to Best Available Nitrogen Reducing Technology to the tune of 15-35k a pop...
4. Or the municipality works with the state to establish a 20-year Watershed Permit tailored to accomplish a 75-100% nitrogen load reduction, the steps for which would be documented in a town-approved Watershed Management Plan. The Permit option allows a community to use a suite of tools and to try alternative tools that are more tailored to addressing controllable nitrogen sources, and to work on an inter-municipal basis where watersheds cross boundaries. Communities have 18 months from designation to submit an NOI indicating their decision to pursue the permit.

Applicability & Implementation

1. Parts of Fall River, Westport, Dartmouth, New Bedford, Acushnet, Fairhaven, Freetown, Lakeville, Carver & Wareham fall within the new Natural Resource Area NSAs.
2. No SRPEDD towns are scheduled for immediate effect upon the enactment of these new rules – they belong to one of two, or both, Public Notice Designation categories of watershed that would see implementation after another (yet undefined) timeline and public process.
3. The comment period on these new regulations is open but ends 1/30/23; will need to see if any changes in the rules result.
4. Program implementation must occur within 5 years from NSA designation.

How SRPEDD can help

SRPEDD can assist with initial, high-level data exploration (e.g. number of residences impacted, and similar) to inform communities as they decide between the two compliances options. Please reach out to hincavage@srpedd.org if you are interested in this type of evaluation.



Term ID: TMDL

A TMDL, or Total Maximum Daily Load, is a calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can accept and still meet the state's Water Quality Standards for public health and healthy ecosystems.

The federal Clean Water Act requires all states to identify waterbodies that do not meet state standards and develop TMDLs for them. MA sets statewide Water Quality Standards for a variety of uses, such as drinking water supplies, fishing, swimming and boating, and healthy ecosystems for plants and animals.

A TMDL is the sum of loads that are allowable from all contributing point and nonpoint sources of pollution. Point sources are primarily wastewater treatment plants that discharge to surface- or groundwater. Nonpoint sources include septic systems, stormwater discharges via runoff over the land surface, and fertilizer runoff.

Interesting aside: Gov Baker requested 200 mil, only 15 mil was approved

[Nitrogen Sensitive Areas Address Lookup \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com)

MassDEP Summary of Proposed Regulatory Changes

310 CMR 15.000: The State Environmental Code, Title 5: Standard Requirements for the Siting, Construction, Inspection, Upgrade and Expansion of the On-site Sewage Treatment and Disposal Systems and for the Transport and Disposal of Septage

and

314 CMR 21.00: Watershed Permit Regulations

November 1, 2022

The Title 5 regulations, 310 CMR 15.000, establish minimum standards for the proper siting, construction, upgrade, and maintenance of on-site sewage disposal systems (“septic systems”) and the appropriate means for the transport and disposal of septage in order to protect public health, safety, welfare and the environment. MassDEP is proposing to amend the Title 5 regulations to enhance protection of embayments and estuaries—particularly on Cape Cod, the Islands and Southeastern Massachusetts—from eutrophication caused by nitrogen pollution originating in many locations primarily from wastewater. This is complemented by the proposed promulgation of new regulations at 314 CMR 21.00 to provide a watershed permitting approach to control nitrogen and other pollutants from entering the embayments and estuaries.

I. Proposed Regulations

The two regulatory initiatives would work in tandem to reduce nitrogen loads. First, MassDEP is proposing to revise the Title 5 regulations, 310 CMR 15.000, to establish natural resource “Nitrogen Sensitive Areas” (“NSA”) for watersheds adversely impacted by nitrogen. Septic systems) located within designated NSAs would be required to upgrade to the best-available, nitrogen-reducing technology within 5 years of designation, *unless* the community in which the septic system is located obtains a Watershed Permit for the watershed or files a Notice of Intent for a Watershed Permit. The Watershed Permit would be issued pursuant to the second component of the proposed regulations—the new Watershed Permit Regulations at 314 CMR 21.00.

A. Title 5 Amendments

The primary changes to Title 5 include enhancing the process for designating NSAs in 310 CMR 15.214 (formerly 310 CMR 15.215) and amending the Nitrogen Loading Limitations provision in 310 CMR 15.215 (formerly 310 CMR 15.214). The more significant provisions are as follows:

1. Upon the effective date of the proposed regulations, any watershed to an embayment or sub-embayment that is the subject of a nitrogen TMDL and the Cape Cod 208 Plan would be automatically designated as an NSA. 310 CMR 15.214(1)(b)1. All watersheds to an embayment or sub-embayment on Cape Cod that have a TMDL for nitrogen would immediately become designated NSAs.
2. The proposed regulations would allow MassDEP to designate in the future any other watershed outside the Cape Cod 208 Plan area as an NSA based upon a TMDL, Massachusetts Estuary Project technical report, or Scientific Evaluation demonstrating

nitrogen impacts to an embayment or sub-embayment. 310 CMR 15.214(1)(b)2. This category of NSA designation would have to be preceded by a public process. 310 CMR 15.214(1)(b)2. and 15.214(2).

Upon occurrence of the above NSA designations, existing Title 5 systems and systems serving new construction would be required to upgrade with the best-available, nitrogen-reducing technology within 5 years unless the community obtains a Watershed Permit. 310 CMR 15.215(2)(a) and 15.215(2)(c). If a community obtains a Watershed Permit, the upgrade requirements are generally suspended for all permitted watersheds while the permit is in effect. A community may also pause the upgrade requirements by filing a Notice of Intent. 310 CMR 15.215(2)(b). If the Watershed Permit is terminated or revoked in the future, the upgrade requirement is revived, requiring upgrades within 5 years from the effective date of the designation or 2 years from the date of termination or revocation, whichever is longer. 310 CMR 15.215(2)(d).

B. Watershed Permit Regulations

MassDEP is proposing the Watershed Permit Regulations to provide a 20-year permit for communities to implement long-term wastewater planning in the most efficient and effective way for the entire watershed. Permittees will be authorized to take a holistic, long-term, innovative approach to reducing the nitrogen load that enters the estuaries and embayments. The more significant provisions are as follows:

1. MassDEP has been working for several years to help communities adopt Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plans and Targeted Watershed Management Plans. These proposed regulations would build on those efforts by enabling communities with these existing plans to apply for a Watershed Permit if either of these plans includes or is supplemented with the information required for a Watershed Management Plan, which is a prerequisite to a Watershed Permit. 314 CMR 21.03(2).
2. For watersheds that coincide with more than one municipality, permittees would be able to obtain a joint permit. 314 CMR 21.03(1), (2)(c).
3. To receive a Watershed Permit the applicant(s) would be required to demonstrate that: (1) necessary pollutant loads will be achieved within the 20-year life of the permit; or (2) that reasonable progress towards those reductions will be achieved. Reasonable progress criteria include consideration of financial costs, environmental impacts, feasibility, and at least a 75% reduction in the nitrogen loads necessary to achieve compliance, or, other reduction levels approved by MassDEP based upon circumstances preventing full compliance. 314 CMR 21.04(1).
4. The proposed regulations require annual reporting and an adaptive management framework to monitor and achieve necessary pollutant load reductions. 314 CMR 21.05(2) and (3); 21.09(10).

II. Public Information Sessions

MassDEP will hold two all-remote public information sessions, which are now scheduled for November 15, 2022 at 6 pm and November 16, 2022 at 12:00 pm. More information regarding access to the remote connection will be posted on MassDEP's website.

III. Public Hearings and Comments

MassDEP will conduct three public hearings.

In-person & Remote, MassDEP, 20 Riverside Dr., Lakeville, MA, November 30, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. Register for remote session in advance at:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_oay0_6bGTjeEUzevfxm7Jg

Remote Only, December 1, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. Register in advance at:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_BTOR_A3oSI6EZm56mYdoRw

In-person & Remote, Barnstable Town Hall, 367 Main St., Hyannis, MA, December 5, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. Register for remote session in advance at:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_f_YXLbaZRRyJsmdYrtDjNQ

After registering for remote sessions, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. You do not need to register in advance to attend either of the hearings in-person. Comments on the proposed revisions may be presented orally at the public hearing.

Written comments will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on December 16, 2022. All comments submitted must include the name and contact information of the person providing the comments. Please submit comment by e-mail to dep.talks@mass.gov and include *Title 5 & Watershed Permit* in the subject line. Written comments may also be submitted by mail and should be sent to MassDEP, Bureau of Water Resources – Division of Watershed Management, One Winter Street, 5th floor, Boston, MA 02108, Attention: Title 5 & Watershed Permit.

For special accommodations for these hearings, please call the MassDEP Diversity Office at 617-348-4040. TTY# MassRelay Service 1-800-439-2370. This information is available in alternate format upon request.

MassDEP provides language access interpreter/translation services to limited English proficient individuals free of charge. If you need an interpreter to participate in this meeting, translation services can be found at the following link: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massdep-language-translation-assistance>. MassDEP intends to provide Spanish and Portuguese translation at the public hearings. Please provide 72 hours advance notice if additional translation services are requested.

AGENDA ITEM: Technical Assistance Report, # 7.a

Community	Project Name	Status	Department	Project Leads	Funding
Acushnet	Green Communities Tech Assist.	Ongoing	Environmental	Sara Brown	DOER
Berkley	Municipal Vulnerability Planning	Ongoing	Environmental	Bill Napolitano	DLTA, CCC, local
Carver	Open Space and Recreation Plan Update	Ongoing	Environmental	Helen Zincavage	local
Carver	Pre-Application Business Park Development	Pending	Comprehensive	Lizeth Gonzalez	EDA
Dartmouth	Open Space and Recreation Plan Update	Ongoing	Environmental	Helen Zincavage	local
Dartmouth	Master Plan	Final Draft	Comprehensive	Helen Zincavage	DLTA, local, MA
Dartmouth	Fisher Road & Gulf Road Traffic Count Data Tech Memo	Complete	Transportation	Luis de Oliveira	MassDOT
Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Fall River, Wareham	Bike Path (Regional Plan) Assistance	Ongoing	Transportation	Jackie Jones	MassDOT
Dartmouth, Wareham	Coastal Resilience Project Support	Ongoing	Environmental	Danica Belknap	MassAudubon
Dartmouth, Westport	Route 6 Corridor Study	Ongoing	Transportation	Jackie Jones	MassDOT
Dighton	Green Communities Assistance	Ongoing	Environmental	Sara Brown	DOER
Dighton	Economic Development Plan	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Lizeth Gonzalez	DLTA, CCC, MA
Fairhaven	Green Communities Assistance	Ongoing	Environmental	Helen Zincavage	DOER
Fairhaven	Alden Road Redevelopment Study Phase 2	Final Draft	Comprehensive	Phillip Hu, Lizeth Gonzalez	DLTA, local, MA
Fairhaven	Benoit Square Traffic Assessment	Ongoing	Transportation	Luis de Oliveira	MassDOT
Fall River	Mother's Brook Sewer Upgrades (D&E, Permitting) Project Administration	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Lizeth Gonzalez	EDA
Freetown	Master Plan	Scoping	Comprehensive	Phillip Hu	DHCD, DLTA
Lakeville	Old Powderhouse Road & Heritage Hill Drive South Intersection Analysis	Complete	Transportation	Luis de Oliveira	MassDOT
Mansfield	Bicycle Planning Technical Assistance	Ongoing	Transportation	Jackie Jones	MassDOT
Mansfield	Green Communities Designation Grant Assistance	Ongoing	Environmental	Helen Zincavage	DOER
Mansfield	Housing Production Plan Phase 2	Final Draft	Comprehensive	Phillip Hu, Taylor Perez	DLTA, MA

Marion	Marion Village Parking Assessment	Pending	Transportation	TBD	MassDOT
Marion	Open Space and Recreation Plan Update	Ongoing	Environmental	Helen Zincavage, Bill Napolitano	DLTA, local, MA
Marion	Green Communities Comp Grant TA	Ongoing	Environmental	Danica Belknap	DOER
Marion	Housing Production Plan Update	Final Draft	Comprehensive	Rob Cabral, Taylor Perez	local
Mattapoissett	Master Plan and Housing Production Plan	Final Draft	Comprehensive	Lizeth Gonzalez, Robert Cabral, Phillip Hu	DLTA, CCC, local, MA
Mattapoissett	Industrial Drive Infrastructure Improvement	Project Close-out	Comprehensive	Lizeth Gonzalez, Bill Napolitano	local, EDA
Middleborough	Open Space and Recreation Plan Update	Ongoing	Environmental	Sara Brown	local
Middleborough	Housing Production Plan (Tier 3)	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Taylor Perez, Grant King	DLTA, HCI
Middleborough	Historic/General Use District Bylaw Amendments	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Grant King, Robert Cabral	MassDOT, SCR
New Bedford	North Terminal Extension Phase II and Pier Fendering Project	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Lizeth Gonzalez, Grant King	EDA
New Bedford	Marine Commerce Terminal	Pending	Comprehensive	Lizeth Gonzalez	EDA
New Bedford	Quest Center, Armory District	Pending	Comprehensive	Lizeth Gonzalez	EDA
North Attleboro	Green Communities Tech Assist.	Ongoing	Environmental	Helen Zincavage	DOER
North Attleborough	Master Plan and Housing Production Plan	Final Draft	Comprehensive	Robert Cabral, Taylor Perez	DLTA, CCC, local, MA
Norton	Bicycle Committee Technical Assistance	Ongoing	Transportation	Jackie Jones	MassDOT
Norton	Housing Production Plan (Tier 3, Phase 1)	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Taylor Perez	DLTA
Plainville	Green Communities Tech Assist.	Ongoing	Environmental	Danica Belknap	DOER
Plainville	Master Plan	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Phillip Hu, Lizeth Gonzalez	DLTA, local
Raynham	Green Communities Assistance	Ongoing	Environmental	Danica Belknap	DOER
Regional	Traffic Counting and Turning Movement Counts	Ongoing	Transportation	Luis de Oliveira	MassDOT
Regional	Pavement Management - Fed. Aid Road Network	Ongoing	Transportation	Luis de Oliveira	MassDOT

Regional	Bus Stop Inventory Update	Ongoing	Transportation	Jennifer Chaves	MassDOT
Regional	Trails Mapping (Off Road)	Ongoing	Transportation	Jackie Jones, Karen Porter	MassDOT
Regional	Assawompset Ponds Groundwater Hydrologic & Hydraulic Study	Ongoing	Environmental	Bill Napolitano, Helen Zincavage	DER
Regional	Taunton River Stewardship Council Upper Nemasket Implementation	Ongoing	Environmental	Bill Napolitano, Helen Zincavage	TRSC
Regional	Rural Policy Advisory Council	Ongoing	Environmental	Helen Zincavage	DLTA, sister RPAs
Regional	SRPEDD Regional Resilience Plan (SRRP)	Ongoing	Comprehensive, Environmental, Transportation	Helen Zincavage, Bill Napolitano, Lizeth Gonzalez, Grant King	DLTA , CCC EDA,
Regional	MBTA Multi-Family Zoning Support	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Grant King, Taylor Perez	DLTA, DHCD
Regional	Arts and Culture Community Development Initiative	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Lizeth Gonzalez	DLTA
Regional	Justice, Equity, and Community Development (JECD) Initiative	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Taylor Perez	DLTA
Regional	CARES Act/COVID-19 U.S. EDA Technical Assistance	Project Close-out	Comprehensive	Jeff Walker, Lizeth Gonzalez, Rob Cabral, Grant King	SRPEDD, U.S. EDA
Regional	PDA/PPA Update for MBTA Communities	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Grant King	MBTA, DLTA
Regional	South Coast Administrators Committee	Ongoing	Administrative	Jeff Walker	SRPEDD
Regional	Mass. Assn. of Regional Planning Commissions (MARPA)	Ongoing	Administrative	Jeff Walker	RPAs
Regional	Taunton River Trail	Ongoing	Transportation	Bill Napolitano	MassDOT
Regional	Freight Action Plan	Complete	Transportation	Sean Hilton	MassDOT
Regional - Green Communities	Annual Reports and Competitive and Designation Grant Applications	Ongoing	Environmental	Helen Zincavage, Danica Belknap, Sara Brown	EOEEA

Regional - SRAC	FFY20 Homeland Security Program and Project Management	Ongoing	Comprehensive, Homeland Security	Todd Castro, Kevin Ham, Grant King	MAPC
Regional - SRAC	FFY21 Homeland Security Program and Project Management	Ongoing	Comprehensive, Homeland Security	Todd Castro, Kevin Ham, Grant King	MAPC
Regional - Ten Mile Watershed to Mount Hope Bay	Brownfield Community Wide Assessment Grant	Ongoing	Environmental	Helen Zincavage, Bill Napolitano, Lizeth Gonzalez	EPA
Regional-GATRA	Technical Assistance Planning and GIS	Ongoing	Transportation	Jen Chaves	GATRA
Rochester	Agriculture and PPA Planning	Ongoing	Environmental	Sara Brown	DLTA
Rochester	Green Communities Assistance	Ongoing	Environmental	Danica Belknap	DOER
Rochester	Master Plan	Scoping	Environmental	Rhiannon Dugan	DHCD, DLTA, local
Seekonk	Housing Production Plan (Tier 2, Phase 1)	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Taylor Perez	DLTA
Somerset	Inflow & Infiltration EDA Application	Project Close-out	Comprehensive	Lizeth Gonzalez	EDA
Somerset, Swansea	Wastewater District Assistance	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Lizeth Gonzalez	EDA
Swansea	Master Plan, Open Space and Recreation Plan, and Housing Production Plan	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Robert Cabral, Taylor Perez	DLTA, Urban Agenda, local, MA
Taunton	School District Active Shooter / Hostile Event (ASHE) Response Tool	Ongoing	Homeland Security, Comprehensive	Kevin Ham	Local
Taunton	Route 140 Corridor Study	Ongoing	Comprehensive, Environmental, Transportation	Robert Cabral, Helen Zincavage, Lisa Estrela-Pedro, Jackie Jones, Grant King	MassDOT, DLTA, MA
Taunton	Open Space and Recreation Plan Update	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Danica Belknap	DLTA, local
Taunton	MSIP V- Business Park	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Lizeth Gonzalez	EDA
Wareham	Bicycle Committee Technical Assistance	Ongoing	Transportation	Jackie Jones	MassDOT
Wareham	Plymouth Ave (White Island Shores Neighborhood), Speed & Volume Counts	Ongoing	Transportation	Luis de Oliveira	MassDOT
Wareham	Village Plan	Final Draft	Comprehensive	Phillip Hu	DLTA

Westport	Complete Streets Prioritization Plan	Final Draft	Transportation	Sara Brown	MassDOT
Westport	Housing Production Plan (Tier 1, Phase 1)	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Taylor Perez	DLTA, local