

**May 24, 2023**

5:30 PM Business Meeting  
**SRPEDD Commission Meeting**  
*Loon Pond Lodge*  
28 Precinct Street, Lakeville, MA

**AGENDA**

1. Call to Order, Introductions, and Welcome
2. Approval of Minutes – April 26, 2023\* *(Vote requested)*
3. Confirmation of At-large Commissioners\*
4. Election of Officers and Executive Committee
5. Reports
  - a. Chair
  - b. Executive Director
6. Consent Agenda
  - a. Contracts\* *(Vote to receive and place on file)*
7. Committee Reports
  - a. Finance Committee \* *(Vote to receive report and place on file)*
  - b. Joint Transportation Planning Group/MPO\* *(Vote to receive and place on file)*
  - c. Regional Economic Strategies Committee \* *(Vote to receive and place on file)*
8. Funding Availability Notifications and Letters of Support:
9. Programs and Project Updates:
  - a. Environmental Program Update and area [MEPA](#) projects\*
10. Old Business
  - a. Technical Assistance\* *(Vote to receive and place on file)*
11. New Business
12. Roundtable: Opportunity for Commissioners to provide updates on local topics, projects or matters of regional interest
13. Adjourn

**FUTURE MEETINGS:** June 28, 2023; July 26, 2023; Sept. 27, 2023;  
October 25, 2023; December 6, 2023

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

\*Attached

## AGENDA ITEM: Minutes, # 2

## SRPEDD Commission Minutes- Draft

April 26, 2023

Via Zoom

**Present:****Commissioners:**

S. Leary, Berkley	T. Bott, Carver	C. Shea, Carver	C. O'Neil, Dartmouth
J. Carvalho, Dighton	R. Espindola, Fairh.	D. Aguiar, Fall River	V. D'Antoni, Freetown
L. Carboni, Lakeville	A. Horowitz, Mansfield	N. Hills, Marion	R. Burgmann, Mattap.
M. Germain, Middleb.	L. Bradley, Middleb	J. Carloni, New Bedford	M. Clarner, No. Attle.
L. Pirnie, No. Attle.	S. Ollerhead, Norton	C. Yarworth, Plainville	W. Costa, Rehoboth
P. Dunn, Seekonk	N. McDonald, Somerset	G. Hovorka, Swansea	M. Monteiro, Taunton
J. Howland, Taunton	A. Slavin, Wareham	J. Whitin, Westport	

**Guests/Staff:**

L. Carpenter, SRPEDD	R. Dugan, SRPEDD	P. Hu, SRPEDD	M. Jones, SRPEDD
G. King, SRPEDD	S. Royer, SRPEDD	J. Walker, SRPEDD	H. Zincavage, SRPEDD
M. Tibbits-Nutt, Trans.	Undersecretary	C. Dustin, MassDOT	L. Estrela-Pedro, SRPEDD

**Absent:**

J. Kelley, Acushnet	D. Pimentel, Acushnet	C. Feerick, Attleboro A/L	G. Ayrassian, Attleboro
F. Uriot, Attleboro	M. Sweet Dart. (Alter.)	C. O'Grady, Dartmouth	D. Braga, Fairhaven
J. Ferreira, Fall River	D. Pettey, Freetown	N. Cline, Lakeville	J. Henry, Marion
J. Ponte, New Bedford	A. Eaton, N.B. A/L	J. Artz, Norton	R. Stefanelli, Norton (Alt.)
M. Andrade, Raynham	C. Sullivan, Raynham	L. Mills, Rehoboth	N. Durfee, Rochester
G. Hartley, Rochester	J. Kardel, Somerset	J. Hansen, Swansea	M. King, Wareham
S. Ouellette, Westport	J. Peccini, Taunton A/L	R. Tith, F.R A/L	

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Slavin called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM. The meeting was recorded.
2. **Presentation:** Honorable Monica Tibbits-Nutts, Undersecretary of Transportation- discussed Transportation issues in the Commonwealth. She mentioned the Commonwealth is trying to build a system that is going to be able to meet the needs of the people and one way is through the state's Regional Transit Agencies (RTAs). She stated she is lucky to be working with MA Rail and Transit Administrator Meredith Slesinger and with the RTAs. She mentioned they are currently dealing with funding, and also how they can provide better assistance from the Commonwealth. She mentioned one of the most recent challenges faced was the DATTCO's cessation of bus service from New Bedford to Boston, since addressed by another busline. She stated that these bus companies need to work with the Commonwealth and area partners for a better way for people to commute. Undersecretary Tibbetts-Nutts mentioned that they need to invest in and plan for the systems that are needed by the population now, and to be much better than what the system was before. She stated they can find better ways to address the issues, whether it is with electric buses, new maintenance facilities, or additional funding to expand the routes. She mentioned that we need to be providing solutions, and not just falling back on previous excuses of the old administration. Undersecretary Tibbetts-Nutts entertained questions from the Commission and SRPEDD staff members.

Mr. Walker asked how communities can best align with the Undersecretary and the Governor's efforts to make progress in these areas on behalf of our residents, not just the Gateway Cities but the 23 towns that we serve as well. The Undersecretary stated that all need to loop the Undersecretary and Governor as soon as they can so that their needs may be best addressed. She mentioned we have new staff and a new administration; please reach out.

Ms. Estrela-Pedro mentioned the issues that have come up in the past with RTAs were night service, staffing and getting grants for those additional services. Undersecretary Tibbetts-Nutts mentioned the workforce issues are challenging, and they are struggling with it. She mentioned we are suffering more, and we are working with RTAs on recruiting. She mentioned they are working with RTAs to help with CDL licenses, and they are working with MassDOT, State Police and the RMV for the RTAs to make it easier for them to train their operators.

Chairman Slavin mentioned that he is also the Vice-Chair of the GATRA Advisory Board and they have discussed how to get ridership numbers up. The Undersecretary stated they are struggling with it as well. She mentioned how do we make it a service that is enticing to someone, and the way that we are pricing particular routes. She mentioned the service is a product and we need to make the services better.

Mr. King mentioned that he has read comments from both the Undersecretary and the Secretary about how we can't have a resilient, thriving economy or economic development without that strong, reliable, safe transportation network. He asked what her thoughts on it were. Undersecretary Tibbetts-Nutts stated that it is working in the places where there has been housing development, especially a full spectrum of housing, and making sure we are able to meet the transit and transportation needs of those communities that have already made those investments.

Mr. Monteiro mentioned he is having issues with curb cuts in the city of Taunton and their installation sometimes taking months to be completed. The Undersecretary mentioned it is an issue with all the communities and she hopes to find a better process. She mentioned it is going to take the new administrator time, but they are aware of this issue, and they hope to create a much better process to be able to address it.

Mr. Walker thanked the Undersecretary for her presentation and that he and fellow staff and SRPEDD Commissioners look forward to partnering with her in the future.

- 3. Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made to approve the March 22, 2023 minutes with an abstention. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

**4. Reports:**

- a. **Chair:** Chairman Slavin stated that this would be his last year as SRPEDD Commission Chairman. He mentioned he believes in a succession plan as he has been discussing with Mr. Walker. He stated that he will stay on for the next year as Immediate Past Chair and to continue to help out as best he can. He thanked the Commission and SRPEDD staff for his time on the Commission.
- b. **Executive Director:** Mr. Walker thanked Chairman Slavin for all his hard work on the Commission and for all the years he has served. Mr. Walker mentioned he attended DLTA day with the legislature and it was well attended. He reported that MARPA's efforts were unfortunately not

successful with regard to increasing the statewide DLTA funding from its current \$3M amount, but he was happy to share there remains strong support at the State House for this program and it is currently level-funded in the House Budget at \$3M. Mr. Walker mentioned lastly, SRPEDD continues to grow its EDA grant writing and administration program under the direction of Lizeth Gonzalez. He highlighted a few agenda items that staff will be discussing later in the meeting.

## **5. Consent Agenda:**

**a. Contracts:** Chairman Slavin read the following contracts below for consideration by the Commission.

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 Housing Partnership (MHP) to assist the Town of Norton with its efforts to comply with the new Multi-Family Zoning Requirements for MBTA Communities (Section 3A of M.G.L. c. 40A, "the Zoning Act") for an amount not to exceed \$20,000.
2. With the City of Taunton to assist with its efforts to comply with the new Multi-Family Zoning Requirements for MBTA Communities (Section 3A of M.G.L. c. 40A, "the Zoning Act") for an amount not to exceed \$31,875.
3. With the Taunton River Stewardship Council to assist with website maintenance for an amount not to exceed \$2,500.
4. With the Town of Mansfield to assist with the administration of its Green Communities Designation Grant for an amount not to exceed \$4,500.
5. With the Town of Carver to assist with the administration of its Green Communities Designation Grant for an amount not to exceed \$4,300.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the five contracts listed above and place on file. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

## **6. Committee Reports:**

- a. Finance Committee:** Mr. Horowitz referred the Commission to the Finance report and mentioned the Finance Committee met on April 19, 2023 via Zoom. The March 15, 2023 Finance meeting minutes were approved. The Treasurer's Report for March 2023 was received, and a warrant for expenses was signed off on in the amount of \$126,664.76.

The Committee reviewed the OPEB statement for February 2023 included in the packet along with March 2023 month-end general journal entries. The Committee reviewed the FY'23 Q3 March 31, 2023 quarterly budget update. The budget is in a great shape, total amount of \$5,045,223, an increase of \$1,400,699 from the last quarter. The Committee also reviewed the finalized FY'24 draft budget update initially presented last meeting, since updated with two major new grants and additional local contracts, as well as a potential merit-based allowance of up to 3% or \$71,940.

Lastly, the Committee discussed current space needs, possible options, and agreed to continue the

discussion next meeting. Mr. Horowitz entertained questions.

The motion was made and seconded to approve the Finance report and place on file. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

- **FY'23 Q3 Budget Update:** Mr. Horowitz discussed the FY'23 Q3 Budget update and entertained questions.

The motion was made and seconded to approve the FY'23 Q3 Budget updated and place on file. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

- **FY'24 Updated Draft Budget:** Mr. Horowitz discussed the FY'24 Updated Preliminary Draft Budget and entertained questions of the Commission. The biggest change is the addition of a \$1.1 million grant that was awarded by the Federal Highway Administration and anticipated new EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant, among other local contracts. He entertained questions from the members.

The motion was made and seconded to approve the FY'24 Updated Preliminary Draft Budget and place on file. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

- b. **Joint Transportation Planning Group/MPO:** Ms. Estrela-Pedro reported to the Commission that the two past meeting minutes can be found in the packet starting on page 17. She mentioned the Joint Transportation Planning Group meeting was held on March 8, at that meeting the development of the '24 to '28 TIP highway projects were discussed. Also, the draft Congestion Plan, was also presented as shared with the Commission last month. She indicated the SMMPO meeting was held on March 21 and at that meeting, amendments were presented to the '23 to '27 TIP that were approved. Also, at this meeting the Regional Transit Authorities also presented their safety performance targets which were approved by the MPO. Ms. Estrela-Pedro mentioned at the Joint Transportation Planning Group meeting, the highway project lists for FFY '24 to '28 were presented. Ms. Estrela-Pedro shared her screen and updated the Commission on project changes to the TIP. She entertained questions of the members.

Ms. Estrela-Pedro mentioned that the South Coast Bikeway Summit will be held on May 9 at the James Arnold Mansion in New Bedford. She also mentioned that the Transportation Department will be hosting a series of Regional Transportation Plan open houses and presenting the draft Coordinating Human Service Transportation Plan. Four meetings will be held and have been scheduled for May 8<sup>th</sup>, at the Attleboro Library from 4-7 PM, May 11<sup>th</sup> at the New Bedford Library from 4-7 PM, May 17<sup>th</sup> in Fall River Library from 4:30-7:30, and May 23<sup>rd</sup> in Taunton Public Library from 4-7 PM. She also shared the information for these meetings in the Zoom chat.

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

## **7. Programs and Project Updates:**

- a. **2023-2024 Priority Area Project Update:** Mr. King introduced Ms. Jones and Mr. Hu from the SRPEDD staff to present the 2023-2024 Priority Area Project Update. Mr. Hu discussed the PPA/PDA update and mentioned he has been starting to work with communities on updating the project. He mentioned it has been 10 years since this project has been worked on. He explained

the difference from a PDA and PPA to the members and explained the purpose of the update in further detail.

Ms. Jones mentioned that her main focus is public engagement, not only with the public in general, but also with SRPEDD member communities. She mentioned she has been talking to town administrators, boards of selectmen, and planners that were actively engaging in community master plans. She stated SRPEDD will be scheduling meetings with the town administrators and select boards, especially in this kickoff phase to review the PDAs and PPAs. Ms. Jones mentioned there is a PPA/PDA webpage on the SRPEDD website that Mr. Hu has created if members would like more information. Mr. Hu and Ms. Jones entertained questions of the members and provided their contact information on Zoom chat.

- b. Environmental Program Update and area MEPA:** Ms. Zincavage referred the Commission to the Environmental Program update. She highlighted the April to May departmental priorities on page 26 of the meeting packet. Ms. Zincavage also referred the members to page 27 and discussed the MEPA Environmental monitor for projects in the region, before asking for questions from the members.

Ms. Zincavage mentioned as many know Bill Napolitano will be retiring from SRPEDD at the end of the month. She stated that she started a Kudos Board for Mr. Napolitano, and she has placed the link in the Zoom chat if any members would like to write a message to him. Also, she mentioned that she is planning a small gathering for Mr. Napolitano in June and there will be more details to come.

- c. Regional Energy Planning Assistance (REPA/SRPEDD- municipal assistance to pursue net-zero planning activities and regional clean energy projects:** The environmental team gave a presentation on preparing the SRPEDD region for net zero energy consumption. The presentation reviewed the MAPC/DNV-GL Greenhouse Gas (GHG) tool that has been developed to assist communities in creating a GHG Inventory to identify GHG emissions by sector from their town. The environmental team is looking for municipalities to volunteer to work with them to build their GHG inventory. Ms. Zincavage mentioned if anyone had any questions to please contact her staff. Ms. Dugan added the Environmental staffs' emails to the Zoom chat.

## **8. Old Business:**

- a. Technical Assistance:** Mr. King referred to the traditional monthly update on projects starting on page 28 of the meeting packet. He encourage that if any members have questions, to please forward them to him or fellow SRPEDD staff.

The motion was made and seconded to approve the Technical Assistance report and place on file. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

## **9. New Business:**

- a. 2023-2024 Commissioner (Re-)Appointment Forms: Mayor/Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, At-Large\*:** Chairman Slavin reminded Commissioners to please have their 2023-2024 Commission Appointment forms sent to SRPEDD as soon as they can. The forms are in the packet and on the SRPEDD website.

**b. Call for SRPEDD 2023 Annual Award Nominations: Special Recognition, Commissioner:**

Chairman Slavin stated it is also time to nominate for the 2023 SRPEDD Annual Awards. He asked if any have recommendations to please send them to SRPEDD and the form is attached in the packet. All the forms can be found at [www.srpedd.org](http://www.srpedd.org).

- 10. Roundtable: Opportunity for Commissioners to provide updates on local topics, projects or matters of regional interest:** Chairman Slavin mentioned Wareham completed an Economic Opportunity Zone a year ago, when they became available. He mentioned there was a gentleman who sold his company for \$25 million, which means he had a fairly good tax liability. He mentioned he called the gentleman and said there's a piece of property on the waterfront in Wareham, as you come into the harbor, it's a substantial piece. The property is a small marina with 6 slips that has been pre-approved. In addition, it has a good size restaurant, meeting center, ice cream shop; all these different ideas are possible. Chairman Slavin mentioned this gentleman decided to buy the property and saved himself almost \$3 million in taxes with tax credits. He mentioned at the end of the summer, Wareham will have a pretty substantial attraction.
- 11. Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM. The next Commission meeting will be on Wednesday, May 24, 2023 at 5:30 P.M. at Loon Pond Lodge in Lakeville.

Respectfully submitted,

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Janice E. Robbins, Secretary

Date: 5/24/2023

## AGENDA ITEM: At-Large Commissioner, # 3.

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In accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 40B, Section 12, "Notwithstanding any of the foregoing provisions, the commission may increase its membership by not more than six in order to provide representation to low income and minority groups."

The SRPEDD by-laws set the alternates selection procedure for nominations:

"If no nomination caucus has been scheduled within thirty days prior to a commission meeting, any commissioner may nominate a person duly certified as a representative of a qualified community group. Such nomination shall be in writing and submitted to the commission chairperson."

The following names were put before the Commission to be at large members:

<b>AREA</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>REPRESENTING</b>
Attleboro Area	Catherine Feerick*	Community Econ. Dev. Dir
Fall River Area	Gloria Saddler	Bristol Black Collective
New Bedford Area	Ashley Eaton *	Neighborhood Planner in the City's Office of Housing and Community Dev.
Taunton	Tanya Lobo	True Diversity, Inc.

*\*currently serving*

## RESOLUTION FOR COMMISSION ACTION

BE it resolved that the Commission of the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District, acting under the alternate procedure for selecting at large commissioners, accepts the nominations presented above at the members of the SRPEDD Commission.



## AGENDA ITEM: Election of Officers and Executive Committee, # 4.

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The Nominating Committee met on May 15, 2023. The Committee consists of:

**OFFICERS**

The Nominating Committee proposes the following slate of officers for the 2023-2024 term:

Chair – Marie Clarner, No. Attleborough  
Vice Chair – Jim Whitin, Westport  
Treasurer – D. Austin Horowitz, Mansfield  
Assistant Treasurer – Vacant  
Secretary – Norman Hills, Marion  
Immediate Past Chair – Alan Slavin, Wareham

**VOTING PRODECURE FOR OFFICERS**

1. *Request any nominations from the floor.*
2. *If there are none, Chair requests a motion to have the secretary cast one ballot for the slate as presented.*
3. *After the motion is seconded, Chair calls for the vote.*
4. *When passed, the Secretary casts one vote for the slate of officers.*

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The Nomination Committee proposes the following slate for the Executive Committee for the 2023-2024 term. The composition of the Executive Committee is set in accordance with M.G.L., Chap. 40B, Section 15 (includes the officers):

**Mayor's Appointees (4)**

Gary Ayrassian, Attleboro  
Dan Aguiar, Fall River  
Jamie Ponte, New Bedford  
Jay Pateakos, Taunton

**Selectmen Appointees (4)**

James Kelley, Acushnet  
Lorraine Carboni, Lakeville  
Bob Espindola, Fairhaven  
Greenwood Hartley, Rochester

**Planning Board Appointees (4)**

Christopher O'Neil, Dartmouth  
Jennifer Carloni, New Bedford  
Jeff Carvalho, Dighton  
Bill Costa, Rehoboth

**VOTING PROCEDURE FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE-SAME AS ABOVE**

AGENDA ITEM: Grant/Contract Approvals, # 6.a.

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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 Housing Partnership (MHP) to assist the Towns of Raynham and Freetown with their efforts to comply with the new Multi-Family Zoning Requirements for MBTA Communities (Section 3A of M.G.L. c. 40A, "the Zoning Act") for an amount not to exceed \$40,000.

## AGENDA ITEM: Finance Committee Report # 7.a.

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The Finance Committee met on May 17, 2023 in person and via Zoom. The April 19, 2023 Finance and Personnel Committee meeting minutes were approved. The Treasurer's Report for April 2023 received, and a warrant for expenses signed off on in the amount of \$27,546.47

Cash & Funds: April 1, 2023	\$ 1,249,692.42
Cash Receipts: Apr. 1 – 30, 2023	<u>\$ 257,318.99</u>
Total Cash Accounted for:	<b>\$ 1,507,011.41</b>

Disbursements: Apr. 1 – 30, 2023	\$ 280,363.12
Cash & Funds: Apr. 30, 2023	<u>\$ 1,226,648.29</u>
Total Cash Accounted for:	<b>\$ 1,507,011.41</b>

The Committee reviewed OPEB statement for April 2023 included in the packet along with April 2023 month-end general journal entries.

The Personnel Committee also met on May 17, 2023, in person and via Zoom. Committee members received, reviewed and approved Executive Director Walker's finalized recommendations with regard to Team and Individual Merit increases based on the year's recently completed Annual Evaluation process. They also signed off on the following personnel advancements, as recommended, based upon continuing performance and contributions:

King	to E1	<b>\$ 108,228.00</b>
Hu	to PP4	<b>\$ 87,500.00</b>
Jones	to PP3	<b>\$ 85,265.00</b>
Chaves	to PP3	<b>\$ 82,965.00</b>
Perez	to PP2	<b>\$ 75,000.00</b>
Belnap	to PP1	<b>\$ 74,000.00</b>
Brown	to PP1	<b>\$ 70,000.00</b>
Ham	to P4	<b>\$ 67,500.00</b>
Osborne	to P2	<b>\$ 50,000.00</b>

**Southeastern Regional Planning & Economic Development District (SRPEDD)  
Joint Transportation Planning Group (JTPG) Meeting**

**DRAFT Minutes for the JTPG Meeting**

**Held on Wednesday, April 12, 2023 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	Josh Reinke.....Town of Mansfield
John Woods .....Town of Carver	Kevin Dumas.....Town Mansfield, alt
Tim Barber.....Town of Dartmouth	Norman Hills.....Town of Marion
Paul Foley.....Town of Fairhaven	Ed Buckley.....Town of Raynham
Dan Aguiar.....City of Fall River	Jim Howland.....City of Taunton
Victoria D'Antoni.....Town Freetown, alt	Alan Slavin.....Town of Wareham
Franklin Moniz.....Town of Lakeville	James Hartnett.....Town of Westport

**The following members/alternates were NOT in attendance:**

Town of Acushnet	Town of Plainville
City of Attleboro	Town of Rehoboth
Town of Berkley	Town of Rochester
Town of Carver	Town of Seekonk
Town of Dighton	Town of Somerset
Town of Mattapoisett	Town of Swansea
Town of Middleborough	At-Large, City of Fall River
Town of North Attleborough	At-Large, City of Taunton
Town of Norton	

**Also in Attendance:**

Stacy Forte.....GATRA	Lisa Estrela-Pedro.....SRPEDD
Raissah Kouame.....MassDOT	Lilia Cabral-Bernard.....SRPEDD
Pam Haznar.....MassDOT	Jackie Jones.....SRPEDD
Barbara Lachance.....MassDOT	Jennifer Chaves.....SRPEDD
Joshua Crabb.....Town of Fairhaven	Sean Hilton.....SRPEDD
Lu-Ann Souza.....Town of Freetown	Andrea Duarte.....SRPEDD
Kathy Holton.....City of Taunton	Jon Gray.....SRPEDD
Ken Buckland.....Town of Wareham	Phil Viveiros.....McMahon & Assocs
Holly McNamara.....Somerset	
Sid Kashi.....GPI	

**Handouts:**

JTPG Meeting Agenda for April 12, 2023  
DRAFT JTPG March 8, 2023 Meeting Minutes

**AGENDA**

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

Chair Stephanie Crampton called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM. Ms. Duarte 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:

Stephanie Crampton, Chair.....City of New Bedford  
Tim Barber.....Town of Dartmouth  
Paul Foley.....Town of Fairhaven  
Dan Aguiar.....City of Fall River  
Victoria D’Antoni.....Town of Freetown, alternate  
Franklin Moniz.....Town of Lakeville  
Josh Reinke.....Town of Mansfield  
Kevin Dumas.....Town of Mansfield, alternate  
Norman Hills.....Town of Marion  
Ed Buckley.....Town of Raynham  
Jim Howland.....City of Taunton  
Alan Slavin.....Town of Wareham

## **2. Approval of Minutes – March 8, 2023 (Materials Attached & roll call vote needed)**

Chair Stephanie Crampton called for a vote to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2023 meeting. Ms. Duarte then called the roll:

Town of Dartmouth.....	Yes	Town of Marion.....	Yes
Town of Fairhaven.....	Yes	City of New Bedford.....	Abstain
City of Fall River.....	Yes	Town of Raynham.....	Abstain
Town of Freetown.....	Yes	City of Taunton.....	Yes
Town of Lakeville.....	Yes	Town of Wareham.....	Yes
Town of Mansfield.....	Yes	Town of Westport.....	Yes

**The minutes were approved by consensus with two abstentions.**

## **3. Public Comments – Opportunity for the Public to address the JTPG –**

There were no comments offered.

## **4. Emerging Technologies Discussion –**

Holly McNamara, current MassDOT employee and former Town of Somerset Board of Selectmen member conducted a presentation to the group about solar powered transportation, called the Hyperloop. The goal of her presentation was to encourage SRPEDD to include the Hyperloop and, more generally, solar-powered modes of transportation in our Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), and to begin to include it in ongoing discussions about the RTP in subsequent years. In 2016, Ms. McNamara formed the Hyperloop Massachusetts entity with the vision to bring the hyperloop network to the east coast of the US and beyond. In 2016, Elon Musk wrote a whitepaper about the hyperloop technology and presented it to President Obama. He envisioned it would carry cargo and passengers. It is an autonomous, on-demand system that is supposed to have zero emissions. It can go up to speeds of up to 750 miles per hour, which is three times the speed of the high-speed rail and is estimated to cost 2/3 of high-speed rail. It is capable of travelling from the Southcoast to Boston in five to ten minutes.

Ms. McNamara played two videos for the group explaining what the technology is and how it works. The Hyperloop One company was founded based on Elon Musk’s patent in 2014 and put out an RFP in 2016. Ms. McNamara put together a group, applied and the group was selected as one of the 35 semifinalists. The

group made a presentation in Washington D.C. but did not make it to the finals because they did not have enough government support, particularly by MassDOT and Governor Baker. Ms. McNamara explained why the group proposed to begin the hyperloop construction in Somerset with a connection to Boston and eventually Providence, explaining Somerset's extensive history as an industrial city.

#### **5. Draft FFY24-28 TIP Discussion (Project Lists Attached & Roll Call Vote Needed to Recommend to SMMPO for Release to a Minimum 21-day Public Comment Period)**

Lisa Estrela-Pedro reminded the group that SRPEDD presented the vote of the JTPG to the SMMPO in March, TIP Scenario #3 for FFY2024-2028. She summarized what was presented at the last SMMPO meeting, noting that some things had changed. SRPEDD was looking at moving out two projects in FFY2024, the Dartmouth project and Wareham project, and bringing Lakeville into FFY2024 from FFY2025. However, the progress of the Lakeville project was not there yet so that project has to remain in FFY2025. We did not have enough funds to keep all the projects in FFY2025 that needed to stay there. SRPEDD had a discussion with MassDOT and the outcome was that MassDOT would pick up some of the funding for the Dartmouth project. Ms. Estrela-Pedro built the preferred project list using scenario #3 for FFY2028 in order to prepare the draft TIP to release for public comment at the April SMMPO meeting. She again explained the TIP highway and transit projects and opened discussion on either accepting that list or discussing other alternatives that the JTPG would like to recommend to the SMMPO. She explained that there will be a \$12 million surplus in 2024. There are anticipated cost increases for the Taunton and Wareham projects and SRPEDD is speaking with both of our regional transit authorities to see if there are any needs where we may be able to flex some of the highway funds. She reminded the group that the Wareham shared use path is being pushed out to year FFY2028 until its design progresses and we can better understand where it should be programmed.

Ed Buckley asked about why the Orchard Street traffic signal project in Raynham was removed from the FFY2028 list of projects and when it could get back on the list. Ms. Estrela-Pedro explained that this project was never officially on the FFY 2028 list but was on the supplemental project list of projects being considered for programming in FFY2028. The three scenarios for FFY2028 were created based on the SMMPO's allocated regional target funds and evaluation criteria. As SRPEDD moves forward in developing the next TIP cycle, it is still on our list of future projects and will be considered again in the future.

Stephanie Crampton stated that scenario #1 or scenario #2 would be preferable for the City of New Bedford as the City has a higher need for funding larger projects compared to the smaller New Bedford project in scenario #3. Ms. Estrela-Pedro explained why SRPEDD staff created the three scenarios, stating that when a larger project doesn't move as quickly as it should, SRPEDD is faced with a large surplus, as it is now. She stated that some other regions in the state have placed a \$10 million cap on the amount any one project can receive because regional target funds are limited. Scenario #3 allows the region to get the most projects with the allocated funds.

Ms. Crampton asked if cities and towns in the region should aim for a target cap amount for projects internally through the JTPG and evaluation criteria or whether they should approach MassDOT about this so that larger projects do not dominate the TIP. Ms. Estrela-Pedro responded that this is something the JTPG can discuss with the project development stages in mind. She stated that sometimes these larger projects should be phased, to make it easier to move them through the TIP and the construction phases. Pam Haznar reiterated that some regions cap project costs so that one project doesn't dominate and create a domino effect for other projects on the TIP. Ms. Haznar recommended New Bedford move ahead with

both the County Street and Ashley Boulevard projects and see where things fall next year; they had already looked into phasing the Ashley Boulevard project because it was originally larger. She suggested New Bedford could phase this project even more to try to get something done. Many of these projects are four-five years old now. She stated that readiness is the key.

Jim Hartnett asked if the TIP project lists change depending on various projects' readiness and Ms. Estrela-Pedro confirmed yes and stated that the Norton project moved up a year because its design was moving quicker and there was funding available. For projects to move up, there must be available funding in that year and a project must be moving quicker than other projects programmed in that year.

Ms. Estrela-Pedro reiterated that surplus TIP highway funds can be flexed from highway to transit projects. If the region cannot use the surplus in a given year they cannot receive it in another year and it would go to another region instead. Ms. Haznar cautioned JTPG and SMMPO to not flex the money right away because once it is flexed it is obligated almost immediately, and there is a chance that another project can advance in design and be programmed to receive some of that surplus. Limited access resurfacing projects could be funded, like Route 140. The Lakeville project is not being scheduled for FFY2024 because of the anticipated time to complete the right of way process, but there is a chance things could change and it could still move along faster. If things change and projects' design speeds up, they can take the surplus, but that isn't possible if the money has already been flexed.

Alan Slavin asked if it is possible to use these surplus funds for design, but Ms. Haznar deferred this to OTP. Ms. Estrela-Pedro stated that SRPEDD has received some guidance about using these surplus funds for design. Currently, a programmed project receives 80% federal funds and 20% state match; at a minimum, municipalities could get 80% of the funds for design but SRPEDD is still working through the details of this before bringing it to municipalities as a possible option for TIP funding. Once the TIP is in place on October 1<sup>st</sup>, it can be amended, there is still time to think about how the region wants to spend that surplus.

Ms. Estrela-Pedro asked the body for a vote if they would like to move forward with Scenario 3. If there is opposition, SRPEDD will take the JTPG's comments to the SMMPO before the TIP draft is released. Chair Stephanie Crampton called for a motion for the JTPG's recommendation to the SMMPO. Victoria D'Antoni made the motion to recommend Scenario 3 to the SMMPO and it was seconded by Jim Hartnett. Ms. Duarte then called the roll:

Town of Carver.....	Yes	Town of Mansfield.....	Yes
Town of Dartmouth.....	Yes	Town of Marion.....	Yes
Town of Fairhaven.....	No response	City of New Bedford.....	Yes
City of Fall River.....	No response	Town of Raynham.....	Yes
Town of Freetown.....	Yes	City of Taunton.....	Yes
Town of Lakeville.....	No response	Town of Wareham.....	Yes
Town of Mansfield.....	Yes	Town of Westport.....	Yes

**THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY** and Ms. Estrela-Pedro announced that Scenario 3 would be recommended to the SMMPO.

## 5. Draft FFY24 UPWP Discussion

Ms. Estrela-Pedro announced that SRPEDD staff is currently developing the annual Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) for FFY2024. SRPEDD will continue its work within the same tasks, including continuing their community technical assistance request efforts. In addition, there is currently a request from

Rochester for a corridor study and staff will be assisting SRPEDD's Comprehensive Department with traffic analysis for several corridors in Swansea within SRPEDD's management systems tasks.

SRPEDD is also looking to host another workshop in partnership with MassDOT on how to get projects on the TIP. Ms. Estrela-Pedro encouraged JTPG members to take a look at the current UPWP on the SRPEDD website and to reach out if they have any questions or requests for projects they would like SRPEDD to work on in the coming year. In May SRPEDD staff will do a presentation on the draft FFY2024 UPWP and ask the JTPG to recommend it to the SMMPO for release to a 21-day comment period.

## **7. Other Business**

Ms. Duarte announced that SRPEDD Transportation staff will be holding community listening sessions in May where residents and community members can drop by to voice their transportation needs, concerns, and priority areas for funding as part of the process for updating the 2023 Regional Transportation Plan and Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan. These open houses will be held on the following dates at these locations:

Attleboro Public Library, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 4-7pm

New Bedford Public Library (Main Branch), May 11<sup>th</sup>, 4-7pm

Fall River Public Library, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 4:30-7:30pm

Taunton Public Library, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 4-7pm

Ms. Estrela-Pedro announced that the May JTPG meeting will be held in hybrid format, meaning that attendees may join in person at the SRPEDD office (88 Broadway, Taunton) or continue via Zoom if they prefer.

## **8. Date and Time for Next Meeting**

Date and Time for next meeting is May 10, 2023, at 2:00 PM

## **9. Adjourn**

The Chair asked for a motion to adjourn which was made by Victoria D'Antoni and seconded by John Woods. Hearing no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 3:09 PM.



**Draft Minutes of the Southeastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (SMMPO)**  
**Meeting on Tuesday, April 18, 2023 at 1:00 PM – Held remotely via Zoom.**

**The following members were in attendance:**

David Mohler-----Representing Gina Fiandaca, MassDOT Secretary and CEO, **Chair**  
Barbara Lachance-----Representing Jonathan Gulliver, MassDOT Highway Div. Administrator  
Daniel Aguiar-----Representing Paul Coogan, Mayor of Fall River  
James Howland-----Representing Shaunna O’Connell, Mayor of Taunton  
Cathleen DeSimone----- Mayor of Attleboro  
Robert Espindola-----Town of Fairhaven  
Mark Germain-----Town of Middleborough  
Alan Slavin-----SRPEDD Commission Chair  
Mary Ellen DeFrias----- Administrator, GATRA

**The following were also in attendance:**

John Lebert-----SRTA	Jeff Oakes-----Marion resident
Raissah Kouame-----MassDOT	Lilia Cabral-Bernard-----SRPEDD
Derek Krevat-----MassDOT	Andrea Duarte-----SRPEDD
Derek Shooster-----MassDOT	Sean Hilton-----SRPEDD
Andrew Wang-----MassDOT	Jackie Jones-----SRPEDD
Michelle Ho -----MassDOT	Jon Gray-----SRPEDD
Richard Bilski-----MassDOT	Jennifer Chaves-----SRPEDD
Phillip Duarte-----Taunton City Council	

**Handouts:**

SMMPO Agenda April 18, 2023  
SMMPO Draft Meeting Minutes March 21, 2023  
FFY2023-2027 TIP Proposed Amendment #3

**AGENDA:**

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

Chairman David Mohler called the SMMPO meeting to order at 1:00 pm. Ms. Andrea Duarte 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	Town of Fairhaven-----Yes
MassDOT Administrator-----Yes	Town of Middleborough-----Yes
City of Attleboro-----Yes	SRPEDD Commission Chair-----Yes
City of Fall River-----Yes	GATRA-----Yes
City of Taunton-----Yes	

**2. Approval of Minutes – March 21, 2023 (Materials Attached and Roll Call Vote Needed)**

Chairman Mohler requested a motion to approve the minutes from the SMMPO meeting from March 21, 2023. The motion was made by Alan Slavin and seconded by Mary Ellen DeFrias. Ms. Duarte then called the roll:

MassDOT Chair-----Yes	City of Fall River-----Yes
MassDOT Administrator-----Abstain	City of Taunton-----Yes
City of Attleboro-----Abstain	Town of Fairhaven-----Yes

Town of Middleborough-----Yes  
SRPEDD Commission Chair-----Yes

GATRA-----Yes

### **THE MOTION PASSED WITH TWO ABSTENTIONS.**

#### **3. Public Comments**

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

#### **4. Regional Transit Authorities Report – RTA Updates**

Mary Ellen DeFrias announced that there has been an increase in ridership. GATRA is rolling out an automatic vehicle locator (AVL) program, and there will be new signage and some changes coming to GATRA buses, specifically in the Attleboro and Taunton area first and eventually in the Plymouth area. GATRA is in the process of preparing their budget and presenting it to the board. Bob Espindola asked for Mary Ellen to clarify whether the bus route from New Bedford to Taunton and Boston will be restored. Mary Ellen confirmed that yes, Peter Pan has agreed to restore this service and fill this gap until the Southcoast rail comes online. This replaces DATCO service Bob Espindola asked if the route goes from Kings Highway and John LeBert responded that that route goes through the New Bedford and Fall River terminals, and that he can share the infographic about the route. Jennifer Chaves sent this [link](#) to the group to a news article about the service, and stated that the route will stop at the Fall River and New Bedford terminals, the old Taunton Galleria park and ride, Boston South Station, and Logan Airport. It will not stop at Mount Pleasant in Fall River. It is one trip in the morning leaving Fall River at 6:45 am and getting to Logan at 8:45 am and one trip in the afternoon leaving Logan at 4:00 pm and getting to Fall River at 6:10 pm. If there is enough ridership, more trips will be added in May.

John LeBert, filling in for Shane Trimbell, stated that SRTA is still in budget season and that is the biggest focus for them at this moment. He stated that SRTA has a few ongoing studies at this time, including comprehensive services analyses and bus stop improvement plans. It has been a challenging but rewarding year for SRTA.

#### **5. SRTA TAM Plan Presentation (Roll Call Vote Needed to Adopt)**

John LeBert showed performance measures for transit assets and discussed how useful life benchmarks for vehicles relate to performance targets. The targets for this TAM Plan have remain unchanged from the previous TAM Plan. 25% of vehicles have met or exceeded the useful life. That is SRTA's target, in reality they are closer to 50% at this moment, 47% percent on the fixed route side and a little lower on the demand response side. For facilities, they target maintaining above a 3 on a 1 to 5 scale, 3 indicates poor quality. SRTA has tapped into several funding sources, including the flex opportunity from SRPEDD which allowed it to purchase 2 buses and 2 vans this year. Over the next two years, SRTA is working off of an award from a federal discretionary program, Buses and Bus Facilities, to fund another 18 to 24 buses. They are continuing to explore various funding sources, as bus purchases take up a large portion of funds, while extending the useful life of the current fleet.

The chair asked if there were questions, and seeing none, asked for a motion and second to approve the SRTA TAM plan targets as presented. The motion was made by Mary Ellen DeFrias and seconded by Daniel Aguiar. The Chair asked Ms. Duarte to read the roll as follows:

MassDOT Chair-----Yes

MassDOT Administrator-----Yes

City of Attleboro-----Yes  
City of Fall River-----Yes  
City of Taunton-----Yes  
Town of Fairhaven-----Yes

Town of Middleborough-----Yes  
SRPEDD Commission Chair-----Yes  
GATRA-----Yes

**THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**6. FFY23-27 TIP Proposed Amendment #3 – Highway & GATRA – (Materials Attached, Roll Call Vote Needed to Release to 21-day comment period)**

Jackie Jones announced that there were some changes that came in that require a TIP amendment. In FFY2023 there was a cost adjustment for the New Bedford corridor improvements and related work on County Street and funding category change, it is approximately a one million dollar increase and some of that will be covered by TAP funds. The Marion shared use path construction projects had to be moved out to a later TIP year due to readiness, therefore a zero balance needs to be shown in FY2023 because the project is not happening in that year. In FFY2024, there is a \$1.4 million cost increase for New Bedford corridor improvements and related work on County Street. On the transit side, there is a bus replacement project being added for \$100,000 for FFY2023.

Jeff Oakes, town of Marion representative on the Southcoast Bikeway Alliance, asked for confirmation that the town of Marion pathway was moved to FFY2024 because the town has not progressed sufficiently in readiness. Ms. Jones responded that it may have been moved to later than FFY2024, she recommended that Mr. Oakes check-in with the project's MassDOT's project manager to get more clarification about if it is design or right of way readiness that is behind. He stated that the last time he spoke with the project manager in January, he was told the project was on schedule. Mr. Espindola stated that he reached out to John Rockwell and Mr. Rockwell stated that there were some environmental issues, permitting issues, and right of way issues that were causing delays. Mr. Espindola asked whether the project could be programmed for FFY2024 and if it needs a second year of postponement delay it next year rather than putting it out multiple years. Ms. Jones responded that this project is programmed under statewide STIP funds and that it is not under the power of the SMMPO to select a year for this project. There are fiscal constraints on these statewide funds that SRPEDD cannot speak to. Ms. Jones informed Mr. Oakes that he can advocate at the statewide level, there will be a capital improvement project statewide TIP meeting on May 31<sup>st</sup> at 6 PM where he can advocate for the project. SRPEDD will share more information about this meeting with the group. The SMMPO body does not have control over statewide projects.

The chair asked for a motion and second to release the TIP Amendment #3 as presented today for 21-day public review. The motion was made by Robert Espindola and seconded by Alan Slavin. There were no other questions so the Chair asked Ms. Duarte to read the roll as follows:

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

**THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **7. Draft FFY24-28 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) –(Link -Roll Call Vote Needed to Release to 21-day comment period)**

Discussion and release of draft TIP – Ms. Jones reminded the group that over the past two months SRPEDD staff have been working on a list of projects with the JTPG and SMMPO. Ms. Jones stated that the group was sent a list of all TIP projects, including statewide STIP projects, but that she would focus on the list of projects funded by Regional Target Funds, which the SMMPO has control over. Ms. Jones listed out the proposed project list by year starting with federal fiscal year (FFY) 2024 and ending with FFY2027. She explained that a number of projects from FFY 2024 had to be moved to FFY2025 due to project readiness leaving a large surplus in this FFY2024. She explained that SRPEDD is working to fill those gaps, expecting the two projects currently programmed this year will have cost increases that will eat up some of that funding. SRPEDD has been having conversations with MassDOT, GATRA, and SRTA on ways to possibly use that funding and is going to do their best to fill that gap.

Ms. Jones reminded the group that if you see the projects on the list twice it's because they have multiple funding categories. There are several different pots of funding that these projects can get funded out of and if they qualified for air quality improvement funding bicycle and pedestrian improvement funding they get funded with different category letters. In FFY2026. Ms. Jones explained that the Norton project that was originally in 2027 was able to advance to an earlier year because it was moving forward rapidly.

Ms. Jones explained that FFY2028 is the new year of the TIP and that this is when new projects are added. She discussed three scenarios, which were presented to the JTPG twice. Both times the JTPG voted for Scenario #3. Scenario #1 had two large projects that were selected based on the project's evaluation criteria scores. Scenario #2 also had two large projects, the highest scoring evaluation criteria project ready for funding and the Taunton River Trail Project. Scenario two included three projects that were lower in cost but also scored well for evaluation 20criteria. The JTPG decided to go with scenario #3, it funds three smaller price projects in the hopes of stretching funds to fund more projects.

Ms. Jones reminded that projects move through the TIP at different speeds. The more projects programmed in the TIP, the more can advance through TIP funding. Ms. Jones presented the transit TIP projects, GATRA having about \$15 million programmed with projects ranging from renovation of commuter rail station to purchasing vehicles, and operating costs. SRTA has about 33 million programmed for projects ranging from acquiring equipment, replacing vehicles, engineering and design for new facility for bus repairs, and others.

The chair asked if there were any questions. Jim Howland of Taunton made a motion requesting the SMMPO reconsider the FFY2028 scenarios and substitute Scenario #2 with Scenario #3. The chair asked for SRPEDD to provide clarification on the difference between Scenarios #3 and #2. Ms. Jones displayed the list of FFY2028 scenarios and explained what they were. Scenario #1 was selected because it scored the highest on SRPEDD's selection criteria. Scenario #2 had the New Bedford project which was the highest scoring and includes the Taunton River Trail in alignment with the JTPG's goal to use 10% of TIP funds to advance bicycle and pedestrian projects. She stated that Taunton River Trail project might score low on SRPEDD's evaluation criteria because these criteria are not set up to evaluate trail projects. The projects on Scenario #3 scored reasonably high with evaluation criteria, they were selected to get a greater amount of projects advancing.

The chair reiterated that Taunton's motion would fund the two projects in Scenario #2 and defund the three projects in Scenario #3 in FFY2028. Ms. Jones added that SRPEDD received five letters in support of

the Taunton River Trail project being considered for TIP funding in FFY2028, from a Taunton City Councilor, a state representative, and three from residents of the region. At the JTPG meeting, New Bedford expressed preference for Scenarios #1 and #2 as they better aligned with the City's priorities.

The chair asked for a second to Taunton's motion and Alan Slavin seconded the motion. The chair asked if there was any discussion. There were no further questions or comments so the Chair asked Ms. Duarte to read the roll as follows:

MassDOT Chair-----Abstain	Town of Fairhaven-----Yes
MassDOT Administrator-----Abstain	Town of Middleborough-----No
City of Attleboro-----Yes	SRPEDD Commission Chair-----Yes
City of Fall River-----No	GATRA-----Yes
City of Taunton-----Yes	

The motion passed with five yes's, two no's and two abstentions.

The chair asked for a motion to release the TIP to a 21-day public review process as amended today with the new FFY2028 scenario. He reiterated that SRPEDD staff will need to let the JTPG know that the SMMPO opted to go a different way from the JTPG's vote. Alan Slavin made the motion and Taunton seconded. There were no further questions or comments so the Chair asked Ms. Duarte to read the roll as follows:

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

## **10. Other Business**

Alan Slavin informed the group that the original project for Route 6 and 28 was cut in half length-wise due to complications with some businesses on the corridor. The Redevelopment Authority of Wareham has submitted requests to continue and finish off the second half. There will be an application coming in shortly for that project.

## **11. Date and Time for Next Meeting**

The Chair announced that the next SMMPO meeting will be on May 16, 2023, at 1:00 pm, held virtually.

## **12. Adjourn**

The Chair asked for a motion and second to adjourn. Alan Slavin made the motion and Jim Howland seconded. The Chair asked that all in favor say aye. All ayes were heard. The Chair thanked everyone, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:32 PM.

AGENDA ITEM: RESC, # 7.c.

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Please be sure to [register](#) for the next upcoming **RESC Meeting and Networking Night** on **June 14, 2023** at **5:30PM** at **Brack's Grille & Tap** in Taunton, MA. This meeting will kick-off the RESC's new hybrid format, which will offer in-person networking events twice a year.

Currently, there is also an open call for new Committee members to further diversify and reinvigorate the committee and establish clear responsibilities for all members. To learn more about becoming a member, click here for a copy of the [membership information packet](#). If you or a designee are interested in participating in the RESC, please complete the [membership form](#) and forward to Lizeth Gonzalez at [lgonzalez@srpedd.org](mailto:lgonzalez@srpedd.org) by June 1, 2023, for forwarding and approval at the June 14 RESC meeting.



Acushnet  
Attleboro  
Berkley  
Carver  
Dartmouth  
Dighton  
Fairhaven  
Fall River  
Freetown  
Lakeville  
Mansfield  
Marion  
Mattapoisett  
Middleborough  
New Bedford  
N. Attleborough  
Norton  
Plainville  
Raynham  
Rehoboth  
Rochester  
Seekonk  
Somerset  
Swansea  
Taunton  
Wareham  
Westport

May 17, 2023

Filipe Zamborlini, Community Grants Coordinator  
Community Services Division, Department of Housing and Community Development  
100 Cambridge St, Suite 300  
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Mr. Zamborlini,

I am writing to express our enthusiastic support for the Town of Middleborough's Community One Stop for Growth grant application to fund the development of their Master Plan. Like many communities in our region and across the Commonwealth, Middleborough must navigate and manage its growth and development in the coming years. SRPEDD has extensive experience with these topics, having recently partnered with multiple Southeast MA communities to create master plans and supporting civic engagement campaigns.

Should this grant be awarded, the Town has requested to work with SRPEDD on the development of the Master Plan. SRPEDD has long-standing, positive and collaborative working relationship with the Town through previous planning initiatives and grant writing opportunities. The SRPEDD team looks forward to working on the development of the Master Plan – from data collection, to gathering public input, to synthesizing all this information into a well laid out and graphically oriented plan that will meet the requirements of M.G.L c. 41, s. 81D and serve the Town of Middleborough for years to come.

SRPEDD is excited about the unique opportunity this grant holds to help guide future strategies across a wide range of issues, including economic development, housing, transportation, open space, and more, and we are confident that the collaborative, publicly-driven process that will be employed to advance it, in conjunction with experienced community leaders and personnel – will ensure development of a model plan and community resource to help guide informed decision making for years to come.

Sincerely,

Jeff Walker, AICP  
Executive Director

**Environmental Program Update Brief****May – June Departmental Priorities**

- Developing work program for EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant
- Brownfields Community Assessment Grant project – working with individual communities to select sites for environmental assessment
- Rochester Master Plan departmental interviews
- Open space plans – current status:
  - Marion (in project close out)
  - Taunton (addressing State comments for final approval)
  - Middleborough (drafts in final review)
  - Carver (plan writing)
  - Swansea (plan writing)
  - Mansfield (project launch)
- DLTA-A: PARC/LAND, CZM Coastal Resilience, BBEP grants assistance
- APC: Delivering pondside vegetated buffer workshops for Long Pond neighborhoods and developing RFP/BIDs for Upper Nemasket River Channel Restoration, selecting vendor for Culvert Assessment, Snipatuit monitoring well drilling and stream flow gauge installation.
- Green Communities: REPA Application; will be contacting communities for MOUs
- Celebrating Bill!! (Casual meet-up June 2, 3-7, Berkley Beer Co. in Taunton)

**Of Note and Interest***Trainings and Events*

- CZM Coastal Resilience Grant deadline: not announced as of 5/17/23
- CZM Coastal Habitat and Water Quality Grant deadline: 5pm, June 16<sup>th</sup>
- Narragansett Bay Estuary Program Freshwater and Estuarine Habitat Quality and Public Access Grant deadline: July 21, 2023 [Taunton River / Mount Hope Bay area watersheds]
- Awaiting the release of the Buzzards Bay National Estuary Program funding round
- SNEP 2023 Stormwater and Natural Infrastructure Grant: June 30, 2023

*Project Community Meetings*

- Long Pond Friendly Gardening in-person Workshop, Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup>

**MEPA ENVIRONMENTAL MONITOR – PROJECTS IN REGION**

Project	Type	Community	Comments Due	RPA Review Components	Site Visit Details (Indicate if Remote Meeting)
Broadstone East Station	EENF Under Review	Taunton	5/10/23		4/20/23 (remote)
Mill Street Roadway Improvement Project	ENF Under Review	Raynham	5/1/23		4/18/23 (remote)



Raynham Park Redevelopment	SDEIR Cert	Raynham	4/28/23	Adequately and properly complies with MEPA	
SouthCoast Wind 1 Project (fka Mayflower Wind SouthCoast Project)	DEIR Under Review	Somerset			
Draft groundwater discharge permit	Public Notice	Seekonk			
MDAR yearly operational plan	Public Notice	Fairhaven, Carver, Wareham, Middleborough (part of larger region)			

## AGENDA ITEM: Technical Assistance Report, # 10.a.

Community	Project Name	Status	Department	Project Leads	Funding
Acushnet	Green Communities Tech Assist.	Ongoing	Environmental	Sara Brown	DOER
Carver	Open Space and Recreation Plan Update	Ongoing	Environmental	Helen Zincavage	local
Carver	Pre-Application Business Park Development	Pending	Comprehensive	Lizeth Gonzalez	EDA
Carver	Green Communities Comp Grant TA	Ongoing	Environmental	Lauren Carpenter	DOER
Dartmouth	Open Space and Recreation Plan Update	Ongoing	Environmental	Helen Zincavage	local
Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Fall River, Wareham	Bike Path (Regional Plan) Assistance	Ongoing	Transportation	Jackie Jones, Jon Gray	MassDOT
Dartmouth, Wareham	Coastal Resilience Project Support	Ongoing	Environmental	Danica Belknap	MassAudubon
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
Fall River	Mother's Brook Sewer Upgrades (D&E, Permitting) Project Administration	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Lizeth Gonzalez	EDA
Freetown	Master Plan	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Phillip Hu	DHCD, DLTA
Freetown	Section 3A Technical Assistance	New	Comprehensive	Taylor Perez, Rob Cabral	MHP, Barr Foundation
Lakeville	Section 3A Technical Assistance	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Taylor Perez, Rob Cabral	MHP, Barr Foundation
Mansfield	Green Communities Designation Grant Assistance	Ongoing	Environmental	Danica Belknap	DOER
Marion	Green Communities Comp Grant TA	Ongoing	Environmental	Danica Belknap	DOER
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	Jeff Walker, 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 Attleborough	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	Housing Production Plan (Tier 3, Phase 1)	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Taylor Perez	DLTA
Norton	Section 3A Technical Assistance	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Taylor Perez, Rob Cabral	MHP, Barr Foundation
Norton	Green Communities Tech Assist.	Ongoing	Environmental	Danica Belknap	DOER
Plainville	Green Communities Tech Assist.	Ongoing	Environmental	Danica Belknap	DOER
Plainville	Master Plan	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Phillip Hu, Lizeth Gonzalez	DLTA, local
Raynham	Section 3A Technical Assistance	New	Comprehensive	Taylor Perez, Rob Cabral	MHP, Barr Foundation
Raynham	Green Communities Assistance	Ongoing	Environmental	Danica Belknap	DOER
<b>Regional</b>	<b>Traffic Counting and Turning Movement Counts</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>	<b>Transportation</b>	<b>Luis de Oliveira</b>	<b>MassDOT</b>
<b>Regional</b>	<b>Pavement Management - Fed. Aid Road Network</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>	<b>Transportation</b>	<b>Luis de Oliveira</b>	<b>MassDOT</b>
<b>Regional</b>	<b>Regional Transportation Plan</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>	<b>Transportation</b>	<b>Jennifer Chaves, Lisa Estrela-Pedro</b>	<b>MassDOT</b>

Regional	Regional Transportation Plan Community Listening Sessions	Ongoing	Transportation	Lilia Cabral-Bernard, Andrea Duarte	MassDOT
Regional	FFY2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program	Ongoing	Transportation	Jackie Jones, Lisa Estrela-Pedro	MassDOT
Regional	Trails Mapping (Off Road)	Ongoing	Transportation	Joe Osborne, Karen Porter	MassDOT
Regional	Congestion Mitigation Plan	Ongoing	Transportation	Sean Hilton	MassDOT
Regional	Regional Bicycle Plan	Ongoing	Transportation	Jackie Jones	MassDOT
Regional	FFY2024 Unified Planning Work Program	Development	Transportation	Lisa Estrela-Pedro, Jackie Jones, Jen Chaves	MassDOT
Regional	Coordinated Human Service Transportation Plan Update	Development	Transportation	Jen Chaves, Andrea Duat	MassDOT
Regional	Assawompset Ponds Groundwater Hydrologic & Hydraulic Study	Ongoing	Environmental	Helen Zincavage	DER
Regional	Assawompset Ponds Water Quality Workshops and Culvert Evaluation	Ongoing	Environmental	Helen Zincavage, Danica Belknap	DER
Regional	Assawompset Ponds Sedimentation, Invasive Removal, and Wareham Street Dam Evaluation	Ongoing	Environmental	Helen Zincavage	ARPA
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	District Local Technical Assistance - Augmentation (project development and grant-writing)	Ongoing	Comprehensive, Environmental, Transportation	Jeff Walker, Grant King, Helen Zincavage, Lisa Estrela-Pedro	DLTA-A

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	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, Jon Gray	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	Ongoing	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, Environmental	Robert Cabral, Taylor Perez	DLTA, Urban Agenda, local, MA
Swansea	Route 6 Economic and Community Development Plan	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Lizeth Gonzalez and Grant King	DHCD, DLTA
Taunton	Section 3A Technical Assistance	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Taylor Perez, Rob Cabral	DHCD, local
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, Lisa Estrela-Pedro, Jackie Jones, Grant King	MassDOT, DLTA, MA
Taunton	Open Space and Recreation Plan Update	Complete	Environmental	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	Section 3A Technical Assistance	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Taylor Perez, Rob Cabral	MHP, Barr Foundation
Westport	Housing Production Plan (Tier 1, Phase 1)	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Taylor Perez	DLTA, local