

**June 28, 2023**  
6:30 PM Regular Meeting  
**Remote SRPEDD Commission Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89971513461?pwd=S2t1TkpnUVZsYlNZeFVFc0ZnZz09>

**AGENDA**

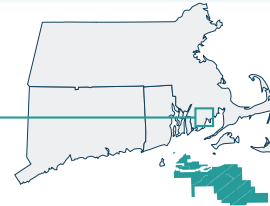
1. Call to Order, Introductions, and Welcome to New and Returning Members
2. ~~Presentation~~: A. Veilleux, Comm. Relations Specialist- Eversource, on the subject of the SE Mass Clean Grid project (*Deferred until Sept mtg at request of presenter*)
3. Approval of Minutes – May 24, 2023\* (*Vote requested*)
4. Swearing-In for 2023-2024 Commissioners who have not yet had opportunity to do so
5. Reports
  - a. Chair
  - b. Executive Director
6. Consent Agenda
  - a. Contracts (*No contracts this month*)
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*)
    - Election/Re-election of Two MPO Members, per Bylaws, to Fill Seats of MPO Members whose Terms are Expiring \*
8. Programs and Project Updates:
  - a. Comprehensive Program Update
  - b. Environmental Program Update (inclusive of MEPA report)
9. Funding Availability Notifications and Letter of Support Requests
  - a. DHCD One Stop – Town of Dighton Housing Production Plan
  - b. DHCD One Stop – Town of Middleborough BID/placemaking
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:** July 26, 2023; September 27, 2023; October 25, 2023;  
December 6, 2023; January 24, 2024

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

\*Attached

# Southeastern Massachusetts Clean Grid Project



The Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER) is submitting an application to the Department of Energy, in partnership with Eversource, for funds through the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (IIJA) for a Project designed to advance the Commonwealth's clean energy goals.

The Southeastern Massachusetts (SEMA) Clean Grid Project is comprised of two main components:

## 1. Offshore Wind Point of Interconnection & Transmission Line

- A new 345 kV substation, located in Mattapoisett, would create a new point of interconnection for offshore wind (OSW) resources.
- A new 345 kV transmission path on the South Coast designed to enable interconnection and delivery of 1,200 MW of OSW and complete the 345 kV loop that provides a pathway for delivery of OSW energy from Cape Cod to the rest of the Commonwealth.

## 2. Solar Collector Station

- A new 115/14 kV substation, located in the New Bedford/Freetown area designed to enable interconnection and delivery of 300 MW of solar generation. This substation will address a growing solar interconnection queue on the South Coast and facilitate delivery of clean energy to customers in the Boston area and more broadly across the Commonwealth.

This project will unlock the regions offshore wind potential, provide The Commonwealth and the New England Region with clean energy more cost-effectively, deliver clean energy to the communities who desperately need it, increase reliability, and provide the infrastructure to increase grid resilience.

20230628 SRP EDD Commission Mtg

# EVERSOURCE

New 345 kV Switching Station adjacent to the Crystal Spring Station in **Mattapoisett, Mass.**  
97 Miles from BOEM Lease Area

Offshore Wind Integration Site for **1200 MW**

~60 miles of new, **foundational** on-shore backbone transmission

Increases **energy grid resiliency** by adding a 345 kV path within Southeastern Mass.

**Advances** New England & Massachusetts' **Clean Energy Goals**

Increases the workforce and improves job opportunities to **Southeastern Mass. Communities**



**Substantial** economic development expected in Southeastern Mass.

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# The Cleaner Grid New England Project

Funding Opportunity Announcement DE-FOA-0002740, Grid Innovation Program (Topic Area 3)  
BIL – Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnership (GRIP)

**EVERSOURCE**



**nationalgrid**

# Grid Innovation Program (GIP) Overview

## Grid Innovation Program Primary Objectives:

- Ensure reliable grid operations
- Improve overall grid resilience
- Enhance collaboration between and among eligible entities and private and public sector owners and operators on grid resilience
- Contribute to the decarbonization of the electricity and broader energy system
- Provide enhanced system value, improve current and future system cost-effectiveness and deliver economic benefits

The Program will invest up to \$5 billion in innovation and new approaches to transmission, distribution, storage, and regional resilience.

- Projects are subject to a 50% minimum cost share of total costs.
- Maximum federal funding awarded per entity is \$250 million (\$1 billion for inter-regional projects).
- Projects are required to be completed within 8 years.

20230628 SRPEDD Commission Mtg



### Grid Innovation Program

Funded through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), the Grid Innovation Program (40103(b)) support projects that use innovative approaches to transmission, storage, and distribution infrastructure to enhance grid resilience and reliability. Projects selected under this program will include interregional transmission projects, investments that accelerate interconnection of clean energy generation, and utilization of distribution grid assets to provide backup power and reduce transmission requirements. Innovative approaches can range from use of advanced technologies to innovative partnerships to the deployment of projects identified by innovative planning processes.

The Grid Innovation Program will invest up to \$5 billion (\$1 billion/year for Fiscal Years 2022-2026) in innovation and new approaches to transmission, distribution, storage, and regional resilience. The first funding cycle will include both FY22 and FY23, up to \$2 billion. Projects are subject to a 50% cost share minimum.

Eligible entities include:

- A State
- A combination of 2 or more States
- An Indian Tribe
- A unit of local government
- A Public Utility Commission

Concept Papers are due **January 13, 2023**. DOE will provide a response to Concept Papers by March 2023. Full Applications are due **May 19, 2023**. Applicants are allowed to submit more than one Concept Paper, provided that each describes a unique project.

### Grid Innovation Program Primary Objectives:

- ▶ Ensure reliable grid operations
- ▶ Improve overall grid resilience
- ▶ Enhance collaboration between and among eligible entities and private and public sector owners and operators on grid resilience
- ▶ Contribute to the decarbonization of the electricity and broader energy system
- ▶ Provide enhanced system value, improve current and future system cost-effectiveness and deliver economic benefits

### Areas of Interest for Applications:

- ▶ Transmission capacity enhancements
- ▶ Advanced distribution grid assets and functionality
- ▶ Combined systems demonstrating innovative approaches

\*\*\*UPDATED AS OF DECEMBER 15, 2022. SUBJECT TO CHANGE\*\*\*



# The Cleaner Grid New England Project (CGNE Project)

**EVERSOURCE**

**nationalgrid**

## **Southeastern Mass (SEMA) Clean Grid Project**

- 345 kV South Coast Transmission Line, 345 kV Substation for Offshore Wind, interconnect the 345 kV Transmission Line with the existing network
- 115/14 kV South Coast Substation for Solar DER

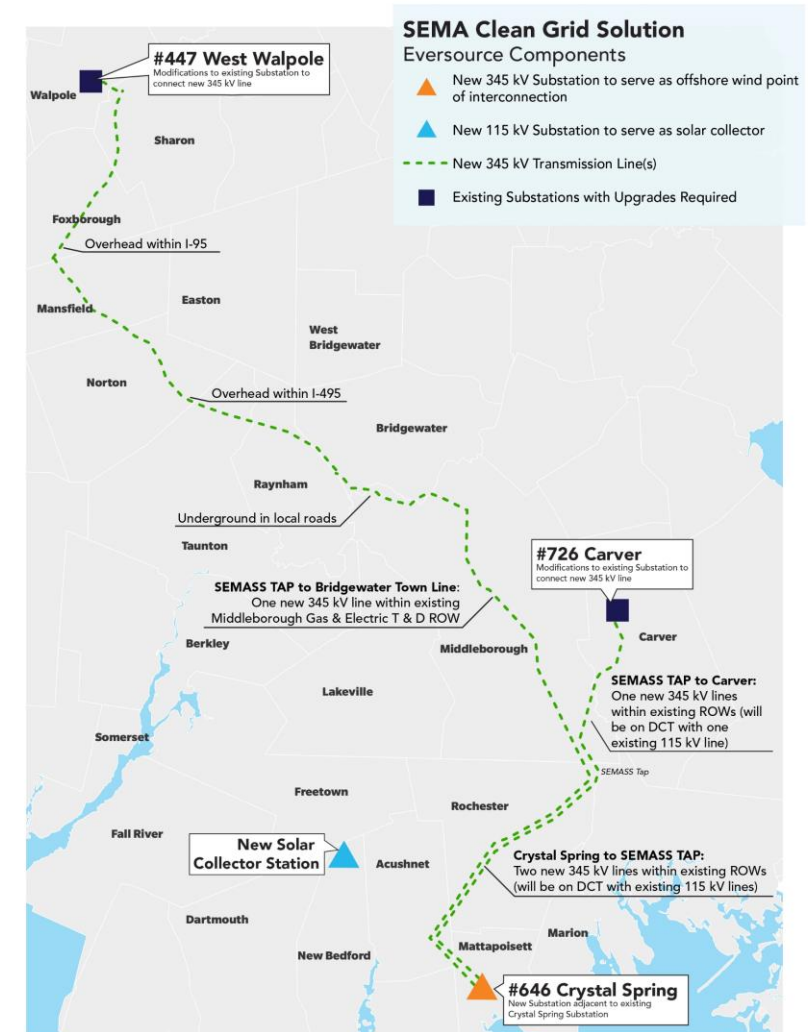
## **CGNE Project**

## **Greener Grid Brayton Point (GGBP) Project**

- New 345 kV GIS and 115 kV Upgrades at Grand Army
- 345 kV Onshore Hub to interconnect additional Offshore Wind at Brayton Point
- 345 kV /115 kV Transmission Line Reconductoring
- Grid Enhancing Technology: Dynamic Line Rating

# CGNE Project: Eversource SEMA Clean Grid Project

- 1. Offshore Wind POI & 345 kV path** - New 345 kV transmission lines, a new 345 kV substation, and establish connections to existing 345 kV substations.
  - The new 345 kV substation, located in Mattapoisett, would create a new point of interconnection for OSW resources that is attractive due to its proximity to the federal wind lease areas – only 97 miles from the BOEM lease area.
  - The 345 kV transmission path on the South Coast designed to enable interconnection and delivery of 1,200 MW of OSW at a new point of interconnection.
  - The 345 kV transmission path in southeastern MA is also designed to complete the 345 kV loop that enables interconnection and provides an alternate pathway for delivery of OSW energy from Cape Cod to the rest of the Commonwealth.
- 2. Solar Collector Station** –New 115/14 kV substation on the South Coast, designed to enable interconnection and delivery of 300 MW of DER solar.
  - New 115/14 kV substation, located in the New Bedford/Freetown area, and connections with the 115 kV network serves to address a growing solar interconnection queue on the South Coast, collect the solar energy output in the South Coast area, and facilitate delivery of clean energy to customers in the Boston area and more broadly across the Commonwealth.





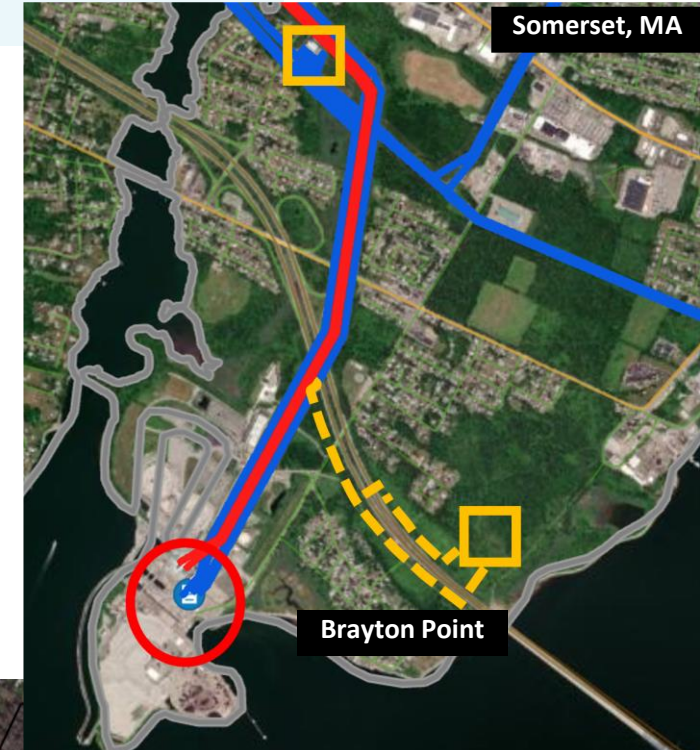
# CGNE Project: National Grid

## Greener Grid Brayton Point Project

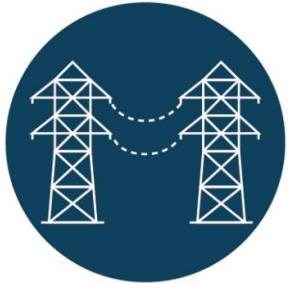
nationalgrid

- 1. Onshore Wind Hub** - New 345 kV indoor gas-insulated substation (GIS). Connects to the existing 115 kV Grand Army substation.
  - Designed to resolve onshore congestion triggered by high volumes of OSW, efficiently distributing the power and mitigating required upgrades to other parts of the system.
  - Will utilize the existing 345 kV ROW. The existing two 345 kV lines will be segmented into four lines with the new 345 kV GIS.
- 2. Offshore Wind POI** – New 345 kV substation and connect lines on National Grid-owned land near the existing Brayton Point substation.
  - Enables greater interconnection points for future OSW and battery energy storage systems (BESS). Also allows for a future landing point of a mesh connection from another region or devices that may be required to regulate system voltage.
- 3. Reconductoring** - Reconductoring two existing 345 kV lines between the Brayton Point and Grand Army substations. National Grid also proposes to reconductor 2.6 miles of two existing 115 kV lines.
- 4. Adding Dynamic Line Rating (DLR)** to the 345 kV lines between Brayton Point and Grand Army substations.
  - DLR will improve the efficiency of existing transmission line utilization by providing real-time monitoring of transmission line capacity. Advantage of this approach is the use of higher transmission line capacity when local weather conditions (e.g., wind speed) are more favorable while also complying with limitations (e.g., maximum conductor).

Map of Brayton Point Area. Red oval represents existing Brayton Point substation. Orange rectangle (right) represents new Onshore Hub for OSW. Orange rectangle (top) represents the New Grand Army substation.



# CGNE Project: Benefits



- Combined, the CGMA Project enables approximately 3,600 MW of offshore wind generation and 300 MW solar generation.
- Allows Massachusetts and the New England region to interconnect additional wind resources more cost-effectively, while delivering substantial economic and community benefits.
- Reduces transmission capacity constraints and congestion for offshore wind, delivering more clean energy at a lower cost to the communities within the region.
- Increases resiliency by adding a 345 kV path within Southeastern Mass, ensuring integration of OSW from the Cape, Brayton Point and Crystal Springs.
- Reduces time to interconnect, which will decrease developer attrition and restudy
- Promotes onshore readiness, which will reduce developer uncertainty
- Expected to create several hundred clean energy industry jobs for the region
- Holistic planning approach supports economic growth in Southeastern Massachusetts



# CGNE Project: Next Steps

- **Community outreach and coordination** – ongoing throughout life of Project
- **MA DOER (lead applicant) to submit application to US DOE** – May 19, 2023
- **Anticipated Award Selection Date** – Fall 2023
- **Eversource and National Grid to File Transmission Rate Schedules at FERC** – Fall 2023
- **Advance Project Designs** – 2023 & 2024
- **Begin Pre-Engineering** – Winter/ Spring 2024
- **Required In-Service Date, Pending Award Selection** - 2030

## AGENDA ITEM: Minutes, # 3

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SRPEDD Business Meeting- Draft Minutes  
May 24, 2023  
Loon Pond Lodge, Lakeville

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

J. Kelley, Acushnet	S. Boucher Acushnet	R. Cote, Berkley	D. Pettey, Freetown
L. Carboni, Lakeville	A. Horowitz, Mansfield	N. Hills, Marion	L. Bradley, Middleb.
J. Ponte, N.B.	M. Clarner, No. Attle.	W. Costa, Rehoboth	P. Dunn, Seekonk
R. Peirce, Somerset	J. Pateakos, Taunton	A. Slavin, Wareham	S. Quirk, Wareham
J. Whitin, Westport	G. Saddler, F.R A/L	T. Lobo, Taunton A/L	

**Guests/Staff:**

J. Walker, SRPEDD

**Absent:**

F. Uriot, Attleboro	G. Ayrassian, Attleboro	S. Leary, Berkley	T. Bott, Carver
C. Vitale, Dartmouth	C. O'Neil, Dartmouth	J. Carvalho, Dighton	R. Espindola, Fairh.
D. Braga, Fairhaven	M. Sweet Dart. (Alt.)	D. Aguiar, Fall River	J. Ferreira, Fall River
V. A. Duran, Freetown	J. Henry, Marion	R. Burgmann, Mattap.	M. Germain, Middleb.
L. Pirnie, No. Attle.	S. Ollerhead, Norton	S. Warchal, Norton	C. Desprez, Plainville
C. Yarworth, Plainville	C. Gallagher, Raynham	C. Sullivan, Raynham	N. Durfee, Rochester
N. McDonald, Somer.	J. Hansen, Swansea	G. Hovorka, Swansea	M. Monteiro, Taunton
S. Ouellette, Westport	C. Feerick, Attleboro A/L	A. Eaton, NB A/L	

Attendance sheet is available from the Annual meeting if any would like to view.

- 1. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chairman Alan Slavin at 5:30 P.M.
- 2. Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made to approve the April 26, 2023 minutes with one abstention.  
VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.
- 3. Confirmation of At-Large Commissioners:** Chairman Slavin explained the procedure for At-large Commissioner selection. Vice Chair Clarner read the below confirmation.

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 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 (2)	Gloria Saddler	Bristol Black Collective
New Bedford Area (2)	Ashley Eaton*	Neighborhood Planner in the City's Office of Housing and Community Dev.
Taunton	Tanya Lobo	True Diversity, Inc.

*\*currently serving*

The following resolution was made and seconded. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

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 as members of the SRPEDD Commission.

- 4. Election of Officers and Executive Committee:** The Nominating Committee met on May 15, 2023. The Committee consists of the following below: Leeann Bradley- Middleboro (Chair), Jim Howland- Taunton, Victoria D'Antoni- Freetown, and Greenwood Hartley- Rochester.

#### **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  
Secretary – Norm Hills, Marion  
Immediate Past Chair – Alan Slavin, Wareham

There were no nominations from the floor, and the Chair requested a motion to have the Vice Chair cast one ballot for the slate as presented.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Officers. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY. A vote was cast for the slate of officers.

The Executive Committee proposed 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**

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 III, Rochester

**Planning Board Appointees (4)**

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

The Chairman requested a motion to have the Secretary cast one ballot for the slate as presented. The motion was made and seconded to accept the slate of officers. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

**5. Reports:**

- a. **Chair:** Chairman Slavin mentioned that this would be his last meeting as Chair and Ms. Clarner would be the new Chair.
- b. **Executive Director:** Mr. Walker welcomed all the new Commissioners in attendance, thanking both them and returning Members for their service to their communities and SRPEDD region. He referenced that the annual meeting to follow was an opportunity to not only to look back on a progress-filled year, but to enjoy an evening of fellowship with counterparts, friends and family from across southeast Massachusetts, and look ahead to what promises to be another busy and productive year ahead. Lastly, for new Members, he mentioned there would be an upcoming remote Orientation/Information Session to be held in June (date, shortly *t.b.a.*), and to please keep an eye out for an email announcement.

**6. Consent Agenda:**

- a. **Contracts:** Chairman Slavin referred the Commission to the contract below. The Chairman read the following contract 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 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.

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

**7. Committee Reports:**

- a. **Finance Committee:** Mr. Horowitz mentioned 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.

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

Mr. Horowitz mentioned 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. He read the list of staff members that were contributed for their performance.

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

- b. **Joint Transportation Planning Group/MPO:** Mr. Walker referred the Commission to the JTPG and SMMPO meeting minutes in the packet starting on page 12. He mentioned if any had questions to please contact Ms. Estrela-Pedro

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

- c. **Regional Economic Strategies Committee:** Mr. Walker referred the members to page 22 of the meeting packet and mentioned that the RESC will be having a meeting and Networking Night on June 14, 2023 at 5:30 PM at Brack's Grille & Tap in Taunton. He mentioned this meeting will be to kick-off the new hybrid format which will offer in-person networking events twice a year. Mr. Walker also mentioned that this is an open call for new Committee members to diversify and reinvigorate the committee. He mentioned if any would like to join, they can contact Lizeth Gonzalez at [lgonzalez@srpedd.org](mailto:lgonzalez@srpedd.org) by June 1, 2023.

- 8. **Funding Availability Notifications and Letters of Support:** Mr. Walker referred the Commissioners to page 23 of the meeting packet. He explained the letter of support for the Town of Middleborough's Community One Stop for Growth grant application.

## 9. Programs and Project Updates:

- a. **Environmental Program Update and area MEPA projects:** Mr. Walker referred the members to the Environmental Program update and mentioned if any Commissioner had questions, they could contact Ms. Zincavage at [hzincavage@srpedd.org](mailto:hzincavage@srpedd.org).

## 10. Old Business:

- a. **Technical Assistance:** Chairman Slavin referred to the traditional monthly update on projects contained in the packets. He requested that if any had questions to please reach out to Mr. King at [gking@srpedd.org](mailto:gking@srpedd.org).

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

**11. New Business:** None.

**12. Roundtable: Opportunity for Commissioners to provide updates on local topics, projects or matters of regional interest:** None

**13. Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 PM. The next Commission meeting will be on Wednesday, June 28, 2023, at 6:30 P.M via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

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Norman Hills, Secretary

Date: 6/28/2023

No contracts this month.

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

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The Finance Committee met on June 21, 2023 at SRPEDD Office and remotely via Zoom. The May 17, 2023 Finance meeting minutes were approved. The Treasurer's Report for May 2023 received, and a warrant for expenses signed-off on in the amount of \$167,465.04.

Cash & Funds: May 1, 2023	\$1,226,648.29
Cash Receipts: May 1 – 31, 2023	<u>\$ 241,171.68</u>
Total Cash Accounted for:	<b>\$1,467,819.97</b>
Disbursements: May 1 – 31, 2023	\$ 309,370.13
Cash & Funds: May 31, 2023	<u>\$1,158,449.84</u>
Total Cash Accounted for:	<b>\$1,467,819.97</b>

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



**Joint Transportation Planning Group (JTPG) Meeting**  
**DRAFT Minutes for the JTPG Meeting**

**Held on Wednesday, May 10, 2023 at 2:00 PM as a Hybrid Meeting**  
**via Zoom and at SRPEDD Office, 88 Broadway, Taunton, MA**  
**in Accordance with Massachusetts Open Meeting Law.**

**The following members and alternates were in attendance:**

Stephanie Crampton, Chair.....City of New Bedford  
 Tim Barber.....Town of Dartmouth  
 Michael Mullen.....Town of Dighton  
 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  
 Leanne Bradley.....Town of Middleborough  
 David Cabral.....Town of Seekonk  
 Fred Cornaglia.....City of Taunton  
 Alan Slavin.....Town of Wareham  
 James Hartnett.....Town of Westport

**Members/alternates from the following municipalities were NOT in attendance:**

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

**Also in Attendance:**

Raissah Kouame.....MassDOT	Jennifer Chaves.....SRPEDD
Barbara Lachance.....MassDOT	Sean Hilton.....SRPEDD
Joshua Crabb.....Town of Fairhaven	Andrea Duarte.....SRPEDD
Jim Howland.....City of Taunton	Mark Gershman.....BETA Group
Kathy Holton.....City of Taunton	Lisa Sherman.....CDM Smith
Lisa Estrela-Pedro.....SRPEDD	Phil Viveiros.....McMahon &
Lilia Cabral-Bernard.....SRPEDD	Associates
Jackie Jones.....SRPEDD	

**Handouts:**

JTPG Meeting Agenda for May 10, 2023  
 DRAFT April 12, 2023, JTPG 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  
Michael Mullen.....Town of Dighton  
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  
Leanne Bradley.....Town of Middleborough  
David Cabral.....Town of Seekonk  
Fred Cornaglia.....City of Taunton  
Alan Slavin.....Town of Wareham  
James Hartnett.....Town of Westport

### 2. Approval of Minutes – April 12, 2023 (Materials Attached & roll call vote needed)

Chair Stephanie Crampton called for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2023 meeting. Victoria D'Antoni made the motion and James Hartnett seconded the motion. Ms. Duarte then called the roll:

City of New Bedford.....Yes	Town of Mansfield, alternate.....Yes
Town of Dartmouth.....Yes	Town of Marion.....Yes
Town of Dighton.....Yes	Town of Middleborough.....Abstain
City of Fall River.....Yes	Town of Seekonk.....Abstain
Town of Freetown, alternate.....Yes	City of Taunton.....Yes
Town of Lakeville.....Yes	Town of Wareham.....Yes
Town of Mansfield.....Yes	Town of Westport .....Yes

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

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

Leanne Bradley stated that during the last SRPEDD meeting there was a discussion about the shortage of GATRA bus drivers and a comment was made by the Undersecretary of MassDOT that the state is exploring making changes to requirements for receiving a CDL license. She asked for clarification about which requirements would be revised, stating her concern for safety. Lisa Estrela-Pedro responded that SRPEDD would check in with the regional transit authorities about this and relay the updates to Ms. Bradley.

### 4. Draft Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan Presentation

Jennifer Chaves presented an overview of the draft 2023 Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan to the group, which is available on the SRPEDD [website](#). The CHST Plan identifies current transportation providers and services in the SRPEDD region, and includes transportation options that are listed in GATRA's Ride Match regional directory of private/public/non-profit transportation services. The Plan identifies unmet transportation needs and service gaps for seniors, people with disabilities and people with low incomes. It defines some potential strategies to address the unmet needs which are used as evaluation criteria for organizations/RTAs/municipalities applying for federal 5310 funding, and it identifies priorities for the funding of grant proposals in the SRPEDD region.

The CHST Plan was developed with input from human services and community organizations and agencies, transit providers, and the public. SRPEDD's CHST public engagement process included ongoing collection of information since the last plan was released in 2018, meetings and agency surveys with varying involvement from 50 organizations and agencies who were willing to participate, an unmet transportation needs public survey, 4 public meetings in May to present the draft CHST Plan and gather feedback, and a meeting to present the draft CHST plan to the group of 50 stakeholders. Ride Match and GATRA and SRTA's 2021 comprehensive service assessments also helped identify service gaps and regional needs.

The 25 respondents to the agency survey identified medical and employment-related trips as the types of trips with the highest unmet need, and Taunton, Dighton, Fairhaven, and Mattapoisett as the communities with the highest unmet need. Respondents to the agency survey, largely representing Taunton, New Bedford, and North Attleborough and majority of whom were seniors and/or low-income, stated that they needed to travel beyond their RTA area and their city/town but had difficulty doing so; the areas they reported having the most difficulty getting to were Boston, Fall River, Providence, and Taunton. 42% stated that they missed work or were unable to get/accept a job due to a lack of transportation; 23% stated that they missed a doctor appointment due to lack of transportation.

The overall unmet need for alternative transportation modes continues to increase. As Southeastern MA populations continue to age, the need for transportation services to and from medical appointments, especially longer distance, is rapidly increasing. Survey respondents reported having trouble getting to hospitals and medical facilities in Brockton, Boston, Taunton, Cape Cod, Fall River, Foxboro, Providence. Some municipalities have no options for long-distance medical transportation (programs that have volunteer drivers for medical appointments reported having major driver shortages, and some towns had drivers but no ADA accessible vehicles). There are large gaps in transit service to jobs in suburban areas, especially large industrial parks (such as those in Taunton and New Bedford). The lack of connections between cities and towns is a major barrier for riders. There's an urgent need for better connections between RTAs, between gateway cities, and between transportation providers. Some connections identified as need in surveys/meetings were: Fall River to Taunton; Taunton to Brockton; Fall River to Brockton, Taunton to Providence, Fall River to Providence, and several others. There is also an unmet need for expanded transit service in early morning and evening hours during the week and Saturday/Sunday and for more frequent service across all types of transportation trips.

Travel training and education about existing services continues to be important, and an area for improvement and increased coordination. Many people aren't aware about transportation services they qualify for from their healthcare plan for medical appointments or how to navigate them. Some were not aware about how GATRA's bus flagging system works and didn't know they could flag the bus down to get on/off where there are no stops. Some town officials were not aware that certain transit services exist in their municipalities or about general needs for transit/alternative transportation services among residents.

Ms. Chaves stated that the next steps were that the draft CHST Plan will be presented to the SMMPO the following week where it will vote on releasing the draft to a 21-day comment period. SRPEDD will continue to hold public and stakeholder meetings relating to CHST-identified issues and the draft will be updated with comment received. SRPEDD aims to release the final 2023 CHST Plan in July. Ms. Chaves offered to send hard copies of the plan to members upon request.

## **5. Draft FFY24-28 TIP Discussion & Update**

Jackie Jones provided recent updates on the FFY2024-2028 TIP and a summary of TIP project lists discussed at previous JTPG meetings. Ms. Jones stated that the TIP is often thought of as a collection of project lists, but she wanted to ensure members were aware of all the other pieces that go into this document. In addition to the project lists it also has an equity analysis that looks at how projects and funding are distributed throughout the region to different populations. There is a greenhouse gas emission analysis which evaluates projects' impacts on greenhouse gas emissions. The TIP also discusses project evaluation criteria, information on project development, and an analysis of how the projects connect to previous planning that SRPEDD and other agencies have done. There's a description of projects' funding categories, financial plans, and information on the processes that the SMMPO body and SRPEDD engage in. The full document is on the SRPEDD website. Ms. Jones encouraged the group to read through and see everything that goes into the TIP.

Ms. Jones provided a summary of the project lists for each year and recent updates since the last meeting. The draft FFY24-28 TIP was released to the public at the last SMMPO meeting in April. During the public comment period, SRPEDD received six letters of support related to programming the Taunton River Trail Project. SRPEDD held a public meeting for the TIP on May 4 but did not receive any comments there.

Many projects that were originally programmed in FFY2024 were moved to FFY2025 due to delays in readiness. The two remaining 2024 projects are the Taunton corridor improvements and related work on Broadway through 138 and the Wareham corridor improvements on Route 6. There is a large remaining balance of 14 million in FFY2024. SRPEDD is expecting the projects that are currently programmed will increase in costs and eat up some of that surplus. SRPEDD is also working MassDOT and the regional transit authorities to identify projects that will utilize this remaining balance and will amend the project list accordingly when the FFY2024-28 TIP becomes active in the next federal fiscal year which starts in October 2023. Ms. Jones reiterated that readiness is key and the faster municipalities get projects ready, the better chances they will have in moving up on the TIP. There is a balance of \$320,000 in FFY2026, that will also very likely get eaten up by cost increases. FFY2027 is very similar to the current FFY2023-27 TIP, Attleboro Route 123 corridor improvements were added to this year. In FFY2027, there is a remaining balance of \$2,843,000; not many proposed projects are less than that amount, particularly as costs increase each year, but SRPEDD is hopeful to have smaller projects in the future.

Ms. Jones explained that the current project list for FFY2028 looked slightly different than it did at the April JTPG meeting and the one before that, when the JTPG voted on a list of projects for FFY2028 that included Swansea Route 118 corridor improvements, Dartmouth Cross Road improvements, and New Bedford County Street improvements. The JTPG voted for the slate of projects in scenario #3 and this vote was recommended to the SMMPO. At the April SMMPO meeting, however, a motion was made to replace scenario #3 with scenario #2, and the SMMPO moved forward with the slate of projects in scenario #2. Ms. Jones stated that, while it has happened before, this is an unusual scenario as the SMMPO usually takes the recommendation of the JTPG. Ms. Jones apologized to the body that it happened this way and explained that SRPEDD will hold some more discussions with members of both bodies to clarify their roles moving forward. SRPEDD is planning to hold a TIP development workshop in the fall that will provide more



information on how to develop projects, how to get them on the TIP, and everything that goes into the TIP process.

The FFY2028 TIP project list now includes the Wareham shared-use path which was moved out from FFY2025, the Taunton River Trail, and the New Bedford corridor improvements on Tarkiln Hill Road and Ashley Boulevard. The project lists for GATRA include renovating the Attleboro commuter rail station, vehicle purchases, renovations, and a solar project. The SRTA project lists include acquiring vehicles, replacing old equipment, and renovation and rehabilitation of SRTA facilities. Ms. Jones stated that the FFY2024-28 TIP is currently out for public comment and will face a vote for approval by the SMMPO the following week. She told JTPG members that they could provide comment right now or by email to [jjones@srpedd.org](mailto:jjones@srpedd.org).

Josh Reinke asked Ms. Jones to confirm that the change in funding sources for the Mansfield Route 106 project did not show up on Ms. Jones' list of projects because it is a statewide project to which she answered yes.

#### **6. Draft FFY24 UPWP Presentation (Roll Call Vote Needed to Recommend to SMMPO for Release to a Minimum 21-day Public Comment Period)**

Ms. Estrela-Pedro gave the group a brief overview of the draft FFY2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) document that SRPEDD staff developed and is asking the body to recommend to the SMMPO for release to a 21-day public comment period. Ms. Estrela-Pedro told the group that the draft FFY2024 UPWP is available for download on the SRPEDD [website](#) and the link would be emailed following the meeting. The UPWP is required for the SMMPO to administer Federal Highway and FTA planning funds. It is updated annually and will commence on October 1 2023, and will go through September 30, 2024. It includes a scope of work for what the SRPEDD Transportation staff will be working on in the coming year. It also includes detailed deliverables, who is going to perform the work, the timeframe for completing the work, and the cost. The UPWP is built on guidance from the BIL which builds upon the FAST ACT and MAP 21 in strengthening our highways, supporting MassDOT's safety agenda, promoting alternative modes of transportation, improving healthy sustainable transportation, creating jobs, and supporting our economic growth as well as addressing climate change and promoting equity for all modes of transportation. The funding for the FFY2024 UPWP is approximately \$1.7 million.

There are three elements to the UPWP. There are tasks with higher funds which SRPEDD staff spends more time on, for example, the 3C tasks, data management and GIS, as well as management systems and environmental coordination. In Element 1, management support of the planning process, the 3C item includes technical assistance to the SMMPO, JTPG, SRPEDD Commission, and SRPEDD communities. It also includes reviews of MEPA documents, and staff training and support. Under the public participation task, SRPEDD staff conducts outreach and support for the JTPG and the SMMPO, in addition to providing updates on transportation issues via social media and other outlets. Under the Environmental Justice task, SRPEDD conducts annual Title VI reporting, maintains the geographic database on EJ and Title VI populations, conducts the equity analysis for the TIP. Under the UPWP task this task, SRPEDD staff develops its work program on an annual basis and reviews tasks frequently to ensure deliverables are being produced. Under the TIP task, staff develops the Transportation Improvement Program. Some additional items that SRPEDD is including in the UPWP this year under the TIP task include creating a TIP workshop that will be held in person and updating SRPEDD's TIP evaluation criteria. In the past, SRPEDD convened a body of stakeholders to help update criteria and will plan to do this again.

In Element 2, regional data collection, modeling and analysis activities, SRPEDD will continue to maintain all of its data, including land use, crash, and park and ride lots data. Under the modeling tasks, SRPEDD staff

will continue to update its model which will be used to assist with corridor studies, providing traffic growth rates that are often requested by consultants. SRPEDD will continue the traffic counting program. Under pavement management, SRPEDD will continue to serve federal aid-eligible roads which is done on a three-year rotating basis. Under performance measures, SRPEDD will continue to monitor regional and statewide targets. Under the Community Technical Assistance task, SRPEDD will continue to take requests as they come in from SRPEDD communities and will complete them based on the availability of our SRPEDD staff. Usually SRPEDD has been able to meet all of the requests.

Element 3, the activities and studies element, is the meat of the UPWP. Under the management systems task, SRPEDD Transportation staff usually assist SRPEDD's Comprehensive department in doing traffic analysis for some of its studies. This year, SRPEDD will be conducting a corridor study of Route 28 through Middleborough, Rochester, and Wareham. Under the bicycle and pedestrian planning task, SRPEDD staff will be updating the Regional Pedestrian Plan and will be launching a bicycle parking program similar to what SRPEDD has done in the past, where communities will have the opportunity to purchase bike racks. Under the ITS task, SRPEDD staff will continue its efforts with coordination with other stakeholders as well. In the environmental coordination and climate change resilience, SRPEDD's environmental department will convert what was previously SRPEDD's GRIP inventory into a database to assist in project development and implementation. Under mobility management and regional transit support, SRPEDD is looking to revive what some may have known in the past as SERCCOT, the Southeast Regional Coordinating Council on Transportation, to help inform stakeholders about transit needs in the region and address these needs. SRPEDD is aiming to have the SMMPO release the draft FFY2024 UPWP for a minimum 21 day comment period on May 16. Ms. Estrela-Pedro told the group to email herself or anyone else in the transportation department at any time with questions or comments about the document. SRPEDD will be hosting a public meeting for the draft FFY2024 UPWP and draft 2023 CHST Plan and will get the information out as well. SRPEDD is aiming to have the UPWP document endorsed on June 20 at the June SMMPO meeting.

Hearing no questions, the Chair asked for a motion to release the draft FFY2024 UPWP to a 21-day comment period. Leanne Bradley made the motion and Fred Cornaglia seconded. Ms. Duarte then called the roll:

City of New Bedford.....Yes	Town of Mansfield, alternate.....Yes
Town of Dartmouth.....Yes	Town of Marion.....Yes
Town of Dighton.....Yes	Town of Middleborough.....Yes
City of Fall River.....Yes	Town of Seekonk.....Yes
Town of Freetown, alternate.....Yes	City of Taunton.....Yes
Town of Lakeville.....Yes	Town of Wareham.....Yes
Town of Mansfield.....Yes	Town of Westport .....Yes

## **THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **7. Other Business**

Ms. Duarte reminded JTPG members to submit JTPG (re)appointment forms by May 15<sup>th</sup>. The annual elections for the JTPG will happen at the June JTPG meeting and Ms. Duarte encouraged members to plan on attending the June meeting if they would like to be part of that process. Ms. Duarte informed the group that MassDOT together with SRPEDD will be hosting a public meeting via Zoom on May 31 at 6:00 PM to discuss MassDOT's 5-Year Capital Investment Plan (CIP), it is an opportunity to learn about how MassDOT is spending its funds and voice any concerns. The registration [link](#) was sent following the meeting. Ms. Duarte reminded the group 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 SRPEDD's process for updating the 2023 Regional Transportation Plan and Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan. The remaining open houses will be held on the following dates at these locations:

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

Fall River Public Library, May 17th, 4:30-7:30pm

Taunton Public Library, May 23rd, 4-7pm

Ms. Estrela-Pedro encouraged JTPG members to attend SRPEDD's annual dinner on May 24<sup>th</sup> at Loon Pond Lodge in Lakeville and stated the registration link would be emailed to JTPG members following the meeting.

Lilia Cabral-Bernard announced to the group that this is her last JTPG meeting as she will be retiring in June. She thanked members for their hard work and attendance at JTPG meetings. JTPG members congratulated and thanked Ms. Cabral-Bernard

Joshua Crabb announced that Paul Foley resigned from his position as Planning Director in Fairhaven effective April 29<sup>th</sup>, is no longer at the Town, and that Mr. Crabb is now filling in for him.

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

Date and Time for next meeting is June 14, 2023, at 2:00 PM

#### **9. Adjourn**

The Chair asked members to state all in favor to adjourn. Hearing no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 3:38 PM.

**Draft Minutes of the Southeastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (SMMPO) Meeting  
on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at 1:00 PM - Held remotely via Zoom.**

**The following members were in attendance:**

Stephen Woelfel-----Representing Gina Fiandaca, MassDOT Secretary and CEO, **Chair**  
Richard Bilski-----Representing Jonathan Gulliver, MassDOT Highway Div. Administrator  
Cathleen DeSimone-----Mayor of Attleboro  
Daniel Aguiar-----Representing Paul Coogan, Mayor of Fall River  
Jamie Ponte-----Representing Jon Mitchell, Mayor of New Bedford  
James Howland-----Representing Shaunna O’Connell, Mayor of Taunton  
Robert Espindola-----Town of Fairhaven  
Kevin Dumas-----Representing Diana Bren, Town of Mansfield  
Mark Germain-----Town of Middleborough  
Lloyd Mendes-----Town of Somerset  
Alan Slavin-----SRPEDD Commission Chair  
Stacy Forte-----Representing MaryEllen DeFrias, GATRA Administrator  
Shayne Trimbell-----Representing SRTA Administrator Erik Rousseau

**The following were also in attendance:**

John Cogliano-----Blue Apple Bus	Barbara Lachance-----MassDOT
Dana Hanson-----Ofc of Cong. Auchincloss	Lisa Estrela-Pedro-----SRPEDD
Kaylyn Lockyer-----City of Attleboro	Lilia Cabral-Bernard-----SRPEDD
Raissah Kouame-----MassDOT	Andrea Duarte-----SRPEDD
Derek Krevat-----MassDOT	Sean Hilton-----SRPEDD
Derek Shooster-----MassDOT	Jackie Jones-----SRPEDD
Andrew Wang-----MassDOT	Jon Gray-----SRPEDD
Michelle Ho -----MassDOT	

**Handouts:**

SMMPO Agenda May 16, 2023  
SMMPO Draft Meeting Minutes April 18, 2023  
FFY2023-2027 TIP Proposed Amendment #3  
RTP CHST Library Listening Sessions Flyer  
SMMPO 2023 Self-Nomination Form  
SMMPO Info and Election Bylaws  
Final SMMPO Bylaws

**AGENDA:**

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

Chairman Stephen Woelfel 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	Town of Somerset-----Yes
City of Fall River-----Yes	SRPEDD Commission Chair-----Yes
City of New Bedford-----Yes	GATRA-----Yes
City of Taunton-----Yes	SRTA-----Yes

## 2. Approval of Minutes – April 18, 2023 (Materials Attached and Roll Call Vote Needed)

Chairman Woelfel requested a motion to approve the minutes from the SMMPO meeting from April 18, 2023. The motion was made by Alan Slavin and seconded by Daniel Aguiar. Ms. Duarte then called the roll:

MassDOT Chair-----	Yes	Town of Fairhaven-----	Yes
MassDOT Administrator-----	Yes	Town of Middleborough-----	Yes
City of Attleboro-----	Yes	Town of Somerset-----	Abstain
City of Fall River-----	Yes	SRPEDD Commission Chair-----	Yes
City of New Bedford-----	Abstain	GATRA-----	Yes
City of Taunton-----	Yes	SRTA-----	Yes

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

## 3. Public Comments

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

## 4. Regional Transit Authorities Report – RTA Updates

Stacy Forte reported that GATRA is moving along with several projects with no further updates at this time. Shayne Trimbell reported that SRTA has several proposed route changes that will affect service in Fall River. The proposed changes resulted from recommendations of the comprehensive operations assessment and aim to help improve the efficiency of operations and eliminate service that is underutilized. Lloyd Mendes asked which routes in Fall River were being slated for service changes, to which Mr. Trimbell responded that all routes except for Route 14 going into Somerset would have some changes, and that the proposed changes are available on SRTA's website. ([www.srtabus.com/publichearings/](http://www.srtabus.com/publichearings/))

## 5. FFY23-27 TIP Proposed Amendment #3 – Highway & GATRA (Materials Attached, Roll Call Vote Needed to Endorse)

Jackie Jones summarized Amendment #3 on the FFY2023-27 TIP which was released for public comment at the last SMMPO meeting. The amendment involves corridor improvements in New Bedford on County Street from Nelson Street to Union Street which increased in cost from \$11 million to \$14 million; the cost increase was covered by statewide funds and does not affect Regional Target Funds. The Marion shared use path construction project was moved to FFY2025 due to readiness, but does not affect Regional Target Funds because it is funded by statewide funds. On the transit side, an adjustment was made to add a state match for a GATRA vehicle replacement project that the federal share had been previously programmed for. There was a public meeting held to discuss this Amendment #3 on May 4 but no public comment was received.

The Chair asked if there were questions, and seeing none, asked for a motion and second to endorse Amendment #3. The motion was made by Alan Slavin and seconded by Jamie Ponte. 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	Town of Somerset-----	Yes
City of Fall River-----	Yes	SRPEDD Commission Chair-----	Yes
City of New Bedford-----	Yes	GATRA-----	Yes
City of Taunton-----	Yes	SRTA-----	Yes

### **THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**6. FFY Draft FFY24-28 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) (Roll Call Vote Needed to Endorse, Inclusive of Certification of the SMMPO Planning Process and the Certification of the Global Warming Solutions Act)**

Ms. Jones reminded the group that the draft FFY2024-28 TIP was released to the public at the last SMMPO meeting in April and that since then MassDOT provided some minor comments mostly related to formatting. SRPEDD received six letters of support related to programming the Taunton River Trail Project. SRPEDD held a public meeting for the TIP on May 4 but did not receive any comments there.

Ms. Jones briefly listed all the other pieces that go into the TIP document in addition to the project lists, which members are voting for when they endorse the TIP. It includes an equity analysis that describes how projects and funding are distributed throughout the region to different populations. There is a greenhouse gas emission analysis which evaluates projects' impacts on greenhouse gas emissions. The TIP also discusses project evaluation criteria, information on project development, and an analysis of how the projects connect to previous planning that SRPEDD and other agencies have done. There's a description of projects' funding categories, financial plans, and information on the processes that the SMMPO body and SRPEDD engage in such as requirements for amendments versus adjustments. The full document is available on the SRPEDD website.

Ms. Jones provided a summary of the project lists for each year. Many projects that were originally programmed in FFY2024 were moved to FFY2025 due to delays in readiness. The two remaining 2024 projects are the Taunton corridor improvements and related work on Broadway through 138 and the Wareham corridor improvements on Route 6. There is a large remaining balance of 14 million in FFY2024. SRPEDD is expecting the projects that are currently programmed will increase in costs and eat up some of that surplus. SRPEDD is also working with MassDOT and the regional transit authorities to identify projects that will utilize this remaining balance and will amend the project list accordingly when the FFY2024-28 TIP becomes active in the next federal fiscal year which starts in October 2023. Ms. Jones reiterated that readiness is key and the faster municipalities get projects ready, the better chances they will have in moving up on the TIP. The Mansfield Route 106 project was picked up by statewide funds and is no longer reflected in SRPEDD's Regional Target Funds for FFY2026. There is a balance of \$320,000 in FFY2026, that will also very likely get eaten up by cost increases. FFY2027 is very similar to the current FFY2023-27 TIP, Attleboro Route 123 corridor improvements were added to this year. In FFY2027, there is a remaining balance of \$2,843,000; not many proposed projects are less than that amount, particularly as costs increase each year, but SRPEDD is hopeful to have smaller projects that might be eligible for these funds in the future.

The project list for FFY2028 includes the Wareham shared-use path, which was moved out from FFY2025, the Taunton River Trail, and the New Bedford corridor improvements on Tarkiln Hill Road and Ashley Boulevard. The project lists for GATRA include renovating the Attleboro commuter rail station, vehicle purchases, renovations, and a solar project. The SRTA project lists include acquiring vehicles, replacing old equipment, and renovation and rehabilitation of SRTA facilities. Ms. Jones stated a minor change was made since the release of the draft FFY24-28 TIP to the public; an ex-officio SMMPO member, Jeff McEwen, was replaced by Joy Singh of FHWA. Ms. Jones read the certification of the SMMPO Transportation Planning Process in addition to the Global Warming Solutions Act Requirements for Transportation into the record.

The Chair asked for a motion and second to endorse the draft TIP as detailed by Ms. Jones. The motion was made by Alan Slavin and seconded by Lloyd Mendes. 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 New Bedford-----Yes  
City of Taunton-----Yes  
Town of Fairhaven-----Yes

Town of Middleborough-----Yes  
Town of Mansfield-----Yes  
Town of Somerset-----Yes  
SRPEDD Commission Chair-----Yes  
GATRA-----Yes  
SRTA-----Yes

**THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**7. Draft FFY24 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) Presentation (Roll Call Vote Needed to Release to 21-day comment period)**

Lisa Estrela-Pedro gave the group a brief overview of the draft FFY2024 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) document that SRPEDD staff developed and is asking the body to release to a 21-day public comment period. Ms. Estrela-Pedro told the group that the draft FFY2024 UPWP is available for download on the SRPEDD [website](#) and the link would be emailed following the meeting. The UPWP is required for the SMMPO to administer Federal Highway and FTA planning funds. It is updated annually and will commence on October 1, 2023 and will go through September 30, 2024. It includes a scope of work for what the SRPEDD Transportation staff will be working on in the coming year. It also includes detailed deliverables, who is going to perform the work, the timeframe for completing the work, and the cost. The UPWP is built on guidance from the BIL which builds upon the FAST ACT and MAP-21 in strengthening our highways, supporting MassDOT's safety agenda, promoting alternative modes of transportation, improving healthy sustainable transportation, creating jobs, and supporting our economic growth, as well as addressing climate change and promoting equity for all modes of transportation. The funding for the FFY2024 UPWP is approximately \$1.7 million.

There are three elements to the UPWP. There are tasks that use up more funding and in which SRPEDD staff spends more time on, for example, the 3C tasks, Data Management and GIS, as well as Management Systems and Environmental Coordination. In Element 1, Management and Support of the Planning Process, the 3C item includes technical assistance to the SMMPO, JTPG, SRPEDD Commission, and SRPEDD communities. It also includes reviews of MEPA documents, and staff training and support. Under the Public Participation task, SRPEDD staff conducts outreach and support for the JTPG and the SMMPO, in addition to providing updates on transportation issues via social media and other outlets. Under the Environmental Justice task, SRPEDD conducts annual Title VI reporting, maintains the geographic database on EJ and Title VI populations, conducts the equity analysis for the TIP. Under the UPWP task SRPEDD staff develops its work program on an annual basis and reviews tasks frequently to ensure deliverables are being produced. Under the TIP task, staff develop the Transportation Improvement Program. Some additional items that SRPEDD is including in the UPWP this year under the TIP task include creating a TIP workshop that will be held in person, and updating SRPEDD's TIP evaluation criteria. In the past, SRPEDD convened a body of stakeholders to help update criteria and plan to do this again.

In Element 2, Regional Data Collection, Modeling and Analysis activities, SRPEDD will continue to maintain all of its data, including land use, crash, and park and ride lots data. Under the Regional Modeling tasks, SRPEDD staff will continue to update its model which will be used to assist with corridor studies, and providing traffic growth rates that are often requested by consultants. SRPEDD will continue the Traffic Counting program. Under Pavement Management, SRPEDD will continue to serve federal aid-eligible roads which is done on a three-year rotating basis. Under Performance Measures, SRPEDD will continue to monitor regional and statewide targets. Under the Community Technical Assistance task, SRPEDD will



continue to take requests as they come in from SRPEDD communities and will complete them based on the availability of our SRPEDD staff. Usually, SRPEDD has been able to meet all of the requests.

Element 3, the Transportation Plan Activities and Studies element, is the meat of the UPWP. Under the Management Systems task, SRPEDD Transportation staff usually assist SRPEDD's Comprehensive Department in doing traffic analysis for some of its studies. This year, SRPEDD will be conducting a corridor study of Route 28 through Middleborough, Rochester, and Wareham. Under the Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning task, SRPEDD staff will be updating the Regional Pedestrian Plan and will be launching a bicycle parking program similar to what SRPEDD has done in the past, where communities will have the opportunity to purchase bike racks. Under the ITS task, SRPEDD staff will continue its efforts with coordination with other stakeholders as well. In the Environmental Coordination and Climate Change Resilience, SRPEDD's Environmental department will convert what was previously SRPEDD's GRIP inventory into a database to assist in project development and implementation. Under Mobility Management and Regional Transit Support, SRPEDD is looking to revive what some may have known in the past as SERCCOT, the Southeast Regional Coordinating Council on Transportation, to help inform stakeholders about transit needs in the region and address these needs. SRPEDD is aiming to have the SMMPO release the draft FFY2024 UPWP for a minimum 21-day comment period on May 16. Ms. Estrela-Pedro told the group to email herself or anyone in the transportation department at any time with questions or comments about the document. SRPEDD will be hosting a public meeting to gather input on the draft FFY2024 UPWP and is aiming to have the UPWP document endorsed at the next SMMPO meeting on June 20.

The chair asked for a motion to release the draft FFY2024 UPWP to a 21-day comment period. Who made the motion and the second? There were no further questions or comments 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 New Bedford-----Yes  
City of Taunton-----Yes  
Town of Fairhaven-----Yes

Town of Middleborough-----Yes  
Town of Mansfield-----Yes  
Town of Somerset-----Yes  
SRPEDD Commission Chair-----Yes  
GATRA-----Yes  
SRTA-----Yes

### **THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **8. Draft Coordinated Human Service Transportation Plan (Roll Call Vote Needed to Release to 21-day comment period)**

Andrea Duarte presented an overview of the draft 2023 Coordinated Human Services Transportation (CHST) Plan to the group, which is available on the SRPEDD [website](#). The CHST Plan, which is updated every 4 years, identifies current transportation providers and services in the SRPEDD region, and includes transportation options that are listed in GATRA's Ride Match regional directory of private/public/non-profit transportation services. The Plan identifies unmet transportation needs and service gaps for seniors, people with disabilities and people with low incomes. It defines some potential strategies to address the unmet needs which are used as evaluation criteria for organizations/RTAs/municipalities applying for federal 5310 funding, and it identifies priorities for the funding of grant proposals in the SRPEDD region.

The CHST Plan was developed with input from human services and community organizations and agencies, transit providers, and the public. SRPEDD's CHST public engagement process included: the ongoing



collection of information since the last plan was released in 2018; meetings and agency surveys with varying involvement from 50 organizations and agencies who were willing to participate; an unmet transportation needs public survey; 4 public meetings in May to present the draft CHST Plan and gather feedback; and a meeting to present the draft CHST plan to the group of 50 stakeholders. Ride Match and GATRA and SRTA's 2021 comprehensive service assessments also helped identify service gaps and regional needs.

The 25 respondents to the agency survey identified medical and employment-related trips as the types of trips with the highest unmet need, and Taunton, Dighton, Fairhaven, and Mattapoisett as the communities with the highest unmet need. Respondents to the agency survey, largely representing Taunton, New Bedford, and North Attleborough, and the majority of whom were seniors and/or low-income, stated that they needed to travel beyond their RTA area and their city/town but had difficulty doing so; the areas they reported having the most difficulty getting to were Boston, Fall River, Providence, and Taunton. Also, 42% stated that they missed work or were unable to get/accept a job due to a lack of transportation; and 23% stated that they missed a doctor appointment due to lack of transportation.

The overall unmet need for alternative transportation modes continues to increase. As Southeastern MA populations continue to age, the need for transportation services to and from medical appointments, especially longer distances, is rapidly increasing. Survey respondents reported having trouble getting to hospitals and medical facilities in Brockton, Boston, Taunton, Cape Cod, Fall River, Foxboro, and Providence. Some municipalities have no options for long-distance medical transportation (programs that have volunteer drivers for medical appointments reported having major driver shortages, and some towns had drivers but no ADA accessible vehicles). There are large gaps in transit service to jobs in suburban areas, especially large industrial parks (such as those in Taunton and New Bedford). The lack of connections between cities and towns is a major barrier for riders. There's an urgent need for better connections between RTAs, between gateway cities, and between transportation providers. Some connections identified as need in surveys/meetings were: Fall River to Taunton; Taunton to Brockton; Fall River to Brockton, Taunton to Providence, Fall River to Providence, and several others. There is also an unmet need for expanded transit service in early morning and evening hours during the week and Saturday/Sunday and for more frequent service across all types of transportation trips.

Medical and employment-related transportation options continue to have the most unmet need in the SRPEDD region. This has serious implications for health and economic stability and mobility of the region's residents and communities. Ms. Duarte stated that while this region is very car dependent, the region is also home to residents whose quality of life is severely impaired by lack of access to a car or reliable, safe, and affordable alternative transportation.

Travel training and education about existing services continues to be important, and an area for improvement and increased coordination. Many people aren't aware of transportation services they qualify for from their healthcare plan for medical appointments or how to navigate them. Some were not aware about how GATRA's bus flagging system works and didn't know they could flag the bus down to get on/off where there are no stops. SRPEDD's RTP meetings with town officials this year showed that some officials were not aware that certain transit services exist in their municipalities or about the general needs for transit/alternative transportation services among their residents.

Ms. Duarte stated that SRPEDD is asking the SMMPO for a vote to release the CHST draft to a 21-day comment period. SRPEDD will continue to hold public and stakeholder meetings relating to CHST-identified issues and the draft will be updated with comments that are received. SRPEDD aims to release the final 2023 CHST Plan in July.

The Chair asked for a motion to release the draft 2023 CHST Plan to a 21-day comment period. Jamie Ponte made the motion and Jim Howland 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 Middleborough-----	Yes
MassDOT Administrator-----	Yes	Town of Mansfield-----	Yes
City of Attleboro-----	Yes	Town of Somerset-----	Yes
City of Fall River-----	Yes	SRPEDD Commission Chair-----	Yes
City of New Bedford-----	Yes	GATRA-----	Yes
City of Taunton-----	Yes	SRTA-----	Yes
Town of Fairhaven-----	Yes		

### **THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **9. Other Business**

John Cogliano of Blue Apple Bus Company provided an update and presentation about the Mansfield to Boston bus service. This service has been in operation since November 2022 and has moved a total of 5,298 passengers, which he remarked is impressive for a new service. This service has received CMAQ funds and costs \$1.3 million, including fares. Mr. Cogliano stated that Blue Apple Bus Co. hopes to increase frequency to 20 roundtrips per day to and from Logan Airport to attract more ridership. A question was asked about how much would fares for this service increase if it did not receive CMAQ funds again, to which Mr. Cogliano responded that the Company hopes to keep fares at \$22 per adult and \$7 per child. A question was asked about viability of riders using the commuter rail instead of this service, to which Mr. Cogliano responded that the commuter rail does not operate between midnight and 4 am, and many riders prefer not to take two legs. This service will take more cars off I-495 and benefits airport employees. A question was asked about whether the Company has analyzed the service's impact to the park-and-ride facility and parking lot adjacent to the Mansfield station since the service started; Mr. Cogliano responded that riders who leave their car overnight tend to park in the private lots and many get dropped off, so there has not yet been any noticeable impact on these lots.

Ms. Estrela-Pedro reminded SMMPO members to return their self-nomination forms by June 15. There are two SMMPO members whose terms will expire at the end of July, Mr. Espindola from Fairhaven and Mr. Germain from Middleborough. Elections for these two seats will take place at the June SRPEDD Commission meeting.

Ms. Estrela-Pedro reminded the group that SRPEDD Transportation staff has been holding community listening sessions in May as part of SRPEDD's process for updating the 2023 Regional Transportation Plan and Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan. The remaining open houses will be held on the following dates at these locations: Fall River Public Library, May 17th, 4:30-7:30pm; Taunton Public Library, May 23rd, 4-7pm.

Ms. Estrela-Pedro informed the group that MassDOT, together with SRPEDD, will be hosting a public meeting via Zoom on May 31 at 6:00 PM to discuss MassDOT's 5-Year Capital Investment Plan (CIP). It is an opportunity to learn about how MassDOT is spending its funds and voice any concerns. The registration [link](#) was sent following the meeting.

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

The Chair announced that the next SMMPO meeting will be on June 20, 2023, at 1:00 pm, held virtually.

#### **10. Adjourn**

The Chair asked for a motion and second to adjourn. Lloyd Mendes 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 2:12 PM.

AGENDA ITEM: Election/Re-election of *Two* MPO Members, per Bylaws, to Fill Seats of  
MPO Members whose Terms are Expiring, # 7 b., cont.'

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## WHAT IS THE MPO?

Metropolitan Planning Organizations are established in urbanized areas across the nation to implement federally mandated transportation planning. The **Southeastern Massachusetts MPO (SMMPO)** was established in 1976 for southeastern Massachusetts and is responsible for programing federally mandated transportation planning and improvements. At that time, the Governor's office authorized and established thirteen (13) MPOs in Massachusetts that follow the boundaries of each of the 13 regional planning agencies. Nationally, there are 385 MPOs throughout the United States. The Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD) Transportation personnel acts as staff to the SMMPO.

The SMMPO board is responsible for determining how to spend federal funds for roadway and bridge improvement projects as well as for transit services. The SMMPO is comprised of the Secretary and CEO of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT); the Administrator of the MassDOT Highway Division; the Chair of SRPEDD; the Administrator of the Greater Attleboro-Taunton Regional Transit Authority (GATRA); the Administrator of the Southeastern Regional Transit Authority (SRTA); the Mayors of the Cities of Attleboro, Fall River, New Bedford, and Taunton, or their designees; and four Town Representatives (Chosen from the Select Board members or comparable elected executive branch of town government) representing 4 towns in the SRPEDD region. The Secretary of Transportation, Gina Fiandaca, is the Chairman of all of the 13 MPOs in the Commonwealth while Alan Slavin (Chair of the SRPEDD Commission) is the Vice-Chairman of the SMMPO.

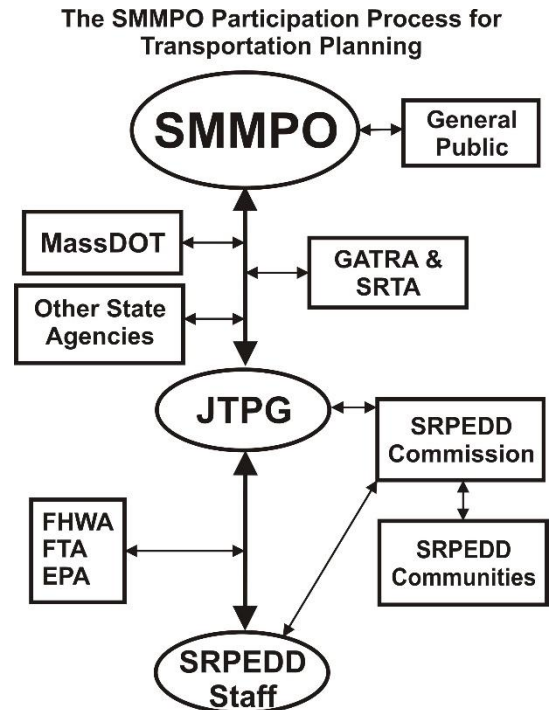
The planning process that enables the initiation and implementation of transportation improvements for southeastern Massachusetts can be complicated and sometimes difficult to navigate. To begin, there are three key groups essential to the planning process for transportation improvements in our region;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

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

by the SMMPO board for endorsement. These documents include:

- **The Regional Transportation Plan** – This document is an assessment of existing and future needs of transportation and is updated every 4 years as required by federal and state transportation agencies,
- **The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)** – The annual document that programs five consecutive years of federal and state funds for specific transportation projects (highways, roads, bridges, transit facilities, bike paths, etc.)
- **The Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)** – the annual work program that outlines a scope of work and potential studies for the SRPEDD staff.

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



The SMMPO typically meets, on average, nine times per year at 1:00 PM on the third Tuesday of the month at the SRPEDD office in Taunton or virtually, but always keeping in accordance with the Massachusetts, **Open Meeting Law**. Additional meetings are possible if transportation issues need to be resolved. The next upcoming meeting of the SMMPO is scheduled for:

- **Tuesday, July 18, 2023 at 1:00 PM**

The following are the SRPEDD Commission by-laws pertaining to the SMMPO process and the election of the local board of selectmen to the SMMPO representative board.

#### **Excerpt from the 2018 SRPEDD AGENCY POLICIES, Section III. BY-LAWS (with amended language)**

**PREAMBLE:** These by-laws, adopted under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40B, Sections 9 to 19, define the Rules and Procedures for the activities of the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development Commission as the governing body of the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District.

**DEFINITION:** The word "Commission" where appearing in these by-laws shall be construed to mean the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development Commission. The word "District" wherever appearing in these by-laws shall mean a public body politic and corporate development known as the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District.

### **10. SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (SMMPO):**

- A. The Southeastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization consists of thirteen (13) members representing the following:

1. Secretary and Chief Executive Officer of Massachusetts Department of Transportation;
  2. Highway Administrator of the MassDOT Highway Division;
  3. Chairman of Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District Commission;
  4. Administrator of the Southeastern Regional Transit Authority (SRTA);
  5. Administrator of the Greater Attleboro Taunton Regional Transit Authority (GATRA);
  6. Mayors of Attleboro, Fall River, New Bedford, and Taunton; and
  7. Members of four (4) Boards of Selectmen in the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District *(or comparable executive branch of government)* to be elected by the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District Commission. *(In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding, at least one, but not more than two of the four SMMPO town representatives shall be from towns within Plymouth County and/or Norfolk County.)*
- B. In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) relating to the comprehensive, continuing, and cooperative transportation planning process, the SRPEDD Commission is authorized to elect the four (4) representatives of Boards of Selectmen utilizing the procedure described below:
1. Term of Office: Two (2) representatives will be elected each year for two-year terms. Elections will be held annually in the month of May or June.
  2. Solicitation of Nominees: Annually, the SRPEDD Commission will send notices to the Board of Selectmen and SRPEDD Commissioners of each of its member towns. The purpose and role of the SMMPO and a description of the election process will accompany the notice. Each member of every local Board of Selectmen from member communities will be offered an opportunity to nominate themselves as a candidate for election to the SMMPO. Nominations will be returned to SRPEDD offices within four (4) weeks of the date they are distributed. Nomination forms are typically distributed by the second (2nd) week of the month of May.
  3. Election of Selectmen Representatives: Nominations will be referred to the SRPEDD Commission for a vote at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Commission in the month of June. All names and towns of the interested selectmen will be printed on a paper ballot. Nominees will be invited to attend and speak at the meeting of the SRPEDD Commission when the vote is taken.
  4. Designees: Board of Selectmen members elected to the SMMPO may send a designee to a meeting in their place. The designee may vote only with written and signed authorization from the elected SMMPO member.
  5. Vacancies: Should a selectmen's position fall vacant between annual elections, the represented town for that vacancy may nominate, and the SRPEDD Commission may elect, a duly eligible candidate from that town's Board of Selectmen to temporarily fill the vacancy until the following election. In the event that no member of the municipality's Board of Selectmen is able to fill the vacancy, then any member town may nominate, and the SRPEDD Commission may elect, a candidate to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term. (Amended May 23, 2018)

**SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (SMMPO)**  
**FY2023 SMMPO MEMBERS**

- Gina Fiandaca, MassDOT Secretary & CEO, Chair
- Alan Slavin, SRPEDD Commission Chairman, Vice-Chair
- Cathleen DeSimone, Mayor of Attleboro

- Paul Coogan, Mayor of Fall River
- Jonathan Mitchell, Mayor of New Bedford
- Shaunna O'Connell, Mayor of Taunton
- Jonathan L. Gulliver, MassDOT Highway Division Administrator
- Diana Bren, Mansfield (Term Expires 8/1/2024)
- Jacob Vaught, Somerset (Term Expires 8/1/2024)
- Mark Germain, Middleborough (Term Expires 8/1/2023)
- Robert Espindola, Fairhaven (Term Expires 8/1/2023)
- Erik Rousseau, SRTA
- MaryEllen DeFrias, GATRA

Ex-officio, non-voting members:

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

## Sarah Hewins -Carver

Sarah Hewins is a five-term Selectman in the Town of Carver. She previously served ten years on the Town's Planning Board, was Conservation Agent for fifteen years, served as Chair of the seven-town Plymouth/Carver Aquifer Advisory Committee for ten years, and was a SRPEDD Commissioner for six years. Sarah has a successful history of negotiating successful public/private/local partnerships to preserve more than 600 acres of land in Carver and hundreds of acres of wetlands in the Mississippi delta. In all her Town roles, Sarah has developed long-term cooperative relationships with state agencies, elected state officials, private organizations for environmental and planning initiatives, and the local agricultural community.

Sarah has extensive practical experience writing and passing warrant articles at Town Meeting, detailed knowledge of state law and regulations governing environment and planning, and a history of successful grant writing. She has written—with other team members—the Town of Carver's master plan, open space and recreation plan, and hazard mitigation plan. Sarah holds a B.A. from Bryn Mawr College, an M.A. and PhD. from Princeton University, and is co-owner and Vice President of Semantics Consulting, Inc., a small computer consulting business.



Mark Germain – Middleborough

My name is Mark Germain and I am serving my second term as a member of the Middleborough Select Board where I currently sit as Chair. I have also served on the Town's Finance Committee for three years and I have served on both the SRPEDD Commission and GATRA for the past three years. As the Select Board is also the Water and Sewer Commissioners in our town, I work closely with the Department of Public Works on the roadway projects in Town. I am interested in serving on the SMMPO because I would like to be a voice for Plymouth County when it comes to the regional planning of transportation. With the now almost completed construction of the new MTBA Station in Middleborough it is even more important to be part of those discussions. I own and operate a Fuel Delivery Business for the last 25 years, so I am well versed in the economic impact and condition of the roadways themselves. Thank you for your consideration.

Stacia Powers - Fairhaven

Thank you for considering my application to the SMMPO. As the municipalities of Southeastern Massachusetts continue to fill the critical housing needs of its residents and the MBTA extension opens on the South Coast, improving accessibility to a variety of regional transportation becomes increasingly important. I think my experience in community engagement will be an asset to the group.

My roots are here in Southeastern Massachusetts. I grew up in Westport and have lived in Fairhaven for 23 years. My husband, an IT Administrator for Titleist, and I have 3 children, 2 adult sons and 1 daughter who currently attends Fairhaven High School.

I have a degree in Textile Technology from the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth with a minor in Marketing. I worked in textiles for over 10 years before changing careers and am now follow my passion and my strengths in community engagement. I am currently the Community Engagement and Development Director at Community Nurse Home Care in Fairhaven.

I have served my community on the School Committee for 14 years followed by being elected to the Selectboard. I won the 2021 recall election for a 9-month term and was re-elected to serve a full term on our newly expanded 5-member board. My peers on the board elected me to lead the board in this important transitional phase as Chair of the new 5-member board and a new Town Administrator. I am currently serving as Clerk. In my role on the Select Board I serve as the Liaison to the Millicent Library Board of Trustees, the Economic Development Committee and Fairhaven's representative on the Bristol County Advisory Board.

Alan Slavin - Wareham

I have been Wareham's Commission member for 12 years. I have served on the MPO for 14 years. I just stepped down as SRPEDD Commission Chair in May. I was an MPO member for the last 3 years as SRPEDD Chair, which ended this May when I stepped down as Chair. I was hoping I could continue to serve on the MPO as a regular member!

Thank you for your consideration.



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 23, 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,

On behalf of the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD), I would like to express our support for the Town of Dighton's early action Community One Stop for Growth grant application to fund the development of their Housing Production Plan. Like many communities in our region and across the Commonwealth, Dighton must navigate and manage its growth and development in the coming years. SRPEDD has extensive experience with these topics, having recently partnered with several communities to create Housing Production Plans and supporting civic engagement campaigns.

Were the grant to be awarded, the Town has requested to work with SRPEDD on the development of the HPP. SRPEDD has developed a positive and meaningful relationship with the Town through previous planning initiatives and grant writing opportunities, and the SRPEDD team looks forward to working with the community on the development of its HPP.

SRPEDD is greatly encouraged by the promise this grant provides to guide future strategies related to the future of housing in our local communities. We are confident that the work we complete on this project – and the collaborative, publicly-driven process we use to advance it – will be a valuable resource to guide the Town's decision making for years to come.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Walker, AICP  
Executive Director



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 23, 2023

Jeffrey Walker  
SRPEDD  
88 Broadway  
Taunton, MA 02780

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 applications to support development and placemaking in their downtown, while also advancing workforce development.

As the regional planning agency for Middleborough and twenty-six other communities of Southeast Mass, SRPEDD is an advocate for community development efforts that promote the growth and resilience of local Main Streets. No exception, Middleborough's downtown is the center of the community, offering the potential for economic growth and continued vitality. Efforts to form a BID would harness the strengths of the existing small business community and legitimize their efforts to establish themselves as a destination in the southeast region. To advance this vision further, Middleborough seeks to create an ecosystem of events and spaces in the downtown to promote their efforts and increase visitors.

In addition, as a federally-designated Economic Development District, or EDD, for the 650,000-resident region, SRPEDD supports the town's efforts to integrate workforce development into their educational programming. Matching students and prospective graduates with the skills they need today will better prepare our workforce for tomorrow.

SRPEDD is excited about Middleborough's efforts to guide community and economic development in their community, and we are confident that the projects will foster further growth in their downtown and the greater region.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Walker, AICP  
Executive Director

## 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	Ongoing	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	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
Middleborough	Old Center Street, Truck Exclusion Community Tech Memo	Ongoing	Transportation	Luis de Oliveira	MassDOT
Middleborough	Route 28 at Merchant's Way/William's Place, Signal Warrants Analysis Community Tech Memo	Ongoing	Transportation	Luis de Oliveira	MassDOT
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
New Bedford	Ashley Boulevard/Acushnet Ave/Belair Ave Tech Memo	Ongoing	Transportation	Luis de Oliveira	MassDOT
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	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Taylor Perez, Rob Cabral	MHP, Barr Foundation
Raynham	Green Communities Assistance	Ongoing	Environmental	Danica Belknap	DOER

Regional	Traffic Counting and Turning Movement Counts	Ongoing	Transportation	Luis de Oliveira, Joseph Osborne	MassDOT
Regional	Pavement Management - Fed. Aid Road Network	Ongoing	Transportation	Luis de Oliveira	MassDOT
Regional	Regional Transportation Plan	Ongoing	Transportation	Jennifer Chaves, Lisa Estrela-Pedro	MassDOT
Regional	Regional Transportation Plan Community Listening Sessions	Ongoing	Transportation	Andrea Duarte	MassDOT
Regional	FFY2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program	Complete	Transportation	Jackie Jones, Lisa Estrela-Pedro	MassDOT
Regional	Trails Mapping (Off Road)	Ongoing	Transportation	Joe Osborne, Karen Porter	MassDOT
Regional	Congestion Mitigation Plan	Complete	Transportation	Sean Hilton	MassDOT
Regional	Regional Bicycle Plan	Ongoing	Transportation	Jackie Jones	MassDOT
Regional	FFY2024 Unified Planning Work Program	Complete	Transportation	Lisa Estrela-Pedro, Jackie Jones, Jen Chaves	MassDOT
Regional	Coordinated Human Service Transportation Plan Update	Complete	Transportation	Jen Chaves, Andrea Duarte	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	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, 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	Jackie Jones, Jon Gray	MassDOT
Regional - GATRA	Technical Assistance Planning and GIS	Ongoing	Transportation	Jen Chaves	GATRA
Regional - Green Communities	Annual Reports and Competitive and Designation Grant Applications	Ongoing	Environmental	Helen Zincavage, Danica Belknap, Sara Brown	EOEEA

<b>Regional - MassDOT</b>	<b>Joint Transportation Planning Group (JTPG)</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>	<b>Transportation</b>	<b>Lisa Estrela-Pedro</b>	<b>MassDOT</b>
<b>Regional - MassDOT</b>	<b>Southeastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (SMMPO)</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>	<b>Transportation</b>	<b>Lisa Estrela-Pedro</b>	<b>MassDOT</b>
<b>Regional - SRAC</b>	<b>FFY20 Homeland Security Program and Project Management</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>	<b>Comprehensive, Homeland Security</b>	<b>Todd Castro, Kevin Ham, Grant King</b>	<b>MAPC</b>
<b>Regional - SRAC</b>	<b>FFY21 Homeland Security Program and Project Management</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>	<b>Comprehensive, Homeland Security</b>	<b>Todd Castro, Kevin Ham, Grant King</b>	<b>MAPC</b>
<b>Regional - Ten Mile Watershed to Mount Hope Bay</b>	<b>Brownfield Community Wide Assessment Grant</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>	<b>Environmental</b>	<b>Helen Zincavage, Lizeth Gonzalez</b>	<b>EPA</b>
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	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