

**September 27, 2023**  
6:30 PM Regular Meeting  
**REMOTE\* SRPEDD Commission Meeting**

**ZOOM MEETING INFORMATION**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81786283564?pwd=VjA4M2pkMlJNSWhhNzNLN0pFMFl5UT09>

**AMENDED-AGENDA**

1. Call to Order, Introductions, and Welcome
2. *Presentation:* Courtney Rocha, SE Regional Coordinator, Municipal Vulnerability Program (MVP), with an update on recent program changes and 'MVP 2.0'
3. Approval of Minutes – July 26, 2023\* (*Vote requested*)
4. Reports
  - a. Chair
  - b. Executive Director
5. Consent Agenda
  - a. Contracts \* (*Vote to receive report and place on file*)
6. Contracts 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*)
7. *First Reading:* Proposed Change In Timing of SRPEDD Annual Mtg from May to Oct requiring of update to SRPEDD Bylaws IV. D. 3. (092618, p.84) \*
8. Programs and Project Updates:
  - a. Moving Forward 2050 SRPEDD [Regional Transportation Plan](#) endorsed
  - b. [Priority Development Area/Priority Protection Area](#) (PDA/PPA) initiative
  - c. [Regional Broadband](#): Asset Mapping, ACC Fellow, Digital Equity Planning
  - d. [Ocean Tech Hub of Southeastern New England](#) proposal \*
  - e. Environmental Program Update (inclusive of MEPA report) \*
  - f. [Open Space Residential Design \(OSRD\)](#) bylaw initiative
  - g. RESC [Quarterly Newsletter](#) and 9/27 [Virtual Meeting](#) at 2:00 pm
9. Old Business
  - a. Technical Assistance\* (*Vote to receive and place on file*)
10. New Business
11. Roundtable: Opportunity for Commissioners to provide updates on local topics, projects or matters of regional interest
12. Adjourn

**FUTURE MEETINGS:** October 25, 2023; December 6, 2023; January 24, 2024;  
February 28, 2024; March 27, 2024

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

\*Attached

## AGENDA ITEM: Minutes, # 3

## SRPEDD Commission Meeting – Draft Minutes

July 26, 2023

Remote Meeting via Zoom

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

S. Boucher Acushnet	J. Kelley, Acushnet	R. Cote, Berkley	S. Leary, Berkley
T. Bott, Carver	C. O'Neil, Dartmouth	C. Vitale, Dartmouth	R. Espindola, Fairh.
D. Aguiar, Fall River	V. A. Duran, Freetown	L. Carboni, Lakeville	A. Horowitz, Mansfield
N. Hills, Marion	R. Burgmann, Mattap.	M. Clarner, No. Attle.	S. Warchal, Norton
C. Sullivan, Raynham	N. Durfee, Rochester	S. Cadime, Seekonk	P. Dunn, Seekonk
N. McDonald, Somerset	R. Peirce, Somerset	G. Hovorka, Swansea	S. Quirk, Wareham
A. Slavin, Wareham	J. Whitin, Westport	S. Ouellette, Westport	
C. Feerick, Attleboro A/L	G. Saddler, F.R A/L	A. Eaton, NB A/L	

**Guests/Staff:**

D. Belknap, SRPEDD	A. Davis, SRPEDD	L. Gonzalez, SRPEDD	M. Jones, SRPEDD
G. King, SRPEDD	L. Estrela-Pedro, SRPEDD	M. Melencia, MBTA	S. Royer, SRPEDD
J. Walker, SRPEDD	L. Williams, MassDOT	H. Zincavage, SRPEDD	

**Absent:**

F. Uriot, Attleboro	G. Ayrassian, Attleboro	M. Sweet Dart. (Alter.)	J. Carvalho, Dighton
D. Braga, Fairhaven	J. Ferreira, Fall River	D. Pettey, Freetown	N. Cline, Lakeville,
J. Henry, Marion	J. Robbins, Mattapoisett	L. Bradley, Middleb.	M. Germain, Middleb.
J. Ponte, N.B.	L. Pirnie, No. Attle.	S. Ollerhead, Norton	C. Desprez, Plainville
C. Yarworth, Plainville	C. Gallagher, Raynham	W. Costa, Rehoboth	J. Hansen, Swansea
M. Monteiro, Taunton	J. Pateakos, Taunton	T. Lobo, Taunton A/L	

- 1. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Marie Clarner at 6:31 P.M.
- 2. Presentation: Dr. Liz Williams, Director of Data & Policy, MassDOT on subject of Massachusetts Vehicle Census (MVC):** Dr. Williams presented on the subject the of Massachusetts Vehicle Census. She referred Commissioners to a slide deck that she mentioned some may have had opportunity to see presented in the past.

Dr. Williams entertained questions from the Commissioners. Mr. Desprez mentioned that the numbers are not adding up to him and he didn't quite understand them. Dr. Williams mentioned that she is confident that the numbers are accurate. She mentioned that this presentation is about vehicle counts, not consumption of gas. Ms. Zincavage asked how the MVC system is updated. Dr. Williams mentioned that the vehicle counts are updated from the RMV and tied to excise tax data. Mr. Whitin mentioned that this is great data but doesn't tell him what he needs because in the summer Westport numbers increase for the season. He stated there is a Tesla vehicle everywhere you go, and he asked where you can get charging stations. Ms. Estrela-Pedro mentioned that SRPEDD staff is looking into locations of charging stations. Dr. Williams mentioned that this data is not going to answer all but it is helpful in providing resident vehicle but not seasonal counts. Ms. Eaton and Ms. Estrela-Pedro both thanked Dr. Williams for her presentation, stating that the information is very helpful to them and their staffs.

3. **Approval of Minutes – June 28, 2023:** A motion was made to approve the June 28, 2023, minutes with abstentions. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. **Reports:**

- a. **Chair:** Chairwoman Clarner mentioned she attended the Massachusetts for Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Board meeting in Mattapoisett and learned a lot about the trail. She indicated that there are a growing number of bike trails in Massachusetts. She asked the Commissioners to please reach out to her or Mr. Walker with questions or future agenda items for discussion.
- b. **Executive Director:** Mr. Walker reported that a brief survey had recently been sent out to members inquiring as to their preference of attending future Commission meetings beginning in September either in person or remotely via Zoom. He mentioned that Ms. Royer had heard back from 7 in coming into Taunton and attending in person, with the balance of respondents sharing that they would prefer to continue joining remotely owing to its convenience, and that going forward beginning on September 27, the plan was to switch to hybrid meetings (either in person or remote; however, for everyone to kindly let Ms. Royer know beforehand in confirming their availability which way they planned to attend. Also with regard to scheduling Mr. Walker referenced that the tradition of holding the agency's annual meeting in May each year was becoming increasingly difficult due to the number and complexity of projects and related deliverables needing to be wrapped up prior to the June 30 fiscal year end, and that inquiries had been received about the possibility of moving the date of the annual meeting from May to Oct, which would necessitate a bylaw change. Upon discussion it was agreed that the matter would be placed on the agenda next meeting for review and consideration (first reading).

5. **Consent Agenda:**

- a. **Contracts:** No contracts this month.

6. **Committee Reports:**

- a. **Finance Committee:** Mr. Horowitz mentioned the Finance Committee met on July 19, 2023, at the SRPEDD office and remotely via Zoom. The June 21, 2023, Finance meeting minutes were approved. The Treasurer's Report for June 2023 received, and a warrant for expenses in the amount of \$34,938.40 signed off on. Mr. Horowitz stated that the Committee reviewed the OPEB statement for June 2023 included in the packets along with June 2023 month-end general journal entries. He entertained questions from Commissioners.

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

- b. **Joint Transportation Planning Group/MPO:** Ms. Estrela-Pedro reported that the JTPG met on June 14<sup>th</sup> and the meeting minutes start on page 10. She indicated that at the JTPG meeting an election was held for the committee. She mentioned the officers are: Stephanie Crampton from New Bedford, Chair; Alan Slavin, Plymouth County, Dave Cabral, GATRA Vice Chair, Seekonk; and Gloria Saddler, SRTA Vice Chair Fall River. Ms. Estrela-Pedro also mentioned that at the meeting, MassDOT provided updates on projects that are programed in the FFY23-27 TIP and for detailed information, she referred Commissioners to the meeting packet. She stated that the SMMPO met on June 20<sup>th</sup> and the minutes can be found on page 14. Ms. Estrela-Pedro mentioned that at this meeting both

the FFY 2024 Unified Planning Work Program and the Coordinated Human Service Transportation Plan were endorsed. Also at that meeting, there were amendments to the existing FFY 23 to 27 TIP that highlighted cost increases. The addition of grant awarded projects were also released for a 21-day comment period. Ms. Estrela-Pedro entertained questions from the members.

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

## 7. Programs and Project Updates:

- a. **2023-2023 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS):** Mr. King reported that this topic is a follow up to the same agenda item as last month. He mentioned last month his staff did a brief presentation on to Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS). He stated that the CEDS is the document that guides the master plan for all of our initiatives with the US Economic Development Administration (EDA). He stated the CEDS is a guiding document that SRPEDD updates every five years. This particular document has been reworked to make it more accessible. It explains priority partnerships with strengths and opportunities that SRPEDD would like to take advantage of, and to address any weaknesses or threats that we are experiencing as a region. Mr. King explained the CEDS in further detail and added the CEDS link to the Zoom chat. He entertained questions from the Commission.

Ms. Gonzalez thanked Mr. King for his follow up and mentioned the CEDS is a living document. She indicated if any have comments or feedback to please let her know.

- b. **Environmental Program Update and area MEPA projects:** Ms. Zinavage referred the members to page 18 and reviewed the Environmental Program update projects. Mr. Slavin mentioned that Wareham has been working on the Parker Mill Dam which is near the Tremont Nail facility. Mr. Slavin stated that this particular dam is in the top 1% list for the state to be removed. He mentioned that there is NOAA funding, but the town has a plan A, B, and C depending upon how much funding the town is able to secure. Ms. Zinavage mentioned that several other Commissioners mentioned dams in their communities in the chat saying that she would get back to them.
- c. **Regional Broadband- Asset Mapping Initiative:** Ms. Jones and Ms. Davis presented on the Regional Broadband Asset Mapping Initiative. Ms. Jones mentioned that SRPEDD is pleased to be working with the [Massachusetts Broadband Institute \(MBI\)](#) to help bring affordable and reliable high-speed internet to every home and business in the region. Just as we do through environmental, transportation, and land use planning, SRPEDD is committed to improving economic outcomes and quality of life through regional coordination and support for social and regional equity. Ms. Davis mentioned the next step of our work is to continue to gather information. Please assist these efforts by inputting important 'digital assets' into the Massachusetts Asset Mapping tool!

The [Massachusetts Broadband and Digital Equity Asset Tool](#) will gather information on digital programs and services being offered by your local organizations, coalitions, agencies, and practitioners.

Lastly, Ms. Jones asked Commissioners to please be on the lookout for more information on digital equity initiatives throughout the SRPEDD region. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to reach out to [Maria Jones](#) and [Amber Davis](#) with any questions or visit [www.srpedd.org/digital-equity-planning](http://www.srpedd.org/digital-equity-planning) for more information.

## 8. Old Business:

- a. **Technical Assistance:** Mr. King referred to the traditional monthly update on projects contained in the packets. He also explained the table in further detail. Mr. King mentioned if any had questions they can contact him at [gking@srpedd.org](mailto:gking@srpedd.org). Mr. Walker mentioned this matrix is a great way for other communities to get ideas that other communities are working on.

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

**9. New Business:** None.

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

**11. Adjourn:** The next Commission meeting will be on Wednesday, September 27, 2023, at 6:30 P.M as a hybrid meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Norman Hills, Secretary

Date: 9/27/2023

## AGENDA ITEM: Contract Approvals, # 5.a.

---

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

1. With the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) to assist with regional Asset Mapping and Digital Equity Planning program enrollment for an amount not to exceed \$15,000.
2. With the town of Somerset to update the Slade's Ferry Zoning District Zoning and Design Guidelines and to conduct supporting civic engagement for an amount not to exceed \$75,000.
3. With the Federal Highway Administration to develop a regionwide Safety Action Plan not to exceed \$880,000.
4. With the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for fulfillment of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant requirements for an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000.

## AGENDA ITEM: Finance Committee Report # 6.a.

The Finance and Personnel Committees met on August 23, 2023 for their regular August meeting/annual appreciation dinner at the Back Eddy in Westport. The July 19, 2023, Finance meeting minutes were approved. The Treasurer's Report for July 2023 received, and a warrant for expenses signed-off on in the amount of \$32,431.94.

Cash & Funds: July 1, 2023	\$1,178,389.53
Cash Receipts: July 1 – 31, 2023	<u>\$ 299,502.47</u>
Total Cash Accounted for:	<b>\$ 1,477,892.00</b>

Disbursements: July 1 – 31, 2023	\$ 300,286.76
Cash & Funds: July 31, 2023	<u>\$ 1,177,605.24</u>
Total Cash Accounted for:	<b>\$ 1,477,892.00</b>

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

\*\*\*\*\*

The Finance Committee met on Sept. 20, 2023 at SRPEDD office. The Aug. 23, 2023 Finance meeting minutes were approved. The Treasurer's Report for August 2023 received, and a warrant for expenses signed-off on in the amount of \$37,745.17.

Cash & Funds: Aug. 1, 2023	\$ 1,177,605.24
Cash Receipts: Aug. 1 – 31, 2023	<u>\$ 369,713.67</u>
Total Cash Accounted for:	<b>\$ 1,547,318.91</b>

Disbursements: Aug. 1 – 31, 2023	\$ 207,710.77
Cash & Funds: Aug. 31, 2022	<u>\$ 1,339,608.14</u>
Total Cash Accounted for:	<b>\$ 1,547,318.91</b>

The Committee reviewed August 2023 month-end general journal entries and Aug. 2023 OPEB Statement.

Carl Begin of Raymond James/Bristol Wealth Group reported to the Committee on the annual performance of the OPEB Trust Fund.

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

**DRAFT Minutes for the JTPG Meeting**

**Held on Wednesday, July 12, 2023 at 2:00 PM**

**Held Hybrid via Zoom and SRPEDD Office in Accordance with Massachusetts Open Meeting Law.**

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

Alan Slavin, Vice-Chair.....Town of Wareham	Norman Hills.....Town of Marion
Joe Callahan.....Town of Berkley	Robert Burgmann.....Town of Mattapoisett
John Woods.....Town of Carver	Leeann Bradley.....Town of Middleborough
Tim Barber.....Town of Dartmouth	Jared Ferrara.....Town of Norton
Joshua Crabb.....Town of Fairhaven	David Cabral.....Town of Seekonk
Daniel Aguiar.....City of Fall River	William Anderson.....Town of Swansea
Victoria Alfaro-Duran.....Town of Freetown	James Hartnett .....Town of Westport
Franklin Moniz.....Town of Lakeville	Gloria Saddler.....At-Large, City Fall River
Josh Reinke.....Town Mansfield, alt	

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

City of Attleboro	Town of Raynham
City of Taunton	Town of Rehoboth
City of New Bedford	Town of Rochester
Town of Acushnet	Town of Somerset
Town of Dighton	At-Large, City of Attleboro
Town of North Attleborough	At-Large, City of New Bedford
Town of Plainville	At-Large, City of Taunton

**Also in Attendance:**

Shayne Trimbell.....SRTA	Michael Burris.....Town of Westport
Joshua Barber.....FHWA	Lisa Estrela-Pedro.....SRPEDD
Raissah Kouame.....MassDOT	Jackie Jones.....SRPEDD
Barbara Lachance.....MassDOT	Andrea Duarte.....SRPEDD
Liz Williams.....MassDOT	Sean Hilton.....SRPEDD
Michael Melencio.....MBTA	Luis de Oliveira.....SRPEDD
Marie Clarner.....SRPEDD Chair	Jon Gray.....SRPEDD
Kathy Holton.....City of Taunton	Lisa Sherman.....CDM Smith
Paul Duarte.....Town of Dartmouth	Phil Viveiros.....McMahon & Assocs
Ken Buckland.....Town of Wareham	

**Handouts:**

JTPG Meeting Agenda for July 12, 2023  
DRAFT June 14, 2023 JTPG Meeting Minutes

**AGENDA**

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



Vice-Chair Alan Slavin 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:

Joe Callahan.....Town of Berkley	Robert Burgmann.....Town of Mattapoisett
Tim Barber.....Town of Dartmouth	Leeann Bradley.....Town of Middleborough
Joshua Crabb.....Town of Fairhaven	Jared Ferrara.....Town of Norton
Daniel Aguiar.....City of Fall River	David Cabral.....Town of Seekonk
Victoria Alfaro-Duran.....Town of Freetown	William Anderson.....Town of Swansea
Franklin Moniz.....Town of Lakeville	Michael Burris.....Town of Westport, alt
Josh Reinke.....Town of Mansfield, alt	Gloria Saddler.....At-Large, City Fall River
Norman Hills.....Town of Marion	

## **2. Approval of Minutes – June 14, 2023 (Materials Attached & roll call vote needed)**

Vice-Chair Slavin called for a motion to approve the minutes of the June 14, 2023 meeting. James Harnett made the motion and Daniel Aguiar seconded the motion. Ms. Duarte then called the roll:

Town of Berkley.....Abstain	Town of Marion.....Yes
Town of Carver.....Yes	Town of Mattapoisett.....Abstain
Town of Dartmouth.....Abstain	Town of Middleborough.....Abstain
Town of Fairhaven.....Abstain	Town of Norton.....Yes
City of Fall River.....Yes	Town of Seekonk.....Yes
Town of Freetown.....Yes	Town of Swansea.....Abstain
Town of Lakeville.....Yes	Town of Westport, alternate.....Yes
Town of Mansfield, alternate.....Yes	At-Large, City of Fall River .....Yes

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

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

There were no comments offered.

## **4. Massachusetts Vehicle Census Presentation by MassDOT**

Liz Williams of MassDOT introduced Michael Melencio, CEO of the Office of Performance Management and Innovation, and he provided a demonstration to the group about the new Massachusetts Vehicle Census dashboard tool which can be found here <https://geodot-homepage-massdot.hub.arcgis.com/pages/massvehiclecensus>. It is the first in the nation dataset that will help stakeholders answer questions and conduct analysis about vehicles that has not been possible before. Massachusetts is the only state in the nation that regularly collects odometer data at time of inspection and in a way that is verifiable. MassDOT has used this data to build a resource that joins existing data about how much cars are being driven with information about the vehicles themselves. This resource can answer questions like how many vehicles are registered in a city/town, how many of them are electric versus fossil fuel, and how many were added over the course of the last year? This is important data to inform needs assessments, siting of electric vehicle charging stations, and adoption of different sustainable transportation technologies. The dashboard tracks the composition of fleet and supports efforts to transition to more sustainable transportation technologies. The dashboard's key performance metrics and layout are directly responsive to the "Development of the Clean Energy and Climate Plan for 2050" bill signed into law in 2021. The data is available for download and for individuals to perform their own

analyses to answer additional questions they may think of.

Mr. Melencio showed the group several datasets that make up the dashboard, including vehicle excise data that shows where vehicles have been located, RMV's activity for commence and cease dates for different VINs of vehicles that shows how many days vehicles are active throughout the year, and odometer readings from annual inspections that show how long vehicles have been driven and daily vehicle miles traveled per day. There are three major KPI measures, which includes vehicle count and maps that break down data by municipality, MPO, and statewide counts.

## **5. Regional Transportation Plan Updates Presentation**

Jackie Jones gave a presentation about the topics areas of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) update. SRPEDD staff have been working on this planning document for the past year. The draft RTP will be presented to the SMMPO to release for a public comment period in August and the JTPG will have the chance to recommend it to the SMMPO at the August JTPG meeting. The RTP thoroughly details and assesses the transportation needs of SRPEDD's 27 communities and identifies areas for improvements including roads, bridges, travel patterns, public transit, airports, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, freight, congestion management, and safety. The RTP will also include a needs assessment of zero emission vehicle infrastructure and alternative transportation needs relating to multifamily housing development. The RTP's purpose is to help identify improvements across these areas of transportation. Ms. Jones discussed the national goals and planning factors that drive the RTP and other transportation planning efforts in addition to the RTP's robust public engagement process. Ms. Jones informed the group that the presentation slides would be sent to the group following the meeting and any questions about the RTP could be emailed to her at [jjones@srpedd.org](mailto:jjones@srpedd.org).

## **6. Other Business**

Ms. Estrela-Pedro announced that this year's [MassDOT Moving Together conference](#) will be held on Wednesday, October 4, 2023 at the Sheraton Boston Hotel. The [Massachusetts Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board Meeting](#) will be held on July 26, 1- 3 PM at Mattapoisett Fire Station. She announced that the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) Program has released a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) with up to \$3.16 billion available for planning and construction projects that reconnect communities that have been cut off from economic development opportunities due to previous transportation infrastructure projects. The deadline for submitting applications is Thursday, September 28, 2023. Ms. Estrela-Pedro also announced that SRPEDD's Regional Bicycle Plan survey is closing on July 15 and encouraged attendees to fill out the survey and share with their networks to provide feedback about bicycle infrastructure improvement locations.

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

Date and Time for next meeting is August 9, 2023, at 2:00 PM as a hybrid meeting, in which attendees can join at the SRPEDD office in Taunton or via Zoom.

## **8. Adjourn**

The Vice-Chair asked for a motion to adjourn which was made by John Woods and seconded by James Hartnett. Hearing no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 2:53 PM.

**Draft Minutes of the Southeastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (SMMPO) Meeting  
on Tuesday, July 18, 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  
Daniel Aguiar-----Representing Paul Coogan, Mayor of Fall River  
Jamie Ponte-----Representing Jon Mitchell, Mayor of New Bedford  
Robert Espindola-----Town of Fairhaven  
Kevin Dumas-----Representing Diana Bren, Town of Mansfield  
Jacob Vaught-----Town of Somerset  
Marie Clarner-----SRPEDD Commission Chair  
MaryEllen DeFrias ----- GATRA Administrator  
Shayne Trimbell-----Representing SRTA Administrator Erik Rousseau

**The following were also in attendance:**

Dana Hanson-----Office of Congressman	Derek Shooster-----MassDOT
Auchincloss	Barbara Lachance-----MassDOT
Jenna Massoud----- Office of Congressman	Lisa Estrela-Pedro-----SRPEDD
Auchincloss	Jackie Jones-----SRPEDD
Sarah Hewins-----Town of Carver	Andrea Duarte-----SRPEDD
Chris Desprez-----Town of Plainville	Jennifer Chaves-----SRPEDD
Alan Slavin-----Town of Wareham	Sean Hilton-----SRPEDD
Tricia Wurts-----Town of Wareham	Luis de Oliveira-----SRPEDD
Joshua Barber-----FHWA	Jon Gray-----SRPEDD
Raissah Kouame-----MassDOT	Jeremy Marino
Derek Krevat-----MassDOT	

**Handouts:**

SMMPO Agenda July 18, 2023  
SMMPO Draft Meeting Minutes June 20, 2023  
FFY2023-2027 TIP Proposed Amendment #4  
FFY2023-2027 TIP Proposed Adjustment #4 – Highway  
FFY2023-2027 TIP Proposed Adjustment #4 – Transit  
FFY2023-2027 TIP Proposed Amendment #5

**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 Mansfield-----Yes
MassDOT Administrator-----Yes	Town of Somerset-----Yes
City of Fall River-----Yes	SRPEDD Commission Chair-----Yes
City of New Bedford-----Yes	GATRA-----Yes
Town of Fairhaven-----Yes	SRTA-----Yes

## **2. Approval of Minutes – June 20, 2023 (Materials Attached and Roll Call Vote Needed)**

Chairman Woelfel requested a motion to approve the minutes from the SMMPO meeting from June 20, 2023. The motion was made by Daniel Aguiar and seconded by Shayne Trimbell. Ms. Duarte then called the roll:

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

### **THE MOTION PASSED WITH ONE ABSTENTION.**

## **3. Public Comments**

Chairman Woelfel invited members of the public to make comments. There were no comments presented. Lisa Estrela-Pedro announced that there are two new SMMPO members starting in August, Alan Slavin from Wareham and Sara Hewins from the Town of Carver. Ms. Estrela-Pedro announced that the SMMPO is also losing two members, Bob Espindola from Fairhaven and Mark German from Middleborough, and thanked them for their participation and time on the SMMPO.

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

Mary Ellen DeFrias announced that GATRA is in the process of launching quarterly public meetings to better communicate with and receive feedback from communities and riders to facilitate a more proactive approach to how the agency operates. GATRA is partnering with Councils on Aging across the service area to help with this outreach effort. The first public meeting will be on July 27<sup>th</sup>. Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) technology was installed in GATRA vehicles over the past few months and staff and drivers are working out issues to get it running smoothly. GATRA recently completed a land purchase in Wareham and will begin building a new maintenance facility replacing the current lease it has in Plymouth. Shayne Trimbell announced that SRTA recently finished its triennial review with an onsite review in mid-June and a close out meeting in the last week of June. SRTA received a clean review with no findings, for the first time in over a decade; it is extraordinarily rare for these reviews to be without findings. Mr. Trimbell also announced that SRTA will be implementing a substantial number of services changes in Fall River at the end of August and is working on a series of service changes for New Bedford that will likely be implemented in December. He is currently working on the service change proposals and there will a public meeting in early September.

## **5. FFY23-27 TIP Proposed Amendment #4 (Highway & Transit, Materials Attached - Roll Call Vote Needed to Endorse)**

Ms. Estrela-Pedro explained all the highway and transit changes on the FFY23-27 TIP Proposed Amendment #4, which was released to a 21-day comment period following the June SMMPO meeting. It includes an earmark for the Fall River Route 79 project, as well as a cost increase for an Attleborough bridge, as well as transit cost changes and grants awarded through the community transit grant program. All of these were listed in the handout released with the agenda and discussed at the last meeting. A public meeting was held on July 12 and there were no comments at that meeting or otherwise. Ms. Estrela-Pedro asked the body to endorse this amendment.

The Chair asked if there were questions, and seeing none, asked for a motion and second to endorse TIP Amendment #4. The motion was made by Bob Espindola and seconded by Mary Ellen DeFrias. The Chair asked Ms. Duarte to read the roll as follows:

MassDOT Chair-----	Yes	Town of Mansfield-----	Yes
MassDOT Administrator-----	Yes	Town of Somerset-----	Yes
City of Fall River-----	Yes	SRPEDD Commission Chair-----	Yes
City of New Bedford-----	Yes	GATRA-----	Yes
Town of Fairhaven-----	Yes	SRTA-----	Yes

**THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**6. FFY23-27 TIP Proposed Adjustment #4 (Highway & Transit, Materials Attached - Roll Call Vote Needed to Endorse)**

Ms. Estrela-Pedro explained the items on FFY23-27 TIP Proposed Adjustment #4 which were listed in the handout provided with the agenda. As it is an adjustment, it does not require a 21-day comment period. It included a funding category change for a median cable barrier installation in Attleboro and North Attleborough and several cost increases for transit vehicle maintenance, facility and system modernization, and vehicle replacements. Ms. Estrela-Pedro asked the body to endorse the adjustment.

The Chair asked if there were questions, and seeing none, asked for a motion and second to endorse TIP Amendment #4. The motion was made by Daniel Aguiar and seconded by Mary Ellen DeFrias. The Chair asked Ms. Duarte to read the roll as follows:

MassDOT Chair-----	Yes	Town of Mansfield-----	Yes
MassDOT Administrator-----	Yes	Town of Somerset-----	Yes
City of Fall River-----	Yes	SRPEDD Commission Chair-----	Yes
City of New Bedford-----	Yes	GATRA-----	Yes
Town of Fairhaven-----	Yes	SRTA-----	Yes

**THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**7. FFY23-27 TIP Proposed Amendment #5 (Transit, Materials Forthcoming - Roll Call Vote Needed to Release to Comment Period)**

Ms. Estrela-Pedro explained all the SRTA transit changes on the FFY23-27 TIP Proposed Amendment #5 and asked the body to release the amendment to a 21-day public comment period. It includes changes in operating costs, with receipt of \$11.7 million in state contract assistance funding, removal of system modernization with RTPA CAP and 5307 projects, and addition of fare collection upgrades. All of these were listed in the handout released with the agenda.

The Chair asked if there were questions, and seeing none, asked for a motion to release FFY23-27 TIP Proposed Amendment #5 to a public comment period. The motion was made by Bob Espindola and seconded by Jacob Vaught. The Chair asked Ms. Duarte to read the roll as follows:

MassDOT Chair-----	Yes	Town of Fairhaven-----	Yes
MassDOT Administrator-----	Yes	Town of Mansfield-----	Yes
City of Fall River-----	Yes	Town of Somerset-----	Yes
City of New Bedford-----	Yes	SRPEDD Commission Chair-----	Yes

**THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.****8. Regional Transportation Plan Updates**

Jackie Jones gave a presentation about the topics areas of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) update. SRPEDD staff have been working on this planning document for the past year. The draft RTP will be presented to the SMMPO to release for a public comment period in August. The RTP thoroughly details and assesses the transportation needs of SRPEDD's 27 communities and identifies areas for improvements including roads, bridges, travel patterns, public transit, airports, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, freight, congestion management, and safety. The RTP will also include a needs assessment of zero emission vehicle infrastructure and alternative transportation needs relating to multifamily housing development. The RTP's purpose is to help identify improvements across these areas of transportation. Ms. Jones discussed the national goals and planning factors that drive the RTP and other transportation planning efforts in addition to the RTP's robust public engagement process. Ms. Jones informed the group that the presentation slides would be sent to the group following the meeting and any questions about the RTP could be emailed to her at [jjones@srpedd.org](mailto:jjones@srpedd.org).

**9. Other Business**

Ms. Estrela-Pedro announced that this year's MassDOT Moving Together conference will be held on Wednesday, October 4, 2023 at the Sheraton Boston Hotel. The Massachusetts Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board Meeting will be held on July 26, 1- 3 PM at Mattapoisett Fire Station. She announced that the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) Program has released a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) with up to \$3.16 billion available for planning and construction projects that reconnect communities that have been cut off from economic development opportunities due to previous transportation infrastructure projects. The deadline for submitting applications is Thursday, September 28, 2023.

**10. Date and Time for Next Meeting**

The Chair announced that the next SMMPO meeting will be on August 15, 2023, at 1:00 pm, held virtually. He urged all members to attend the August SMMPO meeting as the SMMPO will need a quorum to release the Regional Transportation Plan to a public comment period.

**11. Adjourn**

The Chair asked for a motion and second to adjourn. Daniel Aguiar made the motion and Marie Clarner seconded. The Chair asked that all in favor say aye. All ayes were heard. The Chair thanked everyone, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:36 PM.

## Joint Transportation Planning Group (JTPG) Meeting

### DRAFT Minutes for the JTPG Meeting

Held on Wednesday, August 9, 2023 at 2:00 PM

Held Hybrid via Zoom and SRPEDD Office in Accordance with Massachusetts Open Meeting Law.

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

Alan Slavin, Vice-Chair.....	Town of Wareham	Norman Hills.....	Town of Marion
Joe Callahan.....	Town of Berkley	Robert Burgmann.....	Town of Mattapoisett
John Woods.....	Town of Carver	Leeann Bradley.....	Town Middleborough
Tim Barber.....	Town of Dartmouth	Nancy Durfee.....	Town of Rochester
Joshua Crabb.....	Town of Fairhaven	David Cabral.....	Town of Seekonk
Daniel Aguiar.....	City of Fall River	James Hartnett .....	Town of Westport
Victoria Alfaro-Duran.....	Town of Freetown	Gloria Saddler.....	At-Large, City Fall River
Josh Reinke.....	Town Mansfield, alt		

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

City of Attleboro	Town of Raynham
City of Taunton	Town of Rehoboth
City of New Bedford	Town of Somerset
Town of Acushnet	Town of Swansea
Town of Dighton	At-Large, City of Attleboro
Town of Lakeville	At-Large, City of New Bedford
Town of North Attleborough	At-Large, City of Taunton
Town of Norton	
Town of Plainville	

#### Also in Attendance:

Shayne Trimbell.....	SRTA	Paul Duarte.....	Town of Dartmouth
Mary Ellen DeFrias.....	GATRA	Lisa Estrela-Pedro.....	SRPEDD
Joshua Barber.....	FHWA	Jackie Jones.....	SRPEDD
Raissah Kouame.....	MassDOT	Andrea Duarte.....	SRPEDD
Cheryll-Ann Senior.....	MassDOT	Sean Hilton.....	SRPEDD
Derek Shooster.....	MassDOT	Jon Gray.....	SRPEDD
Derek Krevat.....	MassDOT	Phil Viveiros.....	McMahon & Assocs

#### Handouts:

JTPG Meeting Agenda for August 9, 2023  
DRAFT July 12, 2023 JTPG Meeting Minutes  
Proposed FFY2023-2027 TIP Adjustment 5

## AGENDA

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

Vice-Chair Alan Slavin 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:

Joe Callahan.....	Town of Berkley	Tim Barber.....	Town of
John Woods.....	Town of Carver	Dartmouth	

Joshua Crabb.....Town of Fairhaven  
 Daniel Aguiar.....City of Fall River  
 Victoria Alfaro-Duran.....Town of Freetown  
 Josh Reinke.....Town of Mansfield, alt  
 Norman Hills.....Town of Marion

Robert Burgmann..... Town of Mattapoisett  
 Leeann Bradley.....Town of Middleborough  
 David Cabral.....Town of Seekonk  
 Alan Slavin.....Town of Wareham  
 Gloria Saddler.....At-Large, City Fall River

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

Vice-Chair Slavin called for a motion to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2023, meeting. Robert Burgmann made the motion and Vice-Chair Slavin seconded the motion. Ms. Duarte then called the roll:

Town of Berkley.....Yes  
 Town of Carver.....Yes  
 Town of Dartmouth..... Yes  
 Town of Fairhaven..... Yes  
 City of Fall River.....Yes  
 Town of Freetown.....Yes  
 Town of Mansfield, alternate.....Yes

Town of Marion.....Yes  
 Town of Mattapoisett..... Yes  
 Town of Middleborough..... Yes  
 Town of Seekonk.....Yes  
 Town of Wareham.....Yes  
 Town of Westport.....Yes  
 At-Large, City of Fall River .....Yes

## **THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

There were no comments offered.

## 4. Draft Regional Transportation Plan (Roll Call Vote Need to Recommend to SMMPO for Release to a Minimum 21-day Public Comment Period)

Lisa Estrela-Pedro stated that the draft 2024 Regional Transportation Plan, Moving Forward 2050, is currently being formatted by staff and will be up on the SRPEDD website soon. She provided some additional financial highlights about the RTP. GATRA and SRTA receive funding for operations, maintenance, bus replacements, and capital improvements, but additional funding is still needed to help keep up with their bus replacement schedule and other capital and operation's needs. SRTA's capital needs include renovating and potentially relocating their former maintenance facility and replacing the New Bedford terminal. GATRA's capital needs include upgrading the Taunton terminal and maintenance facilities, some of which are currently underway. Beyond the existing FFY2024-2028 TIP, we are looking at having all community-initiated projects funded by 2030, but this does not factor in project increases and delays. MassDOT-initiated projects in the region could be completed by 2035 if these projects were programmed with regional target funding. Based on regional targets and forecasting out to year 2050, there are projected to be sufficient funds, although the process is lengthy.

Ms. Estrela-Pedro thanked all communities for individually meeting with SRPEDD staff and members of the public for participating in the listening sessions. A major theme from meetings with municipal officials was the challenge of funding, mostly for smaller projects. Limited staffing capacity to apply for and manage grant funding and meeting grant eligibility criteria were two of the largest barriers identified to completing transportation projects. One example is communities having bridges that are slightly over the required size to qualify for MassDOT's Municipal Small Bridge Program, forcing these communities to apply for this funding through the TIP which escalates the design cost of the project. Many communities consistently expressed an urgent need for increased Chapter 90 funding, which is vital to an array of multimodal projects but still inadequate to meet communities' existing needs.



Ms. Estrela-Pedro asked if there were questions and encouraged members to read through the plan and provide feedback. She asked the body for a vote to recommend that the SMMPO release the draft RTP to a minimum 21-day public comment period at its next meeting. The Chair asked for a motion and second to recommend the draft RTP for public release by the SMMPO. The motion was made by Daniel Aguiar and seconded by Joe Callahan. The Vice-Chair asked Ms. Duarte to read the roll as follows:

Town of Berkley.....Yes	Town of Marion.....Yes
Town of Carver.....Yes	Town of Mattapoisett..... Yes
Town of Dartmouth..... Yes	Town of Middleborough..... Yes
Town of Fairhaven..... Yes	Town of Seekonk.....Yes
City of Fall River.....Yes	Town of Wareham.....Yes
Town of Freetown.....Yes	Town of Westport.....Yes
Town of Mansfield, alternate.....Yes	At-Large, City of Fall River .....Yes

**THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**5. Draft Regional Bicycle Plan Presentation (Roll Call Vote Need to Recommend to SMMPO for Release to a Minimum 21-day Public Comment Period)**

SRPEDD Transportation Planner Jon Gray gave a presentation on the draft 2024 Regional Bicycle Plan. He discussed various benefits and considerations for investing in bicycling infrastructure in the SRPEDD region, including equity and accessibility, public health, emissions reductions, economic development, safety, and connectivity. The Regional Bicycle Plan public survey yielded 435 responses. Some of its major themes were concerns about lack of bicycling safety on roadways being a barrier for cycling and the need for increased connectivity between various locations and types of amenities. Norton, Swansea, and Middleborough had the highest response rates. Mr. Gray provided an overview of the region's existing and proposed bicycle network, including its various existing shared use paths. Mr. Gray answered several questions from attendees and discussion ensued about various concerns including: prioritizing on-road versus off-road bicycle facilities, designing roadways to accommodate all users from early project stages and not fitting them into car-centered design as an afterthought, the need for regulation of electric bike speeds, what is being done to increase bicycle parking while minimizing interference with local traffic, what are the considerations for bike safety barriers and delineators, concerns about safety inadequacies of painted bike lanes, plans for expanding bike share programs, mapping of existing off-road trails and open space properties, and prioritizing bicycle facility investments on state-owned roads versus other locations in a fiscally constrained climate. Derek Krevat encouraged the Plan to include consideration of shared bicycle, e-bike, e-scooter, and other micro-mobility transportation facilities in order for local communities to be eligible for federal aid to procure bike share facilities and their capital costs through Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding.

Mr. Gray asked the body for a vote to recommend that the SMMPO release the draft 2024 Regional Bicycle Plan to a minimum 21-day public comment period at its next meeting. The Chair asked for a motion and second to recommend the draft Regional Bicycle Plan for public release by the SMMPO. The motion was made by Victoria Alfaro-Duran and seconded by Daniel Aguiar. The Vice-Chair asked Ms. Duarte to read the roll as follows:

Town of Berkley.....Yes	City of Fall River.....Yes
Town of Carver.....Yes	Town of Freetown.....Yes
Town of Dartmouth..... Yes	Town of Mansfield, alternate.....Yes
Town of Fairhaven..... Yes	Town of Marion.....Yes

Town of Mattapoisett..... Yes  
Town of Middleborough..... Yes  
Town of Rochester.....Yes  
Town of Seekonk.....Yes

Town of Wareham.....Yes  
Town of Westport.....Yes  
At-Large, City of Fall River .....Yes

**THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**6. Proposed FFY2023-2027 TIP Adjustment #5 (Materials Attached, Roll Call Vote Needed to Endorse)**

Ms. Estrela-Pedro informed the group that there is an adjustment to the FFY2023-27 TIP for GATRA due to two changes in funding sources. GATRA received a funding match to acquire mobile fare collection equipment and for the rehabilitation and renovation of their maintenance facility. Ms. Estrela-Pedro asked for the body to take a vote to include this adjustment on the FFY2023 – 2027 TIP. The Vice-Chair asked for a motion and second to endorse TIP Adjustment #5. The motion was made by Joe Callahan and seconded by Victoria Alfaro-Duran. The Vice-Chair asked Ms. Duarte to read the roll as follows:

Town of Berkley.....Yes  
Town of Carver.....Yes  
Town of Dartmouth..... Yes  
Town of Fairhaven..... Yes  
City of Fall River.....Yes  
Town of Freetown.....Yes  
Town of Mansfield, alternate.....Yes  
Town of Marion.....Yes

Town of Mattapoisett..... Yes  
Town of Middleborough..... Yes  
Town of Rochester.....Yes  
Town of Seekonk.....Yes  
Town of Wareham.....Yes  
Town of Westport.....Yes  
At-Large, City of Fall River .....Yes

**THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**7. Other Business**

Ms. Estrela-Pedro announced that this year's [MassDOT Moving Together conference](#) will be held on Wednesday, October 4, 2023 at the Sheraton Boston Hotel. She announced that [the Safe Routes to School \(SRTS\) Program](#) will be holding an informational webinar on August 23, which is the opening date of this year's SRTS grant application period. The SRTS Signs and Lines grant program application period will close on September 22<sup>nd</sup> and the SRTS Infrastructure Project grant application period will close on October 6<sup>th</sup>. There is a new version of MassDOT's MaPIT software to initiate projects going live, there will be two training sessions through UMTC for municipal users on August 29<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>; more info can be found at this [link](#). Lastly, MassDOT will hold a virtual public hearing to present the design for the proposed ADA retrofits at various project locations in District 5; more info can be found at this [link](#).

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

Date and Time for next meeting is September 13, 2023, at 2:00 PM as a hybrid meeting, in which attendees can join at the SRPEDD office in Taunton or via Zoom.

**9. Adjourn**

The Vice-Chair asked for a motion to adjourn which was made by Robert Burgmann and seconded by Victoria Alfaro-Duran. Hearing no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 2:41 PM.

**Draft Minutes of the Southeastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (SMMPO) Meeting  
on Tuesday, August 15, 2023 at 1:00 PM - Held remotely via Zoom.**

**The following members were in attendance:**

Derek Krevat-----Representing Gina Fiandaca, MassDOT Secretary and CEO, **Chair**  
Richard Bilski-----Representing Jonathan Gulliver, MassDOT Highway Div. Administrator  
Daniel Aguiar-----Representing Paul Coogan, Mayor of Fall River  
Jay Pateakos-----Representing Shauna O’Connell, Mayor of Taunton  
Kevin Dumas-----Representing Diana Bren, Town of Mansfield  
Sarah Hewins-----Town of Carver  
Alan Slavin-----Town of Wareham  
MaryEllen DeFrias ----- GATRA Administrator  
Shayne Trimbell-----Representing SRTA Administrator Erik Rousseau

**The following were also in attendance:**

Dana Hanson-----Office of Congressman Auchincloss  
Jenna Massoud----- Office of Congressman Auchincloss  
Joshua Barber-----FHWA  
Derek Shooster-----MassDOT  
Barbara Lachance-----MassDOT  
Shaun Handy-----MassDOT  
Andrew Wang-----MassDOT  
Jose Invencio & David----LakeCAM TV  
Sean Flannelly-----Member of the public  
Lisa Estrela-Pedro-----SRPEDD  
Andrea Duarte-----SRPEDD  
Jennifer Chaves-----SRPEDD  
Sean Hilton-----SRPEDD  
Jon Gray-----SRPEDD

**Handouts:**

SMMPO Agenda August 15, 2023  
SMMPO Draft Meeting Minutes July 18, 2023  
FFY2023-2027 TIP Proposed Amendment #5

**AGENDA:**

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

Chairman Derek Krevat 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 Carver-----Yes
MassDOT Administrator-----Yes	Town of Wareham-----Yes
City of Fall River-----Yes	GATRA-----Yes
City of Taunton-----Yes	SRTA-----Yes
Town of Mansfield-----Yes	

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

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

MassDOT Chair-----Yes  
MassDOT Administrator-----Yes  
City of Fall River-----Yes  
City of Taunton-----Yes  
Town of Mansfield-----Yes

Town of Carver-----Yes  
Town of Wareham-----Yes  
GATRA-----Yes  
SRTA-----Yes

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

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

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

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

Mary Ellen DeFrias announced that the Governor’s recently released budget allocated additional funding for transit. GATRA is in the process of assessing how to add Sunday service throughout its communities, for a tentative mid-October start date. GATRA would prefer to roll out this service sooner but is having difficulty finding drivers to operate buses on Sundays. GATRA is currently beginning to look at expanding its fleet of electric vehicles. Shayne Trimbell stated that it was good news to see more transit funding coming in through the Governor’s budget. SRTA, like GATRA and other transit authorities throughout the country, is also having difficulty hiring drivers, however. SRTA has not developed concrete plans for implementation of this additional funding until it has a better idea of what staffing will look like. SRTA will be implementing various route and schedule changes in Fall River on August 28 and expects to receive many calls and inquiries at this time.

#### **5. Draft Regional Transportation Plan (Link - Roll Call Vote Need to Release to a Minimum 21-day Public Comment Period)**

Lisa Estrela-Pedro stated that the draft 2024 Regional Transportation Plan, Moving Forward 2050 was released to the body on Friday August 11. She provided some additional financial highlights about the RTP. GATRA and SRTA receive funding for operations, maintenance, bus replacements, and capital improvements, but additional funding is still needed to help keep up with their bus replacement schedule and other capital and operation’s needs. SRTA’s capital needs include renovating and potentially relocating their former maintenance facility and replacing the New Bedford terminal. GATRA’s capital needs include upgrading the Taunton terminal and maintenance facilities. On the highway side, beyond the existing FFY2024-2028 TIP, we are looking at having all community-initiated projects funded by 2030, but this does not factor in project increases and delays. MassDOT-initiated projects in the region could be completed by 2035 if these projects were programmed with regional target funding. Based on regional targets and forecasting out to year 2050, there are projected to be sufficient funds for initiated projects, although the process is lengthy.

Ms. Estrela-Pedro stated that a major theme from meetings with municipal officials during the RTP process was the challenge of funding, mostly for smaller projects. Limited staffing capacity to apply for and manage grant funding and meeting grant eligibility criteria were two of the largest barriers identified to completing transportation projects. One example is communities having bridges that are slightly over the required size to qualify for MassDOT’s Municipal Small Bridge Program, forcing these communities to apply for this funding through the TIP which escalates the design cost of the project. Many communities consistently expressed an urgent need for increased Chapter 90 funding, which is vital to an array of projects but still inadequate to meet communities’ existing needs.

Ms. Estrela-Pedro informed the group that the RTP was discussed at the August JTPG meeting where the JTPG voted to recommend that the SMMPO to release the Plan to a minimum 21-day comment period.

There will also be a public meeting to discuss the plan. She asked if there were any questions and stated that comments on the Plan could be sent to any SRPEDD Transportation team staff member. She asked the body for a vote to release the draft RTP to a minimum 21-day public comment period. The Chair asked if there were any questions on the draft RTP and seeing none asked for a motion and second to release the draft RTP to a public comment period. The motion was made by Daniel Aguiar and seconded by Mary Ellen DeFrias. The Chair asked Ms. Duarte to read the roll as follows:

MassDOT Chair-----	Yes	Town of Carver-----	Yes
MassDOT Administrator-----	Yes	Town of Wareham-----	Yes
City of Fall River-----	Yes	GATRA-----	Yes
City of Taunton-----	Yes	SRTA-----	Yes
Town of Mansfield-----	Yes		

**THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**6. Draft Regional Bicycle Plan Presentation (Link - Roll Call Vote Need Release to a Minimum 21-day Public Comment Period)**

SRPEDD Transportation Planner Jon Gray gave a presentation on the draft 2024 Regional Bicycle Plan. He discussed various benefits and considerations for investing in bicycling infrastructure in the SRPEDD region, including equity and accessibility, public health, emissions reductions, economic development, safety, and connectivity. The Regional Bicycle Plan public survey yielded 435 responses. Some of its major themes were concerns about lack of bicycling safety on roadways being a barrier for cycling and the need for increased connectivity between various locations and types of amenities. Norton, Swansea, and Middleborough had the highest response rates. Mr. Gray provided an overview of the region's existing and proposed bicycle network routes, including its various existing shared use paths. He emphasized the importance of coordinating bicycle infrastructure expansion with transit stations and bus routes. Mr. Gray stated that the Regional Bicycle Plan is available on the SRPEDD website and linked in today's JTPG meeting agenda. Attendees can contact him if they have any questions about the Plan. Chair Krevat asked which data layer is being used for the proposed routes to which Mr. Gray answered that previous bicycle plans and meetings with communities informed this map layer, and SRPEDD is in the process of incorporating routes identified in Complete Streets prioritization plans into this layer as well. The proposed Southcoast Bikeway routes have been mapped for a while, but some other areas will need more feasibility analysis to identify best routes.

The Chair asked if there were any other questions and seeing none asked the body for a motion and second to release the draft 2024 Regional Bicycle Plan to a minimum 21-day public comment period. The motion was made by Alan Slavin and seconded by Mary Ellen DeFrias. The Chair asked Ms. Duarte to read the roll as follows:

MassDOT Chair-----	Yes	Town of Carver-----	Yes
MassDOT Administrator-----	Yes	Town of Wareham-----	Yes
City of Fall River-----	Yes	GATRA-----	Yes
City of Taunton-----	Yes	SRTA-----	Yes
Town of Mansfield-----	Yes		

**THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**7. FFY23-27 TIP Proposed Amendment #5 (Transit, Materials Attached - Roll Call Vote Needed to Endorse)**

Ms. Estrela-Pedro explained all the SRTA transit changes on the FFY23-27 TIP Proposed Amendment #5. It includes changes in operating costs, with receipt of \$11.7 million in state contract assistance funding, removal of system modernization with RTPA CAP and 5307 projects, and addition of fare collection upgrades. All of these were listed in the handout released with the agenda. Some of these changes consisted of additional funding sources that needed to be used before the year closes out. These changes were presented at the last SMMPO meeting and released to a 21-day public comment period. A public meeting was held on August 9 to discuss this amendment, and there were no comments at the meeting or otherwise. Ms. Estrela-Pedro asked the body to endorse this amendment.

The Chair asked if there were questions, and seeing none, asked for a motion and second to endorse FFY23-27 TIP Proposed Amendment #5 as presented. The motion was made by Mary Ellen DeFrias and seconded by Alan Slavin. The Chair asked Ms. Duarte to read the roll as follows:

MassDOT Chair-----	Yes	Town of Carver-----	Yes
MassDOT Administrator-----	Yes	Town of Wareham-----	Yes
City of Fall River-----	Yes	GATRA-----	Yes
City of Taunton-----	Yes	SRTA-----	Yes
Town of Mansfield-----	Yes		

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

#### **8. Other Business**

Ms. Estrela-Pedro announced that this year's [MassDOT Moving Together conference](#) will be held on Wednesday, October 4, 2023 at the Sheraton Boston Hotel. She announced that [the Safe Routes to School \(SRTS\) Program](#) will be holding an informational webinar on August 23, which is the opening date of this year's SRTS grant application period. The SRTS Signs and Lines grant program application period will close on September 22<sup>nd</sup> and the SRTS Infrastructure Project grant application period will close on October 6<sup>th</sup>. Lastly, MassDOT will hold a virtual public hearing to present the design for the proposed ADA retrofits at various project locations in District 5; more info can be found at this [link](#).

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

The Chair announced that the next SMMPO meeting will be on September 19, 2023, at 1:00 pm, held virtually. He urged all members to attend the September SMMPO meeting as the SMMPO will need a quorum to endorse the 2024 Regional Transportation Plan and Regional Bicycle Plan.

#### **10. Adjourn**

The Chair asked for a motion and second to adjourn. Alan Slavin made the motion and Daniel Aguiar seconded. The Chair asked that all in favor say aye. All ayes were heard. The Chair thanked everyone, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:31 PM.

## AGENDA ITEM: Environmental Program Report, # 9.a.

**Environmental Program Update Brief****September Departmental Priorities**

- EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant launch and procurement
- Brownfields Community Assessment Grant site selection and site access agreements
- Rochester Master Plan public engagement
- Open space plans – current status
  - Marion: submitted to state)
  - Taunton: addressing State comments for final approval
  - Dartmouth: Official final approval accomplished!!
  - Middleborough: obtaining approval letters
  - Carver: plan writing
  - Swansea: final draft in public comment
  - Mansfield: public survey and public meeting
- DLTA-A: no active grant rounds
- APC: Starting Upper Nemasket River Channel Restoration d/e, starting culvert alternatives analysis, scoping FY24 projects, Snipatuit monitoring well drilling and stream flow gauge installation
- Green Communities: scoping projects for Fall competitive grant round (Seekonk, Acushnet, Plainville)
- O

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

- Regional Conservation Partnership Network Conference: Nov 9<sup>th</sup> (registration open)
- Stormwater innovation expo: Roger Williams Park, Oct 18<sup>th</sup>

*Project Community Meetings*

- Rochester Master Plan First Public Meeting – Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> / 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Mansfield OSRP Public Meeting – Oct 23<sup>rd</sup> and tabling at Mansfield 101 Night Oct 25<sup>th</sup>

**MEPA ENVIRONMENTAL MONITOR – PROJECTS IN REGION**

Project	Type	Community	Comments Due	RPA Review Components	Site Visit Details (Indicate if Remote Meeting)
Moniz Estates	EENF	Acushnet	10/10/23		
Gardiner Street Bridge and Kings Pond Dam Replacement	ENF under review	Raynham	9/22/23		9/18/23
SouthCoast Wind 1 Project (fka Mayflower Wind)	FEIR under review	Somerset	9/8/23		

SouthCoast Project)					
Grinnell Mill – Proposed Barges (92 Kilburn St.)	DEIR under review	New Bedford	9/22/23		
Bell Rock Substation	Single EIR Cert issued	Dartmouth, Acushnet, Fall River	8/16/23	Complies with MEPA	
Double Circuit Tower Separation Project	Single EIR Cert issued	Somerset, Fall River	8/16/23	Complies with MEPA	
Raynham Park Redevelopment	FEIR Cert issued	Raynham	8/16/23	Complies with MEPA	
NOI to Initiate Ecological Restoration Project – Elm Street – Phragmites Management	Public Notice	Dartmouth			



---

## SRPEDD BYLAWS

---

### I. 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 District 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 District 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.

### II. PURPOSE

The Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District is a public body politic and corporate whose purpose shall be to foster economic growth and alleviate distress within the geographic boundaries of the District, and in general to perform and execute the powers and duties set forth in General Laws, Chapter 40B, Section 14 [G.L. c. 40B, §14]. The further purpose of this District shall be to prepare studies and plans designed to promote, with the greatest efficiency and economy, the coordinated and orderly development and economic growth of the District and the general welfare and prosperity of its citizens.

### III. OFFICES, SEAL AND FISCAL YEAR

- A. The Commission shall establish principal offices within the District boundaries.
- B. The seal of the District shall consist of a flat-faced die with its name and the year 1968 engraved on its face.
- C. The Commission’s fiscal year shall terminate on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of June each year.

## IV. THE COMMISSION, POWERS, MEMBERSHIP, AND MEETINGS

### A. PURPOSE

The Commission shall manage the business and property of the District and shall have and exercise all powers and duties of the District, except such as are reserved to others by these by-laws, or by law, and except such as it delegates to others.

The Commission will perform and execute these powers and duties in compliance with federal non-discrimination laws including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), and in compliance with related federal non-discrimination laws administrated by the Federal Highway Administration that prohibit discrimination based on race, color, or national origin (including limited English proficiency) or on the basis of age, sex, and disability. The Commission will also act while complying with the Massachusetts Public Accommodation Law, G.L. c. 272, §§92a, 98, 98a, prohibiting making any distinction, discrimination, or restriction in admission to or treatment in a place of public accommodation based on race, color, religion, creed, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability, or ancestry. The Commission also complies with the Governor's Executive Order 526, section 4 requiring all programs, activities, and services provided, performed, licensed, chartered, funded, regulated, or contracted for by the state shall be conducted without unlawful discrimination based on race, color, age, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, religion, creed, ancestry, national origin, disability, veteran's status (including Vietnam-era veterans), or background.

### B. COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP:

(Members may be added or excluded as provided by law.)

Acushnet	Fall River	New Bedford	Seekonk
Attleboro	Freetown	No. Attleborough	Somerset
Berkley	Lakeville	Norton	Swansea
Carver	Mansfield	Plainville	Taunton
Dartmouth	Marion	Raynham	Wareham
Dighton	Mattapoisett	Rehoboth	Westport
Fairhaven	Middleborough	Rochester	

### C. AT-LARGE COMMISSIONERS

1. The Commission may be increased by a total of six (6) members who shall be representative of low-income and minority groups, and reside within the district area from which appointed. Such Commissioners shall be representatives of qualified community groups, shall be selected, if such persons are then available, from persons who have been nominated as provided by District policy, and appointed annually by

the Chairman with the approval of the Executive Committee. Such Commissioners shall be At-Large Commissioners.

2. Minorities shall be those defined by EDA Directive 7.06 dated June 1, 1971, entitled "Minority Representative and Employment Requirements for Development District Organizations, County and Multi-County Planning Organizations, and OEDP Committees" and amendments thereto.
3. Nomination Process – Annually prior to the annual meeting, or whenever there is a vacancy in the position of At-Large Commissioner in any district area, the Commission shall notify qualified community groups of record that the process to nominate a new Commissioner may be initiated by any qualified community group within that area, by written application to the SRPEDD Commission. Appointments to fill vacancies will be for the balance of the unexpired term.
4. The nomination of an At-Large Commissioner shall be in compliance with policy guidelines of the Commission.
5. For the purpose of this section, qualified community groups shall be organizations, associations, or bodies that are established on or before July 1 of the previous fiscal year. A community group shall be defined as one of the following:
  - a. a legal non-profit corporation or association whose members are minority and/or low-income; or
  - b. the governing body or advisory board of a public agency whose goals are reflective of the needs of low-income and minority people and whose participants are minority or low-income people.

#### **D. MEETINGS OF THE COMMISSION**

1. Each Commission member will receive notice of meetings via his/her email address of record with the Commission at least seven (7) days in advance of each meeting. If applicable, the member's Town email address shall be the primary contact. The notice shall state the place, day, hour, and purpose of each meeting. The agenda and related material, when possible, will be sent at least five (5) days prior to the meeting. Notice and agenda of Commission meetings will be also posted on the SRPEDD website following the same time requirements. All meetings will be posted and conducted in accordance with the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §§18-25, or as amended.
2. Except as provided otherwise in these by-laws, regular meetings of the Commission will be held, at a minimum, in the months of February, April, June, and October at times, dates, and locations designated by the Chairman with approval by the officers. Additional meetings may be scheduled, as required, to conduct the business of the Commission.

3. The **annual meeting** of the Commission will be held prior to the end of the fiscal year.
4. The October meeting will be held for the purpose of determining the assessment upon the cities and towns within the district for the following fiscal year.
5. Special meetings of the Commission may be called by the Chairman and will be called by him/her upon written application to the Chairman by a member from each of at least four (4) member communities.
6. In addition, in any special situation that four (4) of the Officers will certify in writing as an emergency, special meetings of the Commission may be called by the Chairman, or any other of the Officers, upon forty-eight (48) hours' notice. In such special emergency situations, said notice may consist of e-mail notice, verbal contact in person, or by telephone message accepted at the Commissioner's address of record. At such special or emergency meetings, only the matter directly connected may be considered or acted upon. Written certification of such emergency signed by the petitioners or by the Officers will be read as the call of the meeting and will be filed with the Secretary as part of the records and minutes of the meeting. Such meeting will be posted in accordance with the Open Meeting Law.
7. Designees: Commissioners may send a designee from the Board that they represent to a Commission meeting in their place. The designee may vote and be counted toward the quorum only with a fax, scan, or email stating authorization, from the appointed Commission member.

#### **E. CONDUCT OF MEETING**

1. Meetings of the Commission and committees will be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order Revised and the Open Meeting Law, except as otherwise provided in these by-laws in Sections 6e and 6f. One-third of the total number of duly qualified Commission members of record will constitute a quorum at a meeting of the Commission and a majority of a quorum will be competent to act, except where otherwise provided by the law or by these by-laws. The quorum will be determined and announced at the start of each Commission Meeting. A roll call vote may be ordered upon the request of six (6) members of the Commission standing. This does not preclude the Chairman from calling for such a vote providing there is no challenge.
2. A majority vote of a quorum of the Commission will be competent to approve, revise, or rescind any action of the Executive Committee.
3. A quorum of a committee will be a majority of the qualified membership.

## V. OFFICERS

- A. The officers of the Commission who will be members thereof will consist of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurer. The immediate Past-Chairman will be an Officer ex-officio.
- B. All Officers, members of the Executive Committee, or of any committee which regardless of title performs the function of an Executive Committee, will be elected annually at the **annual meeting** of the Commission, and will hold such office until their successors are duly qualified. In the event a vacancy occurs prior to the **annual meeting**, such vacancy will be filled by an election held for the purpose at the next Commission meeting. The necessity of such election will be included in the notice for the meeting.
- C. Chairman: The Chairman will preside at all meetings of the Commission and the Executive Committee. He/she will have general care and direction of the affairs of the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District. He/she will present to the membership of the Commission at its **annual meeting** an accurate and complete report of the operations of the District for the preceding year. The Chairman, with the approval of the Commission, will execute all official documents for, and on, behalf of the Commission. The Chairman may designate the Vice-Chairman or the Assistant Treasurer to perform the duties of the Secretary in the absence or incapacity of the Secretary, with the title of Acting Secretary.
- D. The Chairman will be a member of all committees, except the Advisory Committee, established under Section 13 of Chapter 40B of the General Laws, and the Nominating Committee or such committee which will be charged with the duties of making nominations for the election of Officers and members of the Executive Committee.
- E. Vice-Chairman: The Vice-Chairman will carry out all duties assigned to him/her by the Chairman. The Vice-Chairman will assume the duties and responsibilities of the Chairman when the Chairman is absent, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to perform the duties of the office. Under such conditions, the Vice-Chairman may be designated by the Chairman to perform the duties of Secretary in the absence or incapacity of the Secretary, with the title of Acting Secretary.
- F. The Chairman may designate the Vice-Chairman to act in his/her behalf as the chairman of special committees, and may require the Vice-Chairman to carry out necessary duties including the appointment of such committees. The Vice-Chairman will, if requested by the Chairman, work with and advise the Executive Director on municipal contracts.

- G. Secretary: The Secretary will see that the seal of the Commission and all books and records of the Commission, with the exception of those dealing with the fiscal affairs of the Commission, are stored at the District offices. He/she will be responsible for certifying the minutes and votes of the meetings of the Commission and the Executive Committee. The meeting minutes and votes will be maintained in a file specifically designated for said purpose.
- H. Treasurer: The Treasurer will oversee the funds and accounts in such banks or trust companies as the Finance Committee may designate. A record of accurate books of account will be kept by a finance director hired by the Commission. Said books of account will always be open to inspection by any member of the Commission at the office of the Commission, upon giving reasonable notice. At the **annual meeting**, the Treasurer will present to the membership of the Commission, a report of the financial status of the district and the activities of the preceding year. The Treasurer, or the Assistant Treasurer in his/her absence, will co-sign, along with the Executive Director, or the Deputy Director in the absence of the Executive Director, all checks and drafts in payment for the expenses of the District, upon warrants for such payment approved by a majority vote of the Finance Committee, or in its absence, by majority vote of the Executive Committee. He/she will be given bond for the faithful performance of his/her duties, having such surety in such sum and upon such conditions as may be determined by the Executive Committee. Said bond will have as surety a surety company authorized to transact business in Massachusetts, and any expenses incurred thereby will be borne by the Commission when required by law.
- I. Assistant Treasurer: The Assistant Treasurer will carry out all the duties assigned to him/her by the Treasurer. The Assistant Treasurer will assume duties and responsibilities of the Treasurer when the Treasurer is absent, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to perform the duties of the office. The Assistant Treasurer will be bonded in the same amount and in the same manner as the Treasurer. The Assistant Treasurer may be designated by the Chairman to perform the duties of Secretary in the absence or incapacity of the Secretary, with the title of Acting Secretary.

## **VI. ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

- A. The Commission will appoint to the Regional Economic Strategy Committee (RESC), which has and shall serve as the agency's Advisory Committee, established under Section 13 of Chapter 40B. In consult with the Executive Director and others, the Economic Development/Community Development Director will formulate and refer to the RESC problems, issues, and policies relating to economic development for its deliberation and advice.

# EDA receives 378 applications for Tech Hubs competition

August 31, 2023

The U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA) has received 378 applications from 48 states for Phase 1 of the Regional Technology and Innovation Hubs (Tech Hubs) competition. In total, 48 states and three territories submitted 378 Tech Hubs Phase 1 applications.

The competition is divided into two parts. The first part will designate Tech Hubs in regions across the country that bring together industry, higher education institutions, state and local governments, economic development organizations, and labor and workforce partners to supercharge ecosystems of innovation for technologies that are essential to our economic and national security. The second part will separately award approximately \$15 million in strategy development grants to accelerate the development of future Tech Hubs.

There were 378 applications from 247 unique lead consortia members:

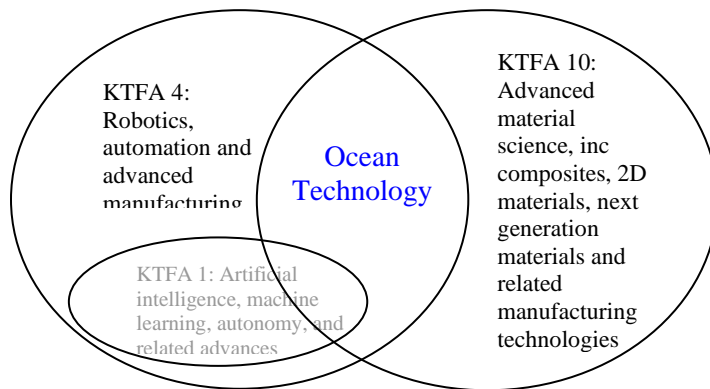
- 68 (28%) submitted only applications for a Tech Hubs Designation;
- 124 (50%) submitted applications for both Designation and Strategy Development Grants; and
- 55 (22%) submitted only applications for Strategy Development Grants.

Applicants requested more than \$75 million in Federal funding for strategy development grants across the 181 Strategy Development Grant applications. EDA is reviewing all 378 applications and says it will announce which applicants will receive Tech Hub designations in Fall 2023. The designated Tech Hubs will be invited to apply for implementation grants.

It is expected that EDA will designate at least 20 Tech Hubs nationwide and make approximately 30 strategy development awards using roughly \$15 million of the \$500 million available for the Tech Hubs program.

Additional information on the Tech Hubs program can be found at [TechHubs.gov](https://TechHubs.gov).

Ocean Tech Hub (OTH) Designation will coalesce the decades-long investment<sup>i</sup>, research and innovation in undersea robotics, automation, advanced materials, and composites and catalyze rapid tech transfer and commercialization in the ocean technology field in Southeastern New England (SENE). Targeting **robotics and sensors with AI/ML embedded** (KTFA 4, 1) and the **advanced material science needed for them** (KTFA 10), OTH focuses the region's assets and burgeoning technology into market-rich global opportunities by accelerating commercialization of tech-ready innovation (TRL +6), scaling workforce programs to create new, good-paying jobs, and ensuring barriers to technology deployment are removed. Deepening work previously funded by the EDA through the Build Back Better Regional Challenge, OTH positions SENE as a global ocean tech powerhouse.



SENE's strengths in undersea technology, manufacturing, composites, and ocean engineering is an outgrowth of our location, strong defense industry, and history of marine science exploration. OTH will leverage the area's growing expertise in computer simulation, data collection, and machine learning. It will support national security and focus on dual-use opportunities for market commercialization. OTH is a formidable candidate for rapidly scaling

and growing a world-leading hub for undersea robotics and sensors –which are relevant for industries ranging from aquaculture to shipping to climate mitigation to telecommunications.

### Technology-based potential of the region for global competitiveness

The ocean is the next frontier in global exploration with the ocean economy positioned to grow by over \$295B in the next 5-10 years (see chart). The OTH's technology areas have a competitive advantage within the ocean economy with a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 7-15%. In this time, the region's core ocean tech sector will grow 9%. Estimating a market capture of 2% of this, we will benefit from an economic impact of \$5.9B in sales and an expected creation of 15.7K jobs, a 27.7% increase.<sup>ii</sup> The additional investment from the U.S. EDA into an OTH will exponentially add to these estimations.

To tap into this market potential, we must align our research and technology development with market demand. With designation, we'll capitalize on our assets: 1) The seven ports<sup>iii</sup> within our MSA which contribute to the land, sea, air advantage for the growing ocean technology sector, have ready access to deep water (ranging from 25-133 ft) and near-by manufacturing and research facilities; 2) an ocean workforce of over 54K strong<sup>iv</sup>; and (3) an interstate commitment for commercializing ocean technology which will unlock the acceleration mechanism to grow

	in \$Bs	Estimate Year
Ocean Robotics	\$4.3	2033
Ocean Composites	\$4.8	2028
Marine Sensors	\$46.0	2029
Aquaculture and Seafood	\$60.0	2030
Maritime Safety	\$33.4	2026
Boating decarbonization	\$16.6	2031
Carbon capture	\$30.0	2030
Estuary Management	\$76.0	2028
Undersea defense products	\$24.8	2031
	\$295.9	



this region and the U.S.'s position in the ocean economy.

Specific projects for the OTH and their economic impact include:

- The development of a digital twin of the Narragansett Bay and adjacent waters to enhance lab-to-market pipelines by providing a virtual, faster, and less expensive test environment for commercial R&D. Digital twins of the ocean are global priorities for the U.N.<sup>v</sup> and EU<sup>vi</sup> and the OTH presents an opportunity for the U.S. to gain traction.
- The creation and/or expansion of an incubator, light manufacturing, fabrication, and assembly space at the water edge with multi-domain access (air, land, sea), adding physical capacity and commercial fabrication facilities in the Port of Davisville/Quonset, Port of Providence, and Port of New Bedford.
- The development of testing facilities in Narragansett and Buzzards Bay: A challenge noted by ocean technology companies and researchers is the lack of access to testing facilities. OTH will provide unique resources for testing and evaluating various technology devices and applications through coastal resources ideal for rapid testing of prototypes.

### **Role of the Private Sector**

The OTH region has hundreds of companies in the marine science, robotics, and composites sectors<sup>vii</sup>. The broader ocean technology supply chain has 8,294 companies<sup>viii</sup>. SENE is home to large ocean technology leaders including General Dynamics Electric Boat, Raytheon, the Naval Undersea Warfare Center (NUWC) Newport Division, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and Lockheed Martin. Beyond these larger employers, the sector consists of mostly small/medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)<sup>ix</sup>, many in the start-up phase. SENE's preeminent institutions of higher education, which have departments focused on the ocean<sup>x</sup>, have produced viable company spin-offs from their ocean engineering and research innovations, including, among others, Jaia Robotics, Juice Robotics, Deep Blue Composites, Nautical Defense, Far Sounder. Southeastern MA has traditional maritime industries including fishing, seafood processing, port services, and boat building and design. The region's composite companies (80+ companies in RI alone) have pivoted from ocean vessels to underwater vehicles, based on demand.

The ocean tech companies express their opportunity to grow and note that the OTH can help them through facility and equipment support, data and simulation environments to test and validate products, access to the ocean, cutting costs and getting products to market faster, additional funds for R&D, and strengthening the critical supply chain (larger companies need innovations; SMEs need access). Companies will utilize and strengthen the OTH: Jaia Robotics' innovation in micro-sized aquatic drones that extract ocean current data and other important information will benefit from OTH data-rich resources, helping them open new water-based markets and build additional partnerships. New Bedford Port Authority, a partner with the New Bedford Ocean Cluster, is exploring use of digital twin technology to support port operations, as will Quonset Port Authority and the Port of Providence. IBM is committed to leading technical developments with companies through prototyping and creation of minimally viable products, and Infused Innovations' Lab for Applied AI will be added to OTH assets.

### **Regional Coordination and Partnerships**

The OTH is a regional partnership, located in the Providence-Warwick, RI-MA Metropolitan Statistical Area, which includes the entire State of Rhode Island (an EPSCoR eligible state) as well as Southeastern Massachusetts (Bristol County). The MSA is home to an estimated 1.67M residents and includes diverse cities such as Providence, Fall River and New Bedford. The OTH capitalizes on SENE's unique geographic assets: Seven commercial ports,

shallow coastal areas, close access to full ocean depths off the Northeastern U.S. Continental Shelf, and easy access to Boston and New York. This unique blend presents an opportune locale for innovations in ocean technology, demonstrated by world-leading institutional establishments<sup>xi</sup> and the countless tests carried out by the NUWC<sup>xii</sup> and others.

The OTH Consortium is an outgrowth of 18 months of planning through the Grow Blue<sup>xiii</sup> initiative and informed by UMassD's study of the blue economy sector<sup>xiv</sup> in SENE. Over 250 businesses, organizations, and ecosystem partners have been involved in the development of a strategy to continue to invest in the ocean economy. This application is a result of over 125 actively engaged people, proving the strong demand in our area. Industry, nonprofit, and research often collaborate on projects: For 15 years, 9 RI institutions have received EPSCoR research funding; Jaia has collaborated with UMassD, URI, Brown, SeaAhead, NUWC, Blue Venture Forum, 401 Tech Bridge, Polaris MEP and others to advance undersea robotics innovations; UMassD's Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Fall River has provided regional entrepreneurs with office space, prototyping services, laboratory resources, interns, and a community of mutual support since 2001.

The OTH Consortium is being convened by Commerce, RI's economic development agency. As lead convener, Commerce will hire a Regional Innovation Officer to lead the OTH. While this process is underway, Commerce's VP of Innovation Initiatives will coordinate and lead the activities of the OTH Consortium, and Commerce will be responsible for fiscal stewardship, reporting, and other compliance requirements.

### **Equity and diversity**

SENE includes the cities of Providence, Fall River, and New Bedford, each identified by the Justice 40 Initiative<sup>xv</sup> as marginalized and overburdened by pollution and underinvestment, making it even more important to ensure these outcomes. The OTH is committed to using the Good Jobs Principles as outlined by the U.S. Department of Commerce and Labor. Consortium efforts will work to directly connect disadvantaged communities with career pathways that equip them with skills to access family-sustaining jobs. They will also include wrap-around services for job training participants in foundational career-readiness classes, registered apprenticeships, and then into the workforce. As this workforce grows, the Consortium will work to ensure this isn't a race to the bottom for people joining the workforce.

The OTH Consortium includes members whose efforts, outlined below, bring constituency guided initiatives. We will further catalyze these efforts through a networked governance model to ensure equitable opportunities and access especially by those historically disadvantaged. The OTH Advisory Committee structure creates opportunities to influence and direct the way the OTH is designed. The Consortium is committed to leaning into this for the benefit of all our residents. OTH will exponentially leverage these workforce assets and initiatives focused on equity and diversity with OTH Designation and investment, including:

- Nine Primarily Undergrad Institutions and two Community Colleges, each having stackable certification programs either developed or under development to service the ocean technology field; three Minority-Serving Institutions in the SENE region, including RI College (HSI), College Unbound (HSI) and Johnson & Wales (PBI)<sup>xvi</sup>. UMassD serves 38% students of color and 57% first-generation college goers, and URI has local chapters of the National Societies of Black, Hispanic and Women Engineers plus a 48-year-old talent development program which recruits and supports RI high school students from historically disadvantaged backgrounds.

- Apprenticeship RI, run by Building Futures (an AFL-CIO member and RI Department of Labor and Training (DLT) partner), works to help employers build new apprenticeship programs in industries including marine trades and manufacturing. Their “Earn While You Learn” program serves 75% people of color, most from low-income neighborhoods<sup>xvii</sup>.
- In the 2023 legislative session, RI passed law to allow non-traditional pathways to earning a bachelor’s degree at the state’s public higher education institutions; this bill will allow for apprenticeships to count as college credits<sup>xviii</sup>.
- The State’s Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, a core consortium partner, focuses on ensuring state procurements are appropriately won by M/WBEs.
- Over \$12 million of DLT’s Real Jobs RI program, a large-scale, sector-based workforce program, was invested in activities that train Rhode Islanders with significant barriers to employment including refugees; multilingual learners; veterans; and individuals with disabilities, experiencing homelessness, and with prior criminal convictions.
- Climate Jobs Rhode Island, a coalition of labor/AFL-CIO, environmental justice, and community, formed in response to RI’s 2021 Act on Climate’s<sup>xix</sup> push for just transition: “to address inequity in the state by creating quality and family-sustaining clean energy jobs.” AFL-CIO and their partners in Climate Jobs RI have developed recommendations that will influence the development of OTH<sup>xx</sup>.
- The City of Providence is introducing policies that will enable more childcare facilities throughout Providence and transit-oriented changes that will increase access to American Job Centers. Providence is currently coordinating with other urban centers throughout the MSA to develop a comprehensive workforce strategy with non-traditional support for job seekers including GED and translation services. A new training facility at the Port of Providence will focus on blue economy jobs.

### **Composition and capacity of regional workforce**

OTH considers both Core Ocean Tech and Ocean Tech Related jobs. Employment in the Core Ocean Tech totals over 54,038 workers, which in 2022 recorded \$20.3 billion in sales and \$6.7 billion in earnings. Of note: 52% of these jobs do not require education beyond High School; 85% pay a Living Wage for the Providence-Warwick, RI-MA metro<sup>xxi</sup>; 44% of jobs that pay a living wage are accessible to workers with no formal education or a high school diploma or equivalent<sup>xxii</sup>; Employment is expected to grow by 9% in the next decade; and, the RI-MA MSA institutions graduate 5,000+ annually<sup>xxiii</sup>, plus the robust ecosystem of skill and credential based training opportunities, including those targeted to the Ocean economy like FabX.

Our public-private workforce efforts are nimble and recent investments show the potential to scale rapidly to meet the demands for workforce development: Bristol Community College launched their National Offshore Wind Institute in 2020<sup>xxiv</sup>, a Global Wind Organization (GWO) training certificate program; a similar program is also at Community College of Rhode Island<sup>xxv</sup> and the North Kingstown, RI Chamber of Commerce’s WindWindRI initiative.<sup>xxvi</sup> Massachusetts Clean Energy Center awarded funds to offshore wind workforce training programs that target obstacles that prevent people of color and low-income people from pursuing jobs in the industry.<sup>xxvii</sup> These examples address workforce needs for a growing local industry while also working to equitably align this opportunity. A network of local trade schools and workforce education centers, including IYRS School of Technology and Trades, Woonsocket Education Center, and Minorities in Aquaculture, are working to improve access to workforce training with an Ocean Economy-focused lens.

The MSA's workforce training supports are strong; still, the OTH will increase coordination of these efforts to limit resident confusion, engage in targeted expansion to fill pathway gaps, and make it easier to access opportunities. OTH also aims to add internship capacity to the RI Science and Technology Council internship program (housed at Commerce), which has already placed over 125 interns with over 100 companies since its launch in 2016, to prepare high school through graduate school students for careers in ocean technology.<sup>xxviii</sup>

### **Innovative "lab-to-market" approaches**

The region has ongoing lab-to-market efforts; matchmaking innovators, providing access to capital, and removing barriers to technology acceleration. The full plan for the OTH will be developed during the planning period, but we envision core efforts to include:

Research-to-implementation support: Build on current tech transfer efforts at research partners; Embed university researchers in companies, and business development experts into universities, to scale specific projects with high commercial potential; Co-locate industry and venture funders in the region with university partners. Entrepreneurial development: Formalize a partnership between the region's entrepreneurial supports through SeaAhead, RICC, EforA SouthCoast, New Bedford Ocean Cluster, RIHub, and others; Scale Commerce's Innovation Voucher program to ocean tech companies, providing grants to businesses for R&D; Develop a resource that supports regional businesses as they seek equity capital or grants to scale their development.

Ecosystem support: Galvanize public and private funding to support the infrastructure needed-housing, childcare and transportation-to ensure that the sites at which ocean-technology-related jobs take place are accessible to a diverse range of workers. Subsidies, transportation networks and connecting available resources to individuals and families are ways OTH will work to resolve these hindrances. National and global awareness: Place SENE as the center of ocean technology development, capitalizing on efforts like SeaAhead, Blue Green Innovation Challenge, the Blue Innovation Symposium, Blue Venture Forum, and Chafee Center-led trade missions<sup>xxix</sup>, as well as the Undersea Technology Innovation Consortium (UTIC).<sup>xxx</sup>

### **Impact on economic and national security of the entire United States**

"As a maritime nation, the United States relies heavily on healthy and resilient ocean, coastal and Great Lakes ecosystems."<sup>xxxi</sup> Globally, coastal regions serve as population centers and commerce and trade hubs, playing critical roles in national security and mitigating climate change. In 2018, the "American Blue Economy, including goods and services, contributed about \$373 million to the nation's GDP, supported 2.3 million jobs and grew faster than the nation's economy in its entirety." For decades<sup>xxxii</sup>, strong defense industry investment in ocean technology has fueled this region's research focus on ocean science and engineering. Major investment from the U.S. Navy, NUWC, and other defense departments have helped create the diverse private and academic sector focused on undersea technology and advanced materials. Programs like the National Institute for Undersea Vehicle Technology<sup>xxxiii</sup> and 401 Tech Bridge helping the U.S. maintain a global-leading defense industry and support dual-use of key technologies to strengthen the private sector ecosystem. The OTH taps a diverse and dual-use market opportunity for growth.

Sensors and robots that extract ocean data present the next opportunity for technology use, the next frontier for national security, and the next key to predicting and mitigating climate change. OTH can lead in capturing an outsized global market share of these opportunities as our existing companies grow and new businesses are formed to meet these market demands.

- <sup>i</sup> Recent investments (sampling): \$500K to Grow Blue partnership through BBBRC Phase 1 (EDA); \$3.6M to UMassD, Brown, and Jaia Robotics to improve undersea sensors and \$25M to the National Institute for Undersea Vehicle Technology, a collab of URI and UCONN (Office of Naval Research); \$5M to strengthen the ecosystem for robotics and automation manufacturing (U.S. Department of Defense); and \$35M investment in the Quonset Multimodal Center (Orsted/Eversource Energy).
- <sup>ii</sup> Fourth Economy Consulting analysis, 2023; numbers based on current CAGR estimates
- <sup>iii</sup> [https://homeport.uscg.mil/port-directory/southeastern-new-england-\(providence\)](https://homeport.uscg.mil/port-directory/southeastern-new-england-(providence))
- <sup>iv</sup> Fourth Economy Consulting Analysis of Lightcast data, 2023
- <sup>v</sup> <https://oceandecade.org/who-we-are/>
- <sup>vi</sup> European Digital Twin of the Ocean (European DTO), <https://bit.ly/448t4cE>
- <sup>vii</sup> UMass Dartmouth, “Charting the Course: A Regional Assessment of the Marine Science and Technology Sector in Southeastern New England”, <https://bit.ly/3DTdIhJ>
- <sup>viii</sup> Fourth Economy Analysis of 2020 County Business Patterns
- <sup>ix</sup> OECD, Ocean Economy, <https://bit.ly/455EBuH>
- <sup>x</sup> University of RI’s College of Engineering and Graduate School of Oceanography, UMass Dartmouth’s School for Marine Science Undersea Technology, and Brown University’s School of Engineering
- <sup>xi</sup> History & Legacy - Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, <https://bit.ly/3YBb9dA>
- <sup>xii</sup> NUWC Division Newport tests Snakehead, <https://bit.ly/44brsPg>
- <sup>xiii</sup> <https://www.growblue.org/>
- <sup>xiv</sup> Charting the Course, UMass Dartmouth, <https://bit.ly/3DTdIhJ>
- <sup>xv</sup> Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis | The White House, <https://bit.ly/4582DFo>
- <sup>xvi</sup> <https://go.nasa.gov/3Oym9Ur>
- <sup>xvii</sup> <https://twitter.com/AlexaGagosz/status/1455223522826018816?s=20>
- <sup>xviii</sup> <https://webserver.rilegislature.gov/BillText23/HouseText23/H6477.pdf>
- <sup>xix</sup> <https://climatechange.ri.gov/act-climate>
- <sup>xx</sup> <https://climatejobsri.org/climate-jobs-report/>
- <sup>xxi</sup> <https://livingwage.mit.edu/metros/39300>
- <sup>xxii</sup> Fourth Economy analysis of Lightcast, QCEW 2023; MIT Living Wage data
- <sup>xxiii</sup> Fourth Economy analysis of Lightcast, MA and RI Department of Labor and Training, 2021
- <sup>xxiv</sup> <https://bristolcc.edu/about/nationaloffshorewindinstitute/index.html>
- <sup>xxv</sup> <https://www.ri.gov/press/view/44112>
- <sup>xxvi</sup> <https://windwinri.com/about-windwinri/>
- <sup>xxvii</sup> Mass. grants focus on equity in offshore | Energy News Network, <https://bit.ly/3OUYP4t>
- <sup>xxviii</sup> <https://stac.ri.gov/funding-opportunities/>
- <sup>xxix</sup> <https://www.bryant.edu/academics/offices-departments-centers/john-h-chafee-center-international-business->
- <sup>xxx</sup> <https://www.underseatech.org/>
- <sup>xxxi</sup> National Science & Technology Council, “Opportunities and Actions for Ocean Science & Technology 2022-2028”, <https://bit.ly/457eNhP>
- <sup>xxxii</sup> <https://www.navsea.navy.mil/Home/Warfare-Centers/NUWC-Newport/Who-We-Are/History/>

xxxiii <https://niuvt.us/about-us/>

## AGENDA ITEM: Technical Assistance Report, # 8.a.

Community	Project Name	Status	Department	Project Leads	Funding
Acushnet	Green Communities Tech Assist.	Ongoing	Environmental	Helen Zincavage	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	Complete	Environmental	Helen Zincavage	local
Dartmouth	Gulf Rd & Fisher Road Speed Limit Recommendation Technical Memo	Ongoing	Transportation	Luis de Oliveira	MassDOT
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/NOA A
Dighton	Green Communities Assistance	Ongoing	Environmental	Danica Belknap	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	Complete	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	Helen Zincavage	DOER

Mattapoisett	Industrial Drive Infrastructure Improvement	Project Close-out	Comprehensive	Lizeth Gonzalez	local, EDA
Middleborough	Open Space and Recreation Plan Update	Ongoing	Environmental	Helen Zincavage	local
Middleborough	Housing Production Plan (Tier 3)	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Taylor Perez, Grant King	DLTA, HCI
Middleborough	Historic/General Use District Bylaw Amendments	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Grant King, Robert Cabral	MassDOT, SCR
New Bedford	North Terminal Extension Phase II and Pier Fendering Project	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Jeff Walker, Lizeth Gonzalez, Grant King	EDA
New Bedford	Marine Commerce Terminal	Pending	Comprehensive	Lizeth Gonzalez	EDA
New Bedford	Quest Center, Armory District	Pending	Comprehensive	Lizeth Gonzalez	EDA
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
<b>Regional</b>	<b>Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) Asset Mapping and Digital Equity Planning Enrollment</b>	<b>New</b>	<b>Comprehensive</b>	<b>Maria Jones, Amber Davis</b>	<b>MBI</b>
<b>Regional</b>	<b>Traffic Counting and Turning Movement Counts</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>	<b>Transportation</b>	<b>Luis de Oliveira,</b>	<b>MassDOT</b>



				Joseph Osborne	
Regional	Pavement Management - Fed. Aid Road Network	Ongoing	Transportation	Luis de Oliveira	MassDOT
Regional	Regional Transportation Plan	Complete	Transportation	Jackie Jones, Jennifer Chaves, Lisa Estrela-Pedro	MassDOT
Regional	Regional Transportation Plan Community Listening Sessions	Complete	Transportation	Andrea Duarte	MassDOT
Regional	Trails Mapping (Off Road)	Ongoing	Transportation	Joe Osborne, Karen Porter	MassDOT
Regional	Regional Bicycle Plan	Complete	Transportation	Jackie Jones, Jon Gray	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 Snipatuit 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	All Enviro Staff; Helen DOER Contract Managemne t	EOEEA
Regional - MassDOT	Joint Transportation Planning Group (JTPG)	Ongoing	Transportation	Lisa Estrela-Pedro	MassDOT
Regional - MassDOT	Southeastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (SMMPO)	Ongoing	Transportation	Lisa Estrela-Pedro	MassDOT
Regional - SRAC	FFY20 Homeland Security Program and Project Management	Ongoing	Comprehensive, Homeland Security	Todd Castro, Kevin Ham, Grant King	MAPC
Regional - SRAC	FFY21 Homeland Security Program and Project Management	Ongoing	Comprehensive, Homeland Security	Todd Castro, Kevin Ham, Grant King	MAPC
Regional - SS4A Grant & MassDOT	Safety Action Plan Development	NEW	Transportation	Jackie Jones	SS4A Grant/MassDOT
Regional - SNEP Network	SNEP Network Provider	Ongoing	Environmental	Danica Belknap	USM/EPA
Regional - State Planning Assistance Grant	Open Space Residential Design Regional Study	Ongoing	Environmental	Danica Belknap	EOEEA

<b>Regional - Providence-Warwick MSA</b>	<b>Climate Pollution Reduction Grant</b>	<b>New</b>	<b>Environmental</b>	<b>Helen Zincavage</b>	<b>EPA</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	Complete	Environmental	Sara Brown	DLTA
Rochester	Green Communities Assistance	Ongoing	Environmental	Danica Belknap	DOER
Rochester	Master Plan	Ongoing	Environmental	Helen Zincavage (temporary)	DHCD, DLTA, local
Seekonk	Housing Production Plan (Tier 2, Phase 1)	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Taylor Perez	DLTA
Somerset	Slade's Ferry Zoning and Design Guidelines	New	Comprehensive	Grant King, Lizeth Gonzalez, Rob Cabral, Phillip Hu	Local, 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, Danica Belknap	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, Transportation	Robert Cabral, Lisa Estrela-Pedro, Jackie Jones, Grant King	MassDOT, DLTA, MA
Taunton	MSIP V- Business Park	Ongoing	Comprehensive	Lizeth Gonzalez	EDA
Taunton	OSRP Revisions	Ongoing	Environmental	Danica Belknap	Local
Wareham	Bicycle Committee Technical Assistance	Ongoing	Transportation	Jackie Jones, Jon Gray	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

# 2023 Statewide Municipal Partnerships Conference

Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll invites you to the 2023 Statewide Municipal Partnerships Conference for municipal officials and staff, co-hosted by the Massachusetts Regional Planning Agencies (MARPA) and Division of Local Services. The event will be held at the College of the Holy Cross on Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2023.

Lt. Governor Driscoll and a panel of Cabinet members, to be announced, will kick off the morning. We will then break into sessions focused on a wide array of issues and opportunities facing the Commonwealth, facilitated by subject matter experts from across Massachusetts. The breakout sessions will include:

- Climate Resiliency and Climate Action Plans;
- Building Livable Communities;
- Post-Pandemic Public Health; and
- Rural Empowerment
- Federal Funding Opportunities

The attendance fee is \$20 and can be paid upon registering via PayPal / credit card. Checks can be mailed to the Metropolitan Area Planning Council. Only checks will be accepted for attendance payment if you wish to pay day of at check-in.

## Steps to Register

1. Complete the Registration Form via the link below
2. Pay the attendance fee online through PayPal / credit card, or select the "At the door" option if you wish to pay by check or need an invoice. You can request an invoice by emailing [nabbott@mapc.org](mailto:nabbott@mapc.org).
3. Attendees can also pay the registration fee upon checking in at the door. Please note that **only checks** will be accepted at the door.

**Register Now!**



2023

## When

Tuesday, October 10, 2023 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM EDT

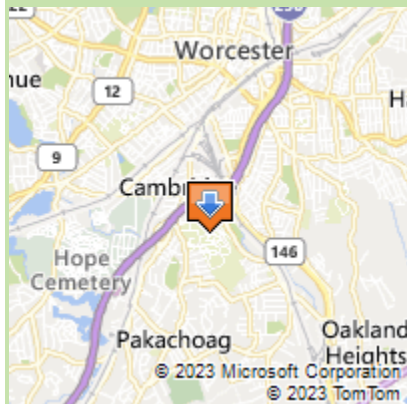
[Add to Calendar](#)

## Where

### **College of the Holy Cross, Hogan Campus Center**

1 College Street

Worcester, MA 01610



## [Driving Directions](#)

## Contact

Norman Abbott

Metropolitan Area Planning Council

C: 978-505-7980

[nabbott@mapc.org](mailto:nabbott@mapc.org)