

Draft Minutes of the Southeastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (SMMPO) Meeting on Tuesday, December 19, 2023 at 1:00 PM - Held remotely via Zoom.

The following members were in attendance:

Stephen Woelfel-----Representing Monica Tibbits-Nutt, Acting MassDOT Secretary, **Chair**
Barbara Lachance-----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
Sarah Hewins-----Town of Carver
Kevin Dumas-----Representing Diane Bren, Town of Mansfield
Alan Slavin-----Town of Wareham
MaryEllen DeFrias-----GATRA Administrator

The following were also in attendance:

Victoria Alfaro Duran---Town of Freetown/JTPG Chair
Jenna Massoud-----Office of Congressman Auchincloss
Raissah Kouame-----MassDOT
Derek Shooster-----MassDOT
Derek Krevat-----MassDOT
Richard Bilski-----MassDOT
Andrew Wang-----MassDOT
Colleen Pekrul-----MassDOT/Safe Routes to School
John-----LakeCAM TV
Southcoast Bikeway Alliance Member
Lisa Estrela-Pedro-----SRPEDD
Jackie Jones-----SRPEDD
Andrea Duarte-----SRPEDD
Sean Hilton-----SRPEDD

Handouts:

SMMPO Agenda December 19, 2023
SMMPO Draft Meeting Minutes November 21, 2023
FFY24-28 TIP Proposed Amendment 2

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

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

Chairman Woelfel requested a motion to approve the minutes from the November 21, 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 Carver-----Abstain
Town of Mansfield-----Yes
Town of Wareham-----Yes
GATRA-----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.

4. Regional Transit Authorities Report – RTA Updates

MaryEllen DeFrias announced that both regional transit authorities received Try Transit grants. GATRA is using theirs for free service over the holidays, which started on Black Friday and will run through New Year's Day. SRTA's free services will run January 1 through June 30, 2024. GATRA has rolled out Sunday service and is seeing strong numbers on the limited service it has been able to roll out so far. As GATRA hires more drivers, it is hoping that by the beginning of

February, it will run full Sunday service that will mirror its Saturday service across the entire service area.

5. FFY24-28 TIP Proposed Amendment #2 – FFY24 Cost Decrease for Project 613194 and Inclusion of Project 613142 (Roll Call Vote Needed to Release to 21-Day Comment Period, Materials Attached)

Lisa Estrela-Pedro informed the group that the first of the changes in FFY2024-28 TIP Amendment #2 is that Project 13194, which funds guide and traffic sign replacement on a section of Interstate 495 from Wareham to Raynham, will decrease in cost from \$8,023,070 to \$6,066,394 due to adjusted project limit, change in materials and adjustments in unit prices. Additionally, District 5 Project 613142 will now be included in the FFY2024-2028 TIP. It funds ITS roadway equipment for highway operations for the towns of Dartmouth, Lakeville, Middleborough, New Bedford, North Attleborough, Norton, Swansea, and Taunton. Ms. Estrela-Pedro asked the body to approve the release of this TIP amendment to a 21-day public comment period.

The Chair asked if there were any questions on the Amendment and seeing none asked for a motion and second to release the Amendment to a 21-day comment period. The motion was made by Alan Slavin and seconded by Kevin Dumas. The Chair asked Ms. Duarte to read the roll as follows:

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

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. Other Business

Jackie Jones announced that SRPEDD's RFP for services for the SS4A grant is currently out and active, and information is on SRPEDD's website. She stated that SRPEDD will be soliciting members for the SS4A task force. SRPEDD has a new SS4A project coordinator on board, Austin Horowitz, who will join the next MPO meeting to discuss SS4A project updates in more detail.

Alan Slavin asked what rate is GATRA currently paying bus drivers to which Ms. DeFrias answered, anywhere between \$24 and \$27 per hour, depending on whether they are driving

vans or buses. Mr. Slavin announced that funding to communities for transportation projects under the Commonwealth's Millionaire's Tax has been released.

7. Date and Time for Next Meeting

The Chair announced that the next SMMPO meeting will be on January 16, 2023, at 1:00 pm, held virtually as of right now.

8. Adjourn

The Chair asked for a motion and second to adjourn. Alan Slavin made the motion and Kevin Dumas seconded. The Chair asked that all in favor say aye. All ayes were heard. The Chair thanked everyone, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:09 PM.