

Draft Minutes of the Southeastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (SMMPO) Meeting on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 at 1:00 PM - Held remotely via Zoom.

The following members were in attendance:

Derek Shooster-----Representing Monica Tibbits-Nutt, Acting MassDOT Secretary, ***Chair***
Richard Bilski-----Representing Jonathan Gulliver, MassDOT Highway Div. Administrator
Christopher McDermott—Representing Cathleen DeSimone, Mayor of Attleboro
Daniel Aguiar-----Representing Paul Coogan, Mayor of Fall River
Kevin Dumas-----Representing Diana Bren, Town of Mansfield
Marie Clarner-----SRPEDD Commission Chair
John LeBert-----Representing Erik Rousseau, SRTA Administrator
Stacy Forte-----Representing Mary Ellen DeFrias, GATRA Administrator

The following Ex-Officio, non-voting Members were in attendance:

Victoria Alfaro-----Joint Transportation Planning Group Chair

The following were also in attendance:

Dana Hanson-----Office of Congressman Auchincloss
Chris Klem----- Massachusetts Department of Transportation
Shaun Handy----- Massachusetts Department of Transportation
Bonnie Roalsen----- Massachusetts Department of Transportation, Safe Routes to School
Arnav Chatterjee----- Massachusetts Department of Transportation
Alan Slavin-----Town of Wareham
James McGrail-----Town of Middleborough
Pamela Haznar-----McClure
Emma Yeh-----Pare
Lisa Estrela-Pedro-----SRPEDD
Jackie Jones-----SRPEDD
Andrea Duarte-----SRPEDD
Jen Chaves-----SRPEDD
Noah Soutier-----SRPEDD
Dan Brogan-----SRPEDD

Handouts:

SMMPO Agenda May 20, 2025
SMMPO Draft Meeting Minutes April 15, 2025
FFY2025-2029 TIP Proposed Amendment #3

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order and Roll Call-

Chairman Derek Shooster called the SMMPO meeting to order at 1:15 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 Attleboro-----Yes
City of Fall River-----Yes
SRPEDD Commission Chair-----Yes
SRTA-----Yes
GATRA-----Yes

2. Approval of Minutes – April 15, 2025 (Materials Attached and Roll Call Vote Needed)

Chairman Shooster requested a motion to approve the minutes from the April 15, 2025, SMMPO meeting. The motion was made by Christopher McDermott and seconded by Marie Clarner. Ms. Duarte then called the roll:

MassDOT Chair-----Yes
MassDOT Administrator-----Abstain
City of Attleboro-----Yes
City of Fall River-----Yes
SRPEDD Commission Chair-----Yes
SRTA-----Yes
GATRA-----Yes

THE MOTION PASSED WITH ONE ABSENTION.

3. Public Comments

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

4. Regional Transit Authorities Report – RTA Updates

Stacy Forte informed the group that GATRA's Route 8 will be providing bus service to the East Taunton train station on a regular schedule starting on June 2nd ; service to the station is currently being offered on a call ahead basis but will be offered on a schedule in early June. She

stated that GATRA’s Wareham facility construction is moving forward and is still set to be completed by the end of the calendar year. John LeBert reminded the group that Shayne Trimbell is no longer at SRTA. He stated that SRTA is continuing to monitor new services that were rolled out, including the South Coast Rail micro connector which has been running for five to six weeks and seems to be largely successful. SRTA will continue to monitor this new service, focusing on its capital program of projects and introducing its hybrid fleet.

5. FFY2025-2029 TIP Amendment #3 (Materials Attached, Roll Call Voted Needed to Endorse)

Lisa Estrela-Pedro reminded the group that FFY2025-29 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment #3 consists of cost increases to both a Lakeville Route 79 project as well as 2 Mansfield projects, one on School Street and the other on Chauncey Street, was released to public comment at the last SMMPO meeting. To accommodate these cost increases, the Lakeville project is being programmed through advanced construction over 2 years. To accommodate that, it will be programmed in federal fiscal year 2025 on the current TIP and the remainder will be in federal fiscal year 2026. Because the Lakeville project is being moved into 2026, to remain fiscally constrained, one of the projects will need to be removed from that year and that is the Dartmouth corridor improvements along Route 6 project. This Dartmouth project is still included in the 2026 to 2030 TIP in the same year. A public meeting was held on May 1st and there were no comments presented at that meeting or otherwise. Ms. Estrela-Pedro asked the body to take a vote to approve the amendment.

The Chair asked if there were any questions on Proposed FFY25-29 TIP Amendment #3 and seeing none asked for a motion to endorse the Amendment as presented. The motion was made by Marie Clarner and seconded by Dan Aguiar. The Chair asked Ms. Duarte to read the roll as follows:

MassDOT Chair-----Yes
MassDOT Administrator-----Yes
City of Attleboro-----Yes
City of Fall River-----Yes
Town of Mansfield-----Yes
SRPEDD Commission Chair-----Yes
SRTA-----Yes
GATRA-----Yes

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. FFY2025-2029 TIP Proposed Adjustment #2 (Materials Attached, Roll Call Voted Needed to Endorse)

Ms. Estrela-Pedro informed the group that FFY25-29 TIP Adjustment #2 includes the incorporation of vehicles through the Community Transit Grant Program. It is being treated as an adjustment because it has already been identified as a project in the state TIP. GATRA, SRTA, and the Fairhaven Council on Aging are receiving vehicles through the CRGP grant program which are being programmed into the TIP. Chair Shooster noted that there were nine vehicles for GATRA and five for SRTA. Ms. Estrela-Pedro asked the body to take a vote to approve the TIP adjustment.

The Chair asked if there were any questions on Proposed FFY25-29 TIP Adjustment #2 and seeing none asked for a motion to endorse it as presented. The motion was made by Marie Clarner and seconded by Christopher McDermott. The Chair asked Ms. Duarte to read the roll as follows:

MassDOT Chair-----Yes
MassDOT Administrator-----Yes
City of Attleboro-----Yes
City of Fall River-----Yes
Town of Mansfield-----Yes
SRPEDD Commission Chair-----Yes
SRTA-----Yes
GATRA-----Yes

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. Self-Certification of the SMMPO Transportation Planning Process (Roll Call Vote Needed to Certify)

Jackie Jones informed the group that as part of TIP development, every year the SMMPO is asked to self-certify that it is performing activities in compliance with all applicable requirements and laws. Agenda items 7 and 8 correspond to this. Agenda item 7 is for the certification of the SMMPO transportation planning process, to ensure that the SMMPO and staff are including everyone who should be included in the planning process and doing all activities that support TIP development in compliance with federal laws. She stated that the SMMPO will take a vote and then the MassDOT Secretary will sign as the signee for the body.

The Chair asked if there were any questions on the item and seeing none asked for a motion to self-certify the SMMPO. The motion was made by Marie Clarner and seconded by Dan Aguiar. The Chair asked Ms. Duarte to read the roll as follows:

MassDOT Chair-----Yes

MassDOT Administrator-----Yes
City of Attleboro-----Yes
City of Fall River-----Yes
Town of Mansfield-----Yes
SRPEDD Commission Chair-----Yes
SRTA-----Yes
GATRA-----Yes

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. 310 CMR 60.05: Global Warming Solutions Act Requirements for Transportation (Roll Call Vote Needed to Adopt)

Ms. Jones stated that this item certifies that the SMMPO is in compliance with all applicable air quality and Global Warming Solutions Act requirements for transportation planning as a region in its federal required documents.

The Chair asked if there were any questions on the item and seeing none asked for a motion to approve the Global Warming Solutions Act Requirements domain of self-certification. The motion was made by Marie Clarner and seconded by Christopher McDermott. The Chair asked Ms. Duarte to read the roll as follows:

MassDOT Chair-----Yes
MassDOT Administrator-----Yes
City of Attleboro-----Yes
City of Fall River-----Yes
Town of Mansfield-----Yes
SRPEDD Commission Chair-----Yes
SRTA-----Yes
GATRA-----Yes

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. Draft FFY2026-2030 TIP ([Link](#) & Roll Call Vote Needed to Endorse)

Ms. Jones stated that at the last meeting, this body voted to release the draft FFY2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program to a 21-day public comment period. A public meeting was held on May 1st at which no comments were received. A short list of recommended edits was provided from MassDOT and have been incorporated, mostly regarding updating language. The document was missing a table in the appendices and information in the table and appendices that was not available prior to release to comment period. Ms. Jones stated that

otherwise, the document is the same as was presented at the last meeting and asked the body to vote on endorsing the TIP as presented. The Chair congratulated the SMMPO and staff on TIP development and expressed excitement about the various projects and planning work programmed within it for the region.

The Chair asked if there were any questions on the FFY2026-2030 TIP and seeing none asked for a motion to endorse it. The motion was made by Marie Clarner and seconded by Dan Aguiar. The Chair asked Ms. Duarte to read the roll as follows:

MassDOT Chair-----Yes
MassDOT Administrator-----Yes
City of Attleboro-----Yes
City of Fall River-----Yes
Town of Mansfield-----Yes
SRPEDD Commission Chair-----Yes
SRTA-----Yes
GATRA-----Yes

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

10. Draft FFY2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) ([Link](#) & Roll Call Vote Needed to Release to 21-day Public Comment Period)

Ms. Estrela-Pedro provided an overview of the UPWP for federal fiscal year 2026, which outlines SRPEDD's transportation planning activities from October 1, 2025, to September 30, 2026. The UPWP, required by federal law, details how approximately \$1.9 million in funding will be spent across various planning tasks, including data collection, public engagement, safety, mobility, data collection, community technical assistance, and environmental studies. Some upcoming special projects include a corridor study in Fall River, updates to the congestion management plan, food access and parking utilization studies, the Age Friendly Mobility Southeast Massachusetts Plan, year one of an economic impact analysis of SRTA's fare free program, and flood-prone roadway mapping and database development. She asked the body to vote on releasing the draft FFY2026 UPWP to a 21-day public comment period. She stated that the document is available on the SRPEDD website. A public meeting will be held and the body will vote on endorsing the document at the June 17th SMMPO meeting. She entertained questions and encouraged members to e-mail her with any questions or comments.

The Chair asked if there were any questions on the draft FY2026 UPWP and seeing none asked for a motion to release it to a 21-day public comment period. The motion was made by Dan Aguiar and seconded by Marie Clarner. The Chair asked Ms. Duarte to read the roll as follows:

MassDOT Chair-----Yes
MassDOT Administrator-----Yes
City of Attleboro-----Yes
City of Fall River-----Yes
Town of Mansfield-----Yes
SRPEDD Commission Chair-----Yes
SRTA-----Yes
GATRA-----Yes

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

11. SMMPO SS4A Regional Safety Action Plan Presentation and Discussion ([Link](#) & Roll Call Vote Needed to Release to 21-day Public Comment Period)

Ms. Jones presented the region's draft Regional Safety Action Plan which was completed ahead of schedule to align with the federal Safe Streets and Roads for All grant deadline of June 26. This grant-funded plan aims to help municipalities in the region qualify for federal implementation and demonstration funding. A data-driven analysis identified high-risk and high-injury areas, and the plan includes specific engineering countermeasures and guidance for each community, ensuring municipal-level project eligibility. The RSAP ranks and prioritizes potential safety projects at both the regional and municipal levels to ensure a wide array of opportunities for funding for all 27 communities. The Action Plan identifies locations within each community in the SMMPO region that are eligible to apply for implementation or demonstration project federal SS4A funding to make streets safer. Draft locations and recommendations were shared with communities last week, and a digital tool is in development to aid local planning.

Ms. Jones requested that the body release the draft to a 21-day public comment period. SMMPO staff has been and will continue to coordinate with municipalities to ensure that they know about the contents of the plan and that they can use it to apply for this round of SS4A funding if they wish. She stated that public feedback will be collected to ensure that issues in local communities have been described appropriately. The final plan will be brought before the SMMPO for a vote on endorsement at the June 17th meeting, with the goal to have it finalized by the SS4A implementation and demonstration project grant NOFO deadline of June 26th. Ms. Jones stated that staff sent the lists and maps of the municipally-identified locations out to

communities in advance in case they were interested in applying for an implementation or demonstration grant and would have that information to begin applications. She emphasized the unusually short window for this federal grant cycle. Ms. Clarner asked which officials in towns had received the emails with the municipally-identified locations and information to which Ms. Jones responded the officials who are on the JTPG mailing list. Dana Hanson of Congressman Auchincloss' office asked for the Plan to be resent to her so that she could help promote it across the region.

The Chair asked if there were any questions on the SMMPO's draft Regional Safety Action Plan and seeing none asked for a motion to release it to a 21-day public comment period. The motion was made by Marie Clarner and seconded by Christopher McDermott. The Chair asked Ms. Duarte to read the roll as follows:

MassDOT Chair-----Yes
MassDOT Administrator-----Yes
City of Attleboro-----Yes
City of Fall River-----Yes
Town of Mansfield-----Yes
SRPEDD Commission Chair-----Yes
SRTA-----Yes
GATRA-----Yes

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

12. Other Business

Ms. Estrela-Pedro announced that two SMMPO board seats, Westport and Carver, are set to expire at the end of July and open for election. Self-nomination forms are due by June 16. MassDOT is seeking members of the public for the Massachusetts Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board. South Coast Rail will hold a community meeting in Fall River this Thursday at 5:30 PM. The Capital Investment Plan meeting for Southeastern Massachusetts will take place on Thursday, June 5th from 6 to 7:30 PM.

13. Date and Time for Next Meeting

The Chair announced that the next SMMPO meeting will be on June 17, 2025 at 1:00 pm, held virtually.

14. Adjourn

The Chair asked for a motion and second to adjourn. Marie Clarner made the motion and Christopher McDermott seconded. The Chair asked that all in favor say aye. All ayes were heard. The Chair thanked everyone, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:44 PM.