

Draft Minutes of the Southeastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (SMMPO) Meeting on Tuesday, June 17, 2025 at 1:00 PM - Held remotely via Zoom.

The following members were in attendance:

Steve Woelfel-----Representing Monica Tibbits-Nutt, Acting MassDOT Secretary, **Chair**
Shaun Handy-----Representing Jonathan Gulliver, MassDOT Highway Div. Administrator
Christopher McDermott—Representing Cathleen DeSimone, Mayor of Attleboro
Daniel Aguiar-----Representing Paul Coogan, Mayor of Fall River
Jamie Ponte-----Representing Jon Mitchell, Mayor of New Bedford
Jay Pateakos-----Representing Shauna O’Connell, Mayor of Taunton
Kevin Dumas-----Representing Diana Bren, Town of Mansfield
Sarah Hewins-----Town of Carver
Craig Dutra-----Town of Westport
Erik Rousseau-----SRTA Administrator
Mary Ellen DeFrias-----GATRA Administrator

The following were also in attendance:

Christina Mendoza----SRTA
Chris Klem----- Massachusetts Department of Transportation
Arnav Chatterjee----- Massachusetts Department of Transportation
Alan Slavin-----Town of Wareham
Pamela Haznar-----McClure
Lisa Estrela-Pedro-----SRPEDD
Jackie Jones-----SRPEDD
Andrea Duarte-----SRPEDD
Jen Chaves-----SRPEDD
Noah Soutier-----SRPEDD
Dan Brogan-----SRPEDD

Handouts:

SMMPO Agenda June 17, 2025
SMMPO Draft Meeting Minutes May 20, 2025
FFY2025-2029 TIP Proposed Amendment #4

AGENDA:

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

Chairman Steve Woelfel called the SMMPO meeting to order at 1:01 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
Town of Mansfield-----Yes
Town of Carver-----Yes
Town of Westport-----Yes
SRTA-----Yes
GATRA-----Yes

2. Approval of Minutes – May 20, 2025 (Materials Attached and Roll Call Vote Needed)

Chairman Woelfel requested a motion to approve the minutes from the May 20, 2025, SMMPO meeting. The motion was made by Dan Aguiar and seconded by Erik Rousseau. Ms. Duarte then called the roll:

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

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

Erik Rousseau announced that the Southeastern Regional Transit Authority has a new Director of Transit Planning; he stated that Christina Mendoza joined SRTA and is present at the

meeting, and that they are excited to have her on the team. Mary Ellen DeFrias announced that GATRA is continuing work on its new Wareham facility, aiming to be complete in late fall. She stated that GATRA is continuing to see strong growth in ridership.

5. FFY2025-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Proposed Amendment #4 - Change in Program Year & Cost Increase for Project 606352 Wareham- Culvert and Dam Replacement on Cranberry Highway at Route 28 and Route 6, Mill Pond Dam Over Agawam River & The Inclusion of Project S13319, Mansfield- Airport Bus Service from the Mansfield MBTA Station to Logan Airport (Flex to FTA) (Materials Attached, Roll Call Vote Needed to Release to 21-Day Public Comment Period and Conditionally Endorse)

Lisa Estrela-Pedro announced that there is a change in cost in program year for Project 606352. The right of way for Wareham culvert and dam replacement on Cranberry Highway at Route 28 and Route 6 was paused earlier this year and an estimated additional 6 to 9 months will be required for this process. The project will therefore no longer meet its current advertised date for construction in Federal Fiscal Year 2025 and will be moved out to Federal Fiscal Year 2026. The project cost is also increasing approximately \$8 million to \$8.6 million, leading to a total projected project cost of \$38.5 million, which will be programmed across four years, from 2026 to 2029. Ms. Estrela-Pedro stated that the second item in Amendment #4 is for the addition of Project S13319 to the FFY2025-2029 TIP, for funding the continuation of Mansfield airport bus service from the Mansfield MBTA station to Logan Airport. This is a flex of statewide funds to Federal Transit Administration, and this will be year 3 of funding for this service. Ms. Estrela-Pedro asked the body to release Amendment #4 to a 21-day public comment period, with the condition if there are no adverse comments received and in lieu of calling an MPO meeting in July if there are no additional items for discussion, that the amendment would become automatically endorsed on July 9th.

The Chair asked if there were any questions on Proposed FFY25-29 TIP Amendment #4 and asked for a motion to release the Amendment to public comment period as detailed by Ms. Estrela-Pedro. Derek Shooster clarified that the proposed motion is to release for 21-day comment period and conditional approval for July 9th for the endorsement assuming no adverse comments received. The motion was made by Sarah Hewins and seconded by Kevin Dumas. The Chair asked Ms. Duarte to read the roll as follows:

MassDOT Chair-----Yes
MassDOT Administrator-----Yes
City of Attleboro-----Yes
City of Fall River-----Yes
City of New Bedford-----Yes
City of Taunton-----Yes

Town of Mansfield-----Yes
Town of Carver-----Yes
Town of Westport-----Yes
SRTA-----Yes
GATRA-----Yes

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. Draft FFY2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) (Link & Roll Call Vote Needed to Endorse)

Ms. Estrela-Pedro reminded the group that the draft Unified Planning Work Program for Federal Fiscal Year 2026 was released last month by this body to public comment period. She stated that a public meeting was held on June 4th at which no comments were received. She noted that staff has made one specific addition since then, which is adding in under the Active Transportation task, year one of a bicycle and pedestrian network plan for the Town of Mansfield. Ms. Estrela-Pedro stated that comments were received from MassDOT on clarifying some items and simplifying some of the text. The plan was presented at the Joint Transportation Planning Group meeting on June 11th and the JTPG body voted to recommend the FY2026 UPWP to the SMMPO for endorsement. She asked the body to take a vote on endorsing the FY2026 UPWP today.

The Chair asked if there were any questions on the Draft FY2026 UPWP and seeing none asked for a motion to endorse it as presented. The motion was made by Sarah Hewins and seconded by Mary Ellen DeFrias. The Chair asked Ms. Duarte to read the roll as follows:

MassDOT Chair-----Yes
MassDOT Administrator-----Yes
City of Attleboro-----Yes
City of Fall River-----Yes
City of New Bedford-----Yes
City of Taunton-----Yes
Town of Mansfield-----Yes
Town of Carver-----Yes
Town of Westport-----Yes
SRTA-----Yes
GATRA-----Yes

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. SMMPO SS4A Regional Safety Action Plan Presentation and Discussion (Link & Roll Call Vote Needed to Endorse)

Jackie Jones reminded the group that the SMMPO voted to release the draft Regional Safety Action Plan to a 21-day public comment period at last month's meeting. During that public comment period, there was not a significant amount of comments received from the public, but SMMPO staff did make some readability and content changes to the Plan. She stated that all content from the draft is still in the document, but some things have been restructured and moved. A public meeting was held to hear comments on the draft Plan at which no comments were received. She reminded the group that the time frame of the Plan's completion had been moved up from August to June to coincide with a June 26th federal deadline for a round of SS4A grant applications, and that implementation projects needed to be listed in an approved Action Plan in order to qualify for funding. She provided opportunity for questions to which there were none at the time.

The Chair asked if there were any questions on the SMMPO Regional Safety Action Plan and seeing none asked for a motion to endorse it 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
City of New Bedford-----Yes
City of Taunton-----Yes
Town of Mansfield-----Yes
Town of Carver-----Yes
Town of Westport-----Yes
SRTA-----Yes
GATRA-----Yes

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. Other Business

Ms. Estrela-Pedro announced that barring no time sensitive issues, SMMPO staff is requesting to cancel the July SMMPO meeting and reconvene in August, and encouraged SMMPO members to stay tuned in case updates come up that would require a July meeting.

9. Date and Time for Next Meeting

The Chair announced that the next SMMPO meeting will be on August 19, 2025 at 1:00 pm, held virtually.

10. Adjourn

The Chair asked for a motion and second to adjourn. Sarah Hewins made the motion and Jay Pateakos seconded. The Chair asked that all in favor say aye. All ayes were heard. The Chair thanked everyone, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:23 PM.