

Draft Minutes of the Southeastern Massachusetts Metropolitan Planning Organization (SMMPO) Meeting on Tuesday, November 18, 2025, at 1:00 PM - Held remotely via Zoom.

The following members were in attendance:

Stephen Woelfel-----Representing Phillip Eng, Interim MassDOT Secretary and CEO, **Chair**
Shaun Handy-----Representing Jonathan Gulliver, MassDOT Highway Div. Administrator
Cathleen DeSimone-----Mayor of Attleboro
Daniel Aguiar-----Representing Paul Coogan, Mayor of Fall River
Jamie Ponte-----Representing Jon Mitchell, Mayor of New Bedford
Josh Reinke-----Representing Michael Feck, Town of Mansfield
John Woods-----Representing Sarah Hewins, Town of Carver
Jennifer Vincent-----Town of Berkley
Marie Clarner-----SRPEDD Commission Chair
Christina Mendoza-----Erik Rousseau, Southeastern Regional Transit Authority

No Ex-Officio, non-voting members were in attendance

The following were also in attendance:

Derek Shooster-----Massachusetts Department of Transportation
Barbara Lachance-----Massachusetts Department of Transportation
Arnav Chatterjee-----Massachusetts Department of Transportation
Catarina Pereira-----Office of Congressman Auchincloss
Corey Hebert----- Southeastern Regional Transit Authority
Alan Slavin-----JTPG At-Large Commissioner/Wareham
Bonnie Roalsen-----MassDOT Safe Routes to School
Emma Yeh-----Pare Corp
Regina Dennis
Lisa Estrela-Pedro-----SRPEDD
Andrea Duarte-Campos-SRPEDD
Rebekah Rose-----SRPEDD
Dan Brogan-----SRPEDD
Noah Soutier-----SRPEDD
Jen Chaves-----SRPEDD

Handouts:

SMMPO Agenda November 18, 2025
SMMPO Draft Meeting Minutes October 21, 2025

FFY2026-2030 TIP Proposed Amendment 1
FFY2026-2030 TIP Proposed Amendment 2
FFY2026-2030 TIP Proposed Adjustment 2

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order and Roll Call-

Chairman Woelfel called the SMMPO meeting to order at 1:00 pm. Ms. Andrea Duarte-Campos 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
City of New Bedford-----Yes
Town of Mansfield-----Yes
Town of Carver-----Yes
Town of Berkley-----Yes
SRPEDD Commission Chair-----Yes
SRTA-----Yes

2. Approval of Minutes – October 21, 2025 (Materials Attached and Roll Call Vote Needed)

Chairman Woelfel requested a motion to approve the minutes from the October 21, 2025, SMMPO meeting. The motion was made by Dan Aguiar and seconded by Jamie Ponte. Ms. Duarte-Campos then called the roll:

MassDOT Chair-----Yes
MassDOT Administrator-----Yes
City of Attleboro-----Yes
City of Fall River-----Yes
City of New Bedford-----Yes
Town of Mansfield-----Yes
Town of Carver-----Abstain
Town of Berkley-----Abstain
SRPEDD Commission Chair-----Yes
SRTA-----Yes

THE MOTION PASSED WITH TWO ABSTENTIONS.

3. Public Comments

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

4. Regional Transit Authorities Report – RTA Updates

Christina Mendoza from SRTA announced that overall ridership continues to increase, which is a positive trend for the agency. Staff are currently finalizing the Coordinated Regional Transportation Plan (CRTP) with MassDOT and a consulting team, with completion expected in January as the final round of memos and the draft plan are under review. Work has also begun on the FY2025 ridership report, which will be transitioned into an annual report format moving forward. This annual report will highlight key milestones achieved over the past year, summarize ridership statistics, and include updated performance metrics.

5. FFY2026-2030 TIP Proposed Amendment #1 – 1) Addition of Flex Funds to Federal Transit Administration in FFY2026 for Mansfield to Logan Shuttle Bus (Blue Apple Bus) Year 4 Funding & 2) New Bedford Intersection Improvements at Mount Pleasant Street and Nash Road in FFY2028 - Cost Increase & Funding Category Change (Materials Attached, Roll Call Vote Needed to Endorse)

Ms. Estrela-Pedro reminded the group that FFY2026-2030 TIP Proposed Amendment #1 was released for public comment at the last SMMPO meeting and included two changes: the programming of Flex 2 FTA funding in FFY 2026 for year four of the Mansfield-to-Logan shuttle bus service, and a cost increase in FFY 2028 for the New Bedford intersection improvements at Mount Pleasant Avenue and Nash Road. During the comment period, one adjustment was made to the funding breakdown, with no change to the overall project cost, but a reallocation between the regional target funds and the federal earmark to properly include the required match, increasing the earmark from approximately \$1.3 million to \$1.5 million. No public comments were received at the meeting. Ms. Estrela-Pedro asked the body for a vote to approve the amendment.

The Chair asked if there were any questions on TIP Amendment #1 and seeing none asked for a motion to endorse the Amendment as presented. The motion was made by Dan Aguiar and seconded by Josh Reinke. The Chair asked Ms. Duarte-Campos 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
Town of Mansfield-----Yes
Town of Carver-----Abstain
Town of Berkley-----Yes
SRPEDD Commission Chair-----Yes
SRTA-----Yes

THE MOTION PASSED WITH ONE ABSTENTION.

6. FFY2026-2030 TIP Proposed Adjustment #2 – Transit (SRTA) Adjustment (Materials Attached, Roll Call Vote Needed to Endorse)

Dan Brogan provided an overview of several SRTA funding adjustments to be included in FFY2026-2030 TIP Proposed Adjustment #2. The first adjustment involves a \$463,000 increase for the acquisition of ADP hardware and software to support intelligent transportation systems (ITS), which enhance real-time bus tracking, traffic management, and dispatch support as mission-critical services. The second adjustment is a \$540,000 funding increase for the rehabilitation and renovation of SRTA operating facilities, funded through a combination of Section 5307 and RTA capital funds, reflecting increased costs in this multi-year renovation project affecting multiple facilities. The final adjustment is the purchase of 35-foot hybrid buses, which shows a decrease of approximately \$1.3 million from the originally posted amount, bringing the new total to \$565,000 due largely to increased federal match funding in FFY 2025 that reduced the FFY 2026 share, along with nationwide multi-year backlogs in hybrid and diesel bus procurement. The Chair asked a procedural question to confirm that the first funding increase met state adjustment thresholds, and after clarification, no further questions were raised.

The Chair asked if there were any questions on FFY2026-2030 TIP Proposed Adjustment #2 and seeing none asked for a motion to endorse it as presented. The motion was made by Cathleen DeSimone and seconded by Josh Reinke. The Chair asked Ms. Duarte-Campos 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
Town of Mansfield-----Yes
Town of Carver-----Abstain
Town of Berkley-----Yes

SRPEDD Commission Chair-----Yes

SRTA-----Yes

THE MOTION PASSED WITH ONE ABSTENTION.

**7. FFY2026-2030 TIP Proposed Amendment #2 – Transit (GATRA & SRTA) Amendment
(Materials Attached, Roll Call Vote Needed to Release to 21-day Public Comment
Period)**

Mr. Brogan stated that FFY2026-2030 TIP Proposed Amendment #2 seeks to program cost changes for various Greater Attleboro and Taunton Regional Transit Authority (GATRA) and Southeastern Regional Transit Authority (SRTA) expenses. The Amendment includes one GATRA item and several SRTA items. GATRA’s Wareham East Maintenance Facility previously had \$3.9 million in 5307 funds in Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2026, but this has been reduced to \$0 due to shifting construction timelines. Approximately \$5.6 million in RTA capital funds remains committed to this project, which recently broke ground. For SRTA, the replacement of two vans is being shifted from FFY 2026 to 2027 because the match source has changed from RTA capital funds to statewide toll credits. Other SRTA items involve large cost variances related to the planned Fall River maintenance facility. These changes are primarily caused by delays associated with securing and obtaining approval for an environmentally resilient site that will support growing ridership driven by South Coast Rail, the Gateway Link, and fare-free bus service. The new facility is needed to serve Fall River and surrounding communities and to accommodate SRTA’s continued system growth.

The Chair asked if there were any other questions on Amendment #2 and seeing none asked for a motion to release it to a 21-day public comment period as presented. The motion was made by Jamie Ponte and seconded by Dan Aguiar. The Chair asked Ms. Duarte-Campos to read the roll as follows:

MassDOT Chair-----Yes

MassDOT Administrator-----Yes

City of Attleboro-----Abstain

City of Fall River-----Yes

City of New Bedford-----Yes

Town of Mansfield-----Yes

Town of Carver-----Abstain

Town of Berkley-----Yes

SRPEDD Commission Chair-----Yes

SRTA-----Yes

THE MOTION PASSED WITH TWO ABSTENTIONS.

8. Other Business

Ms. Estrela-Pedro announced that MassDOT's Public Participation Plan is posted online, and the SMMPO also has its Public Participation Plan (PPP) and Language Assistance Plan (LAP) currently out for public comment. A virtual public meeting is being held today at 4:00 PM to hear comments on the SMMPO's PPP and LAP. Two MassDOT design public hearings are scheduled in December. The first is for Mattapoisett corridor improvements and related work on Main, Water, Beacon, and Marion Road, to be held at Old Rochester Regional High School on December 4 at 6:30 PM. The second is in Attleboro for the Route 123 from Lathrop to Snell Street Project, scheduled for December 17th 6:30 PM at Peter Thatcher Elementary School.

9. Date and Time for Next Meeting

The Chair announced that the next SMMPO meeting will be on December 16, 2025, at 1:00 pm, held virtually.

10. Adjourn

The Chair asked for a motion and second to adjourn. Cathleen DeSimone made the motion and Jennifer Vincent seconded. The Chair asked that all in favor say aye. All ayes were heard. The Chair thanked everyone, and the meeting was adjourned at 1:17 PM.